

Community Outreach

July 2013 to September 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 second 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 workshop on child exploitation and the launch of the Education Resource Pack on Human Trafficking;
- Participation in multi agency working groups such as Court User Group meetings, Mutual Recognition of Penalty Points Steering Group, the Domestic Violence Partnership and the Criminal Finance Sub-Group,
- Participation in the Cross Border Project Advisory Group on Services for Victims and Witnesses;
- Participation in seminars and conferences such a cross border conference on organised crime and the International Association of Prosecutors Seminar;
- Provision of work experience to Queens University Students;
- Participation and Presentation at meetings and training events attended by voluntary sector organisations such as a presentation to NGO groups on Human Trafficking, attending a conference re Child Sexual Abuse, participating in round table discussions re Engaging with male victims of domestic violence and a meeting with the Ballymena Ethnic Minority Forum.
- A meeting with the BBC in respect of hate crime and an interview with Director broadcast on the Stephen Nolan Radio show.
- Meetings with the US Consulate General and a briefing to Australian Police.

This quarter also included involvement in Community Events such as Belfast Pride in July and Belfast Mela in August.

These festivals are exciting annual cultural celebrations and 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.

This year, for the first time, different business areas of the Justice system were brought together into one “Justice Corner” display. Volunteers had an opportunity to observe first-hand the work of the Youth Justice Agency, Courts and Tribunals Service, Department of Justice and the NI Policing Board and to get to know colleagues working in other departments. Visitors also had an opportunity to discuss a range of criminal justice matters with officials from each of the organisations.

PPS also participated once again in the Business in the Community, Cares Charity Shop Challenge.

On 19th September 2013 staff from the PPS took over the Action Cancer Shop in Little James Street, Derry. The aim was to increase the shop takings as much as possible on that day and to raise as much money as possible for Action Cancer. The shop takings exceeded £1880.00 which was a fantastic achievement.

In the run up to the shop challenge PPS staff drawn mainly from Foyle chambers together with family and friends embarked on a series of fundraising events to raise money for Action Cancer. A number of events were held in the community - pub quizzes dancercise class, bucket collections, and a charity golf event ad the total raised through these activities was over £10,000.

In total, when the stock donations are included the PPS has raised over £17,000 for Action Cancer in 3 just over 3 months. All those involved are delighted to have taken part in what was a very memorable and worthwhile experience.

The PPS received the accolade of Judges Choice Award Winners in the Cares Shop Challenge 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. Scooping the Judges Choice Award was a fantastic achievement which reflects the entirety of what has been accomplished over the past few months and recognises all the hard work, energy and enthusiasm which was put into the challenge

Between July 2013 and September 2013 a total of 58 outreach activities and events were recorded, involving a total staff contribution of approx 296 hours.

Statistics			
Criminal Justice Organisations	19	Victims/Witness Groups	2
Police	6	Meeting Victims/Witnesses	0
Providing Training	2	Community Groups	2
Voluntary Organisations	1	Schools/University	4
Meeting MLAs/MPs	1	Community Event	4
Judiciary/Solicitors	2	Media	1
Seminars/Conferences	7	Other	6
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 quarter 20 have been recorded as Key Milestone Events.

People & Groups Segment of NI Population	
General Public	12
Local Communities	1
Section 75 Groups	6
Youths (10-17)	1
Children Under 10	0
Voluntary Sector Organisations	7

Principle Services	
Information Event	15
Inter – agency Work	32
Meeting the Community	6