

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 25 JUNE 2009 AT 5:00PM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST

PRESENT:

MEMBERS:

Mr Alex Maskey (Chairperson)
Mr Brian Rea (Vice-chair)
Mr Tom Buchanan
Mr Leslie Cree
Ms Mary McKee
(1) Mr Gearóid Ó hEára
Mr David Rose
Mr Suneil Sharma

PSNI MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

(2) ACC McCausland
(2) C/Superintendent Nigel Grimshaw
(2) 1 PSNI Inspector, Policing with the
Community
(3) 2 PSNI Inspectors – Police Training College
(2)

MEMBERS OF REFERENCE GROUPS IN ATTENDANCE:

(3) Dr Michael Harriott
(3) Mr John O'Doherty
(3) Ms Elizabeth Zammitt
(3) Mr Gerry McAreavey
(3) Mr Hassan Mansour

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Dr Debbie Donnelly, Deputy Chief Executive
Mr David Jackson, Director of Community
Engagement
4 Board Officials

- (1) Item numbers 1 – 6
- (2) Item number 6
- (3) Item numbers 5

1. APOLOGIES, ETC

There were no apologies received. NOTED

2. MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 28 MAY 2009

It was:-

AGREED:

That the draft minutes of the Community Engagement meeting held on 28 May 2009 be approved.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 28 MAY 2009

3.1 Briefing – Minority Ethnic Group (Item 3.1.3 of minutes refers)

The Committee was advised that this report will be brought to the August 2009 Committee meeting. (NOTED)

3.2 Future Policing Board Engagement with Loyalist and Republican Communities (Item 10 of minutes refers)

The Committee was advised that a meeting was held on 24 June 2009 with representatives from the UPRG. Members were advised that it was a positive engagement with an open discussion. Some issues were raised which will need to be taken up with PSNI.

3.3 Progress Report from Community Engagement Branch (Item 15 of minutes refers)

This will be dealt with at Agenda Item No: 8.

4. CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS

There were no matters arising.

5. PSNI BRIEFING ON NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE TRAINING COURSE

The Chair welcomed members of the Board's reference groups, John Topping from the University of Ulster and two PSNI Inspectors from the Police College, to the meeting. He invited the PSNI Inspectors to brief the Committee and representatives from the Boards' Reference Groups on the Neighbourhood Police Training Course.

The Inspector began by advising Members that Patten Recommendation 146 recommended the development of a Neighbourhood Policing training programme. The Police College were tasked with developing a neighbourhood policing course.

He advised Members that John Topping from the University of Ulster had published a paper in December 2008 which identified the need for a training needs analysis for neighbourhood officers and greater engagement with local communities. PSNI invited John Topping to assist in the design and development of the new course.

The Inspector proceeded to advise Members that the course was divided into eight chapters, and each chapter provided a text book and activity book. Members were provided with sample copies of the books.

The eight chapters are as follows:-

- Overview of Neighbourhood Policing
- Community Engagement
- Partnership Working
- Neighbourhood meeting
- Signal Crime
- Collaborative Problem Solving
- Anti-social Behaviour and Housing Law
- Softer Skills

Each workbook area will take approximately six weeks to complete. In order to pass the course and gain the related accreditation the activity book is assessed by the College.

Members of the Reference Groups and Committee Members raised various questions and answers. Some of these were as follows:-

- Demographic difference between urban and rural areas with regards to neighbourhood police training
- Too much focus on the two communities – needs to reflect diverse society through workbooks
- Training in respect of elderly and disabled. The need to engage with members of those Reference Groups

Following the briefing, the Chair thanked the PSNI officers and the members of the Reference Groups. He acknowledged that the development of the course is a work in progress and that some gaps have been identified which need to be addressed.

It was:

AGREED

That the Board would facilitate further engagement with representatives of the Police College and the Reference Groups.

6. REFRESH OF PSNI POLICING WITH THE COMMUNITY (PWC) STRATEGY

The Chair welcomed ACC McCausland, Chief Supt Grimshaw and a PSNI Inspector to the Committee to present the Committee with the refresh of PSNI PWC Strategy. Members raised various questions and comments regarding the draft. Some of these were as follows:-

- Language used and use of acronyms used in the document needs refined
- How the Strategy will be resourced
- The Strategy needs to set out clearly that the ethos and principles of PWC will drive all other aspects of policing. The Board will want to see how all other Strategies contribute to the delivery of PWC.

- The Strategy needs to be more outward looking – emphasis on the community participating in PWC needs affirmed in the strategy and implementation plan.
- Principles of PWC need to be supported by case studies.

PSNI further updated the Committee on the development of the implementation plan advising that it would be developed through the work of the PSNI Strategic Review.

The Chair stated that Members were content for linkages through the Strategic Review, but that PWC needed to be the driver for the review.

It was:

AGREED

The Committee agreed the overall strategic direction of the refreshed Strategy and to invite PSNI to report to the Committee in September 2009 on the implementation plan.

7. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTION PLAN 2009/2010

The Committee were asked to approve the Annual Community Engagement Action Plan, but following discussion.

It was:

AGREED:

That the plan would be discussed at the Committee Planning Day on 7 July 2009.

8. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT UPDATE

The Committee noted a paper which provided Members with progress made in implementing the Board's Community Engagement Strategy. One official highlighted a visit by a group of young people from Manchester to Belfast on 22 June 2009 as part of a project on preventing violent extremism. NOTED

9. REVISED DPP EFFECTIVENESS FRAMEWORK FOR 2009/10

The Committee considered a paper which sought Members' approval for a revised DPP Effectiveness Framework for 2009/10. Members requested a target requiring DPPs to co operate with CSPs locally to reflect the Board's endorsement for closer alignment of DPP and CSP functions.

It was:

RESOLVED:

To approve the DPP Effectiveness Framework for 2009/10 subject to including a target for DPP and CSP co operation.

10. REQUEST FOR FUNDING RECIPROCAL STUDY VISIT OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE (CDI) AN GARDA SIOCHANA

The Committee considered a paper which updated Members on a study visit to Tallaght West by members of the West Belfast DPP sub-group and PSNI.

The Committee was advised that the Belfast DPP and PSNI plan to reciprocate with an invitation to a delegation from CDI Tallaght West and An Garda Siochana and Members are asked to consider making a contribution towards this visit. It was noted that £750 previously agreed in support of this project had not been used as Garda Siochana had met the costs.

It was:

AGREED:

That the Board would contribute a further £750 towards the costs of this visit making a total of £1.5k.

11. DPP ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Committee considered a paper which asked Members to agree a theme for the DPP Annual Conference in November 2009.

It was:

AGREED:

To approve the theme of 'Partnership Working' for the DPP Conference and £15k to facilitate the Conference.

12. HUMAN RIGHTS THEMATIC INQUIRY INTO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

The Committee considered a paper which updated Members on the progress of the Human Rights and Professional Standards Committee's human rights inquiry on Children and Young People.

It was:

AGREED:

That the Chairs of the HR&PS and CEC Committees should meet to discuss the Human Rights Advisers work in this area and report back to the Committee.

13. INFORMATION PAPERS

13.1 Neighbourhood Policing Programme Evaluation (E&W)

13.2 Policing with the Community Awards Problem Solving in Partnership

The Committee noted the above papers.

14. SCHEDULE OF PRESENTATIONS 2009

The Committee noted the Schedule of Presentations for 2009. NOTED.

15. QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

It was:

AGREED:

A question would be drafted for the Chief Constable on Policing with the Community.

16. COMMUNICATIONS ISSUES

There were no matters arising.

17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no matters arising.

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was arranged for Thursday, 27 August 2009 at 2:00pm, Waterside Tower, Belfast.

Meeting closed 7.00pm

Secretariat

June 2009

Chairperson