

Community Outreach

October 2012 to December 2012

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 the next three years in order to deliver the objectives of the strategy.

During the third quarter of 2012 – 13 there was a series of outreach events and activities across the PPS. These included:

- Participation in multi agency events such as meetings with MOD Police and Royal Military Police regarding the investigation of domestic violence, a seminar on Legislation in respect of Human Trafficking, a PAWNI Conference to discuss wildlife crime attended by experts, enforcement bodies and political figures and presenting at a seminar for organisations who support victims of sexual violence;
- Participation in multi agency working groups such as working with NIHE and the Council for the Homeless in respect of high tolerance hostels for drug users, the Sexual Assault Referral Centre Project Board and with Health Trusts and PSNI in respect of joint protocol for the safeguarding of vulnerable adults from abuse;
- Participation in cross border initiatives involving the Organised Crime Task Force;
- Meetings with local elected representatives including MPs and MLAs and attendance at a seminar arranged by Lord Morrow in respect of the proposed Private Members Bill on Human Trafficking;
- Meetings with organisations such as DPP Ireland Senior Management Team, the Law Commission and CJINI;
- Meetings with Victims and Witnesses of crime and their families;
- Provision of work experience to school groups and University Students and assistance to academics from Leeds University conducting research in North – South Irish Responses to Transnational Organised Crime;
- Provision of training and lectures to police on a range of topics which involved presentations at the ICIDP Detective Foundation Course;
- Provision of training to the new Panel Counsel in respect of their role and responsibilities;
- Presentation to paediatricians on the role of the PPS in prosecuting child abuse cases;
- Meetings with Organisations such as Women's Aid, Nexus and NSPCC to discuss domestic and sexual violence.

This quarter also saw the launch of the Victim and Witness Care Unit Pilot for all Magistrates' Court and County Court appeal cases in Belfast. The Unit is a joint initiative with PSNI and will include partnership working with organisations such as Victim Support NI. The over-riding objective for the project is to improve the experience of victims in the Criminal Justice System, through:

- an enhanced service based on a three stage witness needs assessment at key stages of the case to ensure that a victim or witness's particular needs are met;
- improved communication, by the person's preferred mode of communication and tailored to their needs through a single, informed contact point in each case;
- to increase efficiency and reduce delay.

A visit to the unit was arranged and attended by the Director of Public Prosecutions and his Senior Management Team, Justice Minister, Deputy Chief Constable, CIJNI Chief Inspector, the Chief Executive of VSNI and representatives from the Unit itself, Department of Justice, NI Courts & Tribunals Service and PSNI.

Between Oct 2012 and Dec 2012 a total of 105 outreach activities and events were recorded, involving a total staff contribution of approx 473 hours.

Statistics			
Criminal justice Organisations	35	Victims/Witness Groups	2
Police	8	Meeting Victims/Witnesses	1
Providing Training	13	Community Groups	1
Voluntary Organisations	1	Schools/University	5
Meeting MLAs/MPs	3	Community Event	2
Judiciary/Solicitors	5	Media	1
Seminars/Conferences	15	Other	13
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 32 have been recorded as Key Milestone Events.

People & Groups Segment of NI Population	
General Public	36
Local Communities	3
Section 75 Groups	12
Youths (10-17)	2
Children Under 10	0
Voluntary Sector Organisations	6

Principle Services	
Information Event	42
Inter – agency Work	60
Meeting the Community	8