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#KeepSafeThisChristmas

December 1st has been and gone, which can only mean one thing – it's officially Christmas!

For many, Christmas is a season for sharing good times with friends and family. For others, it's a chance to take advantage through burglaries and scams.

At a time where many are focusing on giving, it's even more important to help protect ourselves and others from those who are more intent on taking.

PCSPs are an integral part of keeping our communities safe and have been active getting out some key safety message across our communities.

Keep safe online

Many people make the most of festive sales to get those big-ticket gifts. This also means more opportunities for those scammers behind our computer screens or on the other end of the phone. Even the most seasoned shoppers may find themselves drawn in to a too-good-to-be-true deal as the financial reality of Christmas shopping takes hold.

When you're shopping online...

- Vary your password for each site, and log out when you're done.
- Double check your address bar for a lock symbol so you know the site's secure.
- Only buy from websites you know and trust, and that have official company pages.
- Don't share personal information online that you don't need to.
- If that Facebook Marketplace deal seems too good to be true... it probably is!



Keep your home safe

A lot of us will spend this Christmas making up for lost time, either out at the shops or visiting friends and family – which can mean an empty house. It's easy when you're rushing around to forget the simple things that are normally second nature, and unfortunately, even at Christmas, there are criminals waiting to take advantage.

When you head out...

- Remember to lock all of your doors and windows – and don't feel silly if you need to go back round and double check.
- Put away those presents – even Santa keeps his covered up in a sack!
- Mark your valuables with your postcode, house number, or electronic tag to make them easier to track. Don't forget to take photos too.
- Always ensure your car is locked and any parcels in it hidden away – even if you're nipping in to grab a pint of milk or pick up something you forgot. Stay in or with your vehicle when defrosting your windows!



Keep yourself safe

Chilling out and hanging out with family and friends become priorities for a lot of us at Christmas, but it's important to remember that staying safe should never budge from the top spot. PCSPs and the PSNI are constantly reminding people of simple ways to stay safe, and it's particularly important during the festive period when we're all a little more relaxed.

When you're out and about...

- Never, ever drink or do drugs and drive.
- Plan your journey home and your journey the next day – if you've been drinking, you could still be over the limit even if you think you aren't.
- Remember even one drink affects your judgement, even if you think it doesn't. Your decision-making abilities take a hit when you take a drink.
- Make sure you're asking yourself "do I feel safe?" while you're out, and while you're on your way home. Drink, drugs, and even something as simple as having a carry on can bring defences down and leave people more vulnerable.
- Stay in bright, well-lit and busy areas when walking. Keep valuables like your phone or wallet in your pockets, and keep earphone wires tucked in to make them harder to grab.



Operation Seasons Greetings

It wouldn't be Christmas without PSNI's Operation Seasons Greetings, which will run as both an awareness campaign on social media and as a visible policing operation.

The campaign focuses on the core themes of:

Safer streets for shopping and socialising

Safer roads and public transport

Safer homes for those at risk of domestic abuse

Safer businesses

Violence against women and children

PSNI have published a wide range of safety advice on topics such as online safety, shopping safely, domestic abuse, road safety, drink spiking, child sexual exploitation, sexual consent and socialising safely on their dedicated landing page.

#EndingTheHarm

In the run up to Christmas, especially as bills continue to rise, many of us will find ourselves with more money going out than coming in, and feel like we have few places to turn.

This is an environment illegal moneylenders feed off. While it may be tempting to take a quick-fix loan from a group claiming to support and protect your community, all that's happening is a paramilitary gang taking advantage of you when you're at your most vulnerable.

Ending The Harm has been highlighting the damage paramilitaries do to every community across Northern Ireland since 2016, and their latest campaign focuses on the intimidation, coercion and trauma paramilitaries inflict on vulnerable families.

Make sure you're following them across social media and check out their website to get all the facts on the abusive practices of paramilitaries, as well as information on how to seek help if you've been victimised.



**PARAMILITARY GANGS
USE ILLEGAL MONEY LENDING
TO EXPLOIT PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES**

ENDINGTHEHARM.COM



The famous 1000th marked trailer!

1000 Trailer Marking Milestone

Trailer marking is a key part of Fermanagh & Omagh PCSP's rural crime prevention work, and they've been back on the road with a very special celebration - this event, hosted at the Omagh Livestock Mart, saw the 1000th trailer marked through the project.

Trailer marking remains an extremely successful PCSP project, with a total of 28 trailers marked and recorded in the PSNI database. It also gave PCSP officers a chance to speak with participants to give them safety advice and register their satisfaction with the scheme (which was 100%)

Cllr Keith Elliott, Chairman of Fermanagh and Omagh PCSP, stated "Trailer marking remains one of the most effective ways to deter trailer theft. This project ensures that stolen trailers are more easily traceable and also advises the public on how to best protect their trailers from theft."



100% SATISFACTION



28 TRAILERS MARKED

Park Watch

Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon has no shortage of public parks – which is why it's so important that local residents, PSNI and Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon PCSP work together to protect them from vandalism and antisocial behaviour through Park Watch schemes.

The 20th Park Watch scheme has launched in Dromore, and residents are delighted to be part of it.

PCSP Chair Cllr Jill Macauley commented, "We want to encourage local residents and park users to 'own' their park, take pride in it, look after it and protect it from vandalism and anti-social behaviour. By doing so they will not only be improving the safety and security of the park, but also the surrounding area."

The aptly-named Sgt Nicholas Woods from the Neighbourhood Policing Team added: "Dromore Park is a fabulous place for all the family to visit and enjoy and we are committed to working with the PCSP and the local community to make this a safe space for everyone. We want to encourage park users and local residents to help us protect the park from vandalism and antisocial behaviour by reporting any criminal or suspicious activity at the earliest opportunity."



Sgt Woods and Cllr Jill Macauley at Dromore Park

**IF YOU CAN SPOT A SCAM,
YOU CAN STOP A SCAM**



Scambassadors

With over £3.5 million lost to scams this year so far, it's an issue which has effected many people across Northern Ireland. For Newry, Mourne & Down PCSP, scams and scam prevention were topics discussed frequently at meetings and public engagement events.

With groups taking a break due to pandemic restrictions, feedback from community members was that while information being circulated online was useful, it wasn't accessible to more vulnerable community members such as older people who weren't comfortable accessing information online. Individuals were more isolated than usual and were not reaching information how they normally would, for example, in their community groups or via speaking to friends and family. This prompted PCSP to organise "Scambassador" online training session to much success.

Scambassadors are people from local areas who are known to vulnerable members of the community in everyday life. In this instance, training was given to those who would continue to be in touch with vulnerable people throughout the pandemic - Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators, community group representatives. Library staff, elected reps, PCSP Partnership members, church groups and GPs, to name a few!

Training was developed and coordinated by Newry, Mourne & Down PCSP and delivered by a local PSNI Crime Prevention Officer and the Community Banking Team Leader from Ulster Bank.

With 52 total participants and more training sessions in the works, scammers in the District may catch themselves on the back foot as knowledge spreads!



100%
SATISFACTION



52
PARTICIPANTS



4
ONLINE TRAINING SESSIONS

Kids Court

Speeders in Killeel are in for a surprise thanks to Newry, Mourne & Down PCSP's latest Kids Court.

The busy Newcastle Road is home to St Columban's primary school, meaning those that speed are endangering children who may be playing or crossing going to and from school.

Kids Court saw eight speeding motorists face a panel of P7 judges to explain their reasons for speeding outside the school, as well as being quizzed on their road safety knowledge.

Kids Court often proves a powerful experience for motorists as they come face to face with the young lives they are endangering, and 100% of those involved said they had greater knowledge of the dangers of exceeding the speed limit.



The student judges in action

Summer Splash

Newry, Mourne & Down PCSP have been tackling water safety issues in Warrenpoint with a weeklong scheme for young people aged 14+.

Being a coastal town, water safety is a particularly important issue for the community and during the summer of 2020, many young people were drinking alcohol and jumping off the pier, raising serious safety concerns.

The summer scheme was led by the PCSP and Education Authority, and worked with Warrenpoint Port, PSNI, RNLI and Start 360 to deliver a range of activities, including a display from RNLI where a dummy was thrown from the pier in front of the SeaTruck ferry to demonstrate to the attendees what would happen if they were to jump from the pier when a ferry was entering the Port. Start 360 and PSNI gave talks on the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse, with PSNI's presentation including how this can lead to danger in the water with information on recent searches they had had to conduct.

As well as the educational sessions, the young people also engaged in a beach clean up and painting a mural on the Warrenpoint Pier Wall to promote water safety – as well as chilling out with some kayaking and (safe!) pier jumping.

 **1 WEEK OF ACTIVITIES**  **20 ATTENDEES**



The finished mural

"I just wanted to thank you so much for your support over the years. I would appreciate it if you could let our PCSP Project Officer know as she has been such a huge help to us over the years as well."

Theresa Dunlop, The Whistle Project

Small Project Support

Derry & Strabane PCSP provide over 200k annually to small projects in the District that promote community safety and increase confidence in policing, in line with their Action Plan.

Calls for funding opened again in January 2021, with a raft of great, varied projects starting throughout the District in May 2021. Projects covered tackling anti-social behaviour, improving youth engagement with communities, and raising awareness on topics like domestic abuse, addiction and hate crime.



PCSP Chair, Ald. Maurice Devenney at Cathedral YC (Moor DEA) who were allocated £6644.00 under the PCSP Small Project Support

 **£220,000 IN FUNDING**

 **26 PROJECTS**



PCSP Chair, Ald. Maurice Devenney with coaches and participants of Eglinton Cricket Club (Faughan DEA) who were allocated £8860.80 under the PCSP Small Project Support

Road Safety Awards



Newry, Mourne & Down Community Planning Sgt Ryan Duffy and PCSP Manager Martina Flynn



PCSP Project Officer Billy Stewart with his award

PCSPs were in the winner's circle once again at the latest RoadSafe NI Road Safety Awards.

Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon PCSP Project Officer Billy Stewart won in the open category, nominated by a member of the newly formed ABC Road Safety Committee. Billy has been involved in road safety since his days in the Boys Brigade, giving a presentation on the topic to his peers. This dedication to road safety awareness and support for victims stayed with him – notably, the nomination for his award came from one family who he helped following the death of their 13 year old daughter in a road traffic collision.

In their nomination, they stated they never forgot the care and attention he gave to them, and has continued to give to other families in the same position throughout his career. Billy remains dedicated to making our roads safer in his present role as a PCSP Project Officer, managing the Speed Indicator Device project.

Newry, Mourne & Down PCSP took home the public sector award thanks to their tireless work in improving and educating people on road safety throughout the district through their many initiatives, nominated by PSNI Newry, Mourne & Down.

Causeway, Coast & Glens PCSP were also took home a Highly Commended for their road safety work.

Safer Schools

Speaking of Newry, Mourne & Down PCSP's road safety initiatives...

The PCSP have provided local primary schools with "kiddie cut outs", encouraging those parking and driving around the areas to behave sensibly and remain alert as children move around the area.

The signs are designed to be around the height of primary school children, and have now been rolled out at a total of 35 primary schools – with one school that caters for children with severe learning difficulties even getting custom signs with children depicted in wheelchairs to better reflect the children within their school.

Feedback on the kiddie cut outs has been great, with many schools reporting a reduction in speeding and illegal parking.



Two of the kiddie cut outs

PARTNER UPDATES

Marking 20 Years

4 November Board marked the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Northern Ireland Policing Board and the PSNI. We've been reflecting on some key moments in our policing history with this pictorial history.



PBNI and BCC staff testing out the equipment

Graffiti Removal

Probation Board Northern Ireland have been working with Belfast City Council to refresh their work on the Graffiti Removal Scheme. Meeting to share learning and expertise, Probation Community Service Supervisors held a training course for Council employees on the use of graffiti removal equipment and the scheme generally.

The Graffiti Removal Scheme was launched in partnership with Belfast City Council in 2017, and works to both tackle non-contentious graffiti and allow those sentenced with a Community Service Order to serve their community, increase their confidence and create pride in their public and shared spaces.



PBNI Probation Board for Northern Ireland

CONSULTATIONS

Careless Driving Consultation

Department for Infrastructure have launched a consultation to seek views on careless driving offences.

Road Safety Strategy for NI 2030

The consultation invites views on the proposed approach to road safety until 2030 and the issues and priorities that need to be addressed.

PUBLICATIONS

Asset Recovery Community Schemes

See the latest Community Schemes funded by Department of Justice

Chief Constable's Accountability Reports

Research Digests (Q3 2021)

Department for the Economy monitors recently published relevant research reports and, each quarter, produces a summary in the Research Digests for wider dissemination

PSNI Trends in Police Recorded Crimes

Covering the period 1998/99 to 2020/21

Probation News Magazine

PSNI Outcomes of Crimes Recorded

Covering the period 2015/16 to 2020/21



Follow us on social media and find out more about PCSPs:

PCSPs are funded and supported by the Policing Board and the Department of Justice.



PCSPs work with a number of designated partners.

