

Fermanagh CSP

Annual Report

2007-8

CHAIRMAN'S FOREWARD

I am delighted to present the 2007-2008 Fermanagh Community Safety Partnership Annual Report. As the final year of the 2005-2008 Fermanagh Community Safety Strategy comes to a close it is fitting that we should take time to reflect on the achievements and successes of the past year.

In many ways the continued development of Community Safety throughout Northern Ireland has been mirrored by the steady growth of community safety in Fermanagh. Forward thinking, challenging and effective programmes have been developed that have addressed wide-ranging issues from personal safety to building inter-generational capacity. The Partnership has sought to provide fresh thinking on issues that impact on every community throughout Fermanagh. This practical approach has reaped benefits in supporting many valuable community interventions that have helped build capacity for the future. This capacity has been well tested through the innovative Anti-Social Behaviour Small Grants Programme, where different community organisations grasped the opportunity to bring positive change to their community by using the scheme. Additionally the Partnership has worked with a wide variety of statutory and non statutory organizations to tackle issues of crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour helping to make a Fermanagh safer place for everyone.

So in conclusion may I take this opportunity to commend the 2007-8 Fermanagh CSP Annual Report, and I take this opportunity to ask for your continued support for the year ahead. We look forward to the next three years of Community Safety and the imminent release of the new Northern Ireland Community Safety Strategy. Much has been achieved since the formation of the Partnership in May 2003 and we know that through strong partnership working much can be achieved.

Cllr Bert Johnston
Fermanagh CSP Chair 2007-8

MEMBERSHIP 2007 – 2008

Councillor Bert Johnston (Chairman) ¹ replaced Councillor Tom Elliott
Mrs Maeve Ferguson (V. Chairman)
Chief Inspector Alwyn Barton (PSNI)
Helen Bracken (NEXUS)
Karen Brewster (NITAP)
Michael Callaghan (NIHE)
Pat Conway (NIACRO)
Sinead Dolan (Youth Justice Agency)
Robert Forde (FDC)
Councillor Gerry Gallagher (Fermanagh DPP)
Mrs Nessa Greenaway (Fermanagh DPP)
Cons Leslie Ward(PSNI)
Jim McClintock (NIFRS)
Mannix Magee (Fermanagh Drugs and Alcohol Forum)
Mary McCann (Fermanagh Womens Aid)
Patricia McKeever (Probation Board)
Jack McKinney (NIHE Community Forum)
Henry Robinson (DOE Roads Service)
Mark Rogers (EXTERN)
Arlene Wright (WELB)

Notes:

¹ Councillor Johnston replaced Councillor Tom Elliott w.e.f. 1 June 2007

COMMUNITY SAFETY – BACKGROUND

Fermanagh Community Safety Partnership was formalised at a meeting in the Townhall, Enniskillen on 29 May 2003. The Co-ordinator was appointed in September 2003 and with support from Fermanagh District Council and the NIO Community Safety Unit the Partnership began to take shape. Following a period of audit and consultation a three-year strategy was drawn up focussing on five key objectives.

1. Fear of crime
2. Anti-social behaviour and low level neighbourhood disorder
3. Drugs, substance and alcohol abuse as a contributing factor to crime
4. Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse, and
5. Domestic Burglary.

A separate task group for each of these priorities was established and specific actions were developed to tackle each area.

The Partnership has focused much of its work on quality of life issues and it recognises the value in adopting a holistic approach to practical problem solving. Community Safety affects everyone in society. It can provide a framework for safer communities and support for innovative working practice. The wide range of projects undertaken and the diversity of those involved demonstrates a positive commitment for everyone living, working or visiting Fermanagh.

Legislative Background

The Review of the Criminal Justice System in Northern Ireland (2000) recommended “The development of a Northern Ireland Community Safety Strategy based on extensive consultation and relevant agencies, political structures and the voluntary, private and community sectors.”

The functions of Community Safety Partnerships are set out in clause 72 (4) of the Justice Northern Ireland Act 2002 and include the following:

- To prepare a community safety audit of the area, including public consultation to identify the issues and concerns of the people living in Fermanagh District Council area in relation to community safety.
- To prepare an action plan to address issues raised taking into account the current Northern Ireland Community Safety Strategy.
- To identify targets or other indications to assess the extent to which those issues are addressed.

KEY PRIORITIES: 2005 - 2008

Following an analysis of the audit and the consultation process the Partnership drew up the following five key issues.

- Domestic Burglary
- Fear of Crime
- Drugs, Substance and Alcohol Abuse
- Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse
- Anti-Social Behaviour and Low Level Neighbourhood Disorder

Fermanagh Community Safety Partnership acknowledges that other important community safety issues exist within the Fermanagh District Council area.

Should resources or resource allocation become available, the Partnership will also consider:

- Offences motivated by Prejudice and Hatred
- Business and Retail crime
- Youth Offending and Reducing Criminality
- Car Crime

PROJECTS FUNDED 2007-2008

Neighbourhood Watch Development

Neighbourhood Watch is a community based crime reduction initiative that supports positive community action. Neighbourhood Watch development in Northern Ireland depends on a strong partnership between the PSNI, Fermanagh District Policing Partnership and Fermanagh Community Safety Partnership. During 2007-8 three more Neighbourhood Watch schemes were added – Artonagh (Bellanaleck), Mountview (Lisnaskea) Benaughlin (Enniskillen). Signage was erected by Fermanagh District Council while each of the six groups was invited to a number of networking events during the year including being consulted to inform the 2008 Fermanagh District Policing Plan.

Fermanagh Community Safety Partnership provided additional window stickers and each scheme was provided with a property marking kit to be distributed through each Neighbourhood Watch area. A Christmas meal was provided by Fermanagh PSNI when a demonstration of the marking equipment was provided. Additionally Tedd Neighbourhood Watch organized a successful trailer marking event and nearly thirty trailers were security marked.

Total Cost: £604.88

Domestic Burglary Task Group

The Domestic Burglary Task Group met monthly through the year focusing on issues of domestic burglary, crime trends, Neighbourhood Watch and Ringmaster. The Task Group is comprised of representatives of Fermanagh DPP, PSNI, Victim Support and Ringmaster. The Task Group is supported by the PSNI Senior Crime Statistician and has a strong track record in proactively tackling prevalent crime issues and emerging trends.

The Task Group developed a series of posters, leaflets and other promotional material to tackle growing trends in building site crime.

Total Grant: £2037.00

Anti-social Behaviour Small Grants Programme

This grants programme was introduced through the Anti-social Behaviour Task Group in an effort to support community initiatives that would have a positive impact on reducing levels of anti-social behaviour in their area. Application to the Programme was made through a two stage process: an initial expression of interest form and then a full application. Communities were encouraged to be innovative and pro-active while recognising the potential to bring about change. This change was monitored locally through observation and assessment by local PSNI, Fermanagh District Council and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive. Each project funded provided a valuable learning experience in local communities and has successfully encouraged wider community participation in similar schemes in the future.

Carrowshee and Sylvan Hill Lisnaskea: This innovative project worked with thirty 10-14 year olds during Halloween 2007. As part of the project participants visited the Ulster American Folk Park in Omagh and had a residential. A most positive report was made available from the local PSNI Neighbourhood Officer who reported significantly reduced levels of anti-social behaviour and reduced fear of crime in the Park over the Halloween period. The members of the community group reported a better working relationship with young people on the estate and it was felt that this programme laid the foundation for future programmes.

Total Grant: £1844.00

Coleshill Anti-social Behaviour Reduction Project: This project was administered through Enniskillen Methodist Church and was aimed at reducing levels of anti-social behaviour in the Coleshill Estate Enniskillen. This project involved direct work with an established residents group and a newly formed Coleshill youth and regeneration group. The funding was used to explore positive alternatives to anti-social behaviour and included cultural exploration, history and participation in the Late Night Soccer School at Enniskillen Integrated College's excellent all weather facilities. Work with youth was supplemented by additional intervention with the Coleshill Residents. The process started through this programme has laid the way for more ambitious plans for the future and involvement of other agencies.

Total Grant: £2393

Trasnaway Halloween Programme: This project sought to address specific anti-social behaviour problems associated with Trasnaway and the Halloween period. Traditionally the estate suffered during this period and the local community group was anxious that this cycle should not be repeated. Working closely with their Neighbourhood Police Officer they designed an ambitious multi media workshop at the local Share Centre during Halloween. This was much more than a diversionary initiative and involved building team skills, planning and some examination of consequences of anti-social behaviour. Reports from the Northern Housing Executive and the local PSNI linked a significant reduction of anti-social behaviour in the immediate area with the success of this community initiative.

Total Grant: £1744

Ederney Against Anti-social Behaviour Project: Ederney Community Development Trust undertook a significant community consultation programme during 2007. The result was a clearly defined community action plan that sought to tackle road safety and growing levels of anti-social behaviour in the village. This programme brought the Community group and the local youth club together to develop an innovative intervention programme. This project worked with over 50 young people in the area and involved capacity building, sport, travel and involvement in environmental issues. Additionally participants had the opportunity to develop key peer leadership skills through an innovative youth programme.

Total Grant: £2500.00

Fermanagh District Policing Partnership-WELB Youth Initiative Lisnaskea: This project used a wider inter-agency partnership approach to establish a new youth club based in the Castle Park Centre in Lisnaskea. Utilising a wide-ranging activity programme, the project will continue to operate through 2008-9 drawing membership from a detached youth within the Lisnaskea area. The project represents a positive inter agency approach to anti-social behaviour problems and is flexible enough to respond to future problems

Total Grant: £2500.00

Belleek Intergenerational DVD and Education Pack

This project was undertaken as part of the 'Pebble in The Pond' project and was financially supported by the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland. The word 'inter-generational' is a relatively new one and it has a resonance from Belleek to Blackpool. The growing chasm between youth and older people is growing every year. Rapidly changing technology, language and social behaviour has had a negative impact on how older people interact with youth. As such the lack of trust and understanding is further compounded into a vicious circle and can lead to isolation and fear of crime. Belleek Community Partnership sought to break this circle by developing a DVD and education pack that would support empathy and understanding while developing a rational framework for promoting positive change. Using local older people and youth from St Mary's High School Brollagh a wide-ranging encounter programme was organised and filmed. The finished product then formed the basis for an educational pack that could be used in schools and colleges to aid understanding.

The pack was launched amidst much publicity by the Social Development Minister Margaret Ritchie and has won universal praise for its direct approach and high quality. The pack is in use across Northern Ireland and now in the UK through the National Community Safety Network and is held as model of good practice by many different agencies.

Total Grant: £4000.00

Use an illegal Taxi? – No Way!

Recognising a particular issue of personal safety, Fermanagh Community Safety Partnership commissioned a hard hitting radio advert that sought to highlight the dangers of using illegal taxis. The advert was played through Christmas and did much to raise awareness about this important issue. As a result evidence of illegal taxis was much reduced and the general public had a much greater consciousness of the potential consequences of using an unlicensed taxi.

Total Cost £1040.00

Bogus Callers DVD

This project was undertaken by Fermanagh Community Safety Partnership in conjunction with Northern Ireland Trading Standards. The issue of bogus callers is a worrying one, particularly with older people. Northern Ireland Trading Standards had developed a hard hitting road show that featured a variety of scenarios concerning different ways to access peoples' homes. This road show was ending and the final performance was in the Social Centre in Belleek. The performance was recorded in front of a live audience of older persons groups from Belleek, Garrison, Cashel, Ederney and Kesh. The DVD has been used in various community venues and has been praised for its clear message and thought provoking message.

Total Cost £610.00

Hi Ya Night Time Support

Fermanagh Community Safety Partnership is a strategic partner in the development of an integrated evening strategy for Enniskillen. This strategy has successfully incorporated many different strands in its operation including CCTV, Radiolink, "Not On The Street" and professional training for door supervisors. The latest addition to the strategy is a 'chill out' stall in the Diamond offering tea, coffee and hot chocolate on Saturday evenings between 12.00am and 3.00am. The project is run by 'Glorify' and was initiated through the Fermanagh Churches Forum. The facility is used by on average 150 'customers' each evening and up to 20 volunteers help each session. The service is now an important part of the night time scene in Enniskillen and continues to have a positive impact on Enniskillen and the weekend evening vista.

Total Grant: £1708.00

Bonfire Intervention

The environmental impact of a bonfire can have a long-term impact on an area when the fire is long over. This initiative co-ordinated through Fermanagh Community Safety Partnership's Bonfire Working Group sought to provide an immediate clean up or pre fire sweep to remove the danger and environmental impact of a bonfire.

Total Cost: £350.00

Other Community Safety Initiatives – monitoring etc.

1. Fermanagh Community Safety Advisors Programme.

NIO Challenge funded project to train community safety advisors who are matched with older/more vulnerable members of the community. Recently the scheme was awarded NIOCN accreditation and volunteers undertaking the training can receive recognition for their efforts. The scheme started in August 2004 and has had a significant impact on reducing fear of crime in many communities. Partnership involvement includes policy guidance, vouching all claims and monitoring performance. The project was supported through Fermanagh Volunteer Centre and concluded in December 2007.

2. Fermanagh Ringmaster Programme

This is an advanced telephony programme that seeks to provide communication through `phone, fax or e-mail. Over two hundred clients have now been signed up and the scheme operates across North Fermanagh, part of Tyrone and in Donegal. The Ringmaster co-ordinator sits on the CSP Domestic Burglary Task Group and the overall project is developing in line with its action plan. Fermanagh Community Safety Partnership involvement includes day-to-day monitoring and liaison. Ringmaster additionally provides the communication tool for Enniskillen Business Watch and links all Neighbourhood Watch Schemes together. The project has provided a two-way communication tool that has already had some significant success in crime reduction in a wide geographical area.

3. Fermanagh Business Watch

Enniskillen Business Watch was formally launched in Enniskillen Townhall in February 2008. Minister Paul Goggins, who launched the scheme, stated clearly that the success of the project depended strongly on strong partnership working. At the end of the first quarter of its operation, the unique partnership between

the Police and Enniskillen businesses has demonstrated how Business Watch has helped this partnership develop.

Business Watch is a new development in Northern Ireland and as such has required a phased approach to its introduction. Therefore a balance of positive communication, personal contact with businesses and bespoke training opportunity has done much to 'sell' the Business Watch concept to businesses in Enniskillen. It is important to note the important role of the Business Watch Co-ordinator in gaining co-operation and in providing a 'public face' to the scheme. This has meant that trader groups such as the Vintners Association and the Chamber of Commerce can quickly grasp the value of joining the Business Watch Scheme and will actively promote the scheme among their membership.

To date 173 businesses have joined Enniskillen Business Watch, with a final target of 200 at the end of the first year's operation. This expansion is possible when the scheme extends to peripheral streets and Enniskillen Enterprise Centre. The recent introduction of CCTV to Enniskillen Town Centre has provided an important extra dimension to Business Watch. Using the Ringmaster Telephony system linked to the CCTV Monitoring Station, Business Watch alerts can provide a timely, accurate and swift response to a prevalent crime situation.

Early indications suggest that businesses are beginning to recognise the value of using Business Watch as an effective crime reduction tool and they have appreciated the proactive training programme offered free to management and staff to all Enniskillen businesses.