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NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE 16th MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 9 FEBRUARY 2005 AT 10:00AM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST

PRESENT:

MEMBERS

Mr Denis Bradley (Chairman)
Viscount Alan Brookeborough (Vice-Chairman)

Mr Alex Attwood

Mr Joe Byrne

Mr Sam Foster

Mr William Hay

(1) Mr Suneil Sharma

(2) Professor Sir Desmond Rea (Chairman of Board)

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

(3) Mr Trevor Reaney (Chief Executive)
Mr Peter Holt (Director of Communications)

Mr David Jackson (Director of Community Affairs)

(4) Mr David Wilson (Director of Planning)
Six Board Officials

POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND (PSNI) IN ATTENDANCE:

(5) D/C/Inspector William McAuley

BARNARDOS IN ATTENDANCE:

(5) Ms Jacqui Montgomery-Devlin

(5) Ms Margaret Kelly

(1) From part of item number 2 – item number 7

(2) Item numbers 1 and 2

(3) From part of item number 2 onwards

(4) From part of item number 2 – item number 4

(5) Item numbers 1 and 2

1. APOLOGIES

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

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2. PRESENTATION ON CHILD ABUSE IN NORTHERN IRELAND

The Chairman welcomed the representatives from the PSNI and Barnardos to the meeting and invited them to brief the Committee on the subject of child abuse in Northern Ireland.

In response Ms Montgomery-Devlin gave a presentation concerning the growing problem of the sexual exploitation of children and young people in Northern Ireland during which she highlighted the following:-

- Details of Barnardo's current campaign 'Beyond the Shadows' which aimed to raise awareness of the increasing problem of child abuse through prostitution, and trafficking.
- An awareness training programme which Barnardos had undertaken on the issue.
- That new technologies such as mobile phones and the internet were commonly being used as aids to abuse and exploit children. The use of such technologies had made the abuse of children through prostitution easier to hide.
- The action which was required by the various agencies in order to address the problem of sexual exploitation of children and young people in Northern Ireland.

D/C/Inspector McAuley gave a presentation during which he highlighted the following:-

- The efforts which were being undertaken by the police in tackling child prostitution.
- That child sexual abuse throughout the UK has become a very significant issue for society. Recorded cases were increasing and neither the process of crime recording, the British Crime Survey or the NI Crime Survey had picked up on the size of the problem.
- Around 70% of child sexual abuse did not come to the attention of the police. Of those cases that were reported only about 8% were cleared by way of criminal prosecution.

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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 importance of educating school children in order to raise awareness of the increasing problem of child abuse through prostitution and trafficking.
- The importance of statutory bodies directing resources towards pro-active rather than re-active initiatives to address the issue.
- The need for the PSNI to be pro-active in dealing with the issue.
- Training on the subject for PSNI Officers and the need for a dedicated resource to be made available within PSNI to deal with the matter.
- A target which had been set in part 3 of the 2005 – 2008 Policing Plan to deal with child abuse issues and consideration being given to including the issue in part 2 of the 2006 – 2009 Plan

The Chairman thanked the representatives from the PSNI and Barnardos for attending the meeting and they left.

3. MINUTES OF THE 15TH COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 13 JANUARY 2005

The Committee considered the draft minutes of the previous meeting.

It was:

AGREED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Community Involvement Committee held on 13 January 2005 be agreed.

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4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING

4.1 Policy and Process To Be Followed When Considering The Removal Of A District Policing Partnership (DPP) Member From Office (Item 5.1 of Minutes refers)

This matter was dealt with under item 7.

4.2 Vacancies On DPPs (Item 5.3 of Minutes refers)

The Board's appointment panel would be meeting at 1:00pm to appoint an independent member to Larne and Castlereagh DPPs. NOTED.

4.3 DPP Role In Public Consultation On Proposed Station Closure (Item 9 of Minutes refers)

At the January Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting the Committee had considered the contents of the PSNI Estates Strategy and had suggested a few amendments to the document. NOTED.

The Committee discussed the role of DPPs in relation to consulting the local community on proposed PSNI Station closures.

It was:

AGREED

That Officials should discuss the process for consulting with DPPs regarding station closures with the Assistant Chief Constables for Urban and Rural regions.

4.4 Update On DPP Recruitment Process (Item 18.1 of Minutes refers)

The Committee noted that at the February Board meeting the Board had agreed:

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- That the DPP recruitment process should commence immediately after the local government election.
- A process to enable the re-appointment of all independent members of DPPs who were willing to continue in office, subject to their satisfactory performance and the Board's ability to achieve a representative DPP.
- That appointment panels should consider additional appointable candidates forwarded by candidates, to ensure representativeness and to create a reserve list for future vacancies. NOTED.

The Committee discussed the advertising campaign for Independent Members of DPPs and whether it should target specific groups.

It was:

AGREED

That information should be obtained in relation to the number of current DPP Members who wished to be reappointed to DPPs.

5. CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

The Chairman advised of the details of negotiations which he had had with representatives of the International Fund for Ireland and Atlantic Philanthropies regarding the provision of funding for integrated training for DPPs. NOTED.

The Committee received a paper which outlined details of a proposal to develop a reflective learning model for DPPs to promote community policing in Northern Ireland. NOTED.

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It was:

AGREED

That the paper on the proposal to develop a reflective learning model should be considered at the next meeting of the Committee.

6. UPDATE ON THE REVIEW OF THE DPPs DURING THEIR FIRST YEAR IN OFFICE

The Committee considered the content of a paper which outlined details of progress which had been made to date with the review of DPPs.

It was:

AGREED

That a special meeting of the Committee should be convened to consider the contents of the report on the review of DPPs.

7. CONSIDERATION OF THE REMOVAL OF A DPP MEMBER FROM OFFICE

At its February 2005 meeting the Board had agreed the policy in respect of the removal of a DPP Member from office. NOTED.

The Committee considered the content of a paper which outlined the circumstances relating to the following three cases under the terms of the Board's policy on the removal of DPP Members from office.

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- **Case 1**

The Committee noted that it had been reported in the press that an Elected Member of Newtownabbey DPP had used racist language that could be liable to cause offence. The Council had not taken any action against the Councillor.

It was:

RECOMMENDED

That the Committee recommend to the Board that the Elected Member of Newtownabbey DPP should not be removed from office.

Mr Hay recorded his opposition to the Committee's recommendation.

Mr Attwood took no part in the Committee's decision as he considered that he would have been in a position to provide information if the case had proceeded. Mr Byrne also took no part in the Committee's decision.

- **Case 2**

The Committee noted that an Elected Member of Antrim DPP had been involved in a road traffic accident which had resulted in him being prosecuted and convicted of driving without due care and attention. The Committee noted details of the criteria which the PSNI used before debarring an officer from the Police Service for conviction for such offences.

The Committee considered that to remove the Member from the DPP would be disproportionate to the offence which he had committed and unreasonable judgement by the Board.

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It was:

RECOMMENDED

To the Board that the Elected Member of Antrim DPP should not be removed from office.

Mr Hay recorded his opposition to the Committee's recommendation.

- **Case 3**

The Committee noted details of an Independent Member of Antrim DPPs poor attendance record since appointment to the Partnership. The DPP Manager had written to the Member enquiring if there were any mitigating circumstances and no response had been received.

It was:

RECOMMENDED

To the Board that the Independent Member should be removed from office as a Member of Antrim DPP in view of the unsatisfactory attendance record.

8. CUSTODY VISITORS STATISTICS FOR DECEMBER 2004

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

NOTED.

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9. DISCUSSION WITH BOARD OFFICIALS REGARDING STUDY VISIT TO ONTARIO

It was:

AGREED

That discussion with Officials on their study visit to Ontario should be deferred.

10. MATTERS TO BE RAISED WITH THE CHIEF CONSTABLE AT THE NEXT BOARD MEETING

It was:

AGREED

That a question should be drafted to ask the Chief Constable at a future Board meeting in relation to how the PSNI planned to implement the PSNI Estates Strategy in consultation with DPPs.

11. PRESS ISSUES

It was:

AGREED

That there were no issues arising from the meeting that should be released to the press.

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12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

12.1 Impartial Assessor's Report On The Selection And Appointment Of Independent Members For The Dungannon And South Tyrone DPP

The Committee considered the content of the Impartial Assessor's report on the selection and appointment of Independent Members for Dungannon and South Tyrone DPP. NOTED.

12.2 Problem Solving Programme

The Committee received details of a three day problem solving programme which would be held during the following week for members of DPPs and PSNI Officers from the same area. The programme would be delivered by staff from Queen's College, Kingston, Ontario. NOTED.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was arranged for 15 March 2005 at 10:00 am in Waterside Tower, Belfast

(Meeting closed at 12:30 hours)

SECRETARIAT

February 2005

CHAIRMAN