

# **Belfast Policing and Community Safety Partnerships**

**Write Up for Plan**

**Confidence in Policing and Embedding a  
Culture of Lawfulness Booklet**

**Theme:**  
Confidence in Policing and Embedding  
a Culture of Lawfulness



**Indicator**

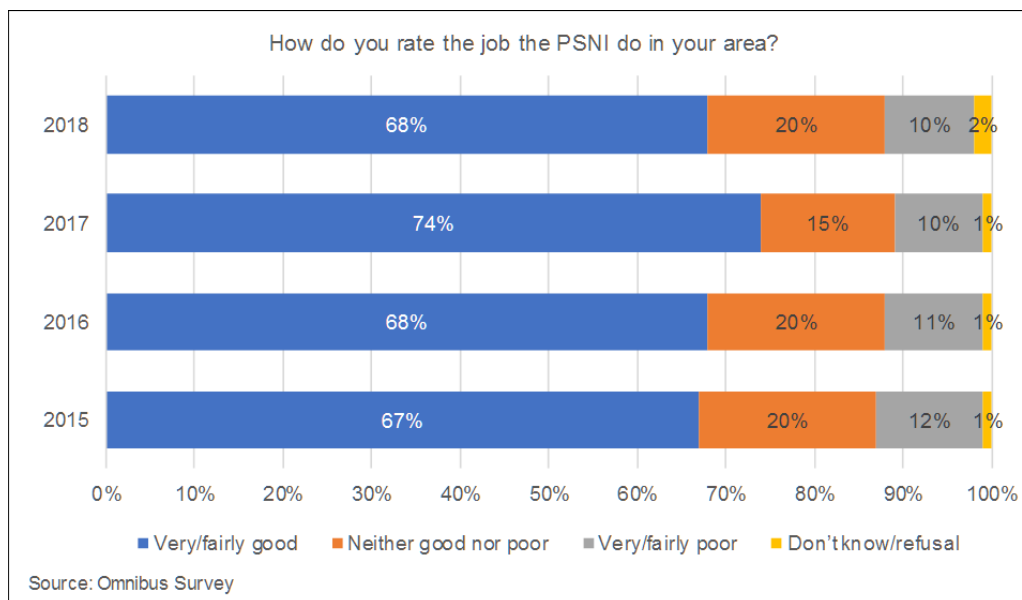
**Strategic Assessment Key Findings:**

- Generally high levels of confidence in local police, police and policing accountability arrangements.
- Variance in findings according to age and community background i.e. younger people are less confident than older generations; respondents identifying as Catholics are less confident than those identifying as Protestants.
- Level of awareness of PCSP remains below 50%, suggesting that improvements can be made to increasing awareness levels across NI as to PCSPs and their specific role.
- Although generally regarded as fair, over half (54%) are not confident in the effectiveness of the Criminal Justice System (CJS).
- The majority disagree that Paramilitary groups have influence in their area.

**Highlighted Statistics:**

**68%** of respondents agreed the PSNI do a very or fairly good job in their area (Table 1 – Source: Omnibus Survey 2018)

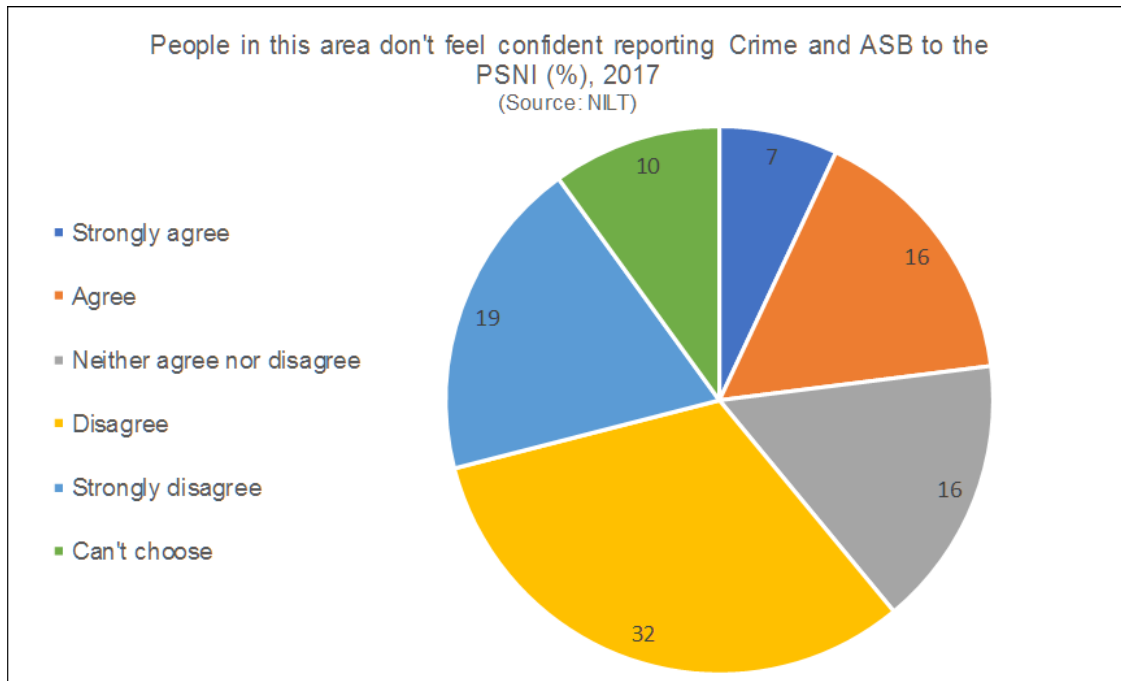
**Table 1**



**77%** of respondents indicated that the overall standard of policing in their area had remained the same over the last year. 7% felt that it had 'got better', whilst 13% stated that it had 'got worse'. (Source: Omnibus Survey 2018)

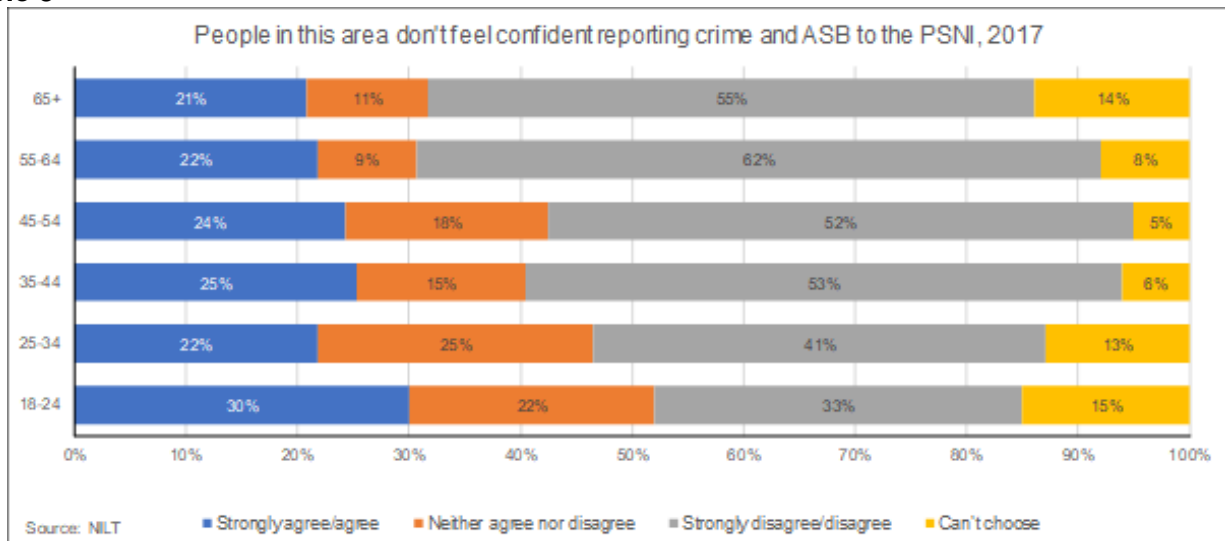
**23%** 'agree/strongly agree' with the statement that they don't feel confident reporting Crime and ASB to the police (Table 2 - Source: NI Life and Times Survey 2017)

**Table 2**



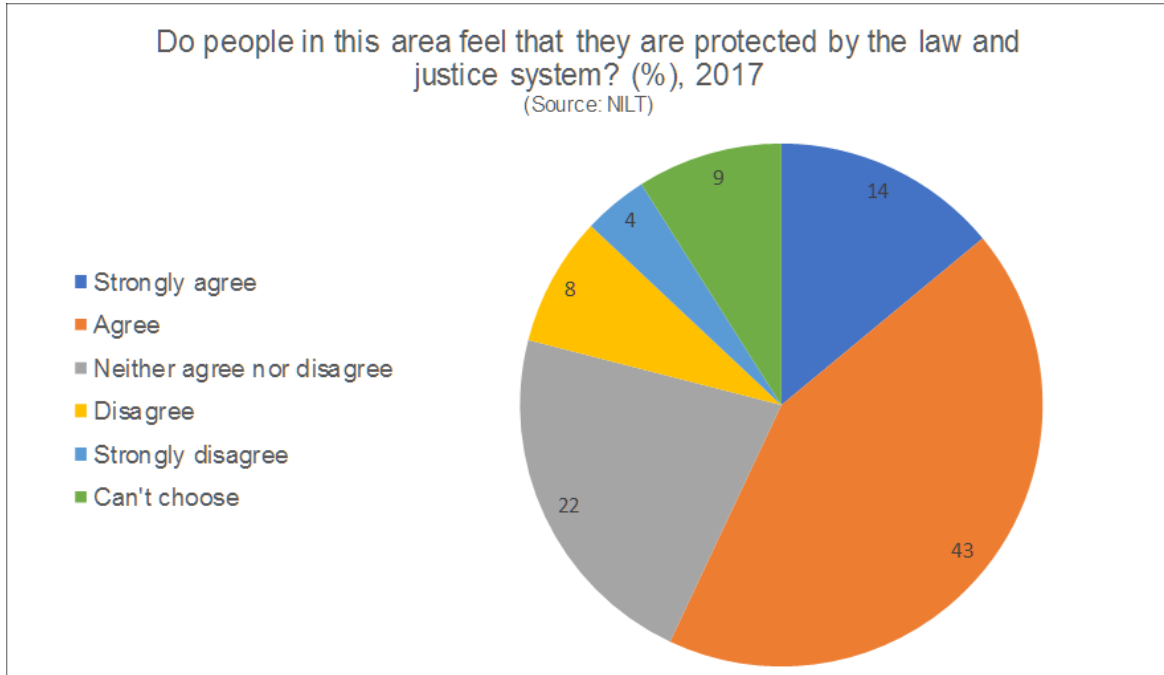
Younger people, those aged 18-24, tend to agree that they don't feel confident reporting Crime and ASB to the police, when compared to older age groups. (Table 3 - Source: NI Life and Times 2017)

**Table 3**



**57%** 'agree/strongly agree' that people in their area are **protected by the law** and CJS. 12% disagree with this statement (Table 4 - Source NI Life and Times 2017)

**Table 4**



**% respondents from NI Crime Survey 2018**

- 68% thought the police do a very/fairly good job in their area – down 6%
- 74% very/fairly satisfied PSNI treat members of the public fairly – down 4%
- 50% lot/total confidence in police to provide day to day service – down 8%  
C – down 7% to 44% P – down 11% to 55%
- 41% satisfied with police patrols in their area – down 10%  
P – 38% C – 45%
- 13% felt that standards of policing have gotten worst in the previous year

**% NI Life and Times Survey 2017**

- 23% people do not feel confident to report to PSNI  
C – 31% P – 20% N – 20%  
18-24yrs:30% 34-44yrs:25% 55-64yrs: 22%
- 13% agree/strongly agree paramilitary groups have a controlling influence in the area
- 14% agree/strongly agree that young people are being influenced too much by paramilitary groups in the area

**PSNI statistics**

- 43% of all security related incidents took place in Belfast
- 12 (48%) shooting incidents
- 6 (46%) bombing incidents
- 17 (40%) paramilitary style assaults
- 5 (42%) paramilitary style shootings

**Confidence in Policing Research**

In 2014; NIPB published Confidence in Policing Research - "The key drivers of public confidence in NI" by Dr. Jonny Byrne et al. The main findings are:

**Organisation and Community Identification** - In terms of the drivers of confidence in policing, the results clearly place an emphasis on the importance of police **effectiveness**, along with the belief that the PSNI should be in a position to address the fear of crime – as a lens through which a variety of

social, community and crime ‘stressors’ coalesce into a feeling that ‘more policing’ is required, regardless of whether it falls under the remit of PSNI responsibility.

**Processes of Communication Between PSNI and the General Public** - In terms of drivers of confidence in relation to communication between the PSNI and the public, results clearly suggest that respondents place most importance on the openness and honesty of communications in relation to every day policing (both positive and negative) by PSNI. Although it must be remembered that over half of respondents still placed a high level of importance on communication about security situation policing. The logical extension of this particular data from the survey is that members of the public are acutely aware of local crime and policing issues. And where they are presented with **information that does not fully explain or contradicts local “knowledge”** (whether factually robust or not) it has the power to **significantly influence confidence** in PSNI.

**Processes of Interaction Between PSNI and the Public** - The findings in respect of contact with PSNI and drivers of public confidence are that the public place a significant emphasis on regular, consistent and simple access to the PSNI. Furthermore, the data would also suggest that contact is a two way process and it is vital that local populations feel PSNI will listen to their views on policing matters. This directly relates to honesty as detailed above.

**Nature of Interaction Between PSNI and the Public** - The findings in respect of confidence and the nature of police-public encounters lend support to the notion that the public believe that any interaction with police should be underpinned by the principles of fairness and equity. Furthermore, confidence also appears to be related to the public’s realisation that they can hold the police to account for their actions. Indeed a key issue is the fact that confidence is driven by local, personal and the tangible nature of policing and a lower appetite to connect with the more remote and central policy goals of PSNI.

**Service Delivery by PSNI** - The drivers of confidence to be derived from this particular question set on service delivery place a focus on the desire for a PSNI presence, along with community ‘ownership’ over local policing. It is also evident that confidence in the PSNI in terms of service delivery is a two-way process. However, the findings suggest emphasis needs to be placed firmly at the community end of that equation. Furthermore, the voluntary/community sector occupy an important ‘space’ as part of the wider delivery of policing at a local level – with more cognition in this respect deemed important by respondents as part of developing confidence.

**Politics and Security Considerations** – In terms of understanding the drivers of public confidence related to political and security influences, this question set pointed not so much to what enhanced confidence in PSNI, but to those dynamics that have the potential to negatively impact upon confidence. Indeed political opinion, paramilitary, and organised crime along with public disorder all appear to be significant inhibitors of confidence in the PSNI. However, it is public acceptance by PSNI of the constraints these dynamics place upon operational and ‘everyday’ policing which would appear to be the starting point from which mitigating their impacts upon police confidence may be imagined.

## Story Behind the Baseline

The Planning Workshop for the 2018/2019 PCSP Action Plan identified a number of reasons for the decline in confidence in the criminal justice system:

- Ongoing cuts to funding
- Media focusing on negative news stories
- Members of the public see sentencing as lenient
- Members of the public see repeat offenders released
- Lack of education and information about how the system works
- Perceived disconnection with the judiciary

- Criminal justice underinvestment
- Perceived gap between criminal justice system and the community
- More outreach required
- Political instability
- White collar crime not being addressed
- Criminal justice system not addressing the causes of offending and re-offending – need to change behaviours

There were a number of factors identified for the decline in confidence in policing in Belfast:

- Perceived reduction in confidence in policing amongst the P/U/L community
- Reduced level of visible policing linked to reduced resources and restructuring
- Perception of two tier policing around parades and legacy issues
- Confidence lower in Belfast – perceived to be linked to high deprivation levels and reduced engagement in deprived communities
- Lack of awareness about the PSNI role distinct from other elements of the criminal justice system
- Nature of crime changing – increase in cybercrime which is less visible to members of the public
- Changes in police personnel – harming engagement within communities
- Perception that there are more negative media stories about the PSNI than positive
- In Belfast – high number of policing operations around events and parades stretching resources

**Project:** Policing and Community Safety Partnerships Small Grants 2019/2020

**Description**

Policing and Community Safety Partnerships offer grants of up to £5,000 for activities to improve confidence in policing and improve policing and community safety. Grants are awarded in two tranches, April to September and October to March.

Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (PCSP) aim to create safer shared communities and improve confidence in policing. All successful groups will be required to tell us how many people participated in the project, how many of them report that the project improved their confidence in policing and how many of them are more likely to report incidents to PSNI.

Small Grants are an effective way for us to support community and voluntary groups at a local level and to help build relationships with the appropriate Policing and Community Safety Partnership. The Small Grants will fund projects which as well as improving confidence in policing; prevent, reduce or address antisocial behaviour or crime and help people feel safer.

**Small grant themes**

1. build confidence in policing
2. prevent, reduce or address antisocial behaviour
3. prevent, reduce or address crime
4. help people feel safer

**Scoring projects**

All applications are scored on their own merits against the following criteria:

- a. Evidenced need for the project.
- b. How well the community safety benefits of the project are planned
- c. Capacity of your group to deliver the project
- d. Quality of engagement of those targeted to benefit.
- e. How likely the project is to address the need identified in section a.

In 2019/2020 the PCSP Small Grants will be reviewed by Members to ensure that the focus is on the policing and community safety benefit of the project, and amounts awarded to reflect this.

This may introduce the opportunity of inviting successful groups to hear about the work of other PCSP Designated Members; particularly Youth Justice Agency and Probation Board in terms of finding community partners for reparation and community service orders.

**Service Provider**

Self-Delivered

**Partners who can help us**

BCC  
Community partners

**Start & End Date**

1 April 2019 - 31 March 2020

**Data Development Agenda**

Track which groups have applied for and secured funding throughout the year

### Rationale for the Project

The PCSP Small Grants provide a mechanism by which local issues can be addressed and provides the necessary flexibility for non-profit sharing organisations to do so.

Members emphasised how very important it is to create opportunities for residents to build positive relationships with each other through intergenerational practice and making the most of local talent and assets.

All projects funded through PCSP Small Grants require the involvement of PSNI and this practical approach, addressing issues relevant to local communities builds relationships identified in the 2014; NIPB published Confidence in Policing Research; particularly:

- Organisation and Community Identification
- Processes of Communication Between PSNI and the General Public
- Processes of Interaction Between PSNI and the Public
- Nature of Interaction Between PSNI and the Public
- Service Delivery by PSNI
- Politics and Security Considerations

The governance processes around the PCSP are very robust

### Performance Measures

<b>How much did we do?</b> # Projects # Participants on projects to improve confidence in policing	<b>How well did we do it?</b> £ Money spent on projects/activities that support community confidence in policing
<b>Is anyone better off?</b> #% increase of people more likely to engage with police #% increase of people more likely to report crime	



**Project:** PCSP Policing Committee Grants 2019/2020

**Description**

Policing and Community Safety Partnerships offer Policing Committee Grants for activities to improve confidence in policing and improve policing and community safety. Grants are open all year and considered on a rolling basis by the four Policing Committees of North, South, East and West Belfast DPCSPs.

The local PSNI Inspector must approve the projects; in 2019/2020 the process of PSNI Inspector approval will be revised to ensure that their contribution is meaningful, the projects that are approved reflect local priorities and that PSNI can meet the “ask” in every application.

The Policing Committee Grants are assessed against the following criteria:

- Need and demand for the project
- How well the project is planned
- Quality of engagement between PSNI and project participants
- How likely the project is to address the identified need

All successful groups are required to tell us how many people participated in the project, how many of them report that the project improved their confidence in policing and how many of them are more likely to report incidents to PSNI.

Maximum amount per project £2K; maximum number of Policing Committee grants per group is 2 each year. This does not affect the group’s ability to apply for Small Grants.

**Service Provider**

Self-Delivered

**Partners who can help us**

(D)PCSP  
PSNI  
Community partners

**Start & End Date**

1 April 2019 - 31 March 2020

**Data Development Agenda**

Track which groups have applied for and secured funding throughout the year

**Rationale for the Project**

At Belfast PCSP’s Embedding a Culture of Lawfulness planning workshop, Members emphasised how important it is to create opportunities for residents to build positive relationships with Police Officers.

Policing Committee Grants have a particular focus on PSNI involvement in order to build confidence in policing.

These Policing Committee Grants provide a lower value opportunity to respond to local issues which can support the progression from initial engagement with PSNI and lead to significant projects funded by Small Grants.

## Performance Measures

<b>How much did we do?</b> # projects # participants on projects to improve confidence in policing	<b>How well did we do it?</b> £ Money spent on projects/activities that support community confidence in policing
<b>Is anyone better off?</b> #% increase in confidence in police #% increase of people more likely to engage with police #% increase of people more likely to report crime	

## New Project Proposal: Conversation Piece in 2019/2020

### Description

This project will seek to engage young people across the city in conversations about confidence in policing and embedding a culture of lawfulness. Strategic Priority 3 as determined by the Joint Committee is for PCSP's to support community confidence in policing; and this project directly relates to *"building community confidence in the rule of law and embedding a culture of lawfulness"*

In the areas where there is low community confidence in policing, it is difficult for PSNI to open conversations that will lead to improvements and as such, an "honest broker" will be commissioned to develop the content and deliver this project on behalf of Belfast PCSPs.

In order to build community confidence in policing and embed a culture of lawfulness, the contractor will be expected to:

- Develop an awareness raising session for young people (2 hours – introductory)
- Develop a short programme for young people which can be delivered over 3 X 2hour sessions
- Develop a residential programme which can be delivered over 2 days and 1 overnight
- Develop innovative/interactive sessions that can be shared/broadcast over a cyber - platform using the PCSP's Safer Belfast Website and app
- Brand the programme Belfast PCSP and promote it amongst the community and voluntary sector in Belfast
- Deliver the programmes across the city and work with relevant partners to reach as many residents as possible e.g. sports organisations, cultural bodies, institutions of worship, BME networks, young people networks and community organisations
- Submit monitoring information at the end of each session and complete quarterly reports
- Complete a significant review to confirm/refine the value and impact of the programme after 6 months of delivery and make recommendations about the future of the programme. This must involve stakeholders including PSNI and the Chair and Vice Chairs of the five PCSPs in Belfast.

The contractor must ensure connectivity of the project with other relevant programmes and seek to move communities to direct contact with PSNI officers. The contractor must be cognisant of the the activity emerging from Communities in Transition programme and the EA's programme around lawfulness.

### Service Provider

To be commissioned

### Partners who can help us

PSNI  
Young People's sector

### Start & End Date

September 2019 – March 2021

### Data Development Agenda

### Rationale for the Project

### **PSNI Operating Environment**

The operating environment for PSNI Officers in Belfast is challenging in parts of the city – this is a direct reflection of ‘confidence in policing’.

### **The Tackling Paramilitarism Programme - 2017/2018 Funding Allocation**

A5 – Policing with the Community – developed and delivered training on problem solving and community engagement for police officers and staff from partner organisations, aimed at developing skills in mediation and community engagement. The project also includes support for local community engagement aimed at building community confidence in policing.

### **Public Perceptions of the Police, PCSPs, the Northern Ireland Policing Board and the NCA Report**

In May 2018, over two thirds (68%) of respondents indicated that they thought that the **police** were doing a very/fairly good job in their area, a **statistically significant decrease** on the April 2017 finding of 74%.

A large majority (86%) of respondents indicated either total, a lot or some confidence in the **PSNI's** ability to provide an ordinary day-to-day policing service for everyone in Northern Ireland, a **statistically significant decrease** from the April 2017 finding of 90%.

*Based On The Northern Ireland Policing Board Module Of The May 2018 Omnibus Survey Published By The Northern Ireland Policing Board*

### **Perceptions of ‘Organised Crime and Paramilitarism’ in Northern Ireland:**

Belfast respondents perceived that the the problem of organised crime is in Northern Ireland is:

- Very widespread – 28.6%
- Widespread- 19.7%
- Fairly widespread – 43.9%
- Not widespread – 7.1%
- Does not occur in Northern Ireland – 0.7%

94.8% of respondents in Belfast believed that there are links between organised crime and ongoing paramilitary activity

*Findings from the Autumn 2017 Northern Ireland Omnibus Survey*

The project pulls through the learning from the fieldwork reports from the Executive Office’s Building Capacity in **Communities in Transition** project. Of particular note are the community safety and policing challenges which are highlighted throughout.

**West Belfast** – “There is a general sense of distrust in the PSNI and the criminal justice system and frustration with the slow pace of the criminal justice system have led to low levels of reporting and cooperation by the local community”

**New Lodge and Greater Ardoyne** – “a general sense of negativity and distrust in the PSNI has enabled paramilitaries to continue to exercise coercive control and influence”

**Shankill** – “ there was an underlying sense of concern surrounding aspects of policing and the wider criminal justice system in the Shankill”

**The Mount and Ballymacarrett** – “there is frustration at the perceived inefficiency of the police and the criminal justice response to dealing with individuals involved in paramilitary-linked criminality”

## Performance Measures

<b>How much did we do?</b> # participants	<b>How well did we do it?</b> # Stakeholders indicate satisfaction with the project at 6 month review
<b>Is anyone better off?</b> # increase of people more likely to engage with police # increase of people more likely to report crime # groups instigate projects with PSNI in the area	