



Find out more about PCSPs:

#stopthetrend squares up to drugs misuse in Mid & East Antrim

In just over two years ago, Mid & East Antrim PCSP Drugs and Alcohol Steering Group has become a partnership of over thirty bodies which work together to resolve the huge number of issues related to drug and alcohol use.

The PCSP has developed a new campaign aimed at young people who may be vulnerable to drug and alcohol use and adults who need some direction about where to go to get help and advice.

Chair of Mid & East Antrim PCSP Cllr Brian Collins explained that the PCSP want to raise awareness of the dangers of drug and alcohol misuse at an early age to stop it developing into a serious health issue later in life.

He said: **“This video campaign highlights that drug misuse can affect all ages and genders. It also encourages people to talk about the issues that may be affecting them, or someone they know.**

This is such an important issue for the borough and the PCSP has worked hard with its dedicated Drug and Alcohol Steering Group to help provide services, promote them and raise awareness of their work.

The Steering Group works together to resolve some of the long-standing, difficult issues that the most vulnerable in our society face and they are making a real difference on the ground.”

Mid & East Antrim Mayor Cllr Paul Reid is supporting the Steering Group as his official charitable cause and said: **“They are directly supporting our citizens and together we will get people the right help for whatever issue they may face, be that addiction, depression, or supporting mental health.”**

To watch the film [click here](#)



Chair of NI Policing Board, Anne Connolly addresses delegates at the recent #StopTheTrend launch event.



Guest speakers at the recent #StopTheTrend conference. Back row (from l-r): Joe McCrisken (NI Coroner), Det C/ Insp David Henderson, Mayor of Mid & East Antrim Cllr Paul Reid, Joe Brogan (HSCT Head of Pharmacy and Medicine Management), Steven McCourt (Department of Justice).

Front row (l-r): Theresa Burke, Policing Board Chair Anne Connolly, Mid & East Antrim PCSP Chair, Cllr Brian Collins and Chief Executive of Mid & East Antrim Council, Anne Donaghy.

Neighbourhood Watch is front page news

Neighbourhood Watch front page news in Mid & East Antrim with the publication of a newsletter which focuses on crime prevention advice, new initiatives in the area and details of who to contact about community safety.

The newsletter, produced by Mid & East Antrim PCSP, PSNI and Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators will be published four times a year and according to PCSP Cllr Brian Collins:

“With the new Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter, we want to make the sense of community that already exists on our Borough more visible. We want to show people that collectively those living and working here, the local police, PCSP and other local groups are working together to share information and keep people and property safe.”

The PSNI's Helen Hargy said: **“One of the attractions of Mid and East Antrim Borough is that it's a safe place to live and work. We want people to enjoy living here and we don't want them to feel isolated or vulnerable and that's where Neighborhood Watch comes in.”**

There'll be hard copies of the newsletter around Council facilities and if you want to see it online, get on to the [Mid & East Antrim Facebook page](#).



Conference looks at the scars beneath the violence

Over 200 professionals and community sector representatives recently took part in a conference examining the impact of domestic and sexual violence on mental health.

Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon PCSP partnered with the Southern Domestic and Sexual Violence Partnership to deliver the conference which heard from psychologist, author and trainer Christiane Sanderson who has 20 years experience of working with survivors of child sexual abuse, domestic violence and interpersonal trauma.

PCSP Chair Cllr Mairé Cairns said it was a welcome opportunity to share learning and best practice to help relevant organisations respond to victims and seek to create meaningful change.

She said: **“We are committed to working in collaboration with key stakeholders to drive forward change and develop a cohesive response to addressing the complex issues relating to domestic and sexual violence and the trauma that can result.”**

Speaking at the event, Chair of the Domestic and Sexual Violence Partnership David Douglas said:

“We were delighted to welcome Christiane and our other speakers to share their expertise and experience around the affects that such complex trauma can have. We hope that this will help us all in responding to the longer term needs of victims and empowering them through their recovery.”

Other speakers at the event included representatives from the Department of Justice, the Department of Health and the Public Protection Branch of the PSNI. A survivor of domestic abuse also shared her story along with NEXUS NI who gave a service users perspective.



Pictured are speakers from the event: Front row (l-r): Lisa Trueman DHSSPS, David Douglas Assistant Director of Family Support and Safeguarding SHSCT, Rebekah Nelson Women's Aid, Det C/Supt Paula Hillman, PSNI. Back row (l-r): Christiane Sanderson Guest speaker and Veronica Holland DOJ.



'Control-Alt-Delete' explored some of the key issues and dangers facing young people online.

PCSP cyber safety schools project a big success

Secondary Schools across Causeway Coast and Glens recently hosted the cyber safety play 'Control-Alt-Delete'. The drama and workshop provided by Spanner in the Works Theatre Company and funded by the Causeway Coast & Glens PCSP looks at the levels of cyber-bullying, sextortion, grooming and unwanted attention young people face online and what they can do to deal with it.

The play follows a number of very different young people as they juggle responsibility, coursework and the demands and pressures of online networks, soon realising that you never really know who or what lies beyond the keyboard.

While the play can be entertaining, it provokes a lot of thought particularly about how online communication and influence can affect mental health.

Speaking about the Project, PCSP Vice Chair, Ashleen Schenning said: "The internet is a fundamental part of our daily lives however; we at the PCSP recognise that our young people are extremely vulnerable to many dangers online such as cyber-bullying and grooming. Causeway Coast & Glens PCSP are committed through projects like this to help support young people across the Borough to become more 'cyber savvy' and are delighted that over 1700 post primary pupils have viewed the play over the last few weeks".

Her advice is: "Use privacy settings, never add people you don't know onto your social networks and report any unwanted attention to your parents or the police."



New safeguards for potential victims of domestic abuse introduced

If you are worried your partner has a history of abuse, you now have the right to find out.

Under the new Domestic Violence and Abuse Disclosure Scheme – known as DVADS – you can ask police if your partner has a history of domestic abuse.

Launched by the Department of Justice the new scheme is aimed at helping to protect people from becoming a victim of domestic violence or abuse.

It means that people can make enquiries confidentially to police if they are concerned that their partner has a history of abusive behaviour. An application can also be made by a third party who knows them and has concerns.

If you or anyone you know is suffering from domestic abuse, contact local police on the non-emergency number 101 or in an emergency always call 999.

For more information from Justice NI on spotting the signs of abuse, protecting yourself, hiding your online history and reporting a crime

[click here](#)

Meet an Independent PCSP member



Valerie Adams

Vice Chair
Antrim & Newtownabbey
PCSP

Retired Teacher/
Retired Citizens Advice
Bureau Manager

How long have you been a PCSP Independent Member and why did you want to get involved?

I have been involved with Community Safety Partnerships from 2004 and I became a PCSP Independent Member in 2012. Through my work experience I knew the issues that affected the local community and I wanted to get involved with the PCSP to tackle these issues in a strategic way.

Why is your experience/background relevant to the PCSP?

I have worked with a number of community and voluntary organisations such as 'AWARE', and have extensive understanding of what services and support are available in the community.

I believe that this is particularly beneficial when action planning for the PCSP and allocating funding. It ensures we tackle issues effectively and make a positive difference to communities.

In your view, what have been the top 3 achievements of the PCSP to date?

1. Antrim & Newtownabbey PCSP monthly policing report was adopted as model of best practice by the Policing Board.
2. Antrim & Newtownabbey PCSP are involved with the Multi Agency Support Hub, which aims to identify the most vulnerable people in our society and link them into services best suited to their needs.

3. Antrim & Newtownabbey PCSP have a 'Whatsapp' group chat that facilitates instant communication among members and funded project staff.

In your view, what are the top 3 challenges for the PCSP to address in your Council area?

1. Anti-social behaviour (ASB).
2. Drugs and alcohol use.
3. Awareness of the PCSP.

How are these challenges being addressed?

1. ASB: PCSP fund an On-Street Presence project (Bytes) which operates during peak times of ASB; Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings.
2. Drugs and Alcohol: Antrim & Newtownabbey fund Antrim Youth Information Counselling Centre (AYICC) which deliver a drugs and substance awareness programme.
3. Antrim & Newtownabbey PCSP are actively raising the profile of Antrim & Newtownabbey PCSP through community engagements, social media and brand awareness.

What particular project or area of work would you recommend as good practice to other PCSPs and why?

Antrim & Newtownabbey PCSP have adopted the use of drama as a method for raising awareness and challenging issues.

Antrim & Newtownabbey PCSP have funded and supported a number of plays that tackle local issues such as domestic abuse, homophobia and road safety.

The visual element of drama can have a very strong impact on the audience and be a very effective way to communicate.

In your view, what's the benefit of the PCSP to the local communities in your Council area?

Antrim & Newtownabbey PCSP conduct community consultation surveys every year throughout the borough to engage with the community. This allows us to find out the top community safety issues.

The PCSP use this relevant information to devise the action plan. Therefore, communities have a significant impact on the issues tackled within their local area.

People can find out more and get involved via our website and Facebook pages:

 www.pcsp.org/antrim-and-newtownabbey-pcsp

 [antrimandnewtownabbeypcsp](https://www.facebook.com/antrimandnewtownabbeypcsp)

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an indepth look at the work of our PCSPs

Antrim & Newtownabbey PCSP

Who is your Chair?

Cllr Neil Kelly

What area is covered by the PCSP?

Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council



Who are your members?

Elected: Cllr Audrey Ball, DUP; Cllr Linda Clarke, DUP; Alderman Mandy Girvan, DUP; Cllr Michael Goodman, SF; Cllr Neil Kelly (Chair), Alliance; Cllr Stephen McCarthy, UUP; Cllr Noreen McClelland, SDLP; Cllr Paul Michael, UUP; Cllr Michael Maguire, UUP and Cllr Stephen Ross, DUP.

Independent: Valerie Adams (Vice-Chair); Niall Kelly; Terry McGoldrick; Andrew McNeice; Adree Wallace; Kenneth Wilkinson; and Kathy Wolff.

7 Designated Statutory Bodies: Education Authority; Northern Trust; NI Fire and Rescue Service; NI Housing Executive; Probation Board NI; Youth Justice Agency; and Police Service of Northern Ireland.

What are the current and emerging issues?

Antisocial behaviour remains a prominent issue within the Borough, peaking at particular times of the year. This is coupled with fear of crime and confidence in policing, which the PCSP is currently seeking to address through Public Meetings, community engagement and our 4 Tier scheme.

Road safety has become a more prominent issue, especially in isolated, rural communities. We are currently working with the PSNI and local communities to address the issue, including awareness raising and proactive approaches to enhance road safety.

Drugs - including alcohol - misuse is an issue and is especially associated with antisocial behaviour in particular hotspots.

Antrim & Newtownabbey PCSP are proactively working to address issues through partnership working, community-based projects and awareness activities.

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an indepth look at the work of our PCSPs

Antrim & Newtownabbey PCSP



What delivery themes have been progressed?

Under the theme of anti social behaviour (ASB) Antrim & Newtownabbey PCSP have been working in partnership with the PSNI, NIHE, YJA, EA and our delivery partners, BYTES, Street Pastors and TIDES, in order to tackle on-street activity in known hotspots occupied by young people over the weekend and holiday periods. This service has been somewhat successful in reducing antisocial behaviour and ensuring the safety of those on the streets, as well as helping young people at risk to avoid the criminal justice system through early intervention programmes.

In relation to drugs and alcohol misuse, the PCSP has been working with our partners in the Northern Health and Social Care Trust and delivery partner, Antrim Youth Information & Counselling Centre. This programme identified those at risk or already prone to drug misuse.

What impacts have been achieved?

The On-Street presence, enhanced by a partnership approach taken by the PCSP through working groups has contributed to ASB being better managed. The central feature in this approach is communication and co-operation between Partners and the community, namely information sharing.

In March we hosted a 'Community Safety and Well-Being Day', where over 200 people got information on Scams, online safety, Adult Safeguarding and Home Safety.

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an indepth look at the work of our PCSPs

Antrim & Newtownabbey PCSP

What are the priorities for the PCSP going forward?

Following a public consultation the following priorities were identified:

- Anti-social behaviour
- Crime involving vulnerable people
- Drug/substance misuse and dealing
- Road safety
- Domestic violence

What projects are planned to deal with these?

The PCSP is responding to the priority of Road Safety through projects such as 'Bee Safe', 'Kids Court' and 'Road Safe' Road Show.

In January, the PCSP hosted the 'Road Safe' Road Show for over 400 local students.

The PCSP operates a 4-Tier Scheme in conjunction with the PSNI for victims of crime. It is currently under review to see how it can be enhanced given changes in how perpetrators of crime operate. For example, all types of scams are on the rise and something the community is concerned about and we continue to work with the PSNI and our other partners on ScamwiseNI.

This year we are rolling out a Community Safety Wardens Scheme to enhance our on-street presence, to reduce fear of crime and build confidence within local communities.





Pictured at the recent 'Kids Court' event are: Back row (l-r): Con Jacky McDowell, PSNI Road Policing, Richard Reid Principal, Gareth McFadden Chair of the Board of Governors, Cllr Aaron McIntyre, Lisburn & Castlereagh PCSP Chair, Cllr Uel Mackin, PCSP member and Insp Susie Davidson with children from Anahilt Primary School.

'Kids Courts' put speeding drivers in the hot seat

Drivers caught exceeding the 30mph limit outside Anahilt Primary School in Lisburn and Maine Integrated Primary in Randalstown were faced with the tough choice: explain to the children why they were speeding or receive penalty points and a fine.

Those who wanted to avoid the fine chose to be grilled by a panel of child 'judges' in 'Kids Court', who asked why they were speeding, if they were aware they could have hit a child and other road safety questions.

Cllr Aaron McIntyre, Chair of Lisburn & Castlereagh PCSP: **"This is the second 'Kids Court' and the PCSP is pleased that Anahilt Primary School have come on board to work with the PSNI and ourselves to address road safety and challenging drivers' attitudes towards speeding. Road traffic collisions, particularly those**

resulting in death and injury, are a priority for Lisburn & Castlereagh PCSP and we hope that this initiative will send out a powerful message for the offending drivers."

Chair of Antrim & Newtownabbey PSCP Cllr Neil Kelly: **"This is a great initiative and Antrim & Newtownabbey PCSP are delighted to support it, following on from concerns raised through PCSP consultation and engagement."**

Inspector Rosie Leech, PSNI Road Policing added: **"This isn't about trying to catch people out- it's about making our roads safer for all that use them. As far as I am concerned, safety is paramount on our roads, so our message is loud and clear; slower is safer."**

FRONT COVER CAPTION:

PCSP Vice Chair Valerie Adams plays the part of a speeding driver about to face a grilling from the mini 'judges'.

Pensioners make their voices heard

Age Sector Platform's annual Pensioners Parliaments have been doing the rounds across the country and headed to Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon at the end of March.

Over 100 older people took part in the session where they put their issues and questions to Councillors, MLAs, the Southern Health & Social Care Trust, the Consumer Council and Translink.

What came out as the most pertinent issues for older people in the Council area was access to health and social care, keeping warm in winter and the fear of crime.

To find out when the parliament comes to your council area and what to expect,

[click here](#)



Lynette Cooke of Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon PCSP gives out information on policing and community safety at the recent Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Pensioners Parliament event.

Big demand for staying safe and well

A massive 220 people turned out in Antrim & Newtownabbey for the PCSPs 'Stay safe, Stay well' community safety day.

The aim was to gather people to hear from a range of services such as housing, policing and health and the audience received a number of important safety messages around a variety of topics. Advice and information was given on areas including; scams and hoaxes, crime prevention, internet safety, home safety and adult safeguarding.



Some of the local people who contributed to the recent 'Stay Safe, Stay Well' Community Safety Day.



Pupils buzzing after 'Beesafe'

Beesafe has been a great success right across Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon borough this year with almost 1400 primary 6 and 7 pupils from 38 schools taking part.

Pupils enjoyed a range of presentations relating to a varied group of subject areas such as safety in the home, online and on the farm.

The presentations were designed to encourage interaction by getting the pupils to participate in the scenarios, giving them practical experience of how they might deal with potentially dangerous situations.

There was lots of interest from the participants and we have been reliably informed that all the presenters got an A* for their interesting and informative presentations!

FRONT COVER CAPTION:

Pupils enjoyed presentations relating to safety around a number of issues from organisations such as the PSNI, NIFRS and Translink.



Almost 1400 pupils from right across Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon took part in the recent 'Beesafe' initiative events.

Find out more about your PCSP...

To contact your PCSP [click here](#)

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

www.pcsp.org

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



PCSPs work with a number of designated partners.



Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service

