

Magherafelt Area Partnership's Community Safety Partnership (CSP) was formed in 2003 following the Review of The Criminal Justice System in Northern Ireland (2000). This is the first Community Safety Strategy to be published by the partnership.

It has been produced following an audit of community safety issues with partner agencies and consultation with the community.

This strategy will focus the work of the partnership for the next three years. By setting ourselves demanding and challenging targets we will strive towards our vision of making our council area a healthy, inclusive, prosperous and safe environment for all those who reside, work and visit within the district.

#### OUR PURPOSE

The CSP was established to co-ordinate, develop and review, across different agencies and communities, practical and innovative approaches to crime reduction and enhanced safety as part of a multi-agency approach to promote the benefit of the inhabitants of the council area and the environment in which they live.

For a copy of the Community Safety Strategy contact us at:

**Magherafelt Area Partnership**  
50 Ballyronan Road  
Magherafelt BT45 6EN  
T 028 7939 7979  
F 028 9336 6676  
E [info@besafe.magherafelt.org](mailto:info@besafe.magherafelt.org)

Other useful contact numbers:

Magherafelt District Council  
T 028 7939 7979  
NI Housing Executive  
T 028 7963 1121  
Magherafelt PSNI  
T 028 7963 3701  
Crime Stoppers  
T 0800 555 111

Further information about NI-wide community safety issues may be obtained by contacting the NIO Community Safety Unit:

NIO Community Safety Unit  
Millennium House  
Great Victoria Street  
Belfast BT2 7AQ  
T 028 9082 8555  
F 028 9082 8556  
[www.communitysafetyni.gov.uk](http://www.communitysafetyni.gov.uk)

Alternative formats including Braille, large print, disc, audio cassette or other languages are available on request.



Northern  
Ireland  
Office



COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY  
2005-2008



MAGHERAFELT AREA  
PARTNERSHIP  
DEVELOPING SAFER COMMUNITIES

## OUR PRIORITIES

This local strategy has reflected local circumstances and issues whilst taking account of the nine key issues identified in the NI Community Safety Strategy.

Our priorities have been identified as follow:

### HIGH PRIORITY:

- offences against Individuals, particularly domestic violence and sexual assault;
- fear of crime amongst older people, vulnerable adults and children;
- drug, substance and alcohol abuse;
- anti-social behaviour and low-level neighbourhood disorder.

### MEDIUM PRIORITY:

- offences motivated by prejudice and hatred;
- domestic burglary;
- business and retail crime;
- youth offending and reducing criminality.

### LOW PRIORITY:

- car crime.

## COMMUNITY SAFETY AUDIT: MAIN FINDINGS

Magherafelt Council area is a relatively safe place to live in comparison to other areas in NI.

The overall rate for crimes recorded by Magherafelt DCU is lower than the NI average. However, the rates for violence against the person and criminal damage were above the average.

### Household Survey:

- although we have one of the lowest crime rates, over 80% of people over the age of 45 worry about crime at night;
- over 40% of residents have been affected by anti-social behaviour.

### Youth Survey:

- lack of facilities and activities was of major concern for the youth;
- nearly 40% have committed acts of vandalism;
- 40% of respondents aged 16 stated they drink.

### Business Survey:

- 40% of businesses have experience of being a victim of crime;
- cost of crime leads to higher costs for business.

## WHAT WE PLAN TO DO

- Develop an Action Plan based on the strategy;
- Develop and fund initiatives to tackle local problems;
- Liaise with local communities.



## PROGRESS/ ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

- completion of audit to collate information on community safety issues locally;
- community consultation to ascertain the views of local residents in relation to community safety issues;
- publication of a Community Safety Strategy.

The Community Safety Partnership has provided funding and support to the following local projects:

- school drama project;
- drive for life;
- rural house numbering scheme;
- Radio Link/CCTV;
- small grants for community groups.

Other regional projects, supported by the Partnership, include:

- Lock Out Crime scheme;
- Neighbourhood Watch.