

Unit 6: The Role of the PSNI

Active Citizenship



Lesson 2: Reducing crime in our communities

This lesson relates to crime facts in Northern Ireland. It requires pupils to explore the different types of crime that police officers in Northern Ireland have to deal with. Pupils have opportunities to consider in detail what they could do as young people to help combat crime in their communities.

Planning

Prior Learning	<p>Pupils should have gained prior knowledge and understanding of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• democracy and the rule of law;• active citizenship; and• justice and lawfulness.
Learning Outcomes	<p>Pupils will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• play an active role in identifying issues in their community; and• play an active role in determining how best to work with their community to tackle these issues.
Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities Focus	<p>Pupils will have opportunities to develop the following:</p> <p>Managing Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Communicate with a sense of audience and purpose <p>Being Creative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Learn from and value other people's ideas• Seek out questions to explore and problems to solve <p>Working with Others</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Respect the views and opinions of others and reach agreement using negotiation and compromise• Listen actively and share ideas and opinions• Take personal responsibility for work with others and evaluate their own contribution to the group <p>Thinking, Problem Solving and Decision Making</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Justify opinions• Make links between cause and effect.
Attitudes and Dispositions	<p>Pupils will be encouraged to develop the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Openness to new ideas• Personal feelings about ideas• Concern for others.

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Resources

Animation: *The Role of the PSNI*

Unit 6: Lesson 2 Resource A – True or false – recorded crime statistics in Northern Ireland 2017/18

Unit 6: Lesson 2 Resource B – Community group action scenario

True/False cards

Suggested teaching and learning strategies

Launch

Lead a class discussion, using prompt questions and effective questioning techniques:

1. What is the role of the PSNI?
2. Why do you think it is important for communities to work with the police in combatting crime?
3. What would be the benefits to your local community if crime was reduced?

You may now wish to show the animation *The Role of the PSNI*.

Possible answers and discussion points:

1. To protect life and property, prevent crime and detect offenders
2. It creates a safer society; it reduces the crime rate, so the law will be upheld; it is their job to keep the peace, so we should help them.
3. People would be safer; money could be spent on improving the area rather than on combatting crime, etc.

Activities

Activity 1: Crime facts in Northern Ireland (true or false)

- Give each pupil a sheet or card with 'True' on one side and 'False' on the other.
- Read out the sentences in **Resource A**, and ask the pupils to hold up 'true' or 'false'.
- Once they are all holding up their cards, reveal the answer and provide the statistics.

Activity 2: Community group action scenario

- Present your pupils with the scenario in **Resource B**.
- Give them some time for discussion and an opportunity to present their findings to the rest of the class. Answers will depend on the area where the pupils live.

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Possible answers and discussion points:

- Creating youth groups
- Drop-in centres
- More employment opportunities

Debrief

Discuss the following:

- 1. How many of you are aware of community groups in your local communities?**
- 2. Do you feel your voice as young people is heard in community groups?**
- 3. How is your voice heard/not heard in your local community groups?**
- 4. Having completed the activity, would it encourage you to join your local community group to have young people's views heard?**
- 5. By joining a local community group, how do you think young people could make a difference in working to combat crime in their local area?**

You may wish to explore with pupils places in their local community where they could have their voice heard.

Possible answers and discussion points:

- 1. (Pupils' own answers)*
- 2. Yes** – *our voice is heard through pupil council.*
No – *our voice is not heard as we can't vote and we aren't invited to give our opinion in community discussions.*
- 3. Our voice is heard at youth groups and through pupil council.*
We feel we are never asked for our opinions outside of school.
We can't vote and are not invited to give an opinion in community discussions.
- 4. (Pupils' own answers)*
- 5. (Pupils' own answers)*

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Unit 6: Lesson 2 Resource A

True or false – recorded crime statistics in Northern Ireland 2017/18



1. Crime is on the rise in Northern Ireland.
2. Drug offences are on the rise.
3. The highest rate of crime occurs in Belfast city policing district.
4. Death or serious injury caused by unlawful driving is on the decrease.
5. Public order offences are on the increase.
6. The number of cases of robbery recorded has seen the greatest decrease.
7. There is an increase in domestic abuse.
8. Possession of weapons offences were at their lowest levels in 2017/18 for the past ten years.
9. Sexual activity offences recorded crime has doubled in the past five years.
10. One in ten recorded crimes in Northern Ireland have been flagged as alcohol motivated crimes since 2012/13.

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Unit 6: Lesson 2 Resource A

True or false – recorded crime statistics in Northern Ireland 2017/18 (answers)

- 1.** Crime is on the rise in Northern Ireland.
Overall, this is false – there has been a downward trend over the past 15 years, although there was a 0.3% increase from 2016/17 to 2017/18.
- 2.** Drug offences are on the rise.
True. The number of offences in 2017/18 was at the highest level since 1998/99.
- 3.** The highest rate of crime occurs in Belfast city policing district.
True. In 2017/18 there were 95 crimes per 1,000 population in Belfast City and 56 per 1,000 population in Derry City & Strabane. Within the remaining districts the crime rates ranged from 32 per 1,000 population in Mid Ulster to 46 per 1,000 population in both Newry, Mourne & Down and Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon.
- 4.** Death or serious injury caused by unlawful driving is on the decrease.
False. There were 135 deaths in 2017/18 compared to 69 deaths in 1998/99 – a 95% increase.
- 5.** Public order offences are on the increase.
False. Public order offences represented 25% of crimes in 2005/6 and now represent 10%.
- 6.** The number of cases of robbery recorded has seen the greatest decrease.
True. In 2017/18 robbery, burglary, theft and criminal damage each recorded their lowest levels since 1998/99.
- 7.** There is an increase in domestic abuse.
True. The number of domestic abuse cases recorded in 2017/18 was 15,404 – the highest for any 12 month period since 2004/5 in all districts.

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Unit 6: Lesson 2 Resource A

True or false – recorded crime statistics in Northern Ireland 2017/18 (answers)

8. Possession of weapons offences were at their lowest levels in 2017/18 for the past ten years.
False. They were at their highest levels in 2017/18, with 420 offences in 1999/2000 and 1000 in 2017/18.
9. Sexual activity offences recorded crime has doubled in the past five years.
True. Over the last six years sexual activity offences increased from 257 recorded in 2012/13 to 627 in 2016/17. Levels fell to 570 in 2017/18. Some of the increase may be influenced by 'sexting'; this is when someone sends or receives a sexually explicit text, image or video on their mobile phone, computer or tablet which can include 'sexual chat' and requests for pictures of sexual offences. Under 18s are at the greatest risk.
10. One in ten recorded crimes in Northern Ireland have been flagged as alcohol motivated crimes since 2012/13.
False. One in five crimes have been flagged as alcohol motivated since 2012/13.

Source for statistics: **Police Service of Northern Ireland: Trends in Police Recorded Crime in Northern Ireland 1998/99 to 2017/18 – Annual Bulletin published 31 October 2018**
www.psni.police.uk/globalassets/inside-the-psni/our-statistics/police-recorded-crime-statistics/documents/police-recorded-crime-in-northern-ireland-1998-99-to-2017-18.pdf

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Unit 6: Lesson 2 Resource B Community group action scenario

You have been invited to come along to your local community group in groups of 3–4. You are to work in partnership with community leaders and the police.

Your task is to provide advice and guidance on ways to reduce crime in your local area. Use anything you know about crime statistics, as well as your knowledge of the area, to help you.

You can choose how you deliver the information and present your advice to the rest of the class. (For example, you might use Publisher or PowerPoint and/or make a leaflet, poster, report or speech.)

