

Site

PBNI

Name of project / initiative

Graffiti Removal Service

Overview

Graffiti is a prevalent and environmental problem, linked to anti-social behaviour in many areas of Belfast. Research shows that graffiti can also lead to a fear of crime in communities and be a trigger for other anti-social and criminal behaviour including littering and theft in neighborhoods.

The Graffiti Removal Service is a partnership project between PBNI and Belfast City Council – in which people on community service orders remove graffiti (as well as chewing gum) from around the city. The service ran on a pilot basis until the end of March 2018 and following successful evaluation was rolled out as a permanent project.

This project gives an opportunity for service users to make good on the harm they have caused to local communities as well as improving the environment for the citizens of Belfast. It has also helped Belfast City Council which has finite resources to deal with the problem of graffiti in a cost-effective way. Service users have reported that working on this project has helped build confidence, skills and a sense of purpose. A range of community representatives and local politicians have highlighted the importance of the project in enhancing community safety.

Longevity

Since 2017

Benefits

See overview

Uniqueness

We are not aware of similar initiatives running elsewhere.

Applicability

This approach could be run anywhere. As a result of its successful implementation of this project in Belfast over the last 5 years, PBNI has partnered with Derry and Strabane Council to roll out a similar service commencing July 2022.

Requirements

It does require some specialised equipment, and there is an initial cost to that, but other than that, it could be run in any community payback setting and running costs are negligible.

For more information:

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See also: <https://bit.ly/PBNI-graffiti> [Press article]

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