

## **NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD**

### **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE**

#### **MINUTES OF THE 15th MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 13 JANUARY 2005 AT 10:00AM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST**

##### **PRESENT:**

##### **MEMBERS**

- Mr Denis Bradley (Chairman)
- Viscount Alan Brookeborough (Vice-Chairman)
- (1) Mr Alex Attwood
- Mr Joe Byrne
- Mr Brian Dougherty
- Mr Sam Foster
- Mr William Hay
- (1) Mrs Pauline McCabe
- (2) Mr Alan McFarland
- (3) Mr Eddie McGrady
- (4) Mr Suneil Sharma

##### **OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:**

- Mr Trevor Reaney (Chief Executive)
- Mr Peter Holt (Director of Communications)
- Mr David Jackson (Director of Community Affairs)
- Seven Board Officials

##### **POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND (PSNI) IN ATTENDANCE**

- (5) Mr Roy Toner (ACC Corporate Development and Change Management)
- (5) Head of Information Management
- (6) C/Inspector, Community Safety Branch

##### **YOUTH CONFERENCE SERVICE**

- (6) Mrs Alice Chapman (Director)

##### **DELOITTE AND TOUCHE**

- (5) One Representative

- (1) Item numbers 1 – 3
- (2) Item number 1 – part of item number 3
- (3) Part of item number 2 – part of item number 3
- (4) Part of item number 2 to close
- (5) Item numbers 1 and 2
- (6) Part of item number 3

## **1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Mr Ian Paisley Jnr.

## **2. PRESENTATION BY THE PSNI ON CALL HANDLING/CALL GRADING**

The Chairman welcomed Assistant Chief Constable Toner accompanied by the Head of PSNI Information Management and a representative from Deloitte and Touche to the meeting and invited them to brief the Committee on the subject of call management/call grading.

Assistant Chief Constable Toner gave a presentation on the subject of a new approach to call management within PSNI during which he highlighted the following:-

- The background to the requirement by the PSNI to provide a new approach to call management.
- The problems associated with the existing arrangements within PSNI for call handling.
- The PSNI's vision for success.
- The issues which the PSNI needed to address in order to introduce a new approach to call management.
- The way forward.

A copy of the slides which were used during the presentation are attached at Annex 'A'.

During a subsequent discussion the following issues were discussed:-

- The use of advanced call handling technology.
- A consultation process with the Board and District Policing Partnerships (DPPs) regarding a new approach to call management.
- The PSNI's response time to calls for assistance.
- The use of civilian PSNI staff as call agents.
- The training which would be given to the call agents.
- The call handling systems which were currently in place in District Command Units at present with no unified business processes across the Police Service.
- Pilot schemes which were in operation to test business processes and technology in Craigavon, South Belfast and Lisburn District Command Units.
- The timetable for delivery of a new approach to call management could be introduced.

The Chairman thanked ACC Toner and his colleagues for attending the meeting. He said that the new approach to call handling should be placed high on the PSNI's priority list and delivered as quickly as possible. The Chief Executive explained that a letter had been sent to the Security Minister regarding funding for the PSNI which included funding for information technology.

Members invited ACC Toner to give an update every four months to the Committee in relation to progress which had been made by the PSNI on the new approach to call handling.

At this point ACC Toner and his colleagues left the meeting.

### **3. PRESENTATION BY THE PSNI ON RESTORATIVE JUSTICE IN NORTHERN IRELAND**

The Chairman welcomed the C/Inspector, Community Safety Unit and Mrs Alice Chapman, Director of the Youth Conference Service to the meeting and invited the C/Inspector to brief the Committee on the subject of restorative justice in Northern Ireland.

The C/Inspector gave a presentation in relation to developments in restorative justice during which he highlighted the following:-

- The developments which had been made by the PSNI regarding restorative justice schemes in Northern Ireland.
- The legislative and community developments which had been made in connection with restorative justice.
- A few case studies which illustrated the benefits for young people who had taken part in the restorative justice system.
- Details of a Human Rights Conference on restorative justice on 28 February and 1 March 2005 to which all Members of the Committee were invited to attend.

A copy of the slides which were used during the presentation are attached at Annex 'B'.

During a subsequent discussion the following issues were discussed:-

- Protocols for dealing with restorative justice schemes.
- The process for dealing with offenders in certain areas of Northern Ireland.
- Funding which is given to Restorative Justice Groups.

Members agreed that a discussion should be take place at a future meeting of the Committee regarding restorative justice in Northern Ireland. The Director of the Youth Conference Service referred to the lack of knowledge which solicitors had of the restorative justice scheme and information which was contained on the NIO websites relating to youth conferencing.

The Chairman thanked the C/Inspector and the Director of the Youth Conference Service for attending the meeting and they left.

In response to comments which were made by a Member in relation to training at the PSNI College the Committee discussed the quality of training which was delivered to students at the college.

The Chairman of the Human Resources Committee advised Members that a letter had been sent to the PSNI seeking a meeting with the Chief Constable or his nominee, to discuss issues in relation to training at the College and undertook to keep Members informed of developments concerning the matter.

#### **4. MINUTES OF THE 14<sup>TH</sup> COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 3 DECEMBER 2004**

The minutes of the Community Involvement Committee meeting held on 3 December 2004 were agreed and signed.

#### **5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

##### **5.1 Policy and Process to be followed when considering the removal of a District Policing Partnership (DPP) Member from Office** (Item 6 of Minutes refers)

The Committee noted that the process by which the Board's policy should be applied in relation to the removal of a DPP member from office would be considered by the Board at its next meeting.

##### **5.2 Briefing by PSNI on Serious Crime in Urban Region** (Item 11.1 of Minutes refers)

The Chief Executive referred to the PSNI's new corporate governance arrangements and the benefits of synchronising as far as possible the reporting arrangements within the PSNI and between the PSNI and the Board. The quarterly reporting on serious crime and crime operations could be taken forward in that context.

##### **5.3 Vacancies on DPPs** (Item 11.3 of Minutes refers)

The Committee noted that the Board's appointment panel would meet at the end of January 2005 to appoint an independent member to Larne and Castlereagh DPPs

## **6. CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS**

The Chairman had no matters to report to the Committee.

## **7. COMMUNITY RELATIONS WEEK**

The Committee considered the content of a paper in relation to a proposed Community Relations week which was scheduled to be held during the period 7 – 12 March 2005.

The Committee endorsed a proposal which was outlined in the paper regarding how the Board could contribute to this event through organising a joint briefing session with the PSNI on racism.

## **8. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

The Committee considered the content of a paper in relation to the provision of funding for the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.

The Committee agreed in principle to provide financial support for the scheme up to a maximum of £40k over a two year period and subject to the Board being provided with details on how the funding would be spent.

## **9. DPP ROLE IN PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED STATION CLOSURES**

The Committee considered the content of a paper regarding the role of DPPs in relation to consulting the local community on proposed PSNI Station closures.

The Committee discussed the matter and noted that the PSNI Estates Strategy would be considered by the Finance and General Purposes Committee at its meeting on 21 January 2005. In view of this Members agreed to defer making a decision on the proposals outlined in the paper regarding the public consultation

on proposed Station closures until after the Finance and General Purposes Committee had considered the Estates Strategy.

#### **10. COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMUNITY POLICING – BOSTON VISIT**

The Committee noted the content of a paper regarding a proposed visit to Boston and Chicago during the period 2 – 12 March 2005 under the heading “Communications and Community Policing”.

Officials explained that the the District Commanders from Strabane, Lisburn, Craigavon and Newry and Mourne would represent the PSNI on this visit. The Deputy Chief Constable and the Chairman of the Committee would be undertaking a facilitative role in relation to the visit.

Following discussion the Committee agreed:-

- That representatives from DPPs in the above District Command Units should participate in the visit.
- Members were asked to consider attendance and advise Officials of their nominations as soon as possible.

#### **11. CUSTODY VISITORS’ STATISTICS FOR NOVEMBER 2004**

The Committee noted the content of a paper which provided information on visits which had been carried out by custody visitors during November 2004.

Officials referred to new Home Office guidelines and advised Members that it was no longer necessary to obtain the consent of the parent or guardian of a juvenile before a custody visitor could visit the detainee.

In response to a query from a Member, Officials explained that the new custody visitors would be attending a training course during the following month and would then join their Custody Visiting Teams in carrying out visits to detainees at PSNI Stations.

## **12. PRESENTATION ON THE SUBJECT OF CHILD ABUSE IN NORTHERN IRELAND**

The Committee noted the contents of a paper which outlined details of:-

- A meeting which Officials had held with representatives from Barnardos.
- Arrangements that had been made for PSNI and Barnardos to give presentations to the February Committee meeting on the issue of child abuse in Northern Ireland.

## **13. CONSULTATION ON ROAD TRAFFIC PROVISIONS**

The Committee noted the contents of a paper which outlined details of proposals in relation to new road traffic provisions for Northern Ireland.

The Committee agreed that the Board should forward a corporate response to the proposals.

## **14. DISCUSSION WITH BOARD OFFICIALS REGARDING STUDY VISIT TO ONTARIO**

The Committee agreed to defer discussion with Officials on their study visit to Ontario until the next meeting.

## **15. INFORMATION PAPER**

### **15.1 Support Care Advice (SCA) Ltd Race and Ethnic Community Integration Conference Report**

The Committee noted the content of a paper regarding a conference which had been held on 24 April 2004 which had addressed issues of race and ethnic community integration in West Belfast.

Members noted that a copy of the report on the conference was available from Officials.

## **16. MATTERS TO BE RAISED WITH THE CHIEF CONSTABLE AT THE NEXT BOARD MEETING**

The Committee agreed that they had no issues to raise with the Chief Constable at the next Board meeting.

## **17. PRESS ISSUES**

The Committee agreed that they had no issues arising from the meeting that should be released to the press.

## **18. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **18.1 Update on DPP Recruitment Process**

The Committee discussed the forthcoming recruitment campaign to appoint new Independent Members to DPPs .

The Committee agreed that in view of the financial implications of appointing these Members and in order to provide continuity amongst DPPs that the Chairman should discuss the matter with NIO with a view to deciding on the most appropriate method and timing of recruitment.

The Committee agreed that the matter should be brought to the next Board meeting for consideration and that no action should be taken regarding the commencement of the recruitment process.

## **18.2 Presentations to the Committee**

Members suggested that as far as possible only one presentation should be given to each meeting of the Committee by PSNI and other Organisations.

## **18.3 Panel to consider nominations for Partnership Awards**

Mr Dougherty agreed to represent the Board on a Panel to consider nominations from District Command Units for the 2005 PSNI Community Partnership Award.

## **19. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The Committee agreed that the next meeting would be held on 9 February 2004 at 10:00 am.

(Meeting closed at 1310 hours)

**SECRETARIAT**

**January 2005**

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**CHAIRMAN**