

# **Northern Ireland Policing Board**

## **Engagement Strategy (2023-2025)**

## **BACKGROUND**

The Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2000 outlines the Boards statutory duties which includes the need to engage with key stakeholders and the public in the delivery of its functions.

In March 2023, the Northern Ireland Policing Board agreed a new two-year Corporate Plan 2023–2025 which is to coincide with the remaining term of the 2020-2025 NI Policing Plan. This Engagement Strategy is intended to complement both these key documents and to ensure compliance with our statutory functions within the Police (NI) Act 2000.

The Boards Engagement Strategy is directly linked and aligned to the outcomes outlined in the Boards 2023 – 2025 Corporate Plan. Part of the Boards statutory remit is to develop, in partnership with the PSNI, the NI Policing Plan which highlights three Outcomes for policing. The Boards Engagement Strategy and the associated Programme of Engagement will assist the Board in assessing the delivery and implementation of Outcome 3 of the NI Policing Plan 2020-2023 namely, **“We have engaged and supportive communities”**.

## **WHAT IS ENGAGEMENT?**

Board Engagement, as defined within this strategy, consists of three distinct elements;

1. Board Member Outreach with Stakeholders
2. Engagement with the Wider Community
3. Consultations and Surveys

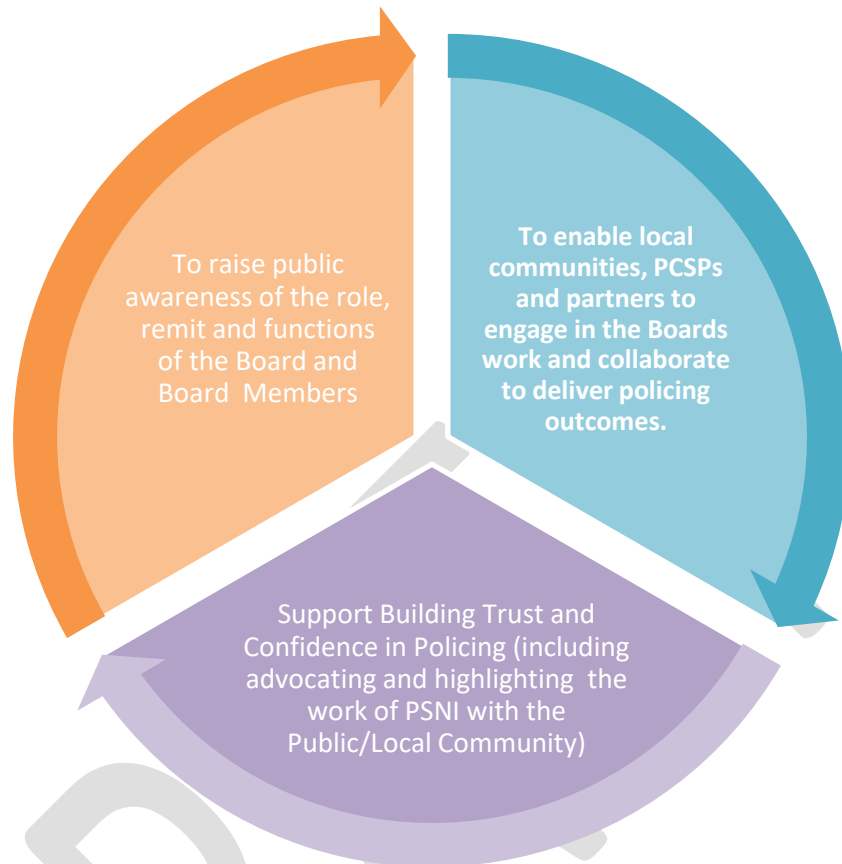
## **AIM**

The Northern Ireland Policing Boards Engagement Strategy aims to deliver strategic and purposeful engagement with key stakeholders and the wider community to make a significant contribution to the delivery of the outcomes and objectives of the Board's Corporate Plan 2023-2025 namely;

- **Outcome 1 – We have a safe community.**
- **Outcome 2 – We have confidence in policing.**
- **Outcome 3 – We have engaged and supportive communities.**
- **Objective C - To enable local communities, PCSPs and partners to engage in the Boards work and collaborate to deliver policing outcomes.**

The Board's Engagement Strategy will be delivered through an Annual Programme of Work that will provide further detail on the specific activities and initiatives which the Board will undertake in order to achieve our Engagement aims.

## Board's Engagement Aims



## PURPOSE

The purpose of this Engagement Strategy is to illustrate and guide the Board in relation to outward engagement with its key stakeholders over this period. The strategy will focus on the three key areas of:

- **Why** do we want to engage?
- **Who** do we want to engage with? and
- **How** are we going to deliver on engagement?

## WHY?

**To contribute to the delivery of the Boards Corporate Plan Outcomes and Objectives**

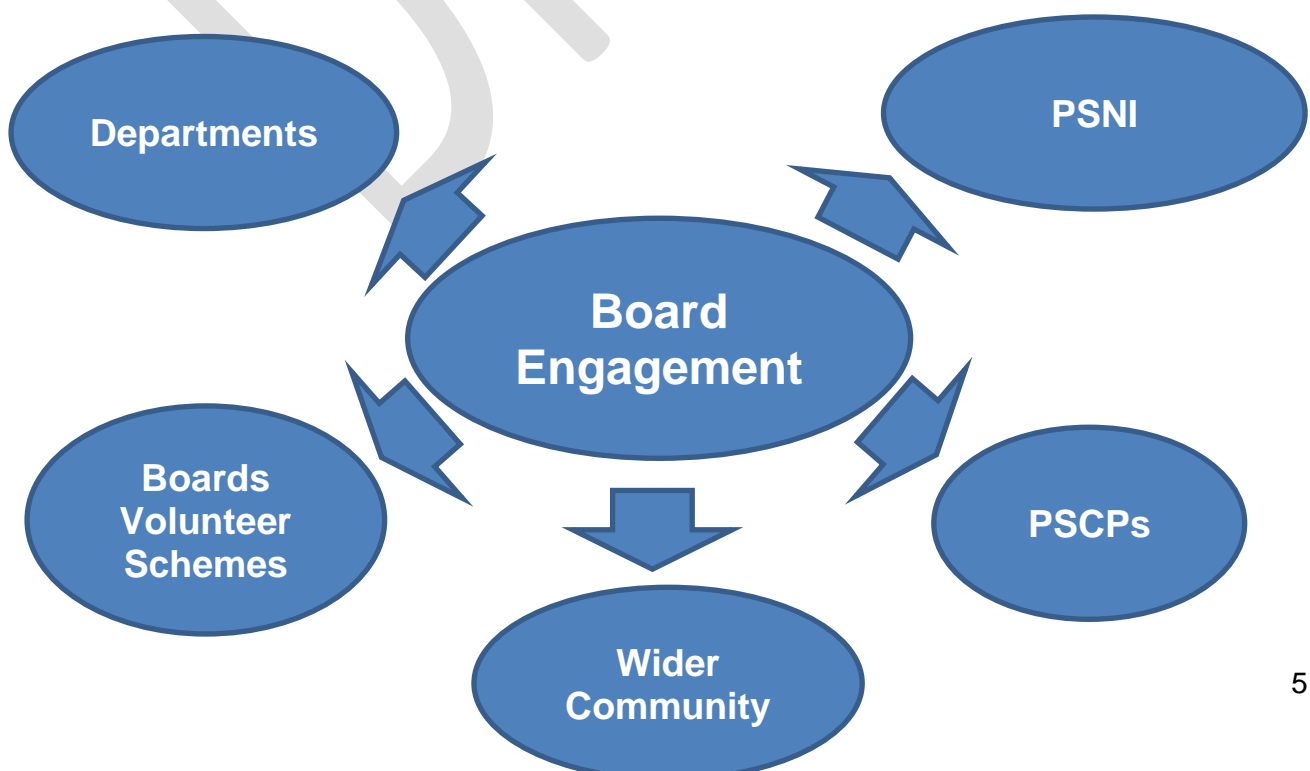
This strategy will enable the Board to:

- Listen to key stakeholder's views and experiences of policing;
- Identify key issues or concerns affecting stakeholders and the community regarding policing;
- Build upon existing relationships; and
- Establish and develop new collaborative partnerships.

## WHO?

**Key Stakeholders (inc. Sectoral Groups) and the wider community**

The Board has identified some of our key stakeholders who we will engage with over the next two years.



The Board will engage with key stakeholders and sectoral groups, to achieve the following overall strategic engagement objectives:

**Wider Community** - To foster collaborative ways of working with the community and make a significant contribution to Objective C of the Boards Corporate Plan namely, to enable local communities, PCSPs and partners to engage in the Boards work and collaborate to deliver policing outcomes.

**Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (PCSPs)** - To work within the existing accountability and advocacy structures to enable meaningful and widespread local community engagement and support.

**Volunteer Schemes** - To manage the Board's Volunteer Schemes and enable volunteer involvement to deliver on independent oversight of policing.

**PSNI** - To lead on the Board's work to ensure confidence in policing through monitoring and reviewing of Police Performance and the Policing with the Community ethos across PSNI.

**Departments** - To work closely with the Department of Justice and other Government Departments to support the delivery of Programme for Government (PfG) and contribute to better collaboration and multi-agency working.

## HOW?

### Delivery of Engagement Activities across Three Thematic Strands



### **Strand 1 – Engagement with the Community through Partnership & Collaboration**

This strand incorporates direct engagement by Board Members and Board Officials with members of the community. This is facilitated through attendance at events and bespoke engagement activities in order to meet and contribute to the achievement of the Boards Engagement Aims.

### **Strand 2 - Engagement with Stakeholders (inc. Statutory Stakeholders)**

This strand incorporates direct engagement by Board Members and Board Officials with our stakeholders (including PSNI & statutory stakeholders). Furthermore, this

strand includes both of the Boards volunteer schemes (namely, the Independent Custody Visiting (ICV) and Independent Community Observers (ICO) scheme) which are aimed at holding the PSNI to account by ensuring the protection of human rights of detained persons and monitoring and reporting on key aspects of the PSNI's recruitment process.

### **Strand 3 - Consultation, Research & Reports**

This strand incorporates the work of the Board with regards to consultations, Human Rights reports and other publications required by the Board in fulfilling its functions. One element under this strand is the completion of the Policing Plan Survey.

The next section provides further detail on why we engage and who we will engage with under each of these thematic strands. All actions to be implemented, in order to deliver this plan, will be detailed within the Boards Annual Programme of Work.

### **Annual Programme of Engagement**

The Boards Annual Programme of Engagement is a live and dynamic document which will be kept under review throughout the term of this strategy. Furthermore, it can be adapted where necessary, to take account of emerging issues, needs and trends where further engagement may be required.

A key element in ensuring that the Boards engagement work is meaningful and purposeful, will be through continuous and ongoing engagement with our external stakeholders and groups. This will aid in identifying and maximising further opportunities for the Board to deliver on engagement, while also contributing to the delivery of our corporate objective (as defined under Objective C<sup>1</sup> of the Board's

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<sup>1</sup> Board Corporate Plan 2023-2025 - Objective C - To enable local communities, PCSPs and partners to engage in the Boards work and collaborate to deliver policing outcomes.



Corporate Plan 2023-2025) of working in partnership and collaborating with the wider community and external stakeholders.

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**Strand 1 - Engagement with the Community through Partnership & Collaboration**

**Strand 2 - Engagement with Stakeholders**

**Strand 3 - Consultation, Research & Reports**

**Why we engage?**

To work with and foster relationships with the wider community and sectoral groups to enable local communities, PCSPs and partners to engage in the Board's work and collaborate to deliver policing outcomes.

To ensure visibility by raising the profile of the work, role and remit of the Board and Board Members.

To inform, engage and further enhance the knowledge of Board Members on PSNI operations and estate.

To represent the Board on external groups and forums.

To enable volunteer involvement to deliver independent oversight of policing.

To coordinate the Board's work on delivering and responding to consultations and support engagement opportunities in relation to commissioned research.

To ensure that all consultation work undertaken by the Board is disseminated as wide as possible ensuring feedback received is representative of all sections of the community.

**Who we engage with?**

**Wider Community**  
(inc. Sectoral Groups)

Delivering engagement activities in partnership and collaboration with our stakeholders including the utilisation of the **Policing and Community Safety Partnerships** (PCSP's) as a delivery mechanism to enable meaningful and widespread local community engagement & support.

**Board Officials**

**Board Members**

**Board's Human Rights Advisor**

**PSNI and other key/statutory stakeholders.**

**Board Volunteers on both the Independent Custody Visiting (ICV) and Independent Community Observers (ICO) Schemes**

**Board Members**

**Board Officials**

**Wider Community**  
(inc. Sectoral Groups)

**Key/Statutory Stakeholders**

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