

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS & PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE HELD ON 8 OCTOBER 2010 AT 10:00AM IN THE RAMADA DA VINCI HOTEL, DERRY/LONDONERRY

PRESENT:

MEMBERS:

Mr Basil McCrea (Chairperson)
Ms Martina Anderson
Mr Jonathan Bell

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISOR IN ATTENDANCE:

Ms Alyson Kilpatrick

POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Inspector Chris Yates
D/Inspector PSNI

DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIP IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr Dermot Harrigan, Manager Derry
Ms Linda McKee, Manager Limavady
Ms Sheila McWilliams, Vice Chair Limavady
Mr Michael McCrory, Manager Magherafelt
Mr Jim Campbell, Chair, Magherafelt
Mr Austin Kelly, Vice Chair Magherafelt
Ms Vanessa Russell, Manager Strabane
Mr Jeff Barr, Vice Chair Strabane

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES IN ATTENDANCE:

Ms Marie Brown, Women's Aid
Ms Gillian Clifford, Women's Aid
Ms Maureen Collins, Dove House
Ms Margaret Gallagher, NSPCC
Ms Catherine Pollock, Bogside & Brandywell Initiative
Mr Noel McCartney, Community Restorative Justice
Ms Catherine Cooke, Foyle Womens Information Network.

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr Peter Gilleece, Director of Policy
3 Board Officials

1. APOLOGIES, ETC

Apologies were received on behalf of Ms Mary McKee, Mr Gearóid Ó hEára and Mr Suneil Sharma. NOTED.

No conflicts of interest arising from the agenda were declared by Members.

2. COVER PAPER FOR DOMESTIC ABUSE DEDICATED MEETING

The Chairperson welcomed the various community representatives, the District Policing Partnership representatives and the PSNI to the roundtable discussion on the NIPB Domestic Abuse report.

The Chairperson placed on record, the Committee's thanks to Mr Garvan O' Doherty, the owner of Da Vinci's Hotel, and his staff for continuing with the Committee meeting despite the recent bomb attack earlier in the same week.

It was:-

AGREED:

That the Chairperson of the Human Rights and Professional Standards Committee (HRPS) would send a letter of thanks to Mr O'Doherty.

Members of the various community groups spoke of their experiences of the PSNI handling of domestic abuse cases, and some of the issues raised were as follows:-

- Importance of the PSNI Call Management System, in Foyle DCU, in ensuring victims are put in immediate contact with the right person;
- Training issues with PSNI;
- PSNI treatment of victims and offenders;

- The need for analysis on the statistics around domestic abuse to ensure patterns are identified and more interpretation is carried out.

Community representatives provided the Committee with some examples and scenarios from within their own respective communities. Some of the issues raised were:-

- Children as victims and children as witnesses;
- Vulnerable people and hard to reach individuals;
- High risk offenders;
- Repeat offenders
- The need for communication between community groups and the PSNI

The PSNI representatives advised the Committee and community representatives on their progress in implementing the 14 recommendations from the Domestic Abuse report.

Most representatives felt the meeting had been a worthwhile engagement and recognised that there was still a lot of work to be done, to combat the rise and existence of domestic abuse both by the PSNI and the community.

It was acknowledged that the Domestic Abuse report was important in identifying improvements but a follow up report is to be written to bring information up to date. It was agreed the follow up report would be issued to all participants in the New Year upon completion.

It was recognised that Foyle District was further ahead than most Districts with regard to dealing with domestic abuse.

The representative from the NSPCC acknowledged the hard work and support of the NIPB staff with respect to the publication and launch of their report 'Traveller Children witnessing Domestic Violence – Multi agency Challenges for Providing Support'. The report was launched in Parliament Buildings on 21 June 2010.

3. UPDATE ON PSNI IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS MADE IN THE THEMATIC INQUIRY ON DOMESTIC ABUSE

The Committee considered a paper which gave an update on the 14 recommendations made in the Thematic Report on Domestic Abuse. Representatives from PSNI attended the roundtable discussion and briefed the Committee on these recommendations.
NOTED.

4. CORRESPONDENCE SENT BETWEEN THE BOARD AND PSNI IN RELATION TO THE THEMATIC INQUIRY ON DOMESTIC ABUSE

The Committee noted correspondence sent to and received from PSNI in relation to the recommendations made in the Board's Thematic Report on Domestic Abuse. NOTED.

5. DRAFT LETTER FROM COMMITTEE TO ACC WILL KERR

This item was deferred to a future HRPS Committee meeting.

6. DRAFT CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE REPORT

This item was deferred to a future HRPS Committee meeting.

7. QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

There were no matters arising.

8. COMMUNICATIONS ISSUES

There were no matters arising.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other Committee business.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was agreed for Wednesday, 13 October 2010 at 9:30am in Waterside Tower, Belfast.

(Meeting closed 2:00pm).

October 2010

Chairperson