

PPANI Annual Report

1st April 2015 - 31st March 2016



NORTHERN IRELAND
PRISON  SERVICE



Department of
**Health, Social Services
and Public Safety**

www.dhsspsni.gov.uk

AN ROINN
**Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta
agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí**

MANNYSTRIE O Poustie, Resydènter Heisin an Fowk Siccar



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FOREWORD

Hugh Hamill

Chair of Strategic Management Board

Welcome to the 2015/16 annual report on the Public Protection Arrangements in Northern Ireland (PPANI). This report explains the work of the agencies who work together through the public protection arrangements to manage the risks to the public from sexual and certain violent offenders; it looks back on developments over the last year and includes objectives for the coming year.

Multi-agency working improves information sharing, joint decision making and coordinated intervention. Over the last year there have been a number of developments to enhance these elements of our work.

Through the Accommodation Sub Group, guidance has been disseminated to all public protection agencies to assist practitioners in assessing the suitability of accommodation for those offenders whose risk is managed within the Public Protection Arrangements. We know that providing appropriate accommodation is an important factor in reducing reoffending and have therefore provided guidance to ensure there is consistency in assessing accommodation needs.

In October 2015 we held PPANI's Annual Special Interest Seminar for practitioners, which focused on 'Online' sexual offending and provided an opportunity to share best practice in this area of work. As well as inputs

regarding the assessment and management of 'Online' offenders in N Ireland, Suzy Hargreaves, Chief Executive of the Internet Watch Foundation provided practitioners of the work being undertaken with Online providers to remove identified abusive images from the internet.

On 14 March 2016 new Child Protection Disclosure arrangements were introduced to Northern Ireland. These arrangements make it easier for a member of the public who has concerns about a specific individual who may be pose a risk to a child or children to find out if that individual has previously been convicted of sexual or violent offences which could indicate a risk to children. These new arrangements build on existing methods of disclosure which are available and should provide further reassurance to the public.

We recognise the importance of ensuring that information regarding the Child Protection Disclosure arrangements is easily accessible and Information has been included on the PPANI website and information leaflets have been translated into a number of languages. One of the most important elements of the work carried out by the agencies is providing information and education to the public so they can protect and keep young people and the most vulnerable safe. The PPANI Coordinator and staff from the agencies have delivered presentations and provided information to a range of community groups.

Additionally an invitation was extended to deliver a PPANI Awareness input to each local



Council and Policing & Community Safety Partnerships (PCSPs) in Northern Ireland. Local Councils and PCSPs have been receptive to this invitation and to date 9 presentations on the work of PPANI have been delivered to Councils.

PPANI's Victims Advisory Sub Group, which includes representatives from a number of agencies supporting victims, has assisted agencies to develop an Information Leaflet specifically for victims of crime. This Information leaflet has been published to sign post victims of crime to services where they can get support and assistance. The leaflet also provides victims with information about the agencies and provides them with information on how best to engage with PPANI agencies to make their voices heard.

In the last 12 months a new Lay Advisor was appointed and that appointment enhances the oversight function provided to the agencies. Having Lay Advisors who represent the community and public perspective and who can challenge agencies when necessary are an important element of the arrangements.

Finally this is my last report as Chair of the Strategic Management Board (SMB). The Chair will now be handed over to the PPANI representative of Northern Ireland Prison Service, Alan Smyth. I would like to thank the staff who have supported me in this role including the PPANI Coordinator of the Public Protection Arrangements and the staff in the PPANI secretariat.

WHAT IS PPANI?

PPANI background

The Criminal Justice Order (NI) 2008 created the public protection arrangements. The arrangements bring together a number of agencies and departments including the police, probation, prison service, health trusts and a number of other agencies to work together to provide effective assessment and management of the risks posed by certain sexual and violent offenders.

List of agencies and Departments statutorily obliged to cooperate under PPANI

- Police Service of Northern Ireland.
- Probation Board for Northern Ireland.
- Northern Ireland Prison Service.
- HSS Boards and HSS Trusts (Social Services).
- Northern Ireland Housing Executive.
- Department of Education.
- Department for the Economy.
- Department of Health.
- Department for Communities.
- Education and Library Boards.
- Youth Justice Agency.
- National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC).
- Health & Social Care Board.
- Health Trusts.

The arrangements in Northern Ireland also have two Lay Advisors; they are full members of the Strategic Management Board and their role is to provide a challenge to the professionals and act as a "critical friend". The Department of Justice has policy responsibility for the risk assessment and management



arrangements set out in the Criminal Justice (NI) Order 2008. The DoJ also acts to ensure that the funding provided is allocated to effectively deliver oversight of arrangements; and to ensure that all appropriate information regarding the public protection arrangements is provided to the Minister.

How PPANI works

The agencies listed above work together, within the Public Protection Arrangements, to decide how best to minimise the likelihood of offenders further causing serious harm to the public. Offenders including those convicted of certain Sexual Offences, Violent Offences, Hate Crimes and Domestic Violence are identified and information about those offence types is gathered and shared across relevant agencies. The nature and level of the risk of harm they pose is assessed and, where necessary, a risk management plan is implemented to protect the public. In most cases, the offender will be managed under the single agency statutory responsibilities of the relevant responsible agencies. However, a number of offenders will require multi-agency assessment and their risk management plans will be developed and actioned via multi agency Local Area Public Protection Panels (LAPPPs). These panels are made up of representatives from the agencies that have a statutory responsibility or operational interest in the cases which are subject to assessment and management of risk. LAPPPs meet in various locations throughout Northern Ireland. For a full explanation on the operations of PPANI visit our website <http://www.publicprotectionni.com/index.php/operation>

Risk assessment

Information relating to risk is presented to the Local Area Public Protection Panel (LAPPP) for assessment. The LAPPP is chaired by a Probation Board Area Manager and made up of Police Officers, Probation Officers, Social Workers, Prison Staff and other professionals.

This assessment process results in the offender being confirmed in one of three categories of risk:

Category 1

Someone whose previous offending and/or current behaviour and/or current circumstances present little evidence that they could cause serious harm through carrying out a contact sexual or violent offence.

Category 2

Someone whose previous offending and/or current behaviour and/or current circumstances present clear and identifiable evidence that they could cause serious harm through carrying out a contact sexual or violent offence.

Category 3

Someone whose previous offending and/or current behaviour and/or current circumstances present clear and identifiable evidence that they are highly likely to cause serious harm through carrying out a contact sexual or violent offence.



Information that can be shared about offenders

The Public Protection Arrangements aim to ensure that relevant information is available in good time to help those making risk assessments and drawing up risk management plans. The agencies involved recognise that the sharing of information between agencies is critical and each has signed up to an information sharing agreement.

The current law on data protection prevents complete disclosure of information on offenders to the public. Information can, however, be disclosed to members of the public in certain circumstances where this is deemed necessary for protecting the public and can be justified by the evidence of risk.

Risk management

For cases where the risk level is assessed as category 1, these are managed by a single agency in the community.

Multi-agency risk management plans are developed where the risk is assessed as category 2 and category 3. For each of the categories, a Designated Risk Manager (DRM) will be appointed. The DRM will be given specific responsibility for coordinating the risk management plan and ensuring that the actions contained in it are carried out. Risk management plans are specifically tailored to each offender and set out all the actions which the agencies will take, or require the offender to take, to minimise the risks he or she poses. Risk management plans will normally include both enforcement actions to restrict the offender's

behaviour and positive encouragement actions designed to help him or her avoid causing serious harm through reoffending.

Each risk management plan will include home visits from the DRM, and other professionals including police to make sure the offender is complying with the plan. Visits will be both announced and unannounced. Risk management plans for Category 2 and 3 are subject to reviews by the Local Area Public Protection Panels no later than every 16 weeks

Ensuring a victim's perspective

The importance of protecting victims of crime and properly addressing their needs is fully recognised and supported by those agencies operating within the arrangements. When planning for the management of offenders in the community, the protection of victims remains of paramount importance. Victims of offenders whose risks are being managed by agencies within the public protection arrangements are provided with an information pack relevant to their own particular circumstances. They will also be provided with the name and telephone number of a police officer who will act as a point of contact on the Public Protection Arrangements.

There are also a number of schemes/ organisations that can provide assistance and information. In 2012 the Prisoner Release Victim Information Scheme, the Probation Board for Northern Ireland Victim Information Scheme and the Mentally Disordered Victim Information Scheme were brought together to help streamline services to victims and are



managed under the PBNI Victim Information Unit. These schemes are voluntary and it is necessary to register with them. Information can be obtained regarding the PBNI Victim Information Scheme via victiminfo@pbni.gsi.gov.uk

Information regarding the Prisoner Release Victim Information Scheme can be obtained via NIPRVIS@dojni.x.gov.uk

At an operational level, victim's issues are also central. At each Local Area Public Protection Panel (LAPPP) meeting, victim's issues are standing agenda items.

PPANI in practice - Frontline staff in action

The role of a Police Sergeant within the Public Protection Team

I am a Sergeant in one of the five Health Care Trust areas, responsible for the assessment and management of Category 1 & 2 sexual and violent offenders.

Together with my team I have responsibility for maintaining the visiting schedules of these offenders and the management of any issues pertaining to risk, emanating from those visits. In addition I have responsibility for ensuring that the offenders under my charge comply with and maintain their obligations under the Sexual Offences Act 2003, which involves registration of their addresses of residence, foreign travel notifications, passport, bank and driving licence details. The successful management of these obligations ensures maximum protection of the public in terms of scrutiny of the movements of these individuals.

I have also responsibility for the formal risk assessment of all Category 2 sexual & violent offenders, which involves exploring the recognised risk indicators associated with their offending behaviours. This assists my team in recognising and responding to those risky behaviours, allowing early intervention and management, as well as signposting to relevant agencies in respect of potential therapeutic interventions.

Where increased risk is identified, priority will be given to that offender and a unique risk management plan drafted to deal with the



identified risk. This can involve a number of strategies, including increased visiting regimes, collaboration with internal partners within District policing teams, external partners from Social services and Probation and criminal justice partners such as the PPS and the judiciary. We also work closely with non-statutory agencies. In respect of the judiciary, we will regularly bring before the courts, applications for civil orders known as Sex Offender Prevention Orders (SOPO's).

These orders seek to externally control behaviours by sex offenders that we can evidence are uniquely risky. Each SOPO will be tailored to meet the identified risk and failure of that individual to comply with the conditions of the SOPO, will result in his/her arrest. This is a robust and extremely effective risk management tool and radically reduces risk to the public by a number of offenders, under our charge.

My day starts with a trawl of all incidents for the Trust area for which I have responsibility, primarily to establish if overnight, any of the offenders have been involved in any incidents. This does not necessarily mean that the offenders have offended sexually, but might, for instance have been involved in a road traffic accident, in a vehicle or with associates they haven't told us about. The outcome of this daily check can inform and direct the activity for the day in respect of the team and we will react expeditiously to any immediate identified risk.

Where no specific incident is highlighted the team go about their normal routine, ensuring visits are conducted, updated on police systems, attend court, progress SOPO

applications and ensure that any relevant information is shared with those professionals who need to know it. This is the fundamental role of the Designated Risk Manager (DRM).

As I have suggested, robust management of risk depends on and is pivotal to relevant and timely information sharing with our agency partners. We are fortunate to have dedicated personnel from our local Health & Social Care Trust and Probation colleagues with whom we have effective partnership working. Our agencies share information about offenders but also work collaboratively in securing risk management plans which includes all aspects of that offender's lifestyle. This is done both formally within the multi -agency setting that is the LAPPP, but also less formally on a day to day basis with risk management reviews and attendance at safeguarding and risk management strategy discussions.

My fundamental role as a Public Protection Sergeant is about keeping people safe and in order to do that effectively, the management of risk is essential. I am blessed with a team that are dedicated and committed to the job in hand. Whilst prevention is a difficult thing to measure in terms of product, I take pride in the fact that we have low recidivism rates and procedures and protocols which ensure we are effective in preventing harm, protecting people and detecting crime.



Role of a Probation Officer based within a Prisoner Development Unit

I am a Probation Officer based within a prison. My role is to assist in the rehabilitation of prisoners by assessing and managing the risk they pose. Probation Officers are trained to challenge offenders on their behaviour, to motivate them to change, and to minimise the harm they present to the public.

One of the first things I do when allocated a case that may be managed under Public Protection Arrangements for Northern Ireland (PPANI) is to check whether that individual has been discussed previously at the Local Area Public Protection Panel (LAPPP), establish what category of risk has been assigned, and what actions remain outstanding from the risk management plan.

In order to effectively assess and manage risk I use a number of assessment tools. For those convicted of sexual offences I use both Assessment, Case Management, Evaluation (ACE), a PPANI approved assessment tool to measure the likelihood of generic re-offending as well as Stable and Acute 2007 (SA07), a specialist assessment tool which is used to assess personality characteristics, skills deficits and learned behaviours related to recidivism in respect of sexual offending. For those convicted of domestic violence offences, the specialist report is the Framework for Assessment of Domestic Abuse (FADA). These assessment tools require establishing a good working relationship with prisoners whilst engaging them in a meaningful way which promotes their ownership of the relevant risk factors. Sometimes this can be difficult especially

when dealing with individuals who do not see themselves as being at risk of re-offending. I refer individuals to PPANI approximately 3 months prior to release, whenever they have been approved for a period of overnight temporary release or when the Parole Commissioners Northern Ireland (PCNI) have ordered release. Prisoners who have previously been managed under PPANI are required to be referred back into the arrangements as they are not deemed to be managed under PPANI whilst in custody.

For those referred to PPANI for the first time, I compile a briefing report as preparation for the LAPPP. This is a comprehensive report outlining all relevant information about the individual including their current and/or previous offences; their static and dynamic risk factors; my contact with them; their attitude/behaviours within the prison; relevant information about visitors; my contact with other professionals; and recommendations in relation to managing risk through Orders or Licence conditions. Licence conditions need to take into account the context of the offences and be proportionate and commensurate with the risk posed. An important aspect of risk management is establishing the suitability of release accommodation. In order to do this I liaise with community Probation Officers, Social Services, PSNI and the Victims Unit.

For many prisoners, being allowed to return home is of paramount importance to them and it can be difficult for them to accept that this may not always be appropriate in terms of public protection. It is therefore important for me, as a Probation Officer, to ensure prisoners



have a full understanding of the PPANI decision making process and how this is central to their risk management in the community.

Another important aspect of my role within the prison is that of facilitator of the Sex Offender Treatment Programme (SOTP). This work aims to help individuals increase their understanding of why they chose to commit offences and to develop a relapse prevention plan which will assist them in ensuring they do not re offend in the future. When working with offenders I compare the external controls of Licence conditions to the scaffolding around a building which aims to support them while they develop strategies to strengthen their internal controls. It is therefore vital that those being released are fully aware of the requirements of their supervision on Licence as well as the prohibitions contained in their Sexual Offences Prevention Order (SOPO). I will reinforce with them the importance of adhering to these external controls and the potential consequences of non-compliance.

On a daily basis the work I carry out can be both extremely challenging as well as rewarding. It can be a positive experience working with individuals who want to take responsibility for their lives and recognise that they have the ability to make whatever changes necessary. I believe PPANI can and does make a difference to those who wish to make more appropriate choices in the future and holds to account those who choose to continue in risk-taking behaviour.

The role of Northern Ireland Prison Service Officer in the Prisoner Development Unit HMP Maghaberry

The Prison Service introduced a new model of offender management in January 2015. It is designed to deliver a holistic approach to the identification of the needs, strengths and risks presented by prisoners in custody.

As a result the Offender Management Units were re-named Prisoner Development Units (PDUs) and Sentence Managers became Co-ordinating Officers.

I am an Officer in the Northern Ireland Prison Service working in the PPANI team within a PDU. My job involves me working closely with offenders to identify those courses, programmes and other interventions which can help address their offending behaviours.

I am also responsible for developing individually tailored personalised Prisoner Development Plans (PDPs) which sets out these programmes of work in a structured way and which reflects each prisoner's individual needs, strengths and risks. The PDP is a dynamic document which is updated as a prisoner moves through his time in custody and completes recommended work.

As a prisoner nears the end of his time in custody I am also responsible for preparing his individual release plan. This includes a comprehensive risk report and if the prisoner falls within the PPANI arrangements it will form part of the dossier that is considered by the Local Area Public Protection Panel that meets to agree his category of risk prior to their release. In addition I am responsible for



proposing appropriate licence conditions, for liaising with the community based Probation supervising officer, for ensuring that the offender makes as controlled a transition from custody to the community as is possible and for introducing the offender to the Public Protection Unit team (if appropriate). This meeting can be facilitated in the PDU which can help to lessen anxiety.

Finally I am responsible for sharing all relevant information which I have access to with our partner agencies including the PSNI, Social Services, PBNI and the Housing Executive.

Information sharing is a critical aspect of the work of PPANI and it helps to ensure that risks can be mitigated and necessary steps taken early to control, regulate and monitor behaviour as each prisoner makes the transition from custody back into the community on a supervised licence.

I enjoy my role as a Prison Officer. While it is a challenging job it can also bring tremendous rewards. It gives me the opportunity to make a real difference by turning lives around while at the same time helping to protect the public.

The Role of a Social Worker/ Senior Practitioner based in a Trust Public Protection Team

My role as a Senior Practitioner for the Public Protection Team Trust is to assist with the communication and analysis of information between police and social services. It is about assessing and managing the risks posed by offenders in respect of sexual and physical abuse.

By working in a multi-disciplinary manner with Police, Probation, Women's Aid and housing, it enables all agencies to share appropriate information thus making informed decisions around risk management, with the main focus being on safeguarding children, young people and adults within the community.

I attend 'Marac' (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference) meetings, which identify victims of Domestic Abuse. This takes place twice per month. When I receive the Marac Agenda from the Marac Administrator, I carry out research on all cases and liaise with other staff members who are involved in the case. I attend the meeting as a Trust Marac representative and share relevant information in this multi-agency forum.

I offer actions on behalf of our agency which help increase safety for all relevant parties and feed back to Trust Staff, this ensures a full assessment of their safety and wellbeing.

A large part of my work is working on a multi-agency basis to help manage offenders, where it is necessary to protect the public or an individual. Annual meetings are held to review Category 1 offenders to look at any change in



circumstances. If changes need to be made to the Risk Management plan like more regular visits or more frequent reviews this is actioned at the meeting.

If the Principal Officer is not available I attend LAPPP meetings within the community and prison service. By checking all social services information systems and engaging with relevant staff I gather appropriate information that informs Risk Management which is shared at the meeting.

This will help to develop a risk Management Plan and will identify not only the risks, but also look at what supports would help to prevent re-offending. If there are any risks identified in respect of children or vulnerable adults a referral will be shared with the appropriate Gateway Team and any staff that are currently working with the Family will be updated so they can use the information to inform their Risk Assessments and put appropriate measures in place. There will be times that if the risks are significant I will attend Case Conferences or Risk Strategy Meetings to help in the decision making process.

I sit on the Domestic Violence Partnership this is made up of different agencies with a common interest to tackle domestic violence. I am involved in producing a Domestic Abuse newsletter quarterly, which is to raise awareness of domestic abuse. Within the newsletter we have offered supports to the victim and the alleged offender.

The Role of a NIHE Housing Officer in the Public Protection Arrangements N. Ireland

Offenders live in various types of accommodation be it owner occupied, living with family, private rented or social housing. Suitable housing has an important role to play in the management of the risk posed by offenders. We know that stable and appropriate accommodation helps prevent re-offending. We also know that offenders can be rehabilitated more easily if they are integrated back into their own local communities, and have access to local services.

In order to assist in this a NIHE representative would take part in a PPANI LAPPP meeting in the community where an accommodation issue has been identified in order to provide agencies attending the LAPPP with relevant housing and accommodation information.

NIHE representatives attend pre-release prison LAPPP meetings in order to provide, and receive, information which would assist in risk assessment and management and, when required, to help if accommodation is needed on release.

Any proposed accommodation is assessed for suitability, from a public protection perspective, this includes any social housing an offender is being considered for. Housing applicants who have been found guilty of relevant offences will be considered in the same manner and will have the same decision-making process applied to them as any other housing applicant.



Strategic Management

Senior representatives of each of the lead agencies involved in PPANI form a Strategic Management Board (SMB) which meets at least quarterly to monitor and review the effectiveness of the existing arrangements. Two Lay Advisors, appointed by the Department of Justice, are also members. As part of its role the Board reviews practice and the strategic delivery of the arrangements.

The following agencies are standing members of the Strategic Management Board:

- Police Service of Northern Ireland
- Probation Board for Northern Ireland
- Northern Ireland Prison Service
- Northern Ireland Housing Executive
- National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC)
- Health and Social Care Board
- Health and Social Care Trusts

The Board do invite others who have an interest in public protection to attend the SMB, and in that context a representative from the Safeguarding Board attends.

Strategic Management Board



Hugh Hamill
SMB Chairperson



Chief Superintendent
George Clarke
PSNI



Alan Smyth,
Head of Licensing,
Legislation & Public
Protection, NIPS



Colin Reid
Policy & Public Affairs
Manager, NSPCC in NI



Liam Kinney
Northern Ireland
Housing Executive



Tony Rodgers
Assistant Director of
Social Care



Cecil Worthington
Director of Children's
Services, BHSC



Helen McKenzie
Director of Operations
Safeguarding Board NI



The agencies represented at Strategic Management Board Meetings can be found at:

<http://www.publicprotectionni.com/index.php/strategic>

- Policy and Practice Subgroup
- Education and Training Subgroup
- Accommodation Subgroup
- Communications Subgroup
- Victims Advisory Subgroup

Strategic Management Board

To support its work the SMB has 5 subgroups made up of operational representatives from the agencies. The SMB subgroups are:

Each of the subgroups meet on a quarterly basis, or more regularly if appropriate, and are required to produce and work to, a business plan and report to the SMB on the progress against the objectives set out in their business plans.

Lay Advisors



Jonathan Patton



Joe Blake

Accommodation



Sean McGibbon
Chair

Victims Advisory



Colin Reid
Chair

Communications



Gail McGreevy
Chair

Policy & Practice



Terry Doherty
Chair

Education & Training



Stephen Sherry
Chair

PPANI Coordinator



Julie Smyth
PPANI Coordinator



ENGAGING WITH THE COMMUNITY

Communications

While communications between the agencies is vital, it is also important that there is effective communication externally to ensure the public understand the role of the agencies involved in public protection.

The agencies involved in the arrangements aim to communicate in an open and transparent manner and have developed a communications strategy to help build understanding and confidence in their role. Informed and accurate communications help promote awareness and understanding. We welcome all enquiries and requests for information.

Lay advisors

Lay Advisors are appointed by the Minister for Justice under the Criminal Justice Northern Ireland Order 2008 to ensure there is openness, transparency and public representation alongside the Statutory Agencies delivering the Public Protection Arrangements. The two members of the public appointed to these posts can serve no more than six years so the input continues to be refreshed and rejuvenated and cannot be seen as a 'cosy' environment without challenge and innovative thinking. The role is often referred to as a 'critical friend'.

As a community in Northern Ireland many people are unaware that Public Protection Arrangements exist and that their safety is being continuously addressed expertly and diligently by dedicated and highly trained professionals.

The current Lay Advisor team of Joe Blake and Jonathan Patton are allocated 384 hours annually to attend Local Area Public Protection Panels, Board Meetings, quarterly Case Audits, reviewing quality and standards, training events, seminars and liaising with experts in the area of offender management. The work they undertake is spread across all of the activities of the Public Protection Arrangements and help ensure that the Arrangements are robust.

The statistics contained in the Annual Report regarding PPANI eligible offenders illustrates that there are many individuals in our community who have committed offences and some have served custodial services but the vast majority will at some stage need to re-enter our society and continue with life. PPANI agency personnel, dealing on a one to one basis and using well proven and widely accepted assessment tools, manage that return and resettlement by assessing the risk to others whilst at the same time recognising and respecting the victims input and their proximity.

This is complex work and is one of the primary areas of focus for Lay Advisors at Local Area Public Protection Panels (LAPPPs).

By attending LAPPPs across Northern Ireland, Lay Advisors see and hear first-hand how the Arrangements are working and most importantly that communication between the Agencies involved is clear, concise and timely. One new piece of work promoted by Lay Advisors this year is the creation of a formal reporting template in order to generate reports after each LAPPP highlighting good practice and ideas that can be transferred to other cases. Equally, the report may identify concerns or gaps in provision where



potential risks may arise and how these can be addressed.

Given the limited time commitment expected of Lay Advisors they cannot attend every LAPPP to review and observe all activities, so a vital part of the work is participating in the Quarterly Case Audits. At these Audits Lay Advisors have the opportunity to review the quality of work, communication between Agencies, standard of recording and adherence to the operational procedures outlined in the PPANI Manual of Practice. Similar to LAPPPs, a follow up report is produced highlighting both the good practice and drawing attention to areas where the Arrangements have not been followed correctly.

Lay Advisors are independent but are also members of the Strategic Management Board for the Arrangements and submit their quarterly reports to the Board. This multi-agency forum provides the opportunity to highlight concerns and parts of the work that need addressed, and promote local, national and international best practice. The Board Members can then take recommendations back to their respective organisations to improve the work of supervising individuals managed under the Arrangements.

The Public Protection Arrangements for Northern Ireland are a robust and well developed system designed to assess and manage the risk posed by sexual and certain violent offenders. It is widely recognised that the Northern Ireland Arrangements are amongst the best developed anywhere around the world. Whilst no process of risk management is perfect and human behaviour is not always predictable, what Agencies in Northern Ireland have developed is an excellent system. It is this work that

Lay Advisors seek to uphold and support by independent review and examination.

The Protection Arrangements are designed with the management and oversight of the offender at the centre, but for Lay Advisors equally important is the victim and how agencies engage with and support them during the process.

Lay Advisors attend a regularly convened sub group where statutory agencies and victim organisations meet to discuss how improvements can be made to the Arrangements and lobby for change where they believe additional protection is required.

This forum also allows for the exchange of current concerns and issues that are prevalent between victim's representatives keeping Agencies briefed and informed and helping shape the responses to how better protect the most vulnerable individuals in our community.

The current Lay Advisors bring to this work a wealth of experience and have a breadth and depth of understanding within the Social Care, Health, Public Sector and Voluntary Sectors enabling them to bring best practice and good governance to the Arrangements. The time they spend working with Agency personnel and observing the work is totally focused on ensuring good governance and best practice to ensure the most vulnerable in our society are protected and kept safe 24 hours per day, 365 days per year.

As Lay Advisors, we would wish to commend all who work within the Arrangements for the exceptional work they do and the times they go above and beyond to deliver an excellent service to the community.



KEY DEVELOPMENTS AND OBJECTIVES

Key developments 2015/16

There have been a number of developments in the last 12 months which have enhanced the effectiveness of the arrangements and helped the agencies work to better protect the public. Among these are:

- An annual special interest seminar was held on the issue of online sexual offending and gave practitioners the opportunity to explore best practice in this area of work.
- On 14th March 2016, new Child Disclosure Arrangements were introduced in Northern Ireland.
- A programme of engagement has commenced with local Councils, Policing and Community Safety Partnerships and MLAs. The purpose of this engagement is to provide information and education to public representatives regarding the work of the agencies.
- A revised information leaflet has been provided for victims. The purpose of this leaflet is twofold; to signpost victims of crime to support services, and to provide information on how they can engage with PPANI agencies.



SMB Business Plan for 2016/17

The SMB has a number of key objectives for the coming year. These include:

- Ensuring the implementation of recommendations from serious case reviews
- Working with the Department of Justice regarding the development of practice guidance prior to the implementation of Violent Offences Prevention Orders.
- Ongoing engagement with community groups, the media and elected representatives.
- Convening a special interest seminar for practitioners on the subject of victims and survivors.



REAL LIFE SENARIOS

Robert

Robert (not his real name) was convicted of Indecent assaults on his partner's child. He was sentenced to a period in custody and then supervision by PBNi on release from custody. Robert was also subject to a Sexual Offences Prevention Order (SOPO) that prohibited contact with his victim and also prohibited any unsupervised contact with children unless approved by the Designated Risk Manager (DRM) and/or Social Services.

Prior to his release into the community, Robert's case was reviewed by a Local Area Public Protection Panel and he was assessed as a Category 1 risk. This meant that Robert would be managed by a single agency, in this case PBNi and the Probation Officer assumed the role of DRM Manager. As he was also subject to Notification requirements, Police maintained a level of contact through visiting him at his home. Robert understood that if there were any significant concerns with regard to his behaviour, he could be re-referred to PPANI for further risk assessment.

In considering what would be the most appropriate intervention, the DRM completed the approved stable assessment and Robert completed psychometric questionnaires facilitated by the PBNi Psychology department. This identified treatment/supervision targets to formulate a case management plan. Commensurate with his assessment of low risk, the intervention agreed was work with the

DRM on a 1:1 basis. The primary aim of what is known as the Informed intervention, is to reduce the likelihood of further re-offending and increase the client's opportunities and capacities for meeting their needs by non-offending means through helping the person to develop skills to make changes in thinking and behaviour.

Robert was able to identify loneliness, weak coping mechanisms and sexual pre-occupation as significant factors in his offending pathway. By recognising his strengths and availing of resources and pro-social supports, Robert developed more effective coping strategies and techniques to use should he experience abusive thoughts. Victim awareness work was also completed, assisting Robert to recognise the impact his offending has had on others and address any distorted thinking he possessed.

Robert's Order is near completion. After agreeing a safeguarding contract with his church, he regularly avails of their support. He has returned to employment in the family business and is completing a correspondence course. Robert also remains in a positive relationship with his partner.

Kieran

Kieran (not his real name) was a 65 year old single man and was experiencing prison life for the first time. Prior to custody he lived alone and had a full-time teaching job. He was also working as a private tutor.



He was given a prison sentence of 2 years, 3 months for the offences of 'Making indecent photographs' and 'downloading images'. These images ranged from Cat 1 to Cat 4.

Shortly after his arrival in Prison, I met Kieran for an introductory interview. He was in a distressed state following his trial and conviction. We spent that first meeting having a general discussion about his welfare, his family circumstances and his hopes for his time in custody. I felt that it was important to put Kieran at ease and to initiate the building of trust.

During Kieran's first 2 weeks in custody, I met with him almost every day. Although he was still very unsure and anxious, I began to see his mood lift. As our meetings continued I outlined my plans for our future engagement during his remaining time in custody. We spent time together discussing the interventions that were available including a referral to Psychology. However, I explained that it would be unlikely that he would have sufficient time for any meaningful engagement to be progressed.

Over the next weeks and months I started trying to re-build Kieran's self-confidence by encouraging him to open up and talk about his offences. This was a difficult and challenging experience for him, but eventually he began to identify some of the 'triggers' which caused him to offend. He spoke candidly about his hopes and fears for the future following his release and indicated that he wished to engage in interventions targeted at those guilty of the sexual offences he committed.

As Kieran's prison sentence was coming to an end, I arranged for the Public Protection Unit

to come into the prison to meet him. This gave them an opportunity to explain what would be expected of him while on licence and what his SOPO conditions would look like. Secondly, being introduced to the unit that would be responsible his supervision following release helped ease his anxiety about his licence period.

Kieran has been out of prison for almost two years. Although he did not have sufficient time during the custodial element of his sentence for a more structured programme of intervention work I believe that the very positive relationships he established with both his co-coordinating officer and with his residential officers contributed to him leaving prison with a greater degree of confidence and self-esteem, both of which left him better equipped to explore and deal with the issues that contributed to him committing his index offences.

Sammy

Sammy (not his real name) was a 26 year old single man and his first time in prison. Prior to custody, he lived with his parents. Sammy had previously held a full-time job in a call centre before being sacked due to inefficiency.

He was awarded a custodial sentence of 3 years (1 year 6 months custody & 1 year 6 months licence) for the offences of 'Sexual Assault of a child under 13 yrs.

The initial contacts during interviews, primarily dealt with building up a level of trust before starting to explore issues surrounding his index offences.



As our interviews progressed, I identified that there had been substance abuse issues, which had ultimately led to the termination of his employment. Sammy also acknowledged that alcohol had acted as a disinhibiting factor in terms of his sexual offending. This was particularly difficult for Sammy to acknowledge.

Sammy had engaged with the Psychology department, however, he was not deemed as a high priority for the SOTP programme and there would have been insufficient time to progress any other one to one work either. I placed referrals for Sammy to the ADEPT services and also to the 'Combined drug & alcohol programme', which is facilitated by prison staff in the PDU.

I also noticed during our contacts, that Sammy lacked self-confidence and self-esteem and would often become tearful when discussing the index offences. I felt that it was important for Sammy to work through these issues, before release in order to give him the best chance to avoid further re-offending.

During his time in custody, Sammy completed a number of interventions such as, 'GOALS', 'Combined substance misuse programme', 'case work with ADEPT' and CRUSE bereavement counselling. I also ensured that his licence required him to avail of support and treatment in relation to substances.

Sammy left prison feeling much more confident, his self-esteem had risen and he had begun to explore all of the issues that may have contributed to his index offences.

David

David (not his real name) was convicted of 2 counts of Common Assault and 1 count of Disorderly Behaviour. The offences related to David, who was drunk at the time, being verbally abusive to the victim and pushing him. The victim of these offences was an individual whose physical disability required him to use a wheel chair. The offences were accepted by the court as a Hate Crime, i.e. they were aggravated by hostility and David received an enhanced sentence of 8 months imprisonment.

David was not subject to a period of supervision on licence post release. As Hate Crime perpetrators are not subject to notification requirements or preventative orders no external controls were available in this case.

David had previous convictions in the 1980s drink driving and Assault Occasioning Actual Bodily Harm. His most recent conviction was for Possession of a Class B Drug in 2000. A pre-release Local Area Public Protection Panel (LAPPP) was held in the prison where David was in custody. The LAPPP assessed the risk posed by David as Category 1; requiring him to be managed by a single agency, in this instance PSNI who would initiate contact with David post release. This risk assessment was based upon the absence of previous relevant offending of this nature. As David was not subject to Licence Conditions or Court orders the LAPPP provided him with advice and guidance regarding accessing services in relation to alcohol misuse.



PPANI STATISTICS: 1 APRIL 2015 - 31 MARCH 2016

PPANI - relevant offenders at 31 March 2016
in custody and the community

	Sex offenders	Violent offenders	TOTAL
Category 1	1,358		1,358
Category 2	72	68	140
Category 3	10	15	25
TOTAL	1,440	83	1,523

Cases managed by the co-located public
protection team from 1 April 2015-31 March 2016

	Sex offenders	Violent offenders	Both
Category 3	9	20	29

Total number of persons in the community
whose risk is managed under the multi-agency
public protection arrangements (categories 2
and 3) by PSNI District at 31 March 2016

DISTRICT	TOTAL
A	28
B	13
C	4
D	5
E	5
F	7
G	10
H	1
J	7
K	4
L	3
TOTAL	87

Total number of persons in the community
whose risk is managed under the multi
agency public protection arrangements
(categories 2 and 3) by police sub district
at 31 March 2016

Subdistrict (Division)	Number
Antrim (L)	1
Ards (C)	1
Armagh (E)	3
Ballymena (K)	2
Ballymoney (J)	2
Banbridge (E)	0
Belfast East (A)	1
Belfast North (A)	9
Belfast South (A)	16
Belfast West (A)	2
Carrickfergus (K)	0
Castlereagh (B)	1
Coleraine (J)	4
Cookstown (F)	1
Craigavon (E)	2
Down (C)	4
Dungannon & South Tyrone (F)	4
Fermanagh (G)	4
Foyle (H)	1
Larne (K)	2
Limavady (J)	0
Lisburn (B)	12
Magherafelt (F)	2
Moyle (K)	1
Newry & Mourne (D)	1
Newtownabbey (L)	2
North Down (C)	3
Omagh (G)	6
Strabane (H)	0



Explanation commentary on statistical tables

- a) The totals of PPANI eligible offenders, broken down by category, reflect the picture on 31st March 2016 (i.e. they are a snapshot).
- b) Sex offenders - those who are required by law to notify the police of their name, address and other personal details and to notify any changes subsequently (known as 'notification requirements' or 'the sex offender register'). Failure to comply with the notification requirements is a criminal offence which carries a maximum penalty of 5 years imprisonment.
- c) Violent offenders - those who have been convicted of a violent offence against a child or vulnerable adult, or violent offences within a domestic situation, as well as other violent offences which have been aggravated by hostility.
- d) Public Protection Team (PPT) - This is a small team of highly experienced police, probation and social services staff whose aim is to provide a consistent level of management of risk for those offenders in the community who represent the greatest cause for concern.
- e) The map below depicts both the Health and Social Care Trust Areas and PSNI Districts.



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