

## Probation Working in Local Communities

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**Summary:** This paper examines the Probation Board for Northern Ireland's work within a community setting, specifically as a designated partner in the Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (PCSPs) as created by the Justice Act (NI) 2011. It also looks at how PCSPs work to tackle local issues in order to reduce the levels of crime and improve community safety.

**Keywords:** Policing and Community Safety Partnership, crime, community involvement, Probation Board for Northern Ireland, community safety, partnership.

### Introduction

The Probation Board for Northern Ireland attaches immense value to its working relationship with local communities. In the decades often referred to as 'the Troubles' in Northern Ireland, probation was one of the few criminal justice organisations that had a presence in every local community and attracted the confidence of local communities.

In recent years it has continued to hold dear the importance of community involvement. It provides over £1 million of its annual budget to community grants, has over 240 community partners and provides over 185,000 hours of unpaid work to communities through community service. Alongside this, innovative projects such as the Inspire Women's Project and Reducing Offending in Partnership draw on community partners and community facilities to provide interventions and programmes to specific offenders.

Recognising the importance of community involvement to preventing reoffending, and PBNI's long experience of working in local areas, the

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