

Safer Ageing

A Strategy and
Action Plan for
Ensuring the Safety
of Older People.

FOREWORD

Crimes against older people are relatively rare. But any crime can have a lasting impact on the victim, and where that victim is an elderly or vulnerable citizen it can have a huge impact on their quality of life.

The safety of older people - ensuring that they can live free from the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour - is an important issue for Government; older people make a huge contribution to their neighbourhoods and communities, playing a key role in society as active citizens. Although Northern Ireland is one of the safest places to live in the UK, some older people have genuine concerns about crime and anti-social behaviour in their communities and can feel vulnerable about becoming a victim of crime.



Following a public consultation last year on a future Community Safety Strategy for Northern Ireland, I published a summary of the responses received in the summer, together with a supporting Action Plan. The issues highlighted in the Action Plan sit within three cross cutting themes aimed at tackling crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour for all ages. Work continues on the development of the Community Safety Strategy but we also recognise that older people have very real concerns about these issues, and so we have responded through 'Safer Ageing'.

'Safer Ageing' focuses on how we can help to reduce crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour experienced by older people. It sets out the actions and initiatives that we will deliver in the coming years to help older people feel safer in their homes, to inform and reassure them about what's being done, and to advise them on the practical steps they can take to feel safe and secure in their homes, neighbourhoods and communities. Some of these projects will be delivered

regionally, with many more being delivered at a local level meeting the needs of older people in their local communities.

‘Safer Ageing’ has been developed in partnership with a range of organisations, including the Police Service of Northern Ireland, the Northern Ireland Policing Board, and Northern Ireland Departments. Older people’s groups have also played a central role in producing ‘Safer Ageing’, with the Age Sector Platform, Older Person’s Advocate and Beth Johnston Foundation providing a strong voice for older people.

I would like to thank all our partners for their contribution in developing the strategy, and am confident that they will play a key role in ensuring that we deliver the actions set out, to help make older people safer and feel safer in their homes, neighbourhoods and communities.

Rt Hon Paul Goggins MP
Criminal Justice Minister

INTRODUCTION

Background

In 2007 the Northern Ireland Office Community Safety Unit (CSU) published *'Proposals for the Safety of Older People'*, a consultation document seeking views on the priorities for reducing crime, the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour¹ experienced by older people. Central to our proposals was one overall aim: to ensure that older people are safe and feel safe in their homes, neighbourhoods and communities.

We consulted widely over 25 weeks, holding workshops with older people's groups across Northern Ireland. The workshops, facilitated by Age Concern NI², allowed us to hear first hand from older people about the issues affecting them. We also received responses to the consultation from around fifty statutory agencies, voluntary and community groups and older people's groups.

Following this consultation, we convened an Older Person's Working Group to develop a final strategy and action plan. The Working Group included representatives from the Northern Ireland Office Community Safety Unit, the Police Service of Northern Ireland, the Northern Ireland Policing Board, the

Older Persons Advocate, Age Sector Platform and the Beth Johnson Foundation.

The resulting strategy, 'Safer Ageing', has been shaped by the responses to the earlier consultation and by the Older Person's Working Group, to ensure that it reflects the needs of older people, and contributes to reducing crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime experienced by older people.

Policy developments

The 'Safer Ageing' Strategy is part of the wider context of policy developments to address community safety issues and the needs of an ageing population in Northern Ireland. In 2008 the Community Safety Unit published *'Together. Stronger. Safer'*, our proposals for a revised community safety strategy to reduce crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour for all age groups across Northern Ireland. *'Together. Stronger. Safer'* focuses on the three key themes of creating safer neighbourhoods, focussing on families and young people, and building confident communities. We are in the process of further engagement to take this work forward, with the aim to have a route

¹ Anti-Social Behaviour is defined as behaving in a manner that causes or is likely to cause harassment alarm or distress to one or more persons not of the same household; the Anti-social Behaviour (Northern Ireland) Order 2004.

² Now Age Concern Help the Aged NI following a merger in 2009.

map for a future Strategy ready for publication by the end of 2009.

In 2005 the Office of First and Deputy First Minister (OFMDFM) published *'Ageing in an Inclusive Society'*, a cross-Government strategy to promote and support the inclusion of older people in Northern Ireland. The strategy, which is currently under review, promotes a range of issues from access to services and healthy ageing to tackling poverty and exclusion. *'Ageing in an Inclusive Society'* also highlights the importance of a secure home life, allowing older people to feel safe and to reduce the fear of crime. In addition new employment laws³ have been introduced to prohibit age discrimination for older people in the workplace.

In 2008, OFMDFM appointed the Older Person's Advocate, to act as a champion for older people. In October 2009 OFMDFM published proposals to establish a Commissioner for Older People to provide a strong independent voice for older people. The Commissioner will have a wide range of promotional, advisory, educational, legal and investigatory functions, to safeguard and promote the interests of older people.

The Review of Public Administration will change the roles, size and powers that local councils have, and how they engage with local people. We are currently reviewing the arrangements for the delivery of local partnership working on policing and community safety so as to respond to this changing landscape. We want to ensure that local partnerships engage in a meaningful way with the public and are responsive to the needs of local communities, including older people, once the new council structures are in place.

An ageing society

The population of Northern Ireland is changing. Latest estimates suggest that the number of people of pensionable age may increase by 39% between 2006 and 2021. By 2041 older people could make up 25% or 1 in 4 of the population in Northern Ireland⁴.

An ageing society will have implications for public services such as health and social care, employment, housing and transport. An increased older population will also affect how we deliver community safety, and meet the specific needs of older and vulnerable people in reducing crime and anti-social behaviour.

³ Employment Equality (Age) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006

⁴ Registrar General Northern Ireland Annual Report 2007

What is an older person?

The notion of what 'old age' is, and when a person becomes 'old' is an area of debate. The United Nations has not adopted a standard age but generally uses 60 and over to refer to the older population, while most developed countries have accepted 65 as the definition of elderly, based on the age a person can receive pension benefits⁵. Pensionable age in Northern Ireland is currently 60 for women and 65 for men, however this is set to increase gradually for women so that by 2020 pensionable age will be 65 for both men and women.

The actions and projects that we will take forward through the 'Safer Ageing Strategy' will be based on need, and not on any single age definition, and delivered and targeted to those older people.

Crime and Fear of Crime amongst Older People

There were 502 violent crimes and 1081 domestic burglaries recorded against persons aged 65 or over from April 2008 to March 2009⁶. Any crime can have a

devastating impact on its victim, especially so when the victim is elderly or vulnerable. Crimes against older people can impact not just on the victim but on their families, affecting their quality of life, health and wellbeing and sense of security in their homes and communities.

When looking at crime in terms of the wider population, older people are less likely to be victims of crime; people aged 65 or over make up 13% of the population in Northern Ireland⁷, and account for less than 2% of victims of violent crime. For domestic burglaries, 15% of victims are aged 65 or over, with 23% of householders in that age group⁸. Although older people are less likely to be victims of crime than other age groups, the fear of crime - as opposed to the actual incidence of crime - can have a significant impact. A review on fear of crime and older people⁹ highlighted the complex interlinked causes and effects of fear of crime.

The study suggested that, although older people might perceive themselves to be more vulnerable to crime and less able to

⁵ World Health Organization – Definition of an older or elderly person, www.who.int

⁶ PSNI Annual Statistical Report, Report No. 1, Recorded Crime and Clearances 2008/09

⁷ Population and Migration Estimates Northern Ireland (2008) Statistical Report, NISRA

⁸ Northern Ireland Census 2001 Standard Tables, NISRA, 2003

⁹ Older people, fear of crime and health: the spirals of cause and effect, Healthy Cities Belfast, 2007

cope, age itself was not always the main factor in causing fear. Key issues contributing to fear include isolation, a lack of control over one's life, a lack of information and the perception that older people are not valued in society. Other factors that can increase fear include a lack of trust of the younger generation, and the character of an area where someone lives can affect their sense of vulnerability.

Fear of crime amongst older people can have significant consequences for their health and wellbeing¹⁰. Whilst the study suggested that very few older people see themselves as 'prisoners in their own home', fear of crime and a lack of trust can have an impact on the mental and physical health of older people; they may reduce their levels of physical activity and social interaction out of concern for their safety, which can result in isolation, further limiting activities and social interaction.

'Safer Ageing' aims to address these issues and sets out what we will do to work in partnership with statutory agencies and older people's groups to reduce crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour.

¹⁰ Ibid.

STRATEGIC GOALS

The central vision of 'Safer Ageing' is to help older people be safer and feel safer in their homes, neighbourhoods and communities.

Our vision in this Strategy complements the current Community Safety Strategy, which seeks to make all citizens, young and old, feel safe in their communities. We have set three key goals to help achieve this vision:

1. To help **reduce crime and anti-social behaviour** experienced by older people;
2. To help **reduce the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour**, by informing and reassuring older people as to what is being done, and;
3. To **work in partnership** with all relevant groups at both regional and local level to reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime.

These key goals will overlap in many areas, with many of the actions positively impacting on more than one of the goals. For example, working in partnership with the age sector to inform older people about the home security measures they can take can help both to reduce crime by making it more difficult for intruders to access homes, and at the same time increase the peace of mind of the homeowner, and reduce the fear of crime.

I. Reducing crime and anti-social behaviour

Physical security

We currently fund a five year pilot HandyVan scheme in the Greater Belfast area, formerly managed by Help the Aged (now Age Concern Help the Aged NI). The scheme aims to improve home security of older vulnerable people through the provision and installation, free of charge, of a range of home security and safety products. This includes the installation of door and window locks, door chains and viewers, smoke alarms, carbon monoxide detectors, hand rails and some minor repairs such as nailing down loose carpets or changing light bulbs.

An independent evaluation of the scheme undertaken in the autumn of 2008 showed the project to provide an efficient and effective service and recommended that the HandyVan service should be extended to other parts of Northern Ireland. Since the pilot was launched Help the Aged have secured funding from others to operate another 3 HandyVans, which operate in the former Southern and the Northern Health & Social Service Board areas and the Down District Council area.

We will continue to fund this scheme and provide security measures to older people until 2011. We will also consider how we can best continue to support the HandyVan Service.

Encouraging young people away from crime

The vast majority of young people play a positive role in their communities and are role models for their peers, however a small minority do become involved in anti-social behaviour which can affect the quality of life of older people and others within the community. Through the outworking of the Community Safety Strategy we are committed to reaching out to the minority of young people who are at risk of getting involved in crime and anti-social behaviour through successful schemes such as 'Summer Splash', which divert young people away from anti-social behaviour during the summer months and at Halloween. These schemes encourage young people to make a positive contribution and give something back to their communities.

The success of these programmes directly benefits older people as they reduce the levels of crime and anti-social behaviour, and can build trust between older and younger generations as young people give back to their neighbourhoods. We will continue to

support and develop these schemes to ensure that they benefit the entire community.

Elder abuse

Elder abuse can take many forms from physical, sexual or psychological abuse to financial exploitation, discrimination and neglect. It can have a devastating impact on victims. Abusers can range from family or friends of the victims to health workers or strangers, and can happen anywhere. Elder abuse is often unnoticed and by its nature is under-reported.

The Northern Ireland Office is currently working with the Department of Health Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS) on the development of a new Government Safeguarding Vulnerable Adult Policy Framework which will provide guidance on developing and implementing multi-agency policies and procedures to protect vulnerable adults, including older people, from abuse.

We are also working with DHSSPS to raise awareness of elder abuse amongst the general public and those who work with vulnerable adults, and will continue to work with all our partners to raise awareness of elder abuse and encourage anyone aware of abuse to report it to the authorities.

Neighbourhood Watch

There are currently¹¹ over 500 Neighbourhood Watch schemes operating in communities across Northern Ireland. They play a vital role in reducing local crime and anti-social behaviour and help to bring communities together, with older people actively involved in many of the schemes running right across Northern Ireland. Older and vulnerable residents in particular benefit from the reassurance that local Neighbourhood Watch schemes can provide, helping them live in safety in their homes and neighbourhoods.

We have agreed with Fold Housing Association that Neighbourhood Watch schemes would be created in 100 of its properties, helping over 1000 Fold residents live in safety. We will aim to roll out Neighbourhood Watch to all Fold accommodation over 2009/10, and make sure that residents are aware of the scheme and how it can help them. We will also see how we can provide Neighbourhood Watch schemes to similar providers of sheltered and assisted accommodation for older people. This will help to increase safety and to reduce the fear of crime amongst residents.

2. Reducing the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour

Northern Ireland has one of the lowest crime rates in the UK. Crime and the likelihood of becoming a victim of crime have been steadily reducing over recent years¹². Older people are less likely to become victims of crime compared with other age groups, yet they consider that the fear of crime can have a negative impact on their quality of life.¹³

A lot of good work is already ongoing to help reduce the fear of crime amongst older people through Intergenerational Practice, Befriending schemes and the Good Morning Network. Information campaigns through local media also help to raise awareness of how older people can take steps to improve their security at home and elsewhere. We will continue to build upon these schemes to ensure we are making a positive impact for older people, to help reduce the fear of crime and ensure older people feel safe.

Intergenerational Practice

We recognise the contribution Intergenerational Practice (IGP) can make to

¹¹ As of October 2009

¹² Digest of Information on the Criminal Justice System 9, NISRA, 2009

¹³ Perceptions of Crime: Findings from the 2007/08 Northern Ireland Crime Survey, NISRA

building and sustaining vibrant, inclusive and safer communities. IGP, with its emphasis on mutual respect, affords opportunities for younger and older people to increase their understanding of each others' lives in a safe environment. For older people this can reduce fears associated with young people and also help to build a positive image of young people.

CSU has funded projects as well as commissioning research on IGP and is supporting financially its strategic development across Northern Ireland with our partners including the Beth Johnson Foundation, which manages the Centre for Intergenerational Practice (CIP). A number of Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) have also developed their own intergenerational projects, while others continue supporting programmes – with a collective total of over 40 projects funded to date.

We will continue to work with our partners and support the development of IGP at local level, providing training to Community Safety Partnerships and help to ensure quality standards continue to be met. We will also consider how we can work with our partners to promote Northern Ireland as centre of Intergenerational excellence and

to promote community safety issues and build trust through IGP.

Good Morning & Befriending Projects

Good Morning services provide reassurance to older people across Northern Ireland through free daily telephone calls and support. This ensures that older people are safe and well, reduces the fear of crime and enables them to remain in their own homes, maintaining their independence.

We currently support Good Morning NI (GMNI) Network through funding a Development Officer and we will evaluate the effectiveness of the role to ensure it delivers value for money to the Network in meeting its goals. We will contribute in assessing its sustainability and future funding options, to ensure that the needs of vulnerable older people are met.

Similarly, befriending schemes offer a lifeline for older people who feel isolated or vulnerable within their communities. These schemes can be of particular benefit to older people living in rural areas, and can help reduce fear of crime by tackling isolation. Voluntary groups across Northern Ireland provide befriending schemes to older people, and we will consider how we can best support those schemes to help reduce the fear of crime amongst older people.

Tackling environmental crime

Crimes and anti-social behaviour which impact on the local environment such as vandalism, graffiti and rubbish lying around are important issues for older people. Local clean up programmes are run in council areas across Northern Ireland to help improve the quality and appearance of neighbourhoods, making them more welcoming for everyone. We will continue to work with partners at local level so that environmental crime and anti-social behaviour are addressed.

Under-reporting & awareness of the criminal justice system

Whilst serious crimes and domestic burglary are generally well reported to the PSNI because of the nature of the crimes, some feedback from our consultation highlighted the issue of under-reporting of low level crime by older people either too afraid or unwilling to come forward. Non-reporting can be due to many factors, from fear of reprisals to concerns that nothing will be done.

We encourage all victims of crime to report it to the police. We will work with our partners to encourage older people to report crimes, and see how we can promote schemes such as the anonymous Crimestoppers service where appropriate.

Another issue is around the criminal justice system. Many people - not just older people - are unaware of the workings of the courts and how sentences are decided, and sometimes question the length of a sentence handed down, especially in high-profile cases, or those involving elderly or vulnerable victims. We will work with our partners in the age sector to raise awareness of these issues amongst older people and help develop a greater understanding of what the criminal justice system does and how it works.

Raising awareness

We will also continue to raise awareness amongst older people and the general public of the specific projects and initiatives aimed at supporting them. Throughout the year there are a number of key dates where older people and issues affecting them are recognised and highlighted. High profile events and dates such as Age Awareness Week, World Elder Abuse Day (15 June), European Day of Intergenerational Solidarity (29 April) and the International Day of Older Persons (1 October), amongst others all help to raise awareness of older people's issues. We will work with partners to highlight key calendar dates and high-profile events, to raise awareness of community safety issues for older people.

3. Working in Partnership

The 'Safer Ageing' strategy sets out many of the regional projects and actions that help to reduce crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour experienced by older people across Northern Ireland. Many more projects and initiatives are delivered at local level by Community Safety Partnerships, District Policing Partnerships (DPPs) and other agencies, working with older people in local communities.

All groups, from government, community groups and voluntary groups need to work together in partnership to deliver the actions that will make a difference to older people across Northern Ireland. At the strategic level, 'Ageing in an Inclusive Society' strategy, which is intended to be reviewed by OFMDFM, will provide the strategic links across Government Departments to work together for the benefit of older people.

Older person's groups have strong links in communities across Northern Ireland, providing support, advice and a voice for many older people. To ensure that we are connecting with older people locally across Northern Ireland we will review the work and linkages that already exist between statutory agencies such as CSPs and DPPs

and older people's groups at local and regional level. This will allow us to identify what good work currently exists and what gaps need to be filled in delivering community safety for older people.

We will also ensure that older people's voices are heard at the strategic level. The Age Sector Platform will work with the Northern Ireland Policing Board through the Board's Older Person's Reference Group. The Age Sector Platform will provide a voice for older people and help to identify key policing issues for consideration in the Northern Ireland Policing Plan.

MEASURING SUCCESS

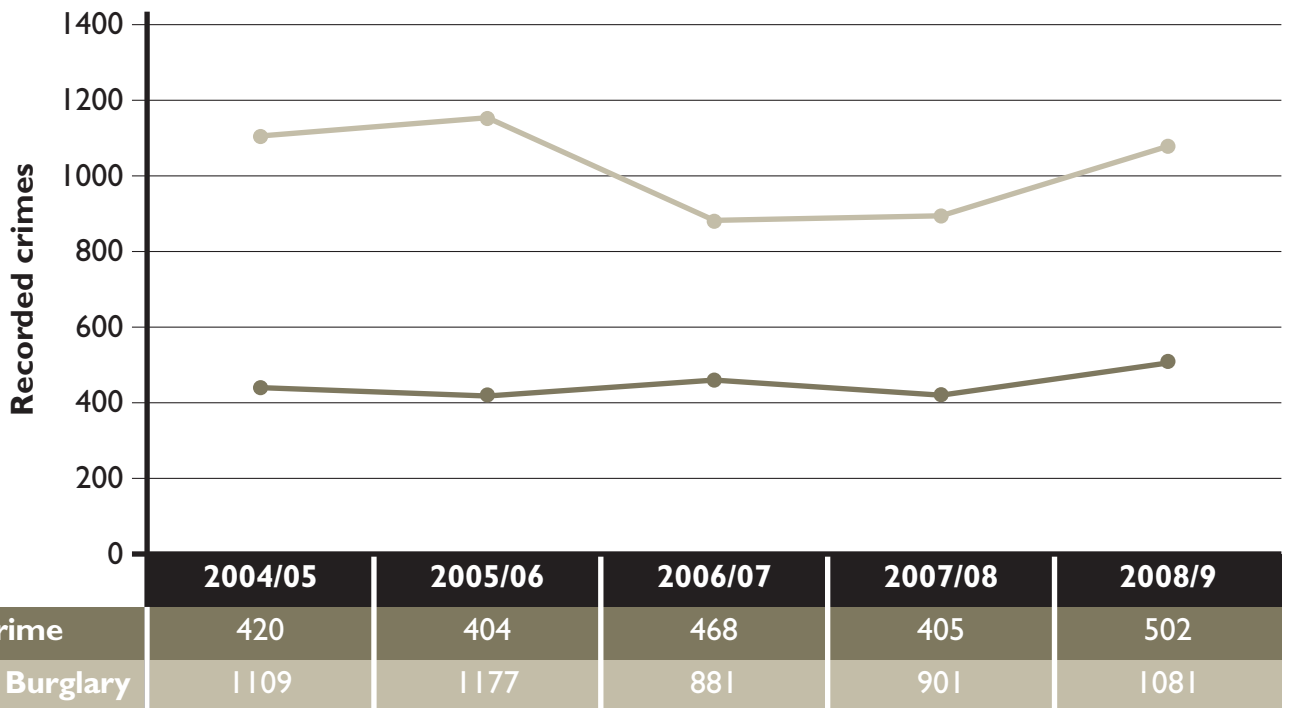
By delivering on the strategic objectives of ‘Safer Ageing’, we will help contribute to reducing crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour amongst older people. It is important to measure progress in achieving these goals. We can draw on a range of indicators to measure older people’s experiences and perceptions of crime, anti-social behaviour and fear of crime; the key indicators used will be the PSNI recorded crime statistics and results from the Northern Ireland Crime Survey.

Violent Crime and Domestic Burglary

PSNI recorded crime statistics show that over the past five years there were on average around 440 violent crime offences¹⁴ per year against victims aged 65 or over. Figure 1, below, shows the figures from 2004/05-2008/09. During 2008/09, there were 502 violent crime offences against persons aged 65 or more- an increase of 97 (24%) from the previous year. This accounts for 1.6% of all violent crime offences where

Figure 1: Recorded crime by age 65+

Recorded crime statistics where age of victim is 65 or over



Source: PSNI Recorded Crime Statistics

¹⁴ Violent crime categories in this case are Offences against the person, Sexual Offences and Personal Robbery, where the age of the victim is known.

the age of the victim is known. As 13.8% of the population is aged 65 or over, older people are not disproportionately likely to be the victims of violent crime compared to the other age groups.

Over the same period there have been an average of 1030 domestic burglaries per year against people aged 65 or over (figure 1). In total there were 7,351 domestic burglaries in 2008/09. During 2008/09 there were 1081 domestic burglaries against people aged 65 and over, which accounted for 15.3% of domestic burglaries. This compares with

24% of homeowners who are aged 65 or over¹⁵.

Perceptions of Personal Safety amongst older people

The Northern Ireland Crime Survey measures people's perception of crime and anti-social behaviour. We will use the NI Crime Survey as a measure to monitor older people's perception of their personal safety, based on the following indicators set out on Table 1, below:

Table 1. Older Persons perceptions of personal safety

Percentage of people aged 60 or over	2005	2006/07	2007/08
Feeling very unsafe walking alone in their area after dark	17%	18%	18%
With high levels of worry about burglary	21%	19%	18%
With high levels of worry about violent crime	24%	22%	17%
Perceiving a high level of ASB in their local area	12%	10%	10%
Saying that 'fear of crime' has a great impact on their quality of life	9%	7%	6%

Source: Northern Ireland Crime Survey 2005, 2006/07, 2007/08

¹⁵ 'Northern Ireland Census 2001 Standard Tables', NISRA, 2003

The 'Safer Ageing' Steering Group will use these key statistics to measure how effective we are in meeting the goals of the strategy in tackling the crimes that older people face, and their fears around crime and anti-social behaviour. Also, specific actions and projects set out in this strategy will be evaluated, where appropriate, to measure their impact and effectiveness.

LOOKING AHEAD

The 'Safer Ageing' Strategy sets out our priorities and the actions we will take to help reduce crime and fear of crime amongst older people, and to help make them safe and feel safe in their homes and neighbourhoods. We are committed to achieving the goals of the strategy and will provide the required resources within existing budgets to deliver the action plan with our key partners at regional and local level.

A Steering Group will implement the actions set out in the strategy, with representatives from CSU, PSNI, Policing Board, Older Persons Advocate, Age Sector Platform and Beth Johnson Foundation. The Steering Group will also act as a forum where older people's concerns around crime and anti-social behaviour can be discussed, as new issues arise and as the needs of older people change. As noted above, the Steering Group will regularly monitor key indicators from PSNI recorded crime statistics and the NI Crime Survey to provide an evidence base to measure the levels of crimes against older people and their perceptions about crime, anti-social behaviour and fear of crime.

The strategy provides the foundation for a long term approach; we will review progress at the end of the current period in 2011 and the Steering Group will review the strategy to consider the next steps to ensure that we continue to deliver for older people. This will require a sustained effort from all involved, and can only be achieved by working in partnership with and between government, statutory agencies at a regional and local level, voluntary groups, the age sector and older people themselves.

ACTION PLAN

Aim	Issue
To help reduce crime and anti-social behaviour experienced by older people	Neighbourhood Watch (NW)
	Encourage young people from becoming involved in crime and anti-social behaviour.
	Elder Abuse
	Provide physical security measures to reduce crime inc domestic burglary

Key Actions	Action By	Lead
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue rollout of NW schemes across NI • Raise awareness of NW schemes, and encourage Co-ordinators to reach out to older people, especially those in hard to reach areas • Rollout NW to Folds Housing Association (100 locations) • Explore rollout of NW to other relevant housing associations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing • Ongoing • Mar 10 • Mar 10 	CSU/PSNI/NIPB
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue, in partnership with key stakeholders, to deliver and evaluate existing projects, e.g. Summer Splash. • Work with the statutory, community and voluntary sector to identify and consider new initiatives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing • Ongoing 	CSU / CSPs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise awareness of elder abuse amongst older people to encourage reporting • Develop a Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Policy Framework 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing • Ongoing 	NIO / DHSSPS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide home security measures through the HandyVan scheme. • Continue rollout other physical security measures and inform relevant age sector groups as appropriate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mar 2011 • Ongoing 	CSU / ACHtANI

Aim	Issue
<p>To help reduce the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour, and to inform and reassure older people as to what is being done</p>	<p>Intergenerational Practice</p>
	<p>Tackling environmental crime such as graffiti, litter, vandalism, abandoned vehicles, fly tipping and fly posting.</p>
	<p>Good Morning Service</p>
	<p>Message in a Bottle</p>
	<p>Befriending</p>

Key Actions	Action By	Lead
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct a literature review of IGP to ascertain current environment and best practice • Explore options for further rollout of IGP as appropriate • Explore development of NI as IGP centre 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jan 10 • March 10 • 2010-2011 	<p>CSU/</p> <p>Beth Johnston Foundation/ Age Sector Platform/ NI Departments</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor progress of the proposed Clean Neighbourhoods Bill • Support 'Clean Neighbourhood' programmes in local CSPs as appropriate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing • Ongoing 	<p>DoE/CSU</p> <p>CSU</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate the role of the Good Morning NI Network Development Officer post • Support the Network and contribute in assessing its sustainability and future funding options. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mar 2010 • Ongoing 	<p>CSU/GMNI</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise awareness of Message in a Bottle service to relevant groups; highlight the need to update information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing 	<p>ALL</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess existing local Befriending services • Assess options for developing Befriending with other statutory agencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 2010 • 2011 	<p>ALL</p>

Aim	Issue
	<p>Negative perception of community safety and increasing fear of crime.</p>
<p>To work in partnership with all relevant groups at both regional and local level to deliver for older people.</p>	<p>Raise awareness of events, projects and initiatives</p> <p>Develop and maintain networks between statutory groups and age sector</p>

Key Actions	Action By	Lead
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a communications plan to counteract and challenge negative perceptions of community safety • Explore older people’s perception of sentencing and the criminal justice system, and raise awareness amongst older people of relevant issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mar 10 • Ongoing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ALL ALL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take forward relevant activities to highlight World Elder Abuse Day regionally and locally • Take forward relevant activities to highlight European Older Person’s Day regionally and locally • Raise awareness of regional and local projects aimed at older people • Focus on raising awareness amongst rural communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June 2010 • April 2010 • Ongoing • Ongoing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ALL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the current engagement between government, statutory agencies, voluntary bodies and older person’s groups at regional and local level • Map existing networks and links across groups at regional and local level to identify links and gaps in provision for older people’s community safety issues • Maintain and develop links between regional/local statutory agencies (e.g. DPP, CSP) and local age sector groups • Age Sector Platform to work with NI Policing Board to identify key policing issues for consideration in the Northern Ireland Policing Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing • Ongoing • Ongoing • Ongoing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ALL ALL ALL ASP/NIPB/CSU

