



Department of

Justice

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**BUILDING SAFER, SHARED AND CONFIDENT COMMUNITIES:
A CONSULTATION ON A NEW COMMUNITY SAFETY
STRATEGY FOR NORTHERN IRELAND**

SUMMARY OF RESPONSES

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1. INTRODUCTION

This document provides a summary of responses received to *'Building Safer, Shared and Confident Communities'*, the Department of Justice's consultation on a new Community Safety Strategy for Northern Ireland (available from the Department of Justice website www.dojni.gov.uk or NI Direct www.nidirect.gov.uk). The Department published a summary version, as well as a version for children and young people, which was developed in partnership with the Participation Network.

The consultation sought views on proposals to create safer, shared and confident communities and contribute to the Department of Justice's wider vision of a fair, just and safer community. The overall goal for a new Community Safety Strategy is to help build:

- **Safer communities:** with lower levels of crime and anti-social behaviour;
- **Shared communities:** where everyone's rights are respected in a shared, and cohesive community, and;
- **Confident communities:** in which people feel safe and have confidence in the justice agencies that serve them,

underpinning by support for effective partnership arrangements to deliver on the outcomes for the strategy.

The consultation period ran for a 12 week period from 20 January 2011 to 15 April 2011, with a total of 125 written responses received to the consultation from a range of statutory agencies, local councils, voluntary and community groups, young people and individual members of the public (see **Annex A**).

In addition to the written responses, 12 public meetings were held at venues across Northern Ireland with over 300 people in attendance (**Annex B**). DOJ officials also consulted with a range of stakeholders identified by local Community Safety Partnerships across Northern Ireland as part of the consultation process (**Annex C**).

The following chapters provide a broad overview of the key issues raised during the consultation process. As a summary it does not reflect each and every view on every issue, but seeks to highlight support for proposals, recurring themes, examples of new approaches and best practice. In keeping with best practice we have made copies of

written responses available on the Department of Justice website at www.dojni.gov.uk, except in those cases where respondents have withheld consent.

2. SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION RESPONSES

2.1 GENERAL COMMENTS

Most respondents welcomed the consultation on the development of a new Community Safety Strategy. Some respondents did, however, raise concerns around the lack of sufficient detail in the consultation and the sense that the consultation was a continuation of what was already being done. A few respondents pointed to the lack of reference to domestic and international human rights standards in the consultation. Others suggested that the definition and scope of 'community safety' be reconsidered, for example to include road safety.

The overall response however was of broad agreement with the strategic themes of creating safer, shared and confident communities and support for the guiding principles outlined around partnership working, strategic focus, recognising the importance and benefits of early intervention, focusing on evidence based solutions, taking a balanced approach and supporting local delivery.

2.2 SAFER COMMUNITIES

Q1. What should the priorities be for addressing anti-social behaviour? How can we best measure success in tackling it?

A total of 88 respondents commented on this question. 38 respondents, including community groups, children's groups, Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs), District Policing Partnerships (DPPs), councils and statutory agencies highlighted the need to develop an agreed definition of anti-social behaviour (ASB) to effectively address the relevant issues. Some respondents suggested a graded approach to identifying different levels of anti-social behaviour may be useful.

A number of respondents suggested that identifying and addressing the root causes of ASB should be a priority, with others highlighting the need to support families and young people at risk, with peer mentoring suggested by a range of respondents as an effective approach.

The perceived links between ASB and young people was raised by respondents from a range of sectors, with young people stating that they were unfairly labelled as being responsible for ASB. It was suggested that the Strategy reflect a greater acknowledgement that ASB goes beyond young people.

Community engagement and involvement in addressing anti-social behaviour was also highlighted by a broad range of respondents as a priority, with ASB toolkits suggested as a means of supporting communities. The role of ASB Forums was highlighted by some respondents, with suggestions to place the forums on a statutory footing with greater community involvement, and a suggestion to integrate forums with the work of Integrated Offender Management teams. Councils, CSPs and DPPs raised the need for closer partnership working by agencies in addressing anti-social behaviour. CSPs further suggested that its role should be on education programmes over the medium to long term.

In relation to measuring success re tackling ASB, the majority of comments suggested a reduction in ASB, with others suggesting a range of qualitative and quantitative indicators. Some respondents suggested joint indicators be developed with other agencies. Community confidence, as well as community involvement and engagement, were also considered to be ways of measuring success, with support for standardised surveys developed by the Department of Justice (DOJ).

The feedback from public meetings further emphasised the need for partnership working, engagement with young people, and the importance of an agreed definition. Some suggested that preventing the emergence of a 'gang culture' should be a priority for addressing anti-social behaviour.

Q.2 Do you agree that the prevention, intervention, enforcement approach to antisocial behaviour is the right one? What more needs to be done?

Of the 78 respondents who offered a view on this issue, a majority broadly agreed that the headings set out above for addressing ASB were the right ones. Most respondents supported the graduated response, and considered that the focus should be on early intervention and prevention, which could minimise the need for enforcement.

The need to take a more holistic approach was highlighted as an important factor by respondents, to address the root causes of behaviour and to provide support to parents and young people at risk. A number of CSPs suggested that Parenting Support Orders should be considered in some cases to address underlying causes of anti-social behaviour; however this view was in contrast to the opinion of voluntary sector respondents who opposed this approach. Other suggestions included support for Family Intervention Programmes and Family Hubs.

Of those who disagreed with the proposed approach, one individual suggested that socially acceptable behaviour be rewarded, in contrast to addressing anti-social behaviour; in another case, a community group considered the current approach not to work in addressing students' behaviour.

Young people's groups highlighted the need to promote positive social behaviour, and for the need to 'earn' the right to diversionary projects, suggesting a reward system for community payback. Views from public meetings were mixed, with a recognition of the need for prevention and intervention as the focus, but balanced with effective enforcement when necessary to maintain community confidence.

Q.3 How can we support local communities to address anti-social behaviour?

65 respondents gave a view on this question. The key themes arising were the need for greater community involvement, for example through local forums, and the need to build and support community infrastructure and capacity building within communities.

The need for agencies to work in partnership was also highlighted, with some respondents suggesting statutory obligation for agencies to co-operate. Other respondents highlighted the need to look beyond community safety issues and consider support services to address the underlying socio-economic issues and social deprivation.

Common issues arising from public meetings and consultation events included the need to support community capacity, to ensure access to services and facilities for young people, with suggestions for a 'community payback' scheme, with the recovered proceeds of organised crime going into community projects.

Q.4 What is your view on the effectiveness of ASBOs in addressing anti-social behaviour? What, if any, alternatives to ASBOs should we consider?

88 respondents commented on this issue, with mixed views on the effectiveness of ASBOs; amongst those who gave an opinion, 39 considered ASBOs to be ineffective, 31 thought that they were effective, and a further 14 were unsure, or had mixed views on their effectiveness. The mixed range of views on ASBOs was also reflected in public meetings and other consultation groups, with differing views on their effectiveness.

Support for ASBOs was for the most part provided by councils, CSPs and criminal justice agencies. Organisations representing children's rights, youth forums, and community groups in the main considered ASBOs to be ineffective in addressing anti-social behaviour, with more mixed views amongst DPPs, statutory agencies and other groups.

Amongst those who supported ASBOs, there was a common view that they should be used as a tool of last resort, although there was a suggestion by some that ASBOs addressed the symptoms of problems and not the root cause of the behaviour. A few respondents suggested that there needed to be greater consistency of application by the criminal justice agencies.

Some of those in favour of ASBOs pointed to the need to provide wider support in conjunction with ASBOs, with some suggestions including Family Intervention Projects and NIACRO's 'Assisting People and Communities' programme. Other respondents suggested that the changes being brought about in England & Wales in respect of anti-social behaviour legislation should be considered for Northern Ireland.

Amongst respondents who considered ASBOs to be ineffective, children's groups stated that ASBOs were in breach of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, and had been used disproportionately against young people.

The majority of youth groups consulted also considered ASBOs to be ineffective, with some suggesting that they were considered a badge of honour, and served only to label young people. In response, children's groups and others called for the use of ASBOs to be ended, either altogether or to be ended against people under 18, calling into question

the appropriateness of ASBOs within the context of the wider restorative approach to youth justice.

Suggested alternatives to ASBOs centred on a greater use of existing restorative and diversionary practices, along with greater use of Acceptable Behaviour Contracts. Some young people consulted also suggested the use of tags for greater monitoring of those subject to ASBOs.

Q.5 Are there any other powers that should be considered to address anti-social behaviour?

64 respondents commented on this question. The majority of suggestions for additional powers came from councils, CSPs and DPPs, and some statutory agencies; the most common suggestions included 'Dispersal Zones' and legislation to prosecute private landlords where ASB is occurring in the private rented sector, a view reinforced during public consultation meetings.

Other respondents, however, voiced concern with 'Dispersal Zones', with some welcoming the Minister's approach that he would not proceed with them, unless there was compelling evidence in support. Further suggestions included increased discretionary powers for police, and Fixed Penalty Notices, improvements to licensing legislation, and greater use of restorative approaches and youth conferencing.

Some respondents suggested that there were sufficient powers already, and called for greater partnership working between agencies, with a suggestion that this be placed on a statutory footing, a view also highlighted during public events.

Q.6 Do you agree with the greater emphasis on early intervention to help reduce the risk of crime and anti-social behaviour?

Of the 98 respondents who commented on this issue, the vast majority were in support of the greater focus on early intervention, with only one individual disagreeing, and 4 youth groups with mixed views on the effectiveness of early intervention. There was also strong support for addressing early intervention from public meetings and consultation events.

The importance of a multi-agency approach to addressing early interventions was highlighted by a range of respondents, along with having the requisite resources to deliver. Some respondents suggested that a balance needed to be maintained between focussing on long-term intervention and the need to continue to address existing issues around community safety, e.g. anti-social behaviour.

Examples of current initiatives were cited by a number of respondents, including 'Sure Start', the 'Helping Hands' project to address domestic violence, NIACRO's 'Child and Parent Support (CAPS)' project and the Roots of Empathy project. There was also reference to supporting research and evidence highlighting the benefits of early year's support, in broad social terms and in reducing offending.

Q.7 How can the Department of Justice support early years and early stage intervention approaches?

81 respondents commented on this question. Many respondents suggested that the DOJ's role was to work in partnership with other agencies, both at strategic level, and locally through local partnerships. Resourcing early intervention programmes and conducting a scoping exercise into existing provision was also recommended. A number of respondents pointed to the work of Children and Young Peoples Strategic Partnerships (CYPSP), led by the Health and Social Care Board, which brings together all key agencies who have responsibility for improving outcomes for all children and young people in Northern Ireland including health, social services, education, policing and housing as well as representatives from the voluntary and community sectors. It was recommended that the DOJ integrate the Community Safety Strategy with the work of the group.

Some respondents from the voluntary and community sector commented that it was important that DOJ's role be clearly defined as a supporting role for other agencies, and that intervention does not lead to labelling of children or unnecessary contact with the justice system.

Young people's consultation events suggested that parenting be part of the curriculum. There were a number of suggestions for ex-offenders and ex-combatants to tell their stories to children and young people to dissuade them from engaging in crime and anti-social behaviour. Several community groups suggested that the principles of the Multi-

Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) model be applied to children and families at risk. This would allow statutory and voluntary agencies to work together to share information and provide co-ordinated support, similar to existing measures in high risk domestic abuse cases.

Further examples of good practice in early intervention were cited under this question, including Early Years' Media Initiative for Children Respecting Difference (MIFC) Programme, to address attitudes and behaviours of young people, and the Parents Advice Centre's Managing Children's Challenging Behaviour Programme.

Q.8 Do you agree with our approach to reducing crime? What else can we do in partnership with the community to reduce the risk of crime?

The majority of the 95 respondents who commented on this issue were in broad agreement with the suggested approach; however there were a range of issues that respondents considered should be prioritised, and a number of issues of concern highlighted by some respondents to this question. Some respondents suggested that tackling the underlying causes of offending and crime should be the priority; with others similarly commenting that the focus should be on offenders. Some respondents from the voluntary sector noted concern in relation to the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, and the increasing use of Fixed Penalty Notices, in terms of the potential for criminalising young people.

A number of comments were made around designing out crime, with suggestions that the policy lead should rest with Planning Service and not the PSNI, and that it should be placed on a statutory footing. The need to continue to address domestic burglary was also highlighted by a number of respondents, and other suggestions included human trafficking, a greater focus on community service and Neighbourhood Watch, closure orders for licensed premises and greater co-ordination with Trading Standards to address bogus callers.

A number of youth groups suggested that CCTV cameras, improved street lighting, more visible police presence and more facilities for young people would help to reduce crime. Older people's groups consulted cited bogus callers, domestic burglary, credit card and identity fraud as issues to be addressed.

Q.9 What more needs to be done to address the unique community safety needs of rural areas?

71 respondents commented on this question. Social isolation and poverty were cited as key factors that needed to be considered in addressing community safety in a rural context. The issue of police resources and performance was a common theme amongst some respondents, citing the closure of police stations and the PSNI call handling system as impacting on rural communities' confidence.

Respondents suggested that the DOJ and soon to be established Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (PCSP) should develop and improve links with rural groups including the Ulster Farmers Union and GAA, as well as tapping into existing informal social networks that exist in rural areas. Some specific issues suggested as priorities included domestic and sexual violence, hate crimes and theft of livestock and machinery, with a greater emphasis on cross-border co-operation also recommended to address rural crime.

During public events and consultation, respondents pointed out that the nature and type of ASB differed in a rural setting, compared with urban issues, and also cited social isolation and domestic burglary as issues of concern.

Q 10. Do you agree with the proposals for preventing and addressing this issue? What more should we be doing?

82 responses were received on this question. Most respondents who gave a view broadly agreed with the proposals, although many stated that more needed to be done. Most comments were made in relation to addressing alcohol abuse, with suggestions around awareness, education and restricting availability a common theme. Other respondents suggested that the focus of the consultation in respect of young people weighed too heavily on underage drinking, and called for an acknowledgement of the negative impact on children of alcohol abuse by family members.

Additional legislation was suggested around regulating taxi deliveries of alcohol, the establishment of alcohol disorder zones in town centres, and calls for drug treatment and testing orders to be considered. Some respondents called for the drug arrest referral

scheme to be rolled out on a regional basis, while one respondent suggested that illegal drugs be legalised.

Feedback from young people provided mixed responses, suggesting that not enough was being proposed on either alcohol or drugs, with the need to address awareness, education and availability as common themes. Feedback from public meetings and consultation events reflected the issues raised above, with the Civic Alcohol Forum in Derry~Londonderry highlighted as an example of good practice. The issue of adults buying alcohol for young people was also raised in relation to the availability of alcohol. One group suggested that alcohol awareness programmes should be considered for first time offenders where alcohol was involved.

***Q.11 Do you agree with the approach to tackling domestic and sexual violence?
What other approaches should be considered?***

There was general agreement amongst the 82 respondents; however many called for additional action to be taken. Legislation was proposed in relation to creating violent offender orders, domestic violence prevention orders, and for a homicide review to be conducted in Northern Ireland, whilst some respondents called for tougher sentences.

Respondents from the voluntary sector highlighted the need for sustained resources to address the issue, and the vital role of the voluntary and community sector. There were calls for greater recognition of the needs of specific groups in relation to domestic and sexual violence, including young girls, disabled people, gay men and people from ethnic minority groups.

The Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) approach was highlighted by a range of respondents as an effective approach, with suggested improvements around information-sharing protocols and awareness raising. The need for further research into the issue, including research on offenders was suggested by a number of respondents. The NI Policing Board's Thematic Report on Domestic Violence was cited as providing a detailed insight into the issue

Again a number of best practice projects were highlighted, including the Sanctuary project based in Nottingham and the 'Helping Hands' awareness project. The views from public

events reinforced the need to address domestic and sexual violence through education and awareness. The specific issues of same sex abuse and domestic violence against men were also highlighted.

2.3 SHARED COMMUNITIES

Q.12 Do you agree that the Community Safety Strategy should recognise the particular challenges facing interface areas? Are there particular approaches you believe should be adopted?

There were 39 responses made to this question. There was general agreement that the strategy should recognise interface issues, with many respondents agreeing that a joined-up approach was required to address such issues, and some indicating that the wider socio-economic context needed to be addressed.

The central role of local communities in leading any process of change was a common theme in responses, linked to the need to build and support capacity building within local communities, and the need for sufficient resources over the long term. Some respondents commented on the definition of 'interface', and referred to the Community Relations Council and Rural Community Network's 'Beyond Belfast'¹ report and suggested the use of the term 'contested space' was more appropriate.

Most CSPs held the view that community safety was one strand of issues affecting interface areas, and as such CSPs should support the work of Good Relations strategies locally and regionally. Other suggested approaches included the development of a flags protocol, a greater focus on intergenerational work and an acknowledgement of specific rural issues.

Young people consulted agreed that more needed to be done to address interfaces, and called for greater awareness and education, and increased opportunities to mix with other communities. The role and influence of paramilitaries in some communities was also highlighted by a number of respondents, and during consultation events.

Q.13 Can more be done to enable the safety of all in communities without relying on physical barriers?

68 respondents commented on this question. The strong majority view was that any solutions to remove physical barriers must be led by local communities, with community

¹ 'Beyond Belfast- Contested Spaces in Urban, Rural and Cross Border Settings', Bell, Jarman and Harvey, 2010

engagement essential throughout any process of change. The role of statutory agencies was primarily seen as a supporting one, to facilitate communities. Respondents from the community sector outlined a range of issues that should be addressed in partnership, from social de-segregation, to investment in interface areas and promoting tourism, to providing shared access to services across contested space areas.

The importance of education and early intervention work was also commonly suggested, and some practical initiatives around alley gates, tension monitoring projects and NIHE's Shared Neighbourhood Project were suggested for further consideration.

Q.14 Do you agree with the proposals on addressing hate crime? What more do we need to do?

The majority of 92 respondents who expressed a view welcomed the focus on hate crime and were in general agreement with the proposals. However, some respondents suggested that the proposals did not add anything to what was already being done.

In responding to the proposed priorities, respondents suggested that reporting should be a focus, with third party reporting systems and a range of channels including social media suggested. Other respondents suggested that the focus should be on detection and prosecution rates, and called for targets to be set in these areas.

The importance of education at all ages was emphasised consistently by many respondents, as was the need for awareness raising, with suggestions that the 'Unite Against Hate' campaign be more effectively promoted locally.

There was agreement that support for victims of hate crime was essential, with a range of voluntary groups commenting on the specific needs of groups, for example of disabled people in relation to reporting hate crimes. Some respondents called for clarity around the definition of hate crime, suggesting that that hate crime was often labelled incorrectly as anti-social behaviour.

A number of projects were cited as good practice, including the 'Be Safe Stay Safe' project, 'Respecting Difference' and Hands off My Friend'. Responses from consultation

events also reinforced the need for greater reporting, education and awareness, to challenge negative myths and stereotypes.

2.4 CONFIDENT COMMUNITIES

Q 15. What more could be done to empower local communities?

88 responses were received to this question. The need to support community capacity building, ensure communities had a role in planning and delivering solutions and the need to improve confidence in the justice agencies were highlighted by respondents, with the need for a more inclusive approach, involving all sections of the community including children and young people, older people, ethnic minorities and disabled people.

The case for restorative justice was made by a range of respondents, citing the success of schemes across Northern Ireland. This was also reflected during public events as important to developing and maintaining community confidence.

Suggestions were made for toolkits for local communities, and Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) schemes were welcomed by a majority of respondents, with calls for greater resourcing of schemes. Some respondents did, however, question the effectiveness of NHW schemes, suggesting that their role in reducing crime was minimal. Public meetings further highlighted broad support for NHW schemes, but there were also suggestions that the schemes were not effective in certain communities as they were perceived as 'middle class'.

Partnership arrangements including Policing and Communities Together (PACT) Community Police Liaison Committees (CPLC) and Crimewatch schemes were highlighted for further consideration. The Outer North model in Derry~Londonderry was also held up as an example of good practice by a number of respondents.

Public meetings reinforced the need for confidence in the police and justice agencies, with issues around police visibility and response times common. Other concerns were raised around the justice system, in relation to bail for repeat offenders and delay in the justice system.

Q 16. How might we encourage reporting of crime and anti-social behaviour?

70 responses were received on this question. Some respondents suggested that there was a paradox in encouraging greater reporting whilst also seeking to reduce crime. The need to increase confidence in the police and justice agencies was a key theme amongst respondents, with young people and children's groups calling for greater engagement with young people to increase confidence amongst young people.

The need for awareness campaigns and ongoing communications with local communities was highlighted, while suggestions were made for online and 3rd party reporting schemes to be considered. The status of Crimestoppers was raised, with a suggestion that the perception of Crimestoppers being linked to the police needed to be addressed. Other respondents suggested that it was important to manage expectations on what could be done when a crime was reported, with others suggesting that a greater awareness of process and support when a crime is reported would improve confidence.

Q 17. What crime types might we prioritise to encourage reporting?

64 responses were received. Some respondents questioned the assumption of this section, and suggested that *all* crimes should be prioritised. Others noted that improving public confidence was key to encouraging reporting. The role of local communities in setting priorities was highlighted by a number of respondents. Amongst those respondents who suggested priorities, ideas included:

- 'signal crimes' such as vandalism ;
- supporting young people to report crime, notably sexual offences;
- domestic violence;
- hate crime;
- underage drinking;
- crimes against the elderly; and
- rural crime.

Q 18. How can we continue to address concerns around community safety issues, including those of older people?

77 comments were received on this issue. The importance of intergenerational work was consistently emphasised by a majority of respondents across all categories as an

important component of addressing both the concerns of older people, and also as a positive way of engaging with young people.

The importance of effective communications with older people and signposting of access to services was mentioned, as was the role of the media in influencing older people's perception of crime. Projects that provided assurance to older people including "Good Morning" and "Befriending schemes" were cited as examples of positive support.

Public events and consultation groups also emphasised the importance of providing assurance and addressing fear of crime amongst older people. It was also emphasised that fear of crime did not just affect older people, with young people fearful of each other, with community tensions also contributing to fear.

Q 19. How can we gain a greater understanding of issues around the fear of crime to better address it?

82 respondents commented on this issue. Suggestions included local surveys to gauge public concern, with the DOJ developing a standard survey document for use by local partnerships; engagement with local media; further research into the issue and a recognition of the impact social isolation has on fear.

Respondents from children's rights groups highlighted the portrayal of young people in the media as a contributor to fear of crime, supporting the perception that young people are responsible for crime and anti-social behaviour. A few respondents questioned the concept of 'fear of crime', claiming that it served only to raise concerns amongst the public.

2.4 DELIVERY IN PARTNERSHIP

Q 20. What should the role of community and voluntary sector be in supporting delivery of safer communities?

71 responses were received to this question. The importance of the voluntary and community sector in supporting communities was highlighted by many respondents, with calls for more support to deliver community safety solutions, as well as a greater role in policy development and planning. It was emphasised that the voluntary sector should be seen as an equal partner and not just a cheaper alternative to statutory agencies, and should be resourced to deliver for communities.

A majority of respondents called for sufficient representation on PCSPs by relevant voluntary and community sector groups.

Q 21. How do we best enable local partnerships deliver evidence-led solutions?

88 responses were received to this question, with a number of specific suggestions cited. CSP respondents suggested that crime analysts should be integral to new PCSPs to deliver evidence led solutions, and collect and share information with partners. The need to improve the skill set of those new partnerships was also identified as a priority, with suggestions for specific areas, including community relations.

In common with other respondents, it was recommended that there was a specific connection between the implementation of the Community Safety Strategy at both a strategic and local level with the Children's Service Planning and Locality Planning groups.

Q 22. How can we communicate effectively with communities?

62 comments were received, with an emphasis on the need to involve and engage with communities effectively, and to use existing networks. Respondents called for a communications plan to be developed, and suggested the use of social media be considered further. Many respondents also called for a constructive relationship with the media to promote key messages and counteract negative reporting.

Q 23. How should we measure success?

A broad range of suggestions were made by the 69 respondents to this question. Some ideas for measuring success included:

- a reduction in offending, reoffending or fear of crime;
- increase in the % of crime solved;
- community confidence in justice agencies;
- a mixture of quantitative and qualitative outcomes should be considered; and
- positive success measures to be considered, including the level of engagement with local communities, and the level of responsiveness of local partnerships.

Some respondents also cited a concern that success should not be measured simply by crime statistics, given levels of underreporting. In addition, there were calls for baselines to be set and for standardised formats and surveys to be developed for use locally. As with previous questions, the link to CYPSP's was highlighted, with a recommendation that DOJ outcomes align with the outcomes for children and young people being set by the CYPSP.

2.5 EQUALITY

A number of general comments were received by respondents in relation to equality, without responding to the specific equality questions. A number of respondents from the voluntary sector suggested specific groups including disabled people, women and girls, children and young people and older people, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) and ethnic minority groups will have specific needs in relation to the strategy. Other respondents cited concern with the report on the initial screening, and called for full equality screening or equality impact assessment to be conducted.

Q1. What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, for each of the Section 75 equality categories? Minor/Major/None

36 responses were received, with views represented as follows:

- Major – 7 respondents
- Minor - 5
- None - 12

Other general comments were made by respondents, including a recognition of the positive impact of addressing community safety, the role of PCSPs, and calls for further screening.

Q2. Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within the Section 75 equalities categories?

Of the 33 comments made, 28 agreed that there were opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity. The need for an inclusive approach was emphasised, and some suggested that the Strategy would impact positively on all Section 75 groups and will positively highlight the particular issues faced by women, older people, ethnic minorities, parents and rural dwellers.

Q3. To what extent is the policy likely to impact on good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?

33 comments were received, with views represented as follows:

- Major - 20
- Minor – 1
- None - 6
- Other - 5

Those who suggested the policy would have a major impact suggested the impact would be a positive one, with the development of policies to promote shared communities, and links between community safety and community relations.

Q4. Are there opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?

28 of 31 respondents agreed that there were opportunities to better promote good relations, through the delivery of the strategy, including addressing hate crime and interface issues, and supporting local initiatives. A number of respondents suggested that the Strategy should co-ordinate with good relations programmes to promote good relations locally.

3. CONCLUSION

The summary of responses received to the consultation highlight a range of common themes and key issues in response to developing safer shared and confident communities. Some common threads include the need for a joined up approach and greater partnership working, sustained community involvement, engagement and capacity building to promote community safety, and the need to continue to maintain and improve community confidence.

Responses highlighted the need for a joined up approach to address anti-social behaviour in a holistic manner, to address the underlying causes and to provide more clarity on what anti-social behaviour is (and isn't). The graduated approach to addressing anti-social behaviour was welcomed by respondents, with suggestions for improving on how it is delivered, although views on ASBOs were mixed, with conflicting views about the need for additional legislative powers around parenting support and private landlords.

Many consultees challenged the perceptions that all young people are responsible for anti-social behaviour, with intergenerational projects seen as an effective way of breaking down barriers of mistrust and suspicion. The links between alcohol and drug misuse and disorder were clearly stated, with support for the partnership work through the New Strategic Direction on Alcohol and Drugs.

There was widespread support for a greater focus on early interventions as a strategic priority in addressing community safety, through links to existing partnerships, notably the work of the Children and Young People Strategic Partnership, at all levels regionally and locally.

Consultees also highlighted the need to continue efforts to address domestic and sexual violence, reflecting the crucial role of the voluntary sector in supporting victims, raising awareness and for a greater recognition of the needs of all victims, including male and same sex victims.

The message in respect of supporting shared communities was that the local community must lead and be actively engaged at efforts to promote safety at interfaces and areas of contested space. The need for a joined up approach across all sectors of society was

clear, with greater co-ordination locally between the work of community safety and good relations. Efforts to address hate crime were welcomed, with the need for greater education and awareness raising, with suggestions around increasing confidence to improve reporting rates.

Respondents highlighted the need to develop and maintain confidence in the police, justice agencies and all those involved in promoting community safety. Restorative justice approaches were highlighted as effective in building confidence, and many supported further development of local 'Watch' schemes to improve confidence. The fear of crime was highlighted as an important issue for older people, with social isolation seen as a major factor, and the need to provide assurance was highlighted. Young people also raised concerns about crime and victimisation, with intergenerational approaches again highlighted.

The central role of the community and voluntary sectors in creating safer, shared and confident communities was evident from the consultation. The new opportunities presented through the establishment of Policing and Community Safety Partnerships and the need to develop the skill set of the PCSPs to deliver evidence-led outcomes were highlighted. Respondents also pointed to opportunities to improve equality of opportunity and good relations through implementation of the Strategy.

4. WAY FORWARD

The broad range of views and issues raised during the consultation process, from written responses, public meetings and engagement with stakeholders have highlighted the public priorities and the key themes that the new Community Safety Strategy should address.

The Department of Justice will continue to work with a broad range of stakeholders over the coming months to develop final proposals, primarily through the Community Safety Forum which brings together the main statutory agencies with a role in community safety. We will also continue to work closely with stakeholders in the voluntary and community sectors to develop proposals.

The Justice Minister intends to bring proposals to the Justice Committee and Northern Ireland Executive in the autumn, and to publish the final Community Safety Strategy by December 2011.

If you require any further information regarding the consultation or this summary please contact:

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E-mail: CSUconsultation@dojni.x.gsi.gov.uk

ANNEX A – LIST OF RESPONDENTS

With thanks to:

Action for Children Northern Ireland
Age Sector Platform
Alliance Party of Northern Ireland
Anonymous x2
Antrim CSP, Antrim Borough Council and Antrim DPP - Joint Response
Armagh City and District Council
Armagh Community Safety Partnership
Armagh DPP
Ballymena Borough Council
Ballymena CSP
Ballymena DPP
Ballymoney Borough Council
Ballymoney Community Safety Partnership
Banbridge District Council, Banbridge CSP and Banbridge DPP - Joint Response
Barnardos NI Consultation Report
Belfast City Centre Management
Belfast City Council
Belfast Conflict Resolution Consortium
Belfast CSP
Belfast Holyland Regeneration Association
Belfast Interface Project
Belfast Islamic Centre
Breakthru Intergenerational Forum
British Irish Rights Watch
Carrickfergus CSP
Castlereagh CSP
Castlereagh DPP
Centre for Effective Services
Child and Parent Support Group Event
Children in Northern Ireland
Children's Law Centre
Coleraine Borough Council Community Development staff youth consultation

Coleraine CSP
Coleraine DPP
Committee on the Administration of Justice
Community Relations Council
Cookstown CSP
Co-operation Ireland
Craigavon Borough Council
Craigavon CSP
DCAL
Derry CSP
Disability Action
Down CSP
Dr Graham Ellison - Institute of Criminology & Criminal Justice, QUB
Dungannon & South Tyrone CSP
Early Years
East Belfast Community Development Agency
EastEnd Residents Association Newtownards
Extern
Extern Children's Service project
Falls Community Council
Fermanagh CSP
Fermanagh DPP
Forthspring Inter-Community Group
Forum for Alternative Belfast
Glen Ward Community Development Association
Greater Shankill Community Safety Network
Health and Social Care Board/Public Health Agency - Joint Response
Include Youth
Institute for Conflict Research
Larne CSP
Leonard Cheshire Disability NI
Limavady Community Safety Partnership
Linking Generations Northern Ireland - Beth Johnson Foundation
Linking Generations Northern Ireland - Northern Ireland Youth Forum and Age Sector Platform

Magherafelt CSP
Mencap
MindWise
Moyle CSP
Moyle District Council Community Safety Wardens Partnership Report 2011
Moyle DPP
Mr James Thompson
Mr Norman Willis
National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children
Newry and Mourne CSP
Newtownabbey Community Safety Partnership
Newtownabbey DPP Manager
NI Youth Forum Consultation Report
NIACRO
NIHE
NILGA
North Belfast Community Restorative Justice Ireland
North Down CSP and DPP - Joint Response
Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People
Northern Ireland Council for Ethnic Minorities
Northern Ireland Policing Board
Older People's Advocate
Omagh Community Safety Partnership, Omagh District Policing Partnership and Omagh District Council
Parenting Forum NI Consultation Report with Parents
Parents Advice Centre
PBNI
PlayBoard NI
PSNI
Queen's University Belfast
Rural Community Network
Shepherds View Young Parent's Project Consultation Report
Sinn Féin
Southern Health & Social Care Trust
Sport Northern Ireland

Strabane & Lifford LGBT Group

Strabane CSP

Strand Road, Londonderry, PSNI

Superintendents' Association of NI

The Children Services Planning 'Children Young People and Offending Working Group'
– SHSCT

The NEXUS Institute

The Prince's Trust

The Rainbow Project

The Upper North Belfast Community Police Liaison Committee

Trading Standards Service

Ulster Farmers Union

Victim Support NI

Views of young people in Ballymena who are engaged with the Youth Justice Agency

Views of young people in Dungannon who are engaged with the Youth Justice Agency

Views of young people in Foyle Cityside who are engaged with the Youth Justice Agency

Views of young people in Limavady who are engaged with the Youth Justice Agency

Views of young people in Omagh and Enniskillen who are engaged with the Youth
Justice Agency

Views of young people in Omagh who are engaged with the Youth Justice Agency

Voice Of Young People In Care

Volunteer Now

Women's Centres Regional Partnership

Women's Aid Federation NI

Women's Support Network

Youthnet

ANNEX B - Public Consultation Events for 'Building Safer, Shared and Confident Communities'

Date	Venue	Numbers Attended
7 February	Craigavon Civic Centre	27
8 February	Bellinis, Newry	12
9 February	Banqueting Hall, Belfast City Hall	30
10 February	Burnavon Arts & Cultural Centre, Cookstown	20
15 February	The Guildhall, Derry~Londonderry	22
16 February	The Town Hall, Ballymoney	34
21 February	Mahon's Hotel, Irvinestown	20
22 February	Banqueting Hall, Belfast City Hall	37
23 February	Londonderry Room, Town Hall, Newtownards	22
1 March	Old Court House, Antrim	25
2 March	The Allen Suite, The Showgrounds, Ballymena	41
15 March	Millbrook Lodge Hotel, Ballynahinch	11

ANNEX C – Consultation Stakeholder Engagement Meetings for 'Building Safer, Shared and Confident Communities'

Date	Consultation Group	Venue
15 February	Alcohol Forum	Civic Alcohol Forum, Derry City Council Offices
15 March	Belfast Business Forum	Linehall Library, Belfast
16 March	Belfast City Council Youth Forum	Cecil Ward Building, Belfast
29 March	Belfast Community Safety Partnership - Hate Crime Thematic Group	Cecil Ward Building, Belfast
28 February	Belfast Community Safety Partnership – Operational Tier	Cecil Ward Building, Belfast
4 March	Belfast Pensioner's Parliament (Age Sector Platform)	Belfast City Hall
4 April	Business Crime Partnership NI	Ulster Pubs, 91 University Street
24 February	Castlereagh District Housing Community Network	Church Road, Dundonald
30 March	Children in Northern Ireland	CiNI Office (Unit 9, 40 Montgomery Road, Belfast)
25 February	Community Leaders	Trinity Conference Centre, Lisburn
15 February	Community & Voluntary Sector	Castle Park Centre, Lisnaskea
7 March	Community Relations Council Interface Community Partners	Community Relations Council 6 Murray Street Belfast
24 February	Community Relations Council Interface Working Group	Tullyglass Hotel, Ballymena
4 April	Community representatives from North	NICVA, Duncairn

	Belfast	Gardens, Belfast
5 April	Community Safety Managers	Community Safety Unit, Millennium House
8 February	CRJ Newry & Armagh and Ethnic Minorities Group	Ballybot House, Newry
16 February	Coleraine Rural/Urban Network, NEELB	Youth Service Office, Coleraine
4 March	DoJ Lesbian Gay Bisexual & Transgender and Black Ethnic Minority Networks	Hillview Buildings
24 March	DPP Managers	Hilton Templepatrick
24 March	East Belfast Community Development Agency	Park Avenue Hotel
2 March	Ethnic Minorities Groups	Ballymena Council Offices
23 March	Good Morning Network	CSU, Millennium House
4 April	Leonard Cheshire Disability	Wellington Park Hotel
15 February	Lesbian Gay Bisexual & Transgender community	LGBT Centre, Railway Street, Strabane
31 March	Local Community Groups	Castlereagh NIHE District Office, 30 Church Road, Dundonald
2 March	Locality Groups & Community reps	Greenland Community Centre, Old Glenarm Road, Larne
1 March	Muckamore Parish Development Association	Antrim Civic Centre
24 February	NIPB Community Engagement Committee	NIPB Offices, Waterside Tower
16 March	Older Peoples Advocate Working Group	1 st Floor, Millennium House
21 February	Older Persons Event	Kilskeery Church Hall

21 February	Older Persons Event	Castle Park, Lisnaskea
3 March	Older Persons Event	Gilaroo Centre, Garrison
7 February	Older Persons Group	Armagh City Hotel
15 February	Outer North Community Safety Forum	Outer North
25 February	PBNI Director, Deputy Director and Assistance Director	PBNI Headquarters, North Street, Belfast
10 February	Princes Trust	South West College, Cookstown
12 April	PSNI Independent Advisory Group Members	Newforge Country Club, 18b Newforge Lane, Belfast
2 March	Residents Associations from Enniskillen	Aisling Centre, Enniskillen
31 March	Save the Children	Popper House, 15 Richmond Park, Finaghy, Belfast
7 February	School Principals & Youth Workers	Craigavon Civic Centre
1 March	Senior Citizens Forum	Newtownabbey Borough Council
17 February	Stay Well Seniors Event	Loughmoss Leisure Centre, Castlereagh
1 April	Shepherd View Young Parents Project	First Housing Aid & Support Services Shepherd View Young Parents Project Derry/Londonderry
10 February	Various CSP, Voluntary etc	Dungannon Council Office
3 March	West Belfast Community Safety Forum	Falls Community Centre
15 February	Youth & Parents (Empower Programme)	Strabane Council Office
22 March	Youth Group	Youthlinks Building,

		17-19 Market Street, Ballycastle
7 February	Youth Workers & Council Staff	Banbridge Council Office