

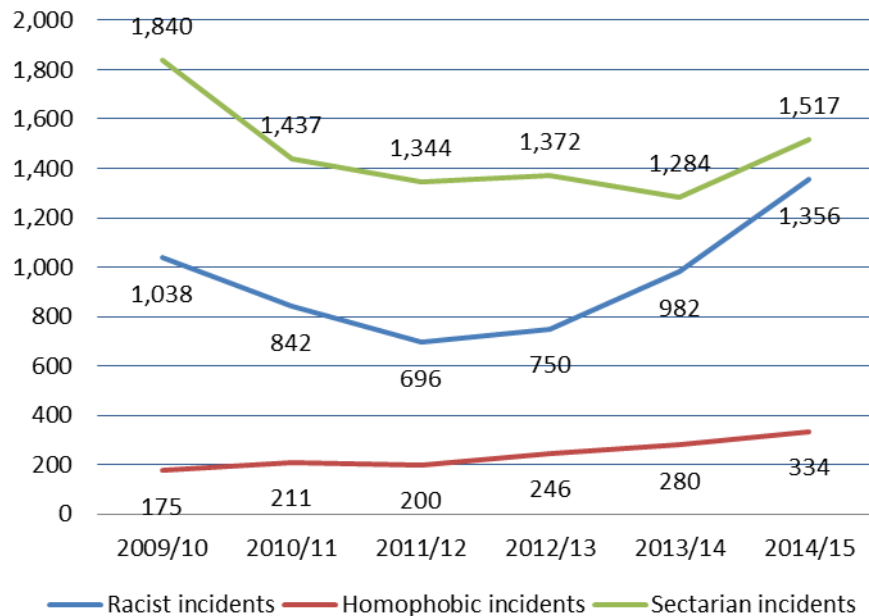
HATE CRIME

TO REDUCE THE HARM CAUSED BY HATE CRIME

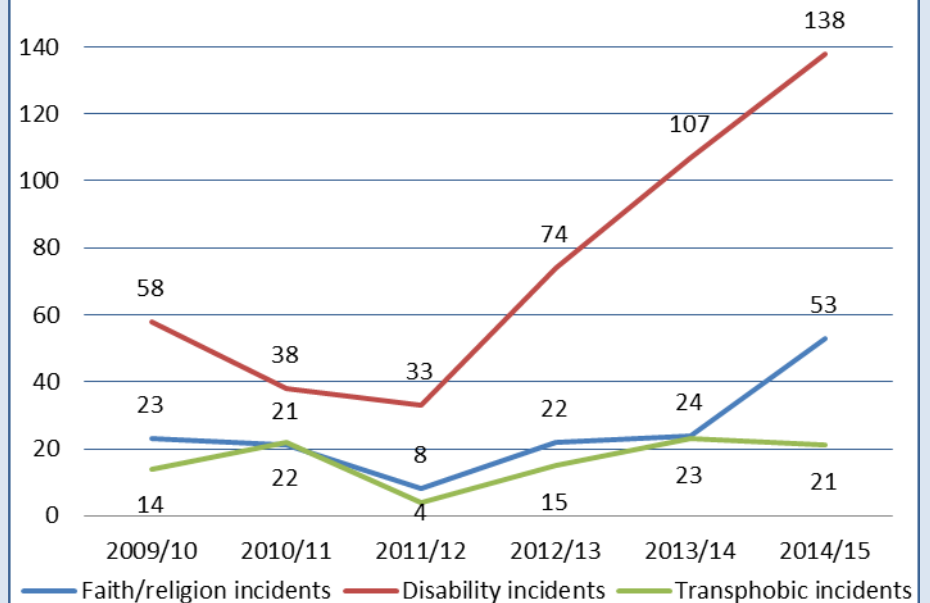
Lead Responsibility: Hate Crime Delivery Group.

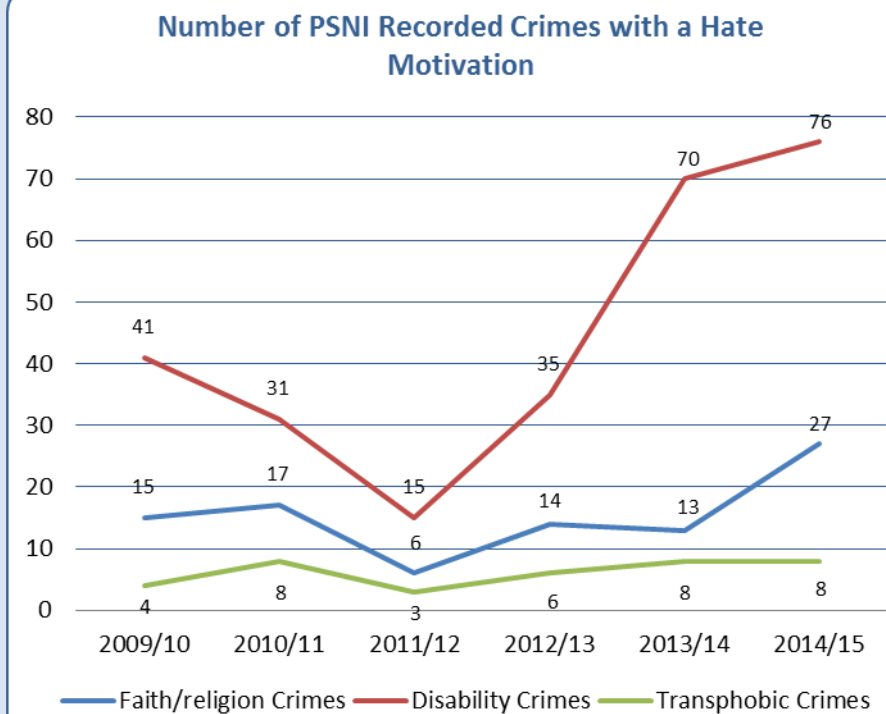
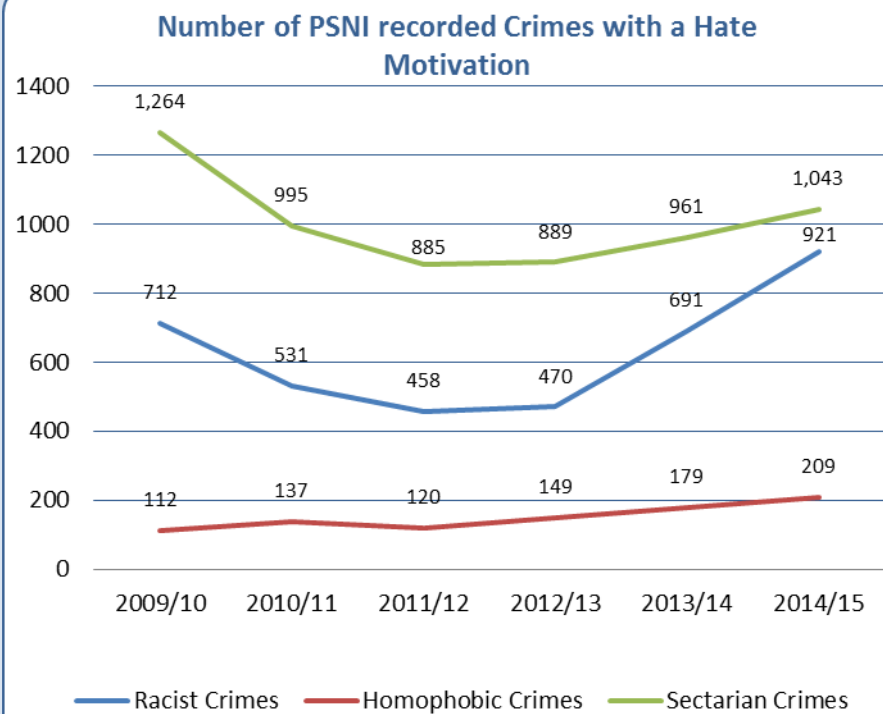
Partners on Delivery Group: Department of Justice (DOJ), Public Prosecution Service (PPS), Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI), Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunal Service (NICTS), Northern Ireland Prison Service (NIPS), Probation Board for Northern Ireland (PBNI), Victim Support Northern Ireland (VSNI), Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP) Representatives, Belfast City Council, Youth Justice Agency (YJA), Health and Social Care (HSC) Board, Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister (OFMDFM), Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE), Northern Ireland Policing Board (NIPB).

Number of Incidents Reported to PSNI with a Hate Motivation (2009/10 to 2014/15)



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Story behind the figures/context:

The Community Safety Strategy includes a commitment to tackle hate crime and to reduce the harm it causes. The Hate Crime Delivery Group, consisting of key stakeholders from the statutory sector, criminal justice agencies and voluntary and community sectors, is responsible for the delivery of the Action Plan, including plans to: increase awareness of the impact of hate crime; increase community confidence in the ability of the justice agencies to tackle hate crime; reduce the number of victims of hate crime; support greater community cohesion;

encourage greater reporting of hate crime and consider how third party reporting systems can support reporting; and increase effective support for victims of hate crime. The Hate Crime Delivery Group is also considering and implementing, where possible, recommendations from a range of independent reports and reviews on hate crime.

The number of incidents and reported crimes with a hate motivation has risen in each of the categories, with the exceptions of transphobic incidents with incidents declining from 23 during 2013/14 to 21 during 2014/15 and reported crimes remaining the same.

The number of crimes with a racist motivation rose by 33% between 2013/14 and 2014/15 and racist incidents rose by 38%. Likewise, the number of homophobic crimes rose by 17% and incidents by 19%. The number of reported crimes with a disability hate motivation has more than doubled between 2012/13 and 2014/15 from 35 to 76, as have those for faith/religion, from 13 to 27.

Work is ongoing by the PSNI, criminal justice agencies and voluntary and community organisations to encourage greater reporting of hate crime as underreporting remained an issue in 2015/16.

What we agreed to achieve in 2015-2017	What we did in 2015-16
<p>Increase awareness of the impact of hate crime</p>	<p>PSNI has provided financial support and management of five Hate Crime Advocates to assist with reporting and providing personalised emotional and practical support to victims of hate crime. DOJ has provided financial support for a Hate Crime Advocacy Co-ordinator within Victim Support NI, who also provides advocacy support for hate crime victims post the PSNI investigative stage. Both the Advocacy Co-ordinator and the Hate Crime Advocates engage with various groups, both statutory and voluntary, to raise awareness of the impact of hate crime and the services that they can provide.</p> <p>PPS provided internal training to a group of prosecutors who have been designated as specialist points of contact in each section; this included a section on the impact of hate crime.</p> <p>PBNI delivered training on cultural competency to increase awareness amongst staff on diversity and the impact of hate crime.</p> <p>PBNI held a “Small Worlds” event with the Belfast Friendship Club, inviting individuals from various ethnic minority backgrounds to talk about their experiences as victims of hate crime. PBNI delivered a presentation on hate crime at the annual Public Protection Advisory group conference held in Belfast City Hall in November 2015.</p> <p>The Health and Social Care Board delivered two regional conferences on adult safeguarding which included inputs on the impact of disability related hate crime. The Professionals in Practice in Adult Safeguarding (post qualifying award for social workers) now includes a session on hate crime.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiatives being delivered across the PCSP network include: <p>Belfast PCSP delivered a regional hate crime conference in March 2015 with Unite Against Hate and the Centre for Democracy and Peace Building, drawing on best practice both locally and internationally.</p>

<p>Increase community confidence in the ability of the justice agencies to tackle hate crime</p>	<p>PSNI revised its Service Procedure and input has been provided to PSNI Call Handlers and Inputters as well as Crime Management Support Unit and Occurrence Case Management Teams to ensure that reports of hate crime are recorded appropriately. This information is reiterated in internal guidance documents. This is monitored on an ongoing basis and dip-sampling occurs on a District and Headquarters level to ensure compliance. Hate crime statistics are published on a quarterly basis on the PSNI website. Input is also provided to District personnel on a regular basis through District Training sessions to ensure that knowledge of legislation and procedure is refreshed.</p> <p>The revised Service Procedure provides PSNI personnel with detailed operational guidance as to how the Police Service should respond to, report and investigate hate crimes/incidents, together with overarching principles. These make clear that the new procedures will prioritise the perception of the victim as a hate crime/incident and will accept without challenge this perception throughout the investigation of the report. Guidance is also reflected in the PSNI Hate and Signal Crime Handbook which provides information on providing a professional and victim-centred response to the victims of hate crime/incidents.</p> <p>PSNI has taken a number of steps to ensure personnel fully understand the relevant domestic laws. These include internal awareness training, with training as recent as January 2016. Police are encouraged to ensure all relevant information is put on the file sent to the PPS, including evidence of previous relevant incidents, so that if there is more than one incident, the offence of harassment can be prosecuted if the test for prosecution is met. It may also be relevant regarding the admission of bad character evidence and also in assessing eligibility for special measures.</p> <p>The Human Rights Advisor to the NI Policing Board is currently carrying out a thematic review on policing race hate crime. The thematic review will consider the PSNI approach to policing with and for those individuals of the community who may be identified as being within a minority racial group. The</p>

thematic review will consider the PSNI approach to policing with and for those individuals and in particular its compliance with the Human Rights Act 1998 in, but not limited to:

- Identifying, recording and encouraging the reporting of race hate crimes, including offences of incitement to racial hatred;
- Supporting victims of race hate crime;
- Investigating race hate crimes and arresting and prosecuting the perpetrators;
- Effectiveness of the police use of statutory powers to prosecute race hate crime;
- Strategies to combat race hate crime;
- Supporting police officers and staff from minority ethnic communities;
- Engaging with external partners and stakeholders.

This thematic will include a review of PSNI policy, operational effectiveness, training, staffing and the quality of service received by victims of race hate crime.

PSNI partnered with the Northern Ireland Council for Ethnic Minorities (NICEM) in delivering a Good Practice Plus training and best practice session with counterparts in Finland, with the support of **DOJ** and **PPS**. The project aims to support victims through training for law enforcement agencies, influencing law, policy and practice, and engagement with public authorities that deal with racial and religious hate crime. The Hate Crime Delivery Group has been engaged with the project and provides feedback on an ongoing basis.

Relevant members of the **Hate Crime Delivery Group** continue to co-operate and implement the relevant recommendations from independent reports including Criminal Justice Inspectorate Northern Ireland and the Northern Ireland Policing Board reports relating to hate crime. Members of the Group are currently engaging with CJINI as they carry out their inspection of the criminal justice response to hate crime in Northern Ireland.

Relevant members of the **Hate Crime Delivery Group** participated in a briefing for the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI), providing information on how hate crime is tackled in Northern Ireland.

NIPB held meetings and events with ethnic minority, disability and LGB&T groups to gain an

	<p>understanding of their priorities for the 2016-20 Policing Plan as part of the Board’s full consultation on the topic.</p> <p>NIPB published the Policing Plan 2015-2016, which includes a specific measure to increase the outcome rate for racist crime by 3% compared to the outcome rate recorded for 2014-15. Along with this there is a target to encourage increased reporting from victims of hate crime by 3% compared to the previous year by encouraging victims to report. Performance will be measured at the end of the financial year 2015/16.</p> <p>PBNI set up an interagency Practitioner Group to raise awareness, share learning and develop practice in working with the perpetrators of hate crime.</p> <p>PPS continues to provide information and awareness presentations to voluntary and statutory partners to raise awareness of how hate crimes are prosecuted, and in the positive case outcomes apparent from statistics.</p> <p>PPS continues to publish its annual statistical bulletin on hate crime – this helps raise public confidence in the prosecution of hate crime and the outcomes of the cases.</p> <p>PPS continues to monitor how hate crime cases are prosecuted to ensure best practice is being adhered to. The internal PPS Hate Crime Working Group meets on a regular basis to identify and implement new initiatives to ensure cases are prosecuted and recorded effectively. PPS has implemented a new process whereby the Defence are put on notice that the Prosecution intend to prosecute an offence as ‘aggravated by hostility’. A Quality Assurance project is ongoing to establish its operation and effectiveness, and make recommendations for any identified improvements in this area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiatives being delivered across the PCSP network include: <p>North Belfast DPCSP: <i>North Belfast Community Response Plan:</i> A range of partners including PBNI, PSNI, NIHE, Victim Support NI, NICEM, CRJI, NI Alternatives and Belfast City Council have agreed to sign up to a community response plan whereby repeat victims, offenders and hotspots can be addressed through more effective information sharing and coordination between the agencies.</p>
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	<p><i>No Hate Here Campaign:</i> The 'No Hate Here' campaign is being developed for rollout across North Belfast in March 2016. This is based on the safe place model and will involve participating community groups being given a pack on hate crime, and leaflets, posters and stickers.</p> <p>West Belfast DPCSP: <i>Sally Gardens Inclusion Programme:</i> This small grant project was designed to develop an education initiative that addressed issues such as drugs and alcohol, anti-social behaviour, and racism. The programme focussed on personal development, youth crime, cultural identity and equality. The project underpinned acceptance and understanding of community/policing concerns, whilst also encouraging civic leadership</p>
<p>Reduce the number of victims of hate crime</p>	<p>PBNI developed a pilot intervention called “Accepting Differences” which involves working with offenders convicted of hate crimes. The pilot will run until March 2016, after which a roll out across the organisation is planned.</p> <p>PSNI Crime Prevention Officers provide information and advice to individuals, groups and associations throughout Northern Ireland on how to stay safe.</p>
<p>Support greater community cohesion</p>	<p>The Racial Equality Strategy 2015-2025, brought forward by OFMDFM, was agreed by the Executive on 10 December 2015. The Strategy will establish a framework for government departments (and others) to tackle racial inequalities, to eradicate racism and hate crime and along with Together: Building a United Community, to promote good race relations and social cohesion. This Strategy includes a commitment to work with DOJ to develop an approach to tackling race hate crime.</p> <p>OFMDFM awarded funding of approximately £1.1 million under the Minority Ethnic Development Fund (MEDF) to assist minority ethnic and local community organisations to promote good relations between people of different ethnic backgrounds.</p> <p>Belfast City Council, in partnership with Unite Against Hate, produced a DVD, ‘Challenging Racism: Ending Hate’, to disband myths around migrants, and their impact on the economy and society.</p>

PSNI's current interpretation contracts for both telephone and face to face interpretation have been in place since 2005. PSNI will continue to supply information in additional languages/dialects, in partnership with service providers, to aid communication with individuals and groups.

NIHE published 'Housing Myths and Migrants', which aims to help people understand the truth behind popular housing myths about migrants, asylum seekers, refugees and foreign nationals.

NIHE developed and published a Hate Harassment Toolkit. The Toolkit was developed to help those who are experiencing, or know someone who is experiencing harassment, persecution and/or intimidation.

NIHE support a range of local projects which aim to promote community cohesion. These include the South and East Belfast Hate Crime Project, taken forward by Northern Ireland Alternatives, which aims to help create more inclusive communities where non-indigenous residents feel more welcome and a part of community life, and Mediation and Community Support (MACS), provided by Community Restorative Justice Ireland (CRJI) and Northern Ireland Alternatives (NIA).

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

East Belfast DPCSP:

Polish Community Fun Day: Aimed at residents living in the Woodstock/Ravenhill areas, the project aims to build and harness lasting relationships between both the Polish and indigenous community.

South Belfast DPCSP:

Ethnic Minority Groups/Migrants Feel Safer Programme: The South Belfast Race Hate Crime Steering Group coordinated the delivery of a programme to help BME, migrants and immigrants to feel safer and importantly to build relationships with local communities to reduce their fears and combat isolation in pursuit of a whole community approach. Young people from Alternatives' Youth Safety Partnership set up and experienced a refugee camp, and pupils from Malone College and the Greater Village area participated in two Small World events focused on the refugee experience.

	<p>Mid and East Antrim PCSP: <i>Addressing Hate Crime Through Art/Our Community Our Future Our Life:</i> These projects target attitudes among young people with a view to increasing awareness of diversity and difference.</p>
<p>Encourage greater reporting of hate crime and consider how third party reporting systems can support reporting</p>	<p>PSNI has provided financial support and management of five Hate Crime Advocates to assist with reporting and providing personalised emotional and practical support to victims of hate crime. DOJ has provided financial support for a Hate Crime Advocacy Co-ordinator within Victim Support NI, who also provides advocacy support for hate crime victims post the PSNI investigative stage.</p> <p>PSNI has included a dedicated hate crime reporting line on the PSNI telephone system to aid reporting of hate and signal crime. Hate and Signal Crime Posters, including the new 101 telephone number, have been circulated to external organisations and internally for display at appropriate venues.</p> <p>The PSNI website highlights methods of reporting hate crimes, including online reporting. Hate crimes can also be reported to the PSNI through the True Vision website. Partner agencies (The Rainbow Project, Leonard Cheshire Disability, YouthNet and NICEM) have linked online hate crime reporting pages to their websites and act as third party reporters to victims of hate and signal crime.</p>
<p>Increase effective support for victims of hate crime</p>	<p>PSNI has provided financial support and management of five Hate Crime Advocates to assist with reporting and providing personalised emotional and practical support to victims of hate crime. DOJ has provided financial support for a Hate Crime Advocacy Co-ordinator, who also provides advocacy support for hate crime victims post the PSNI investigative stage.</p> <p>DOJ, PSNI, NIHE and DSD continue to fund the Hate Incident Practical Action (HIPA) Scheme, which provides personal and home protection measures for those who have been victims of hate crimes or incidents at or near their homes. DSD has engaged with the Northern Ireland Federation of Housing Associations to raise awareness of the Scheme with their members. A leaflet designed to raise awareness of the Scheme amongst those individuals from statutory and voluntary agencies who may come into contact with victims of hate crime continues to be distributed.</p> <p>DOJ, in conjunction with PSNI and NIHE, conducted an evaluation of the HIPA Scheme. Recommendations arising from the evaluation have been used in the development of a revised Service</p>

Level Agreement.

The Victim Charter was published by **DOJ** in January 2015 and was placed on a statutory footing in November 2015. The Charter advises victims of crime about their entitlements and the standards of service that they can expect when they come in contact with the criminal justice system. The Victim Charter builds on good work that has been done to date. This includes the setting up of a Victim and Witness Care Unit, the introduction of Registered Intermediaries Schemes and a Victim of Crime Fund.

DOJ provides funding to **Victim Support NI** to ensure that victims and witnesses are supported within the criminal justice system. In 2014/15, through the services of Victim Support NI, over 40,000 victims were offered support immediately after a crime was committed, more than 1500 victims were assisted with their Criminal Injuries Compensation claims and around 6500 witnesses were supported and enabled to give their best evidence at court.

PPS continues to develop Victim and Witness Care Units (VWCUs) and ensure that they provide effective support, information provision, and tailored needs assessments. There is an embedded member of Victim Support NI staff in each VWCU so that immediate referrals can be made and appropriate support identified. All PPS staff have received information about their obligations under the Victims Charter. Relevant staff have also been advised about the role of the Hate Crime Advocates to promote this service. PPS has engaged with the Advocates at a range of events to ensure good working relationships and mutual understanding of roles.

PPS has given awareness and information sessions to a range of groups and representatives, statutory and voluntary regarding how hate crime is prosecuted, the applicable legislation and the court outcomes as set out in its annual statistical bulletin on hate crime. It is hoped that this will have a positive impact on increasing community confidence in coming forward to report hate crime by publicising how it is effectively prosecuted and the support services available, from the voluntary sector and from the VWCUs.

PBNI's Victim Information Scheme is linking in with ethnic minority community groups to advise and inform on the work of the Scheme. The Scheme seeks to ensure that victims receive information about what it means when someone is sentenced to a statutory order or licence involving supervision by the Probation Board.

NICTS provides separate waiting areas in courthouses for witnesses which are staffed by Victim Support. NICTS facilitates special measures for intimidated and vulnerable witnesses to assist them to give their best evidence to the court and is working to increase the use of remote live links which allow witnesses to give evidence from a separate building. This may help to reduce the anxiety associated with the possibility of encountering the defendant at court.

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

Antrim and Newtownabbey PCSP:

4-Tier Security Scheme: Removal of graffiti which is racism, sectarian or offensive in nature; supply of security equipment to all victims of crime, including victims of hate crime.

Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon PCSP:

Graffiti Removal Scheme: A rapid response removal scheme to instances of sectarian/hate crime graffiti via a designated contractor in order to reduce fear of crime.

Causeway Coast and Glens PCSP:

Graffiti Removal Scheme: This project enables a rapid response to instances of sectarian/hate related graffiti via appointment of a designated contractor. This programme aims at achieving a graffiti-free environment.

Newry, Mourne and Down PCSP:

BME Crime Prevention Seminar. The PCSP worked in partnership with an OFMDFM-funded Ethnic Minority Worker to facilitate engagements with PSNI, promoting crime prevention information and how to contact local police