

PCSP NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 30 JUNE 2022 AT 13:15 IN WATERSIDE TOWER AND ZOOM.

PRESENT:

Mr John Blair (Chairperson)
Ms Carmel McKinney (Zoom)
Ms Janet Gray
Ms Joanne Bunting MLA
Ms Linda Dillon MLA
Ms Liz Kimmins MLA (Zoom)
Mr Maurice Bradley MLA (Zoom)
Mr Michael Atkinson

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs Sinead Simpson, Chief Executive
Mrs Dympna Thornton, Director of Partnership
4 Board Officials

Chair welcomed returned Members and new Members to the Committee and recorded thanks to the former chair, Dolores Kelly, for her work chairing Committee, on the Board, and in the Assembly.

The Chair emphasised that he was keen to be available to all Members to discuss the Committee's role and work.

It was **AGREED**:-

- Committee Chair would write to Dolores Kelly to thank her for her work on the Board; **(AP1)**

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mr Colm McKenna and Ms Sinéad McLaughlin.

2. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The Chairperson asked Members to declare any conflicts of interests arising from the agenda. No conflicts of interest were declared.

3. UPDATE ON ACTION LOG

The Director of Partnership provided Members with an update on the Committee's rolling action log:

AP 28.7 from November 2021 – Communication with PSNI ongoing to agree dates convenient for Members. Members agreed to keep action open.

AP 29.4 – Engagement Webinar with PCSPs is being progressed in line with Engagement Programme of Work 2022. Members agreed to keep action open.

AP 29.5 – This action cannot be progressed at this time. An alternative awards ceremony to be discussed as part of AOB. Members agreed closure of this action.

AP 30.4 – PSNI have now formally launched their Hallmarks. Members agreed closure of this action.

AP 31.1 – Letter from the Committee Chair was issued to Dr Julie Harrison on 11th March 2022 to congratulate her on her recent promotion. Members agreed closure of this action.

AP 31.2 – Partnership Manager contacted DoJ Officials on 11th March 2022 to confirm if PCSPs will be part of consultation group in the Department's current Review of Restorative Justice arrangements. Members agreed closure of this action.

AP 31.3 – PSNI were contacted on 11th March 2022 and asked to confirm PCSPs are involved in development of Apps by PSNI. Members agreed closure of this action.

AP 31.4 – PCSP Managers contacted by Partnership Manager on 11th March 2022 regarding patterning of service providers for PCSP funded projects. Members agreed closure of this action.

AP 31.5 – Deloitte were contacted on 11th March 2022 to ascertain arrangements for future Independent Community Observers (ICO) visits. Response is noted at Chair's Correspondence item 4.2. Members agreed closure of this action.

AP 31.6 – ICO Handbook update placed on the Board's website on 27th April 2022. Members agreed closure of this action.

NOTED

4. CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS

4.1 and 4.2 were discussed as part of the Action Log update with letters and relevant responses available for Members to note.

4.3 Letter from Department of Justice re: Funding of Regional Support Hubs

Director of Partnership advised Members that funding for Support Hubs would be made available by the Department of Justice for this financial year but was subject to budget consideration for future years.

Members discussed:

- The importance of continued funding as these mechanisms deliver and address issues at a local level;
- Acknowledgement that they fulfil a crucial role in interdepartmental linkages;
- In respect of Agenda item 4.2, whether Independent Community Observers would return to attending assessment centres in pairs rather than individually.

In addressing Members comments, Board Officials noted the following:

- Further PSNI recruitment is not currently scheduled but Board Officials will engage with Deloitte prior to the next recruitment campaign with a view to observation being carried out by two rather than one ICO.

NOTED

5. ITEMS FOR COMMITTEE BUSINESS

5.1 Partnership Committee Terms of Reference

The Director of Partnership introduced the item and gave an overview of the paper provided to Members which included tracked changes and rationales for proposed amendments to Draft Committee Terms of Reference.

Members discussed:

- Retention of the Committee function to monitor the implementation of Cross-Border Policing Strategy activities;
- The need for relevant issues that are cross jurisdictional to be considered by the Committee;
- A request to add the Partnership Committee having sight of the Joint Committee's Agenda ahead of each Joint Committee meeting under 7.1 of the Committee's Terms of Reference;
- Consideration of a strategic objective to outline the purpose of Partnership Committee;
- Board Members' attendance at PCSP meetings.

In addressing Members' comments, officials noted the following:

- Rationale for removal of the monitoring of Cross-Border activities was linked to the vintage of the existing strategy, as predates EU Exit as well as new arrangements which have been established more recently such as Joint Agency Task Force (JATF);
- The existing processes for Members attending PCSP meetings.

It was **AGREED**:-

- The Partnership Manager will reissue the process for Members attending PCSP meetings; **(AP2)**
- The Terms of Reference will be updated in line with Members' requests. **(AP3)**

5.2 Police Property Fund Update

The Partnership Manager provided Members with an update on the outworking's of the second call small grants fund for the Police Property Fund. It was noted that 66 applications were assessed by the panel, with 13 recommended for approval, and an additional three to be held in reserve should any of the original 13 withdraw.

Members discussed:

- The need for probity and anonymisation in respect of the assessment process;
- The selection of Panel Members to carry out assessments.

In addressing Members' comments, officials noted the following:

- Applications are fully anonymised for Panel Members with only the Partnership Manager having all relevant information;
- Members will be informed of future panel arrangements in order that they can consider participating.

It was **AGREED**:-

- To recommend to the Board to approve the 13 projects and the 3 proposed reserve projects. **(AP4)**

5.3 Proposed Committee Programme of Work

The Director of Partnership provided information on the proposed work of the Partnership Committee for the period June 2022 – March 2023. The Committees work is structured across four areas of responsibility; PSNI Governance and General Matters, PCSPs, Communications, and Engagement. The paper allows for flexibility in the Programme of Work to allow for items to be moved or new items added to Committee Business.

NOTED

5.4 Independent Custody Visiting (ICV) Annual Report 2021/22

The Engagement Manager introduced the item and gave an overview of the Report and identified key findings in it.

Members discussed:

- Assurances provided by PSNI regarding confidentiality of CCTV recordings;
- The review of custody which Members understood to be underway;
- The possibility of Board Member visits to custody suites.

In addressing Members' comments, officials noted the following:

- The CCTV recording system is one that is not constantly monitored; PSNI have confirmed that they must have a valid reason to view or listen to recordings.

It was **AGREED**:-

- PSNI to be contacted to provide an update on the custody review; **(AP5)**
- A visit to a custody suite to be arranged for Members. **(AP6)**
- To recommend to the Board that the ICV Annual Report 2021/22 is approved for publication on the Board's website. **(AP7)**

6. QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

The Committee agreed to ask the Chief Constable

- How PSNI will cascade learning gleaned from problem solving initiatives identified in the upcoming Problem Solving Awards.

7. COMMUNICATION ISSUES / OPPORTUNITIES

There were no communication issues arising from the meeting.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

8.1 Verbal update on Crossmaglen visit

The Director of Partnership provided Members with an update on the intention to arrange a visit to Crossmaglen. This had been postponed due to the emergence of the Omicron variant in January 2022, and further delayed due to Purdah. A new timeframe for the visit in August or September was agreed by Members.

NOTED

8.2 Verbal update – PSNI Problem Solving Awards

The Director of Partnership provided Members with an update on the establishment of the PSNI Problem Solving Awards. A copy of the letter which ACC Singleton has sent to the Chief Executive outlining the rationale for the Awards was provided for Members to view. The aim of the awards is to encourage and recognise the problem solving work which PSNI officers and staff carry out each day across Northern Ireland to make a positive difference to the lives of communities. The awards were launched internally within PSNI this week with applications closing in August, judging to take place in September, and awards ceremony to be held in October.

Members indicated that they are keen to support this initiative and content that the Board be a partner, and it was proposed and seconded that the Committee Chair be the Board representative on the judging panel for these awards.

The Committee Vice-Chair took the opportunity at the end of the meeting to update Members on the very successful regional events which officials have been closely involved in arranging and delivering across Northern Ireland.

It was **AGREED**:-

- When all regional events have been carried out that the Committee be provided with an overview report and high level feedback from the breakout sessions. **(AP8)**

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting will be on Thursday 15th September 2022 in
Waterside Tower.

(Meeting closed at 14:45).

**PARTNERSHIP DIRECTORATE
JUNE 2022**



Chairperson