

Community Outreach

April 13 to March 2014

The PPS Community Outreach Strategy for 2012-2014 published in July 2012 includes a number of key milestones which the Service will seek to achieve over those three years in order to deliver the objectives of the strategy.

During 2013 – 14 PPS staff were involved in a number of outreach events and activities:

Staff manned stalls at Community Events such as Belfast Pride in July, Belfast Mela in August, and Magherafelt Mela in October.

These festivals are an ideal opportunity for the PPS to meet the public, raise awareness of our work generally and more specifically, continue to raise awareness of our Hate Crime Policy. They also present an opportunity to work with different business areas of the Justice system.

PPS also participated once again in the Business in the Community, Cares Charity Shop Challenge, raising over £17,000 for action cancer. Whilst this year we did not win the overall competition, PPS did receive the accolade of Judges Choice Award Winners and the team had the honour of having their video diary shown to all who participated in the challenge as a representation of what the challenge is all about. This fantastic achievement reflected the entirety of what had been accomplished and recognised all the hard work, energy and enthusiasm which was put into the challenge.

Staff also attended a coffee morning in aid of child brain injury and women's day event in Ballynahinch.

The Director officially launched the PPS Policy for Prosecuting Cases of Human Trafficking by hosting an event at Belfast Chambers. Over seventy guests from a number of organisations across the criminal justice system and stakeholders from a number of Non-Governmental Organisations attended.

This year also saw the launch of phase 2 of the Victim and Witness Care Unit. The unit is now responsible for victims and witnesses involved in cases proceeding through Belfast Crown Court.

There were also a number of the usual day to day activities such as:

- Participation in multi-agency events and working groups;
- Participation in a cross border events, events with CPS and Prosecutor Fiscals Office;
- Participation in seminars and conferences locally, nationally and internationally which has included presentations by members of PPS staff;
- Provision of work experience to School and University Students;
- Provision of training to organisations such as Nexus, NSPCC, FSNI and continuing participation in police training;
- Presentations to voluntary organisations on the role of the PPS;
- Meetings with local elected representatives including MPs and MLAs, and accommodating visits by MLAs to PPS events;
- Media interviews;
- Meetings with victims and witnesses and organisations representing them..

Over the course of 2013 – 14 a total of 307 outreach activities and events were recorded, involving a total staff contribution of approx. 1387 hours.

Statistics			
Criminal Justice Organisations	85	Victims/Witness Groups	3
Police	39	Meeting Victims/Witnesses	9
Providing Training	24	Community Groups	4
Voluntary Organisations	8	Schools/University	16
Meeting MLAs/MPs	9	Community Event	13
Judiciary/Solicitors	11	Media	6
Seminars/Conferences	39	Other	40
Minority Groups	1		

Those activities have been recorded as falling within the following groups and services as described in the outreach strategy. Of the activities recorded during this year 75 have been recorded as Key Milestone Events.

People & Groups Segment of NI Population	
General Public	57
Local Communities	11
Section 75 Groups	27
Youths (10-17)	13
Children Under 10	2
Voluntary Sector Organisations	27

Principle Services	
Information Event	90
Inter – agency Work	174
Meeting the Community	30