

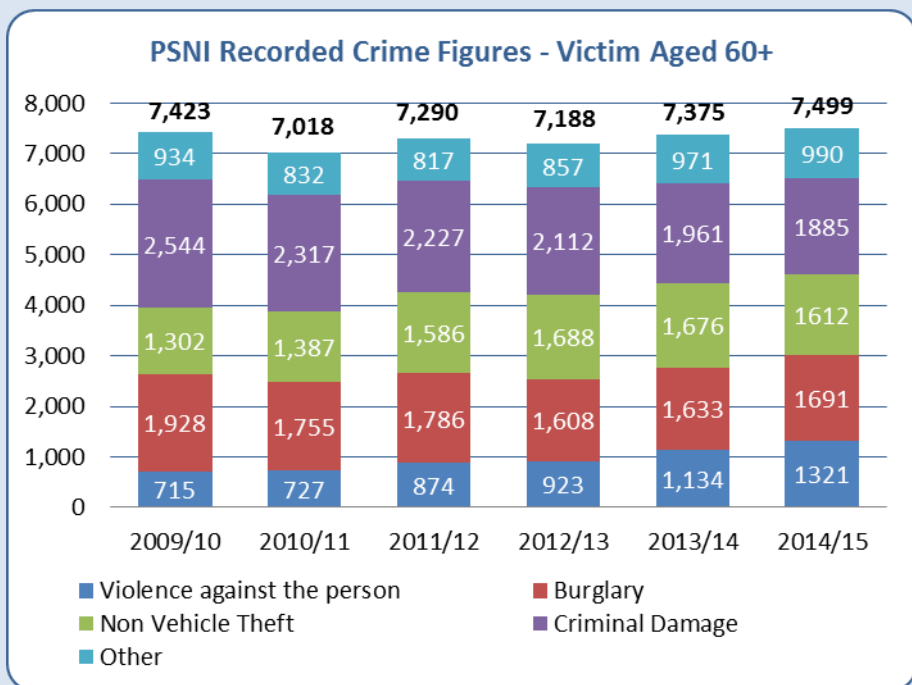
FEAR OF CRIME

REDUCE FEAR OF CRIME AND HELP OLDER AND VULNERABLE PEOPLE FEEL SAFER (PfG Commitment 55)

Lead Responsibility: Older Persons Delivery Group

Partners on Delivery Group: Department of Justice (DOJ), Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI), Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP) Representatives, Department of the Environment (DOE), Health and Social Care (HSC) Board, Northern Ireland Policing Board (NIPB), the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister (OFMDFM), Age Sector Platform (ASP), Linking Generations Northern Ireland (LGNI).

Performance Indicators



Northern Ireland Crime Survey findings for respondents aged 60+

Percentage of older people (aged 60+) who:	Baseline	Target	Progress			
	2010/11		2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
are very worried about crime	8%	↓	8%	7%	7%	6%
state 'fear of crime' has a minimal effect on their quality of life	68%	↑	64%	70%	71%	68%
Feel very unsafe walking alone in their area after dark	13%	↓	12%	11%	11%	10%

No significant changes at the 5% level of probability from baseline ($p < 0.05$)

Note: 'Other' includes sexual offences, robbery, vehicle theft, crimes against society and other fraud.

Source: PSNI

Story behind the figures/context:

The Department of Justice has a Programme for Government (PfG) commitment to tackle crime against older and vulnerable people by more effective and appropriate sentences and other measures. The Northern Ireland Community Safety Strategy also commits the Department to reducing the fear of crime amongst older and vulnerable people through regional and local programmes to increase trust and confidence. The Older Persons Delivery Group, consisting of key stakeholders from the statutory sector, criminal justice agencies and representatives from the young and older persons sectors, are responsible for the delivery of the action plan incorporating these commitments.

Crimes against older people are relatively rare. Whilst ‘Violence Against the Person’ offences, where victims are 60+ years old, have risen (7,018 in 2010/11 to 7,499 in 2014/15) in the five year period shown, such crimes against older people are still relatively rare. During 2014/15, 3.9% of victims of ‘violence against the person’ offences were aged 60+, whereas the 60+ age group constitute approximately 21.2% of the entire Northern Ireland population. (Source: PSNI and NISRA)

In relation to addressing the fear of crime, the aim is to increase the percentage of older people who state that ‘fear of crime’ has a ‘minimal’ effect on their quality of life. While this proportion appears to have decreased, the change is not statistically significant as it is less than the 5% level of probability (p<0.05). It cannot, therefore, be considered as a real change as it may have occurred by chance. As with all PfG targets, this trend will continue to be monitored.

What we agreed to achieve in 2015-2017	What we did in 2015-16
Reduce the fear of crime against older and vulnerable people	<p>OFMDFM recently published the Executive’s Active Ageing Strategy 2016-2021. This sets out a vision for Northern Ireland as an age friendly region in which people, as they get older, are valued and supported to live actively to their fullest potential; with their rights respected and their dignity protected. The Strategy contains a commitment around fear of crime, for which DOJ is the lead Department – the aim is to address fear of crime and promote community safety by engaging with and understanding the concerns of older people and addressing these through community safety initiatives and intergenerational approaches, where relevant.</p> <p>This work is taken forward by DOJ primarily through funding Age Sector Platform to further their work on fear of crime. Age Sector Platform developed a workshop to highlight crime prevention advice contained within their ‘Feel Safe’ guide. Four regional workshops were delivered in Belfast, Newry, Enniskillen and</p>

Derry/Londonderry in January 2016, with 370 people in attendance.

The **Health and Social Care Board** hosted a safeguarding celebration event in June 2015, which showcased work around safeguarding adults, including aspects of work undertaken to prevent older people from becoming victims of crime. The event included presentations from the Adult Safeguarding Gateway Team; an overview of “Keeping YOU Safe” safeguarding training on prevention of harm by the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust Local Adult Safeguarding Partnerships (LASP) Prevention work team; and the use of a Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC). The ‘Top Ten Women’s Drama Group’ acted out a section of their PCSP-funded DVD, ‘A Costly Subject’, which focuses on elder financial abuse. Over 200 delegates attended from across a wide range of sectors.

DHSSPS and **DOJ** jointly published the new Adult Safeguarding Policy for Northern Ireland ‘Adult Safeguarding: Prevention and Protection in Partnership’ in July 2015. The intention of the policy is to improve safeguarding outcomes for all adults who are at risk of harm through abuse, exploitation or neglect.

NIPB published the Policing Plan for 2015-16, which includes the following measures: by 31 March 2016 to encourage increased reporting by victims of crime who are older people; by 31st March 2016 to increase by 2% points the outcome rate for domestic burglary in which older persons are victims compared to the outcome rate recorded for 2014-15; and by 31 March 2016 to reduce by 2% the number of domestic burglaries and robberies in which older persons are victims compared to the number recorded for the 2014-15. The 2016-20 Strategic Objectives for policing, for which the consultation closed on 31 January 2016, will have a strategic objective which will include protecting the most vulnerable in society.

Linking Generations Northern Ireland (LGNI) published an evaluation of the Intergenerational Safer Communities Project (2013-15), which outlines the improvements made in terms of developing and raising awareness of intergenerational approaches. The aim of this project was to promote intergenerational approaches amongst Policing and Community Safety Partnerships. LGNI hosted a conference, ‘What Works? – Intergenerational Approaches to Community Safety’, in March 2015. The event provided an opportunity for participants to share learning about their experiences of taking intergenerational approaches to tackling community safety issues across Northern Ireland. LGNI are currently offering services to PCSPs to deliver age awareness sessions in support of ongoing intergenerational activity. Mid and East Antrim Agewell Partnership (MEAAP) are also working in partnership with LGNI to deliver projects in this area.

Partners on the **Older Persons Delivery Group** have engaged with Northern Ireland Trading Standards

Service and MEAAP to establish the need for and develop a pilot scheme in a number of PCSP areas for the installation of call blocking devices in the homes of vulnerable older people. This follows on from the work of Trading Standards with individuals on the so-called 'suckers list' and aims to ensure those who are identified locally as being at risk from scammers can be protected.

DOJ engaged in discussions with the Commissioner for Older People, PSNI and others about rising trends in financial abuse of older people and what can be done to tackle it. The outworkings of these discussions will be taken forward in 2016/17.

Following public consultation, **DOE** published its Strategic Planning Policy Statement for Northern Ireland (SPPS) in final form on 28th September 2015. The SPPS incorporates 'Improving Health and Well-Being' as an overarching 'Core Planning Principle' in recognition that the land use planning system can play an active role in improving the lives and well-being of people, including older people, and communities in Northern Ireland. The SPPS provides that when plan-making and decision-taking, planning authorities should contribute positively to health and well-being in a number of ways including providing for safe and secure age friendly environments.

The Nominated Neighbour Scheme was launched by the **PSNI** in partnership with the Commissioner for Older People. If an unrecognised caller comes to the address of an older person the caller will be asked to contact their 'Nominated Neighbour' who will confirm their identity. The scheme is being promoted throughout the PSNI in all districts.

The **PSNI** have implemented Cocoon Watch, a scheme designed around the current Neighbourhood Watch Scheme which encourages members to be particularly vigilant around older persons who have been victims of domestic burglaries.

PSNI local response and neighbourhood officers continue to engage with local PCSPs on initiatives such as Be Safe, Be Well and Good Morning Network to provide support and advice.

At local Crime Prevention events, Crime Prevention Officers work alongside police officers, PCSP colleagues and other agencies to provide a range of advice, support and services, from surgeries and specific briefing events, through to home visits.

An advice leaflet was developed by the **PSNI** to be distributed to carers of older persons. This has been sent

out to the Health Trusts and provides basic crime prevention advice both for the carer, and for the client, such as signs to look out for and to assist the resident in their own home to keep safe.

The Commissioner for Older People and **PSNI** are considering next steps for the Quick Check scheme in partnership with the Utility Regulator.

The **PSNI** and **PCSPs** designed a jointly branded Domestic Burglary Campaign which commenced in October 2015. This campaign is to increase awareness of domestic burglary among home owners (and older people) with a focus on the protection of personal belongings.

- Other Initiatives delivered across the **PCSP** network include:

Derry City and Strabane District PCSP:

- developed a DVD and resource pack, 'A Costly Subject', which aims to raise awareness of scamming amongst older and vulnerable people.
- the Chair of the PCSP spoke at the International Day for Older People Event organised by APEX and CHOICE Housing. This was supported by PSNI and the PCSP, and was attended by over 100 elderly residents from sheltered housing schemes.
- continue to provide and fit home security equipment for elderly and vulnerable residents
- have 44 active Neighbourhood Watch schemes, and Community Safety Wardens, who provide dedicated patrols in hotspot areas.

South Belfast DPCSP developed a DVD in conjunction with the Adult Safeguarding Partnership and Belfast Trust about reporting suspected abuse of vulnerable adults.

Mid and East Antrim PCSP: MEAAP is running a security project funded by the PCSP and through the Assets Recovery Scheme. Three tier security schemes in Carrickfergus, Larne and Ballymena were delivered. MEAAP also piloted a call blockers scheme for older and vulnerable people in Larne using trueCall call blocking devices. During the first six months, almost 1000 nuisance telephone calls were blocked. The project was expanded across the Mid and East Antrim area. By August 2015, 42 devices had been installed, 2402 nuisance calls had been received and 2375 of these were blocked by the device. 100% of people who had the device installed said they felt reassured and less likely to be scammed by telephone in the future.

Mid Ulster PCSP continues to work in partnership with Agewell in the Cookstown, Dungannon and Magherafelt council areas to reduce isolation and improve security of older people.

Newry, Mourne and Down PCSP is running Home Secured, Good Morning Good Neighbour schemes, text alert and crime prevention seminars targeted at older and more vulnerable residents within neighbourhood watch schemes. Neighbourhood Watch volunteers attended and promoted all this work at Positive Ageing Week in October 2015 and continue to work with Crime Prevention Officers.

Causeway Coast and Glens PCSP continues to purchase security equipment for dissemination to elderly and vulnerable and works with Causeway Older Active Strategic Team (COAST) around Safe and Well events across the council area.

Fermanagh and Omagh PCSP provides monitored alarms to people who are, or who have been, victims of crime, anti-social behaviour, who are living in fear of crime, or who are vulnerable. The possible candidate for an alarm system receives a visit from the Crime Prevention Officer who carries out an assessment. If considered suitable the candidate will have a monitored alarm supplied to them at a cost of £5 per month to cover the monitoring cost.