

## **Community Outreach**

### **October 2013 to December 2013**

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 the third quarter of 2013 – 14 there was a series of outreach events and activities across the PPS. These included:

- Participation in multi agency events such as “Time to deal with the past” an event regarding victims perspectives on the future for NI, BASPCAN Conference on Child Sexual Exploitation, the launch of NIHRC Racist Hate Crime Report, and the launch of the MoU on Domestic Violence;
- Participation in multi-agency working groups such as the Victims Charter, the Partnership Against Wildlife Crime NI, the Strategic Partnership Safeguarding Board NI and the Children and Young Persons Strategic Partnership;
- Participation in the Cross Border forum on Human Trafficking;
- Participation in seminars and conferences such as a special measures seminar at the Collage of Policing in Ryton, the Criminal Law Review conference and a conference on Improving Response to Rape and Sexual Assault;
- Provision of work experience to University Students;
- Presentation at the Justice committee in respect of Lord Morrows Draft Human Trafficking Bill;
- A series of presentations to Women's Aid on Sexual offences and the role of the PPS;
- A presentation to the Antrim Policing and Community Safety Partnership on the role of the PPS in the Criminal Justice system;
- Meetings with the CPS Manchester Rape and Serious Sexual offences unit and meetings with DPPs from Ireland, Scotland, England and Wales.

This quarter also included involvement in Community Events such as the Magherafelt Mela in October. The PPS had a stall at the event which gave staff an opportunity to meet with members of the public and tell them about the role of the PPS.

Also during this quarter on Tuesday 15th October 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.

Commenting on the Policy, the Director said: “The trafficking of human beings is a most heinous crime which demeans the value of human life. The exploitation of vulnerable men,

women and children by predatory criminal groups is something that no civilised society should tolerate. It creates victims who are often some of the most vulnerable members of society, separated from family and friends with no access to financial help or support.

“I recognise it is essential that the PPS responds to the concerns of society. I want to assure you that the PPS is fully committed to fulfilling its role in tackling human trafficking, to holding perpetrators to account where the evidence allows and to providing services and information to victims to assist them during the prosecution process”.

This was followed by a presentation by Mairead Lavery who highlighted some of the main provisions of the Policy and explained the role of the PPS and how it works closely with the police and other investigators in case building and in supporting and protecting victims and witnesses throughout the prosecution process.

Acting Detective Chief Inspector Douglas Grant, from the PSNI also presented on the joint working that has already taken place between PSNI and the PPS and with police and prosecutors at an international level.

Khara Glackin, a Solicitor, from the South Tyrone Empowerment Programme, gave a presentation on Labour exploitation and stressed that “Labour exploitation and slavery practices are happening in Northern Ireland today. We need a more sophisticated response, through a multi-layered approach. This must join labour and criminal justice responses and integrate protection of human and labour rights into policy and practice.”

It was clear from the feedback offered that the event was well received and helped stakeholders to understand the issues involved in prosecuting such cases and the role that the PPS play in working with others, both locally and on the international stage, to build successful cases against those who profit from trafficking and exploiting human beings.

Between October 2013 and December 2013 a total of 63 outreach activities and events were recorded, involving a total staff contribution of approx. 291 hours.

<b>Statistics</b>			
Criminal Justice Organisations	22	Victims/Witness Groups	0
Police	8	Meeting Victims/Witnesses	0
Providing Training	2	Community Groups	1
Voluntary Organisations	2	Schools/University	0
Meeting MLAs/MPs	2	Community Event	4
Judiciary/Solicitors	0	Media	1
Seminars/Conferences	12	Other	9
Minority Groups	0		

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 quarter 14 have been recorded as Key Milestone Events.

<b>People &amp; Groups Segment of NI Population</b>	
General Public	8
Local Communities	4
Section 75 Groups	6
Youths (10-17)	0
Children Under 10	0
Voluntary Sector Organisations	8

<b>Principle Services</b>	
Information Event	14
Inter – agency Work	39
Meeting the Community	4