

Action Plan.

Strategic Recommendation one

Within one year of report publication, the Department of Justice should develop and publicly consult on a new community safety vision, strategy and action plan for delivery. This should include an up-to-date, evidence-based analysis of current community safety issues and clear, timebound objectives for delivery.

DoJ Key activities Planned

A desktop review of Community Safety in Northern Ireland will be carried out by the DoJ Research team in Q4 23/24. This will involve:

- **Setting the Community Safety scene in Northern Ireland:** This section of the review would include collation of data and evidence to capture the current community safety issues in Northern Ireland. This could include prevalence of community safety issues as well as community sentiment (i.e. perceptions of crime/confidence in policing).
- **Collation of existing partner strategies:** The desktop review will capture the current community safety strategies and workstreams within Northern Ireland and their key/high-level community safety objectives.
- **Collation of existing DoJ Community Safety strategies:** the desktop review will set out a list of existing DoJ strategies/workstreams aligned to Community Safety and note their key objective as it aligns to Community Safety.

Research on Anti-Social Behaviour in Northern Ireland will be carried out internally by the Community Safety Branch within DoJ during Q4. This will include:

Part 1

Identifying the Problem

ASB (and perceptions of ASB) are key components of community safety. This section would set out the ASB landscape in Northern Ireland, including the trends and comment on what the data tells us.

Research to Understand the Problem from different Perspectives

This section will consider what the research/evidence tell us are the key issues and seek to understand the issue from the perspective of:

1. Statutory partners
2. The public/victim

Exploring lessons from further afield

Drawing Conclusions

Part 2

Exploration of ASB Forums

This work will set out:

- **Background** to ASB forums
- How they are working currently
- Some **suggestions for improvement**- this will likely include some suggestions arising from part 1 as well as part 2.

The action plan and key activities will be updated following key internal discussions in January 2024 – in the context of the likely return of a functioning Assembly, Executive and taking on board the views of an incoming Justice Minister.

Operational recommendations one

The Department of Justice should implement the remaining, agreed research actions on the operation of the Community Safety Network (CSN) and review its operation bi-annually.

DoJ Key activities

Completion of the research recommendations is on target to be completed by end of Q4 22/23.

It had been intended that going forward the operation of CSN will be monitored against the CSN workplan for 2024 which sets themed areas for discussion at each of the quarterly meetings and the outcomes sought from the discussion. Following each meeting some short questions will be issued to CSN members to ascertain their views as to whether the outcomes for the meeting were sought.

A strategic planning workshop (intended to take place in September 2024) will provide further opportunity to review progress of CSN. It is intended that a strategic planning workshop take place annually.

Operational recommendation two

Within nine months of the publication of this report, the Department of Justice, in conjunction with the Community Safety Network, should undertake a mapping exercise of the existing strategic and operational community safety forums which are operating across Northern Ireland. This should include an overview of purpose, membership, funding, governance and desired outcomes.

DoJ Key activities

Learning from a recent mapping exercise of 'ASB fora', DoJ will seek to ensure that this mapping exercise remains high-level, strategic and captures the key community safety infrastructure. The desktop review of Community Safety, scheduled to take place in Q4 23/24, will highlight key community safety fora in Northern Ireland. Building upon this work, in Q1 24/25 CSN members will be asked to supply details of their knowledge of Community safety fora in Northern Ireland and provide details including overview of purpose, membership, funding, governance and desired outcomes. This information will be collated and presented to CSN at the strategic planning workshop currently scheduled for September 2024.