

**NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD**

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY  
16 FEBRUARY 2023 AT 2PM AT WATERSIDE TOWER AND VIA ZOOM**

**PRESENT:**

Mr John Blair MLA (Chair)  
Mr Michael Atkinson (Vice Chair)  
(1) Mrs Linda Dillon MLA  
(2) Mr Maurice Bradley MLA\*  
Dr Kate Laverty  
Mrs Joanne Bunting MLA  
(2) Mr Mark H Durkin MLA\*  
Ms Liz Kimmons MLA\*  
Mr Les Allamby  
Ms Carmel McKinney\*  
Mr Peter Osborne

**EX OFFICIO MEMBERS IN  
ATTENDANCE:**

Mr Edgar Jardine (Board Vice Chair)

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

(3) ACC Bobby Singleton  
(3) Superintendent Kelly Moore  
(3) Fiona Hart  
(3) Three PSNI Officials

**OFFICIALS IN  
ATTENDANCE:**

Ms Jenny Passmore, Director of Partnership  
Seven Board Officials

- (1) Left at 16.25pm
- (2) Left at 15.45pm
- (3) Items 6.1 to 6.2 only

\*Attended meeting by video conference facility



In respect of Action Point 28.7 from the meeting November 2021 – Officials will arrange for visits to the PSNI estate for all Board Members over the next number of months.

In respect of Action Point 33.4 from the meeting in September 2022, there will be an update on this at item 6.1.1 in terms of how the Policing Plan survey work can be progressed.

In respect of Action Point 33.6 from the meeting in September 2022 the Engagement Manager has been meeting with several Members to gain their views on who the Board should be engaging with, and this will inform the engagement programme of work going forward. It is anticipated that the Board will hold a workshop in April 2023 inviting all Members to discuss and agree the key areas of engagement for the Board over the next two years.

In respect of Action Point 36.4 from the meeting in December 2022, Feedback in respect of proposed actions from the PCSP/PSNI Regional events was received from two Members. A paper will be discussed at Joint Committee and an update provided at the March meeting.

## **5. CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS**

### **5.1 PSNI Problem Solving Conference - 27 April 2023**

The Chair referred Members to the invitation at 5.1 that was sent to the Board Chair.

The Board Chair has agreed to open the event along with the Chief Constable. It is the first time PSNI have hosted a Problem-Solving Conference which is another step towards embedding problem solving within the organisation.

PSNI have advised that they have a small number of places available for Board Members therefore any interested parties need to inform the Director of Partnership. A number of Committee Members expressed their interest to attend with a request for another Board Member to attend if numbers permit.

Members **NOTED** the update provided.

## **5.2 Joint Committee Agenda - 21 February 2023**

The Chair referred Members a copy of the agenda for the Joint Committee meeting on 21 February 2023 which the Chair and Vice Chair will be attending.

The Partnership Manager gave an overview of the agenda items for this meeting. A full update on the Code of Practice for the Appointment of Independent PCSP Members will be provided under Agenda Item 6.3 in today's meeting.

Members **NOTED** the update provided.

## **6. ITEMS FOR COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

### **6.1 Policing Plan Measure 3.1**

#### **6.1.1 Local Policing Review (3.1.1)**

The Director of Partnership presented a paper on the first of the Performance Plan Measures under Outcome 3 of the 2020 – 2025 Policing Plan.

The Local Policing Review took place in 2018 and the findings were independently analysed by Ulster University. The response to the findings was developed which resulted in 45 Actions. From the last update in September 2022 Members noted eight actions remained open.

The Chair welcomed ACC Singleton, Head of Local Policing, Superintendent Kelly Moore, Area Commander for Lisburn and Castlereagh and Fiona Hart from Strategic Partnerships and Prevention, to the meeting.

ACC Singleton provided Members with an update on outstanding actions on the Local Policing Review in advance of the meeting.

ACC Singleton advised that a number of actions are now incorporated as business as usual and will continue to be progressed through PSNI's Hallmarks for Policing, including:

- 2.7 - Work in partnership with local communities to deliver local collaborative problem solving and interventions.
- 5.1 - Map and evaluate the effectiveness of multi-agency partnership working within policing.
- 5.5 - Increase engagement with young people and at risk, disadvantaged and diverse communities.

ACC Singleton suggested that, going forward, the following actions are monitored through Partnership Committee or one of the other Board Committee:

- 3.1 - Conduct an analysis to quantify the demand on policing linked to vulnerable people and in particular those suffering from mental health issues.
- 3.5 - Continue to roll out a transformed custody healthcare model which places equality of care at the centre of delivery.
- 4.4 - Develop a social media reporting process.

Fiona Hart provided an update on the Youth Voice Event (5.5) which is currently scheduled to be delivered in summer 2023.

PSNI also advised that Listening Events will commence in the coming weeks and PSNI will extend invitation to Board Members.

Members discussed a number of issues with PSNI including:

- Possible budget constraints for District Commanders going forward.
- Benchmarking analysis between UK and Ireland police forces.
- Lack of confidence in young people and diverse communities.
- Lack of reporting regarding disadvantaged people.
- Recognition of low levels of confidence between PSNI engaging with the Home Office regarding issues within migrant communities.
- Board Members asked PSNI to provide the Health & Safety policies on Single Officer Patrols (SOPs).
- The importance of going into schools to reach young and vulnerable people and how the Board's Political Members can assist for hard-to-reach areas.

PSNI addressed Members issues outlining the following:

- The importance of delivering a service under the budgetary pressures.
- The need for SOPs risk assessments to be completed to allow maximum utilisation of resources. This will apply to low level risk calls.
- PSNI will extend invitation to Board Members to attend planned Listening Events. It was acknowledged that the Committee Chair was attending the first of those events later in February.
- Provide the Committee with Health & Safety policies on SOPs.
- Acknowledged the low level of trust between PSNI and the migrant community and the need for this to improve. PSNI are currently gathering information in relation to the media reports of 38 cases being referred to the Home Office.

### **6.1.2 Neighbourhood Policing Teams (3.3.2) and Impact (3.3.3)**

A Board Official provided an analysis of the PSNI Measure Report Cards against the Performance Plan Measures of 3.1.2 and 3.1.3 specific to Neighbourhood Policing and the Impact of Partnership Working. The paper included Outcome Based Accountability (OBA) report cards provided by PSNI.

Members were advised of the details of the following key Issues identified by Board Officials:

#### **Measure 3.1.2**

- Reasons for the increase in recorded crimes in all of the eight neighbourhoods against the baseline and if any of the new strategic initiatives are being introduced to address this.
- The Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) Self-Assessment Survey – PSNI's current plans to further develop and improve in this area.

#### **Measure 3.1.3**

- Reporting against future Report Cards and any plans to assess and evaluate the impact of their partnership working with local communities.

Members discussed a number of issues with PSNI including:

- The need to capture all work ongoing within the Local NPT.
- Why the pilot consisted of only eight districts and not eleven.
- NPT's supplementation of Local Policing teams.
- Problem Solving and training issues within NPTs.
- Concerning figures reported in three areas (Ardoyne, The Moor and Ballymena).

In addressing Members comments PSNI noted the following:

- The need for NPTs to stop, pause and take stock and to report on all areas so they get recognition for the work being done in local communities.
- Eight Neighbourhoods were selected for the pilot to better assess the appropriateness of the survey work,
- The loss of staff from NPTs and the need to be more robust in maintaining them.
- Being proactive within local areas with engagement and how this will be monitored through any changes in shift patterns which are inevitable due to prevailing budget constraints.
- PSNI acknowledged the extraction issues but with budgetary pressures, running districts on limited overtime and issues with contracted security staffing which will remain under review.
- The District Commanders in each of the three concerning areas will be asked to provide more context behind the figures reported.

## **6.2 Neighbourhood Policing Peer Review**

Superintendent Kelly Moore provided Members with an update on the outcome of the Neighbourhood Policing Peer Review with Merseyside Police.

Members discussed the need to have a strategy in place to harness the shared learning.

In addressing Members comments PSNI noted the following:

- There is a performance framework in place for monitoring and measuring effectiveness.
- The peer review work with Merseyside is proving successful and ties in well with district profiles. This has been fed back to senior



management in Local Policing.

- Officers and staff continue peer support especially regarding Neighbourhood Policing Faculties.
- The purpose of the Review was to explore another police service's actions then determining whether they could be incorporated into respective frameworks.
- Increases in reported crime may not always be negative and may be as a result of better policing.

Members **NOTED** the update and thanked PSNI for their attendance.

### **6.3 Update on The Code of Practice for the Appointment of Independent PCSP Members**

The Partnership Manager provided Members with an update on the review of the Code of Practice for the appointment of PCSP Independent Members, including the impact of the delay in receiving a final Code and a suggested action by the Committee. Members were asked to consider and approve the issuing of a letter to the Department of Justice by the Chair which was provided as Annex C.

Members were advised that a review of legal advice gained in 2020 was carried out in November 2022 and shared with Members at their November meeting. This advice which confirms a legal basis for the use of community background in appointing PCSP Independent Members is contrary to the legal advice provided to the Department by their Solicitor's office.

Following the update Members discussed:

- The need for Merit to be the focus of appointments.

- If Board can continue with the process under the current code or must wait on an updated Code of Practice.
- The urgency in which a resolution needs to be reached and the need for the letter to be strengthened accordingly.
- How people in Northern Ireland are categorised under equality and section 75 categories.
- Whether PCSP Members should be measured on their interactions with underrepresented communities before they are reappointed.
- The need for a review of the Code as it ran smoothly and professionally in 2019/20.

In addressing Members comments Board Officials noted:

- In the absence of an updated Code of Practice, the Board must follow the 'standing' Code.
- There is no need to delay the process as the standing Code can be followed.
- The focus of Strategic Priority 1 within the PCSP Action Plan in relation to engagement which should include underrepresented or hard to reach communities.
- Confirmation that the review of the Code of Practice was a recommendation made by the Impartial Assessor for the last process and on the back of issues raised because of the Probation Board's appointment process.

Following discussion, it was **AGREED**:

- The letter should be issued to the DOJ on behalf of the Chair. **(AP1)**

#### **6.4 Update on the Independent Custody Visitor (ICV) Recruitment**

The Engagement Manager provided an update on the recent Independent Custody Visitor (ICV) recruitment campaign and noted that 15 applications had been received. Eligibility sifting was completed in December 2022 with interviews held throughout January 2023. Following completion of the interview process 11 of the 15 candidates were deemed appointable to the scheme with a further two candidates being added to the reserve list, bringing the scheme up to 37 volunteers.

Further to the above, Members were asked to approve a rolling application process for future ICV recruitment.

Members **NOTED** the update and **APPROVED** the rolling recruitment process.

Following discussion, it was **AGREED**:

- Engagement Manager to progress with the rolling recruitment **(AP2)**

#### **6.5 Committee Programme of Work**

The Director of Partnership provided Members with information on the proposed work of the Partnership Committee for the period Feb 23 – March 24. Members were asked to note a presentation from PSNI Strategic Communications has been included in the March meeting of the Committee. The Director of Partnership also advised that the Policing Plan Review Working Group had agreed an additional new measure under Policing Plan Outcome 2 – (We have Confidence in Policing) which is in relation to the response times to 999/101 calls.

Members were also asked to note that given the James House move at the

end of March and the Easter break in April it has been agreed not to hold a committee meeting in April 2023. That original date of 20 April 2023 will be used to hold an Engagement workshop.

Members Discussed:

- The Committee Terms of Reference should require interaction between PCSP and Board Members.
- The Terms of Reference refers to 'monitoring the implementation of the Cross Border Policing strategy activities and this should be included in the Programme of Work.
- Multi Agency Triage Team (MATT) and support for PSNI from interdepartmental working groups.

Members **NOTED** the update.

It was **AGREED**: -

- Board Officials will provide dates of PCSP and Policing Committee meetings to Members. **(AP3)**

#### **7. QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE**

No questions were raised.

#### **8. COMMUNICATIONS ISSUES / OPPORTUNITIES**

The Committee was updated on a number of media issues.

#### **9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business was conducted.

**10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023** in Waterside Tower.

The meeting ended at 16.38pm



**CHAIR**

**PARTNERSHIP DIRECTORATE  
FEBRUARY 2023**

