

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON
10 March 2022 AT 09:30**

PRESENT:

Ms Carmel McKinney, Vice-Chair
Mr Edgar Jardine
Ms Deirdre Toner*
Mrs Dolores Kelly
Mr Gerry Kelly
Ms Liz Kimmins*
Mr Mike Nesbitt
Mr Maurice Bradley*
Mr Frank McManus* (2)
Ms Linda Dillon* (2)

**EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS
IN ATTENDANCE**

Mr Tom Frawley

**POLICE SERVICE OF
NORTHERN IRELAND IN
ATTENDANCE:**

(3) DCC Mark Hamilton
(1) ACC Bobby Singleton
(1) Two PSNI Officers
(2) Two PSNI Officers

**OFFICIALS IN
ATTENDANCE:**

Ms Sinead Simpson*, Chief Executive
Mr Adrian McNamee, Director of Performance
4 Board Officials

- (1) Present from Item 6.1
- (2) Present for 6.3 only
- (3) Present for 6.1 and 6.3 only

*Attended via video conferencing

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received in advance of the meeting from Trevor Clarke, the Vice-Chair Carmel McKinney will Chair today's meeting. Apologies were also received in advance from Joanna Bunting.

The Committee agreed the agenda for the meeting.

The Chair asked Members to advise of any items they wished to raise at Item 9 under "Any Other Business". No further items were declared.

2. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No conflicts of interest were declared.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Committee considered the draft minutes of the Performance Committee meeting held on 10 February 2022.

It was **RESOLVED**:-

That Minutes of the Performance Committee meeting on 10 February 2022 were agreed.

4. UPDATE ON ACTION LOG

The Director of Performance provided an update on the actions listed on the Action Log. Members noted the remaining current open actions and expected timeframes for these to be brought back to the Performance Committee.

NOTED.

The Director of Performance provided an update on AP3 from the meeting held on 11 November 2021 in respect of Policing Plan Measure 1.2.2 requesting further information on prosecution data for OCG's. The response from PSNI is at Item 4.1 of today's meeting.

The Director of Performance provided an update on AP4 also from the meeting held on 11 November 2021 in respect of Policing Plan Measure 1.2.2 requesting an update on the PSNI progress on implementing the 6 Recommendations of the CJINI Report in respect of modern slavery and human trafficking. The response from PSNI is at Item 4.1 of today's agenda.

The Director of Performance provided an update on AP1 from the meeting held on 09 December 2021 in respect of Fixed Penalty Notices and the processes and procedures for the deletion of data; who gives authority to delete and what systems are in place to prevent inadvertent data deletion from PSNI computer systems. A letter was issued to DCC Hamilton and Officials are awaiting a response.

The Director of Performance provided an update on AP4 also from the meeting held on 09 December 2021 in respect of the PSNI's offer to provide further data / information on the number of Looked After Children (LAC) who are repeat victims of crime, LAC victims and a list of the perpetrator categories with supporting data and a full update on any collaborative work that is taking place with health partners to address this challenging area. Officials met with PSNI to discuss a number of challenges in relation to providing the data requested. PSNI will address this issue under Measure 1.1.1 CSAE at Agenda Item 6.1 of today's meeting.

The Director of Performance provided an update on AP6 also from the meeting held on 09 December 2021. Members requested that Officials write to the PSNI and request the breakdown of crimes recorded (percentage and number), including the supporting data on the percentage and number of perpetrators relating to each crime recorded. PSNI will address this under Item 6.1 Measure 1.1.1 Repeat Victims - CSAE as part of today's agenda.

The Director provided an update on AP1 also from the meeting held on 10 February 2022. A Member had requested that Officials make an amendment to Item 4.0 Action Point 8 in relation to the Seapark Gold Group to record that

the Human Rights Advisor will continue to “attend” from “represent the Board”. The February 2022 Minutes were amended at Item 4.0 Action Point 8 to reflect this.

The Director provided an update on AP2 also from the meeting held on 10 February 2022. Officials were asked to write to PSNI to address Member concerns on the escalation of reported incidents to the PSNI Senior Executive Team and subsequent reporting to the Board. Awaiting a response from PSNI.

The Director provided an update on AP3 also from the meeting held on 10 February 2022. Officials contacted DCC Hamilton to seek further analysis and information regarding the 80% of non-crime related calls. Officials are awaiting a response.

The Director provided an update on AP4 also from the meeting held on 10 February 2022. A Member had requested Officials to write to PSNI and request a breakdown of Domestic Violence incidents / crimes as recorded by PSNI Districts. Awaiting a response from PSNI.

The Director provided an update on AP5 also from the meeting held on 10 February 2022. In response to the South Armagh Recommendations Update Members had sought clarification on outstanding training requirements for Body Worn Video. A response was received to confirm that one officer was on protracted absence and missed the training. This has now been scheduled for 30th March 2022.

The Director provided an update on AP6 also from the meeting held on 10 February 2022. In response to the presentation of the Terrorism Investigation Unit Members requested that Officials contact PSNI to seek an update to the allegations made in the media by a former senior officer. Awaiting a response from PSNI.

The Director provided an update on AP7 also from the meeting held on 10 February 2022. A Member raised concerns in relation to PSNI's performance of vetting, recruitment and issues in the Training College. The Director of Performance suggested that these issues are revisited and considered further following the PSD briefing at today's meeting.

4.1 Accompanying Correspondence

Members discussed correspondence received from the PSNI in relation to:

- AP 3 December 2021 – in respect of Policing Plan Measure 1.2.2 requesting further information on prosecution data for OCG's. Members were content with the correspondence; and
- AP 4 December 2021 – in relation to Policing Plan Measure 1.2.2 requesting an update on the PSNI progress on implementing the 6 Recommendations of the CJINI Report in respect of modern slavery and human trafficking. Work is continuing on four recommendations. Members were content with the correspondence.

5. CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS

The Vice-Chair confirmed that there had been no items of business received by the Chairperson for discussion.

6. ITEMS FOR COMMITTEE BUSINESS

6.1 Policing Plan Measure 1.1.1 Repeat Victims – CSAE, Hate Crime and Repeat Victimisation.

Board Officials presented a paper providing Members with an analysis of work relating to PSNI Performance against Measure 1.1.1 specific to CSAE, Hate Crime and Repeat Victimisation overall.

Board Officials gave updates focusing on:

- **Outcome 1** *We have a safe Community*
- **Indicator 1.1** *Fewer repeat offenders of crime; and*

These analyse PSNI performance against Measure:

Measure 1.1.1: Repeat victimisation rate and report on initiatives to support repeat victims with a focus on victims of (ii) CSAE and (iii) Hate Crime in 2021/22.

The Board Official advised that Members may wish to note that this was the second Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation (CSAE), Hate Crime and Repeat Victimisation report to be considered through Performance Plan 2021/22 performance monitoring. In linking to the upcoming Performance Plan Annual Assessment, the Board analysis seeks to provide Members with applicable updates and comparisons, from June 2021 reporting.

The Board Official drew Members attention to the PSNI report card that noted that the repeat victimisation rate is currently 17.6% which is a slight increase from 17.3% when last reported in June 2021. This equates to 0.5% of the Northern Ireland population. The repeat victimisation rate for females is 19.3%, for males the rate is 16.1%. By way of comparison, the PSNI reported through 2020/21 police performance monitoring in October 2020 that 16.5% of victims were victimised more than once in a twelve month period and as such, it would seem that the levels of repeat victimisation are increasing.

The Board Official referred Members to the PSNI report that records that 32 children at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) have been removed from this classification over the course of the last six months as a result of multi-agency intervention between police and Health and Social Care. There are currently 37 children in total identified at risk of CSE in December 2021. In addition they state that across all areas of CSAE, there has been more than double the actions from previous reporting in June 2021 including 75 taskings have been allocated in this period up from 54 in the previous reporting period; including 32 for child abuse bail checks and 37 regarding CSE persons of concern.

The Board Official recalled to Members, as previously reported, Looked After Children (LAC) are three times more likely to go missing and are significantly more likely to be reported to the PSNI as missing than any other child. These children, who are already vulnerable due to their age and personal circumstances that necessitate state intervention, can face a variety of significant risks through their participation in high risk activities by becoming involved in crime or as a result of being victims of crime themselves (including CSAE, misuse of alcohol or drugs). The Board Official referred to the PSNI presentation to the 9 December 2021 Performance Committee regarding crime rates and trends that outlined issues regarding LAC / children in the care setting and safeguarding.

The Board Official informed Members that it was agreed the PSNI would provide further information on the number of LAC who are repeat victims of crime; LAC victims and a list of the perpetrator categories with supporting data; and a full update on any collaborative work that is taking place with health partners to address this challenging area. The Board Official recalled to Members that most recently at the 10 February 2022 Performance Committee, the Director of Performance noted that the PSNI were working on this and would in a position to address it under Measure 1.1.1 CSAE at the March 2022 Performance Committee. At the time of writing this paper, no written response has been received.

The Board Official referred to where the PSNI reported that the highest number of repeat victims continues to be racist, sectarian and homophobic abuse. The PSNI specifically outlined that racist repeat victimisation in particular has increased this year and is in line with the overall increase in reported racist abuse and the overall level of repeat victimisation increased considerably to 35%, which is an increase from 29% outlined in June 2021 reporting.

The Board Official drew Members attention to the establishment of the Community Relations Task Force under the PSNI's Community Safety

Branch. The work of the Task Force sought to increase community confidence in policing and to focus initially on rebuilding community confidence between police and BAME communities in Belfast and Northern Ireland. The Board Official stated that the PSNI had not included further information on the Task Force within their report card and given the need to outline positive impact, Members may wish to gain an update in this regard.

Members engaged in a brief discussion on a number of issues including:-

- The rationale for the repeat victimisation intervention threshold, that is, those who experience six or more crimes in a 365 day period;
- With regards LAC, a Member referred to the PSNI's Operation Owl that was launched in 2013 as a response into potential sexual exploitation of missing children from care and queried if there is a new equivalent;
- Members discussed the Hate Crime figures;
- A Member referred to the work of Social Care colleagues in assisting the PSNI;
- A Member referred to the Child Internet Protection Team (CIPT) and the criminal justice process from the seizure of devices to referral to PPS; and
- Members discussed Modern Slavery surveys and the information, or lack thereof, provided by PSNI.

The Vice-Chairperson welcomed Deputy Chief Constable Mark Hamilton, Assistant Chief Constable Bobby Singleton, Acting DCI Kerry Brennan and Supt. Gerry McGrath. She invited them to brief Members on the work relating to Policing Plan Measure 1.1.1.

The PSNI presented information through their report card and provided a statistical commentary of their performance against Measure 1.1.1 and discussed with Members the work carried out on a number of key areas including:

- The PSNI referred to the development and use of PULSE to assist officers in making early interventions and offer support to repeat victims of crime. This new process has seen an 8.6% reduction in the number of active

Repeat Victims since inception in September 2021 to the end of December 2021;

- The PSNI referred to the repeat victimisation intervention threshold rates and explained that these were set at what was deemed to be a manageable level to prevent the service being overwhelmed. The threshold figures can be recalibrated;
- The PSNI discussed Hate Crime and its impact on the individual, their family and wider community;
- Housing provision was cited by the PSNI as something that can trigger hate or racially motivated crime. An example was given of a foreign national moving into an area where the mentality is “local homes for local people” that sees them become a victim or repeat victim of crime;
- The PSNI referred to the figure of 35% that represents the total repeat hate crime victims when non-hate crimes and incidents were included;
- Outcome rates were discussed by the PSNI with reference to victims who want the hate to stop but may feel further traumatised by going to court;
- The PSNI referred to the Hate Crime Service Instruction issued to officers and advised that this was being revised and would be available in June 2022;
- The PSNI referred to the statistic that 32 children have been assessed as no longer at risk of CSE over the last six months, however, there are 37 CSE persons of concern which is an increase on the previous reporting period;
- In response to CSE the PSNI have put in place a dedicated structure through the realignment of staff to improve investigations and raise standards of practice and investigation;
- The PSNI referred to Misogyny and the ongoing debate regarding the classification of this as Hate Crime; and
- The PSNI referred to the current global economic situation and effect on everyday lives and the potential for increased domestic crime and other criminal activities.

Members engaged in discussion with PSNI and sought clarity on a number of issues including:-

- Further clarity on CSE children at risk, the interventions made by the PSNI, the support in place for the child and whether the child is moved to a place of safety with the perpetrator placed somewhere they can't do further harm. A Member also sought further clarity on the course of action when the person of concern blames the child for the intervention;
- Members asked for an explanation as to why a report from PSNI has not been provided on how LAC are targeted by Organised Crime Gangs (OCGs), if there is no risk from OCG's does this correlate with the data held by Health & Social Care Trusts. With regards the reporting mechanism on this issue Members queried how will the PSNI provide information for the Committee to scrutinise further;
- A Member referred to Hate Crime, specifically repeat victims and victims of other crimes. The Member referred to the Hate Crime Legislation in Northern Ireland Independent Review led by Judge Desmond Marrinan published in December 2020 and asked the PSNI for a progress update on the report Recommendations and if there has been improvement in safeguarding victims of hate crime;
- A Member drew attention to the Repeat Victimization PULSE threshold and asked if these numbers would be decreased to enable increased interventions;
- A Member asked for further detail or an explanation for the disparity of victims between male and female;
- A Member asked if PSNI if there should be greater sharing of information with Health & Social Care Trusts in relation to children at risk to ensure there is a greater understanding of what is happening;
- A Member queried if language issues with ethnic minorities was causing issues for their engagement with police and if interpreter services are available;
- A Member asked for clarity on the difference between Hate Crime and a Hate Incident;

- Members discussed the PSNI Child Internet Protection Team (CIPT) and its capability and capacity to forward files to PPS;
- A Member queried Support Hubs and Toolkits and whether the PSNI are taken across boundaries where others have greater knowledge or expertise. The Member also asked if the roles and responsibilities of the PSNI in these situations was clear;
- A Member queried whether the Repeat Victimisation thresholds were assessed as appropriate or are they capacity driven; and
- A Member referred to the point of intervention outcomes by the PSNI and queried how finding a place of safety links to supporting people and what is the reality for police officers.

The PSNI provided the following responses:-

- The PSNI referred to the work of CSE Team and the multi-agency approach taken with reference to collaborative working with Social Workers to achieve prosecutions;
- The Person of Concern interventions are viewed by the PSNI as being proactive through the process of arrest, evidence gathering and removing the person from the community;
- The PSNI referred to their focus on apprehending the offender whilst supporting the child;
- The PSNI referred to a Hate Incident as the recording of a non-crime. The 'Common Sense Test' is applied by officers to differentiate between Hate Crime and a non-crime Hate Incident. The PSNI assured Members that if a person is involved in a non-crime hate incident their details are recorded and if the situation escalates further there is then an evidential record;
- With regards LAC's being targeted by OCG's the PSNI assured Members that there is no evidence at present to suggest any linked criminality and the PSNI strategic focus remains on individuals and the interventions that can be made with Persons of Concern. In terms of reporting, the PSNI advised that Organised Crime is 'too narrow' in terms of what is or can be investigated and this is based on Intelligence;

- In reference to Health Care Trusts and the data they hold the PSNI advised Members that at present it was not possible to integrate information held;
- The PSNI confirmed that work is ongoing to implement the 38 Recommendations made by Judge Marrinan in his 2020 Report;
- The PSNI reassured Members that the Repeat Victimisation thresholds were set as a response to staffing capacity and are can be subject to change. The thresholds were determined following a review of the information available from other forces. An internal agreement was reached within the PSNI to set a level to initiate the process taking into consideration staffing and other resources. It is the ambition of the PSNI to review and reduce the intervention threshold to bring it as low as possible;
- Members were informed that Neighbourhood Policing Teams are an important part of the multifaceted response to safeguarding young people;
- The PSNI drew attention to the prevalence of Domestic Violence and Abuse in which females are more likely to be the victim. Males are disproportionately more likely to be the perpetrators of personal crime with females more likely to be the victim;
- The experiences of the Syrian refugee's as well as the Travelling Community were of concern to the PSNI. The PSNI Engagement Team is assessing how the police can be more proactive in dealing with minority groups;
- The PSNI defined a Hate Crime Incident as not recorded as a crime but motivated by race or religion. Hate Crime is the perception that a crime has been motivated by hate. The Perception Test is made at the point of report and officers make an assessment if there is evidence to support hate as a factor;
- The PSNI referred to the ongoing debate concerning Misogyny as a Hate Crime and the delay in drafting enabling legislation to allow officers to deal with this;
- In keeping people safe the PSNI are aware that boundaries can appear to blur when collaboratively working with other organisations to problem

solve. The roles and responsibilities of the PSNI remain known and clear; and

- Interim measures have been taken to improve the performance of CIPT. Members were advised that any changes have to be reconciled with budget demands however the organisation has to adapt. There is an acceptance that internet based crime is outpacing police capabilities worldwide to keep up with it. Capacity issues within the Court Service and the need to examine all evidential material leads to delays in criminal outcomes. Any changes to the evidential process to make progression to court quicker should not be detrimental to the offender.

The Vice-Chairperson thanked the PSNI for their attendance and briefing and they left.

Following discussion it was:-

AGREED

Officials to request further information from PSNI on LAC and liaise with ACC Singleton to identify what is available. **(AP1)**

Officials to liaise with PSNI to arrange a future visit to the CSE team **(AP2)**

Officials to factor the issues of misogyny and hate crime into the Programme of Work for the Performance Committee. **(AP3)**

Officials to liaise with ACC Singleton to request further information on repeat victim bench marking. **(AP4)**

6.2 Human Rights Advisor Update Report for February 2022

The Human Rights Advisor provided Members with an overview of areas within his current work programme including, finalising and publishing the Human Rights Report on PSNI's Use of Spit and Bite Guards and drafting the Human Rights of Police Officers Report which includes engagement with PSNI minority associations.

The Human Rights Advisor updated Members on meetings he attended during February including; the NIO Working Group on non-jury trials, JSA Reviewer, NIHRC, PSNI officers, PSNI Training College, Deputy Chief Constable, PSNI lawyers and various meetings with Board Officials including discussing custody visiting.

He also informed Members of his March work plan including; continuing the drafting the Human Rights Report on the Rights of Police Officers, researching and drafting the Human Rights Report on Use of Force, meeting with the Independent Custody Visitors, speaking to solicitors about the work of the Board and ICV's, speaking about the work of the Human Rights Advisor and the Board at a conference on policing in Dublin. During March the Human Rights Advisor also plans to meet PSNI lawyers and other PSNI officers.

The Human Rights Advisor drew Members' attention to a challenge in the Northern Ireland Courts to the plan to have 'COVID Passports' in Northern Ireland as this was raised at a previous Committee meeting. The applicant asserted that there was a breach of statutory duty / requirement relying on section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 and a breach of section 6 of the Human Rights Act 1998. This included an argument based on a breach of Article 14 of the ECHR in conjunction with Article 8 of the ECHR alleging unlawful discrimination. The Court considered that the COVID Regulations at issue were in accordance with the law and served a legitimate aim and were proportionate and justifiable.

The Human Rights Advisor informed Members that he has been invited to participate at a speaking event in Dublin in March 2022 and former Chief Constable George Hamilton will also be attending. The Human Rights Advisor also advised that he is exploring the opportunity of engaging with local universities regarding human rights research in future.

The Human Rights Advisor informed Members that he had recently written to PSNI in respect of ICVs and raised concerns with confidentiality with Custody Detention Officers remaining within sight, but out of hearing when the ICVs meet with detainees.

The Human Rights Advisor informed Members that he had recently attended Seapark and based on his observations it appeared that appropriate measures have been put in place to securely move the murder archive a short distance to a new storage location within the building and to facilitate access to these, for example to OPONI, who may require this.

The Human Rights Advisor engaged in a brief discussion with Members on the 9th December 2021 Freedom of Information request, as reported in 'The Detail' social media outlet, that noted over a five year period from 2016 Catholics were disproportionately more likely to be arrested than Protestants.

Following discussion it was:-

AGREED;

Officials to share Human Rights Advisor correspondence to PSNI regarding confidentiality in custody suites with Committee Members. **(AP5)**

Officials to follow up with ACC C Todd to establish the PSNI's response to address this issue of disproportionate arrest rates and to include as a future item of business on the Committee's agenda. **(AP6)**

Following discussion it was also:-

NOTED.

That Members were content with the Human Rights Advisors Update Report and schedule of work for March 2022.

6.3 PSNI Professional Standards Presentation.

The Director of Performance recalled to Members that they had requested further information on the work of the PSNI Professional Standards. The presentation follows a series of discussions with the Chief Constable on measures being taken to create and sustain a working environment that provides equality for all, and assurance that robust policies and procedures are in place to deal effectively with inappropriate behaviours. Therefore Officials arranged for the PSNI PSD to attend the Performance Committee and provide an overview of their current and future work.

The Director of Performance also recalled to Members that under section 3(3)(c)(i) of the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2000, the Board must keep itself informed as to the workings of Part VII of the 1998 Act (police complaints and disciplinary proceedings) to monitor any trends or patterns emerging and this work is undertaken by the Performance Committee.

The Director of Performance referred to a number of misconduct cases highlighted in the media. Today Members have the opportunity to question the Deputy Chief Constable on how the PSNI currently deal with inappropriate behaviours, officers who are under investigation for criminal or misconduct proceedings, the range of sanctions applied and the speed with which misconduct cases are processed.

The Vice-Chairperson welcomed DCC Mark Hamilton, the Head of Anti-Corruption Unit and the Appropriate Authority. She invited them to brief Members on the current work of the Professional Standards Department [PSD].

The PSNI presented information on the following key areas:

- The role of the Chief Constable and delegation of his authority to the Deputy Chief Constable for organisational discipline;
- The purpose of Professional Standards to promote the highest standards of conduct and ethical behaviour;
- Governing legislation and guidance;
- PSD background, structure and principal responsibilities;
- The roles and responsibilities of the Anti-Corruption Unit, Intelligence Unit, Investigation Unit and Service Vetting Unit;
- The Appropriate Authority role and responsibilities;
- The process of Determinations and Recommendations at the conclusion of investigations;
- PSNI action if criminal proceedings in respect of an officer are ongoing;
- Misconduct processes and the types of disciplinary panels used by the PSNI;
- Sanction outcomes of misconduct disciplinary meetings, including Suspensions and repositionings as a sanction;
- Sexual misconduct cases, investigations and officer duty status when an allegation is made; determinations of sexual misconduct cases;
- Breaches of the Code of Ethics in respect of sexual misconduct cases; and
- An Update on the current Code of Ethics and proposed Draft Code of Ethics wording.

Members engaged in discussion with PSNI and sought clarity on a number of issues including:-

- In respect of the numbers of officers subject to duty suspension or repositioning Members discussed the right for due process to be followed in

allegations of misconduct, however concerns were raised in respect of the delays in some cases and investigations resulting in costs to the public purse and the policing budget overall. PSNI advised that the disciplinary process is described by the PSNI as precautionary in nature and designed to be in the public interest; officers have to be afforded their rights within the law but the service is there to protect the public and not the service. The types of behaviour that sees officers subject to disciplinary proceedings has changed as society has changed; increased social networking outside of duty and greater access to technology can lead to inappropriate behaviours. Officers who are suspended or repositioned for job related issues are a minority with the majority of suspensions involving serious misconduct; and a distinction was made between officers who are suspended or repositioned for not performing to the required standards and those whose personal conduct has fallen short of acceptable professional standards;

- Members drew attention to the delays in vetting of new recruits and queried whether the numbers withdrawing their applications as a consequence is being addressed within the recruitment process. Members sought clarity on vetting and levels of vetting. The PSNI advised that vetting is a means of protecting the applicant and the service and that they were unaware of any significant delays. PSNI referred to Cabinet Office policy and Enhanced Developed Vetting (eDV) for a very small number of posts where an additional level of assurance is required above DV;
- Referring to the increased numbers of officers subject to investigation for alleged inappropriate or sexual behaviour Members sought clarity on which branch of PSD investigates such misconduct cases and whether this includes harassment of colleagues. In reference to sexual misconduct, the PSNI referred to the Chief Constable's recently issued statement of intent to officers and staff within the PSNI explicitly stating that there is no tolerance for sexual misconduct, domestic abuse, harassment, bullying and discriminatory or other inappropriate behaviours within the Police Service and that any such conduct should be both challenged and reported;

- A Member referred to conduct investigation Recommendations made to the PSNI by the Police Ombudsman and whether there are situations in which they have not been accepted and PSNI provided an overview of the relationship between Police Ombudsman and PSD;
- The PSNI referred to the reporting process and the confidential Integrity Line that protects anonymity which Members welcomed;
- Members referred to the Police (Conduct) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016 and whether these were now fit for purpose and PSNI advised that the Regulations are currently being considered within PSD;
- Members discussed if Duty of Candour should be applied to the police in Northern Ireland and PSNI advised that a Duty of Candour provision for officers is referred in the new Draft Code of Ethics that would be presented to the Board in due course; and
- In reference to the equivalent Professional Standards of An Garda Síochána the PSNI referred to the close working relationship that exists between both organisations and the positive learning opportunities gained from engagements.

The Vice-Chairperson thanked the PSNI for their attendance and briefing and they left.

7. QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

- 7.1** Identify any questions arising out of this meeting which Members wish to raise with the Chief Constable at the next Board Meeting.

A Member identified one questions to ask the Chief Constable:

As the PSNI are currently developing a strategy in relation to Male Violence Against Women and Girls, can the Chief Constable provide information, at a district level, in relation to the PSNI's experiences of providing a place of

safety for women and girls when they get a call for service that requires removal to a place of safety?

8. COMMUNICATION ISSUES

There were no communication issues arising from the meeting.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was also agreed that the following meeting would take place on **Thursday 26th May 2022** at **09.30am**

Meeting closed at 2:00pm.

PERFORMANCE DIRECTORATE

10 March 2022

Chairperson