



**Code of Practice for the Exercise of Functions by
Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (PCSPs)
and
District Policing and Community Safety Partnerships
(DPCSPs)**

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Policing Board

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Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1 This Code of Practice provides guidance on the exercise of functions by Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (PCSPs) and District Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (DPCSPs). It is recommended this Code is read in conjunction with the PCSP member's handbook.

1.2 The purpose of the Code is to provide PCSPs and DPCSPs with guidance, rather than prescriptive operational requirements, so that they have sufficient flexibility to ensure that the requirements of running the Partnership do not detract from the delivery of services and deliver outcomes for the community. However, it is also vital that there are sufficient governance and accountability mechanisms in place so that the public, the Department of Justice (DOJ), the Policing Board and Partnership members can be assured of the Partnerships' effectiveness.

1.3 The Code is a working document. In the course of operating PCSPs and DPCSPs, it is likely that issues will emerge that will require further consideration and possible inclusion. The Joint Committee will, when required, supplement this Code and the PCSP member's handbook with detailed guidance to support the development of PCSPs and DPCSPs.

1.4 This Code should be widely disseminated among those involved in the operation of PCSPs and DPCSPs. Any queries about the content of the Code, or requests for further copies, should be directed to the Secretariat to the Joint Committee as follows:

Secretariat to PCSP Joint Committee
Northern Ireland Policing Board
James House, Block D
2-4 Cromac Avenue
The Gasworks
Belfast
BT7 2JA

Secretariat to PCSP Joint Committee
Community Safety Division
Department of Justice
Block A, Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
Belfast
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Chapter 2

Overview

2.1 PCSPs and DPCSPs are statutory bodies established in 2012 under the Justice Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 (the Act), specifically sections 20 to 34 and Schedules 1 and 2 of the Act.

2.2 Under the Act, Councils are obliged to establish a PCSP structure in their locality. There are 11 PCSPs – one for each Council area in Northern Ireland. As well as having one overarching PCSP, Belfast has four DPCSPs - North, South, East and West.

Purpose

2.3 The overall purpose of the Partnerships is to help make communities safer, to ensure that the voices of local people are heard on policing and community safety issues and that statutory agencies work with communities to help develop solutions that will help tackle crime. The aim is to empower communities to help develop solutions that will help to tackle actual and perceived levels of crime, fear of crime and other anti-social behaviour¹. The Partnerships will endeavour to provide a more integrated approach by bringing together, in a single body, the functions previously undertaken by District Policing Partnerships (DPPs) and Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs). PCSPs will aim to build on that solid foundation by preserving the most useful and effective aspects of each, but operating in a more holistic, streamlined and joined up way.

Roles

2.4 PCSPs have a membership consisting of Political Members (locally elected Councillors/Aldermen), Independent Members (members of the public appointed by the NI Policing Board) and Designated Representatives who work

¹ Definition of 'enhancing community safety' provided in Justice Act (NI) 2011, Sections 21(3) and 22(3).

together to improve policing and community safety. The Partnerships aim to contribute, at a strategic level, to the achievement of targets set in the Programme for Government, the Northern Ireland Policing Plan, the Community Safety Strategy, and to wider justice issues. They also aim to help set the local agenda for community safety in their Council areas, supporting the delivery of services and related actions within their annual action plan to tackle policing and community safety priorities identified through consultation. PCSP action plans will feed into relevant council community plans and PCSPs should take cognisance of an Outcomes Based Accountability (OBA) approach in the delivery of these.

2.5 Each PCSP shall operate a Policing Committee, comprising of its Political and Independent members, with Designated members strongly encouraged to attend. This will carry out functions in relation to identifying priorities for consideration in the development of the local Policing Plan, monitoring police performance and gaining the co-operation of the public with the police in preventing crime and enhancing community safety in the district. These functions are referred to as the “restricted function” which is specific to the Policing Committee.

2.6 PCSPs may constitute other committees of five or more of its members and delegate to committees any of the functions of the PCSP, other than a restricted function. A committee may co-opt to the committee persons who are not members of the committee or PCSP. A person so co-opted may not vote on any matter but otherwise is to be treated as a member of the committee. This process may help the PCSP to engage with appropriate local organisations and third sector bodies in identifying and prioritising, delivering and monitoring.

Functions

2.7 The functions of the PCSPs and their constituent parts are outlined in Sections 21 and 22 of the Justice Act, attached at Annex 1.

2.8 In summary, PCSPs, as a whole, or through the Policing Committee, will:

- **Consult and Engage** with local communities², the statutory and voluntary sectors, and other relevant organisations in order to identify issues of concern in relation to policing and community safety, and to improve co-operation with the police. The Policing Committee has a distinct responsibility for providing views to the relevant police Commander and the Policing Board on policing matters.
- **Identify and Prioritise** particular issues of concern and prepare plans for how these can be tackled. The Policing Committee will advise the PSNI Commander and the Policing Board on priorities for policing that have arisen from continuous consultation and engagement.
- **Deliver** a positive difference to communities, contributing to a reduction in crime and enhancing community safety in their district, directly through their own interventions, through the work of their delivery groups or through support for the work of others.
- **Monitor** performance to ensure delivery against the Partnership Plan. The Policing Committee will monitor the performance of the police to ensure that local policing services are delivering for local communities. The Policing Board will prepare a template setting out the specific PSNI reporting arrangements to the PCSP – this will be provided separately.

Strategic Objectives

2.9 Taken together with the strategic objectives set out by the Joint Committee and as referenced in the PCSP Planning Guidance, these overarching functions will shape the work of the Partnerships. The strategic objectives for PCSPs and the proposed OBA approach from 2017/18 are intended to help ensure a partnership approach to the successful delivery of

² Please note that this refers to the broader definition of community - a body of people having common rights, privileges, or interests, or living in the same place.

the functions of the PCSPs. They include an emphasis on engagement with the community in order to ensure that local issues are tackled effectively.

2.10 Within this framework, however, as much discretion as possible has been given to individual Partnerships, so that they can develop a Partnership Plan and a programme of delivery best suited to the needs of their locality.

Chapter 3

Membership and Structure

3.1 PCSPs comprise membership from a number of different groups. They have:

- 8, 9 or 10 Political Members (Councillors/Aldermen) nominated by the District Council;
- 7, 8 or 9 Independent Members appointed by the Policing Board; and
- 7 Designated Members who are representatives of statutory agencies which have been formally designated by order of the Department of Justice because of the contribution these statutory agencies make to local policing and community safety issues.

3.2 The PCSP may also wish to locally designate organisations to the PCSP, because of the local contribution that those organisations make to policing and community safety issues, for a period to be defined by the Partnership. Alternatively the PCSP may wish to invite organisations to attend PCSP meetings or committees in response to emerging issues.

3.3 The Policing Committee has unique statutory powers for oversight of local policing, and gaining the co-operation of the public with the police in preventing crime and enhancing community safety of the district. The model of oversight provided by the Policing Committee, through its political and independent membership, offers a powerful mechanism to achieve this goal. The Joint Committee envisages that the work of the Policing Committee, should, in so far as is practicable, be undertaken within the context of the full PCSP rather than a separation of structures. For this reason, the Joint Committee recommends that Policing Committee meetings, with Designated Members present if they so wish, should immediately precede PCSP meetings, in order that the full PCSP meeting can be informed by, and build upon, what was discussed and agreed by the Policing Committee. It is recognised that there is a clear benefit to having Designated Members present at all PCSP

meetings and, as such, Designated Members are strongly encouraged to attend Policing Committee meetings.

3.4 The Policing Committee is responsible for:

- enhancing public confidence in policing through its work in monitoring police performance, ensuring that policing services are delivering for local communities;
- improving policing service delivery;
- informing the development of priorities for policing by including the views of the community about local policing delivery and engagement, including those who experience policing in the evidence base for developing the PCSP Plan and the local and annual Policing Plans; and
- ensuring effective engagement with the police and the local community, with specific emphasis on engagement with disadvantaged communities and young people.

3.5 It is recognised that PCSPs need to take account of, and work closely with, other existing community and partnership structures in their areas and should create effective local community safety fora with representatives from neighbourhood policing teams, local PCSP members and members of the local community to discuss localised issues. They may also wish to establish sub-groups - referred to as 'committees' in the legislation - to progress the aims of their Partnership Plan.

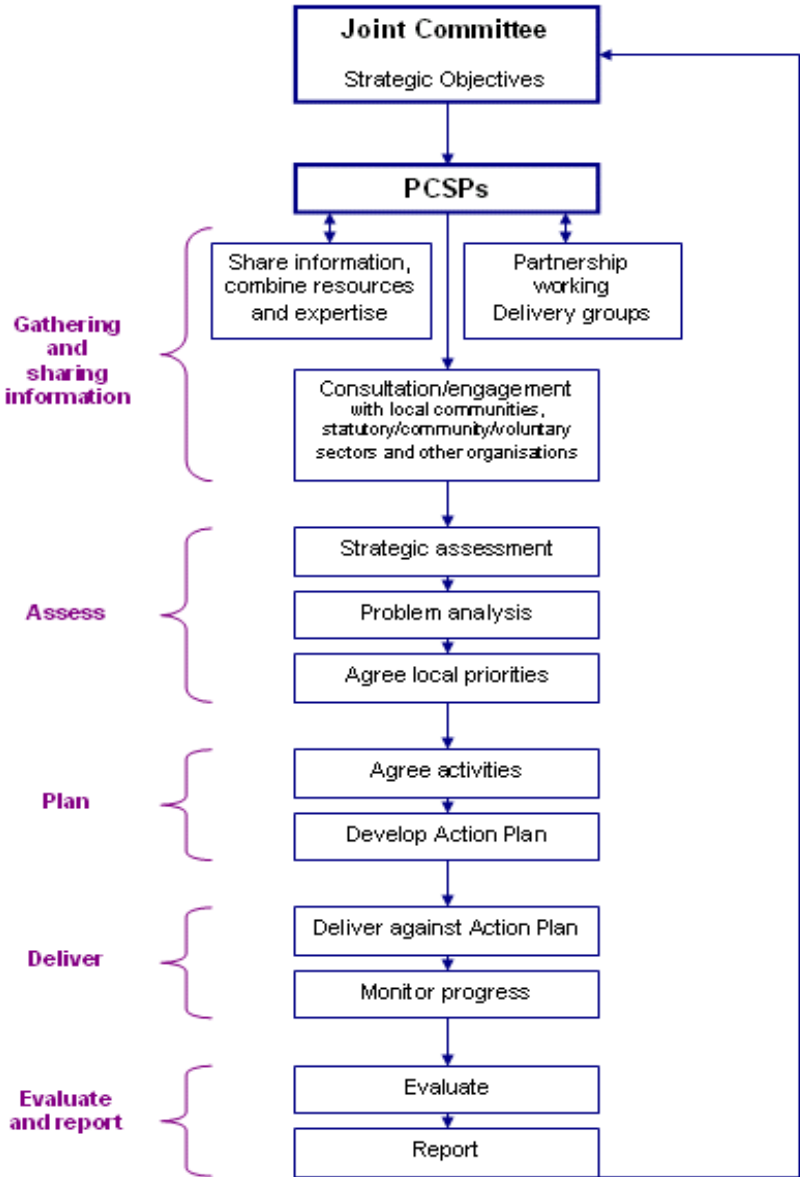
3.6 The following sections offer guidance on how this might be achieved.

Chapter 4

Delivery against the Strategic Aims

Context

4.1 It is important that the members of the PCSP act together to achieve the strategic objectives set out by the Joint Committee and the local priorities captured in the Partnership Plan. All members of the PCSP are responsible for combining their individual and organisational knowledge in a way that best facilitates engagement activities with the local community. A model for how this could be achieved is set out below.



Engaging and consulting to identify local concerns

4.2 The PCSP shall engage with local communities, the statutory and voluntary sectors, and other relevant organisations to identify and prioritise, at the earliest possible stage, any emerging policing or community safety issues that might require local action and resolution. The PCSP shall seek the participation and support of such bodies in developing and delivering an effective response, and to improve co-operation with the police in preventing crime and enhancing community safety.

4.3 Engagement activities should capture all relevant issues of concern to the community, including those on policing, and the PCSP should use all the information gained to:

- prepare the Partnership Plan, which should incorporate policing and community safety issues relevant to the local community;
- ensure that the Policing Committee is in a position to articulate community priorities to the PSNI, Policing Board and DOJ in the formulation of a Policing Plan and relevant strategies for policing and community safety (the Policing Board has developed “Guidelines for Policing Committees on Local Policing Plans” which provide further detail on consultation and identifying priorities);
- provide input to the plans of other organisations represented on the PCSP; and
- co-ordinate and liaise with other organisations to help ensure that the Partnership Plan is delivered in the most effective manner, where possible integrating delivery with existing structures, in particular the Community Plan and working collaboratively with others to avoid duplication of services.

4.4 It is important that the form of engagement is appropriate to the task and audience. This may include consultation, attendance at community meetings, facilitating or attending public events and providing guidance on policing and community safety issues to the public.

Public meetings

4.5 Through their work, the PCSP and the Policing Committee must provide opportunities by which the community is kept informed and can ask questions about what the members of the PCSP and the local police are doing and why. It is recommended that the Policing Committee should facilitate a minimum of two public meetings each year on specific policing issues that may have aroused public interest or concern. The Policing Committee should consider that at least once a year the focus of the public meeting of a Policing Committee should be on police performance. At these meetings, members of the public should be given the opportunity to question the members of the Policing Committee and the PSNI District Commander directly on issues of concern and the delivery of local policing services. Members of designated organisations on the PCSP are encouraged to attend public meetings of the Policing Committee, however they have no role in asking questions of the police in relation to what they are doing and why.

4.6 It is recommended that the PCSP should facilitate a minimum of two public meetings each year to meet with the local community and address any issues or concerns relating to the work of the wider Partnership and opportunities to engage with the community on delivery of the Partnership Plan and policing and community safety issues. At these meetings, members of the public should be given an opportunity to question all members represented on the Partnership on what they are doing to address issues or concerns of the local community.

Preparing the Partnership Plan

4.7 The PCSP must develop a Partnership Plan for its area within a timescale set by the Joint Committee. This must be informed by the strategic objectives set by the Joint Committee and the District Council community plan under the community planning process, and address the identified needs of the local community. It should also take account of crime and anti-social behaviour hotspots and other local issues of relevance, including key dates and events that have an impact on the life of the community.

4.8 The PCSP should ensure that the Plan contains costed key priorities and outcomes, as well as details of what resources will be required for delivery. It should also indicate what outcomes are expected, including details of what services the PCSP will deliver in the area. The Partnership Plan should be made widely available to the public.

4.9 The PCSP should establish systems and processes in order for it to deliver its work plan effectively. Where appropriate, this should include financial or other support for initiatives designed to reduce crime or enhance community safety. Any such initiatives may be delivered by the PCSP itself or by working collaboratively to support the activities of others.

Delivering against community priorities

4.10 PCSPs should consider how their Partnership Plans can help to support efforts to tackle the community safety issues that prevail in their areas. The priorities of the plan should have clear links with the relevant priorities in the organisational plans of the Designated Members, with areas of work delivered by other related functions within Councils eg Good Relations, and align with the Community Plan. The engagement described above should, for example, include working to identify opportunities for early intervention, in order to reduce the risk of individuals being drawn into offending. This may mean seeking to reduce the level of alcohol and drug related crime; tackling domestic and sexual violence; reducing levels of anti-social behaviour in local communities; increasing safety in town and city centres; and/or helping to make rural communities safer. There should also be a focus on building confidence in policing and in particular with sections of the community where confidence is low, or with those who find it difficult to relate to the police.

4.11 PCSPs should involve their Designated Members including the police and local statutory organisations and any other relevant bodies to work together alongside the community, to help reduce the fear of crime and to help older and vulnerable people feel safer. They should also work to give confidence to individuals to report crime to the PSNI and others.

4.12 The PCSP should be involved with the PSNI in developing effective responses to critical incidents within local communities. There may be occasions, for example, when PCSP members should facilitate dialogue between the community and police to propose more effective policing responses and/or collective community responsibility.

Monitoring PCSP Performance

4.13 The PCSP is responsible for ensuring the successful delivery of its Partnership Plan and will report quarterly to the Joint Committee on progress in implementing its Plan. The PCSP should also publish, within its Annual Report, an assessment of the PCSP's performance against the targets contained in its Plan.

Monitoring Police Performance

4.14 The Policing Committee is responsible for enhancing public confidence in policing through its work in monitoring police performance, ensuring that policing services are delivering for local communities.

4.15 It is recommended that the Policing Committee's monitoring role is taken forward in private session on a quarterly basis with the PSNI District Commander. The Policing Committee should consider that at least one of the public meetings of a PCSP referred to at 4.5 above should focus on police performance. In advance of the meeting, the District Commander will provide a written report of police performance against the targets/measures in the Local Policing Plan and work locally to support the delivery of the Policing with the Community Behaviours. The Policing Committee may also want to consider other policing issues affecting public confidence in policing and maintain a right to request PSNI to report on thematic issues or issues arousing significant public interest. Policing Committee members will have an opportunity to consider and discuss with the District Commander issues arising from the report or other policing issues relating to the district.

4.16 The Policing Committee will also facilitate opportunities for the public to raise issues or concerns about policing delivery at Public Meetings of the Policing Committee. These are referenced at section 4.5 above.

Local meetings

4.17 The Policing Committee is responsible for ensuring a close relationship between the police and local communities. Local meetings, at neighbourhood or District Electoral Area (DEA) level, to discuss local policing issues in specific communities should be a priority, as this is where the greatest impact can be made.

4.18 Below district level, local communities and police should be supported to develop consultative fora in a format that suits them and their neighbourhoods or DEAs. We do not prescribe how they should be organised, but recommend that the Policing Committee should maintain regular contact with local fora through periodic meetings of Chairpersons, or via seminars and other public events, as well as inclusion in the circulation of relevant information.

Collaborative working

4.19 The Policing Committee has an important role, within the context of the wider PCSP, to help achieve improved policing service delivery. It should also act as an advocate for policing. It should ensure that it adds value to policing locally and work to build relationships with communities in a way that encourages the community to get involved with the police in planning how policing and community safety related problems can be resolved.

Confidence in policing

4.20 A strategic priority for PCSPs is to improve confidence in policing. The Joint Committee has agreed that a particular focus of Policing Committee work should be to undertake targeted engagement on local issues with communities or groups that do not have a positive relationship with the police. The focus of

the Policing Committee engagement should be on building confidence in policing with sections of the community where confidence is low.

Chapter 5

Governance and Accountability

5.1 The PCSP should ensure that its Plan takes into account other strategic priorities such as those of the Department of Justice, Policing Board and other related strategies including those of the Designated organisations.

5.2 The PCSP is required to comply with the accountability framework set out by the Joint Committee in the Financial Guidelines, and any other relevant directives issued by the Joint Committee.

5.3 PCSPs have been designated as 'public authorities' under the Commissioner for Complaints (Northern Ireland) Order 1996 and are subject to the statutory duties placed on them by Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. The DFP Classification Assessment Committee has also recently determined that PCSPs are *Local Government Bodies* for the purposes of funding.

5.4 PCSPs are subject to the requirements of the Freedom of information Act 2000 and the Disability Discrimination (NI) Order 2006.

Joint Committee

5.5 The work of the PCSPs will be overseen by the Joint Committee, a body consisting of representation from DOJ and NIPB. The Joint Committee will assess the level of public satisfaction with the performance of PCSPs and assess the effectiveness of PCSPs in performing their functions. The PCSPs will report to the Joint Committee quarterly against the objectives set out in their Partnership Plans.

Policing Board

5.6 The work of the Policing Committee will be overseen by, and subject to, strategic direction from the Policing Board. The Board must assess public satisfaction with the performance of Policing Committees and assess the effectiveness of Policing Committees in performing the restricted functions of PCSPs.

PCSP

5.7 Each PCSP will be responsible for ensuring the successful delivery of its Partnership Plan and should monitor its performance against the Plan. It is envisaged that all relevant partners including Designated Members should be required to show how they have contributed to this, and that performance reports should be informed by a range of qualitative and quantitative information using an OBA approach from 2017/18. The PCSP will ensure that its functions are carried out in accordance with the provisions in the Justice Act and within the Council governance and financial framework.

Policing Committee

5.8 The Policing Committee has specific statutory authority for monitoring police performance, providing views to the PSNI District Commander and Policing Board on policing, and gaining the co-operation of the public with the police in preventing crime and enhancing community safety.

Council

5.9 It is the function of the Council to establish the PCSP or DPCSP. The Joint Committee funds the PCSP/DPCSP through the Council, and the Council Chief Executive is the Accounting Officer for the funding provided by the Joint Committee.

Public

5.10 It is essential that the PCSP is accessible and transparent in order that communities may have an opportunity to support the work of the Partnership and the police. Public meetings should be attended by as many PCSP members as possible, and the public should have the opportunity to consider and comment on performance and financial reports.

Reporting requirements

5.11 PCSPs are subject to scrutiny by a wide audience. It is envisaged, however, that performance and financial reporting should be as streamlined as possible and will include the following:

- **Quarterly reports on progress** from the PCSP to the Joint Committee on the implementation of its Partnership Plan.
- **Annual report from the PCSP to the Council and the Joint Committee** – to be submitted within 3 months of the end of the financial year, this report will include general information on the exercise of functions, both in terms of policing and community safety. It is suggested that PCSPs structure the report by setting out their achievements against their Plan, demonstrating linkages with relevant strategies and how the holistic actions of the PCSP have met the strategic objectives set by the Joint Committee. Before the Annual Report is submitted, the Policing Committee will consult with the relevant District Commander. The report will be published on behalf of the PCSP by the Council in an appropriate format.
- **Specific Reports from the PCSP to the Joint Committee** – from time to time, the Joint Committee may request specific reports. These should be returned within 3 months of request. The Joint Committee will specify the requirements for these reports at the time of commissioning. They could, for example, relate to any issues that have a particular significance at that time. The Joint Committee will, however, provide further guidance on reports as required.

- **Specific Reports from the Policing Committee to the Policing Board** – the Policing Board may also request specific reports from the Policing Committee. These should be submitted within 3 months of request. This reporting facility relates specifically to the restricted policing functions set out in the Justice Act, and the Policing Board will specify the requirements for these at the time.

5.12 It is suggested that PCSPs combine their Policing Committee reports and their financial reports with overall reports on the exercise of their functions in order to reduce the administrative burden, and in the interests of joint Partnership activity, where achievements may contribute to both policing and community safety aspects of the Partnership Plan.

Chapter 6

Administration of the Partnerships

6.1 The PCSP is a stand-alone statutory body and is responsible for ensuring the effective administration of the Partnership. In order to fulfil its statutory requirements, the PCSP must draw up and agree standing orders setting out how their business will be regulated.

6.2 The Joint Committee shall, for each financial year, make to the council grants of such amounts as the Joint Committee may determine for defraying or contributing towards the expenses of the council in that year in connection with PCSPs.

6.3 Each Council should provide the relevant staffing to support the operation of the PCSP/DPCSP in its area, though this will be subject to an ongoing commitment of financial support from the Department of Justice and Policing Board, operating through the Joint Committee. The PCSP may ask the Council to ensure the appropriate balance of skills to support the PCSP.

6.4 As Accounting Officer, the Chief Executive of the Council shall also provide the compliance and assurance framework for PCSPs and incorporate the financial management of the PCSP within the Council's existing processes, including the development of annual estimates (in line with local government schedules) and financial reports.

6.4 PCSPs and Policing Committees should develop and agree standing orders for regulating the transaction of the business of the Partnership. The Justice Act (Schedules 1 and 2, paragraphs 11 and 13) outlines a number of requirements as to meeting procedures:

- The quorum for a PCSP/DPCSP meeting is a quarter of the total number of members – for a Policing Committee, it will be 5 members;

- Every question at a PCSP/DPCSP or Policing Committee meeting shall be determined by a majority of votes of the members present and voting on the question. In the case of an equal division of votes, the Chair of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote; and
- If the Chair and the Vice-Chair are absent from a PCSP meeting, the Members present shall elect one of their number to act as Chair of the meeting.

6.5 Efforts should be made to find agreement within the Partnership without the need for voting. However, where necessary, proposals shall be determined by a majority of the votes of those members present and who are entitled to vote.

6.6 Designated Members of the PCSP/DPCSP are full members and are entitled to vote. However in recognition of the importance of enabling the community voice to be heard it has been agreed to defer their voting rights for the duration of this PCSP cycle, to be reviewed by the Joint Committee in 2019.

Annex 1: Functions of PCSPs and DPCSPs

Functions of PCSP

- 21**—(1) The functions of a PCSP shall be—
- (a) to provide views to a relevant district commander and to the Policing Board on any matter concerning the policing of the district;
 - (b) to monitor the performance of the police in carrying out—
 - (i) the policing plan in relation to the district; and
 - (ii) the local policing plan applying to the district or any part of the district;
 - (c) to make arrangements for obtaining the co-operation of the public with the police in preventing crime and enhancing community safety in the district;
 - (d) to make arrangements for obtaining the views of the public about matters concerning the policing of the district and enhancing community safety in the district and to consider fully any views so obtained;
 - (e) to act as a general forum for discussion and consultation on matters affecting the policing of the district and enhancing community safety in the district;
 - (f) to prepare plans for reducing crime and enhancing community safety in the district;
 - (g) to identify targets or other indicators by reference to which it can assess the extent to which those issues are addressed by action taken in accordance with any such plans;
 - (h) to provide any such financial or other support as it considers appropriate to persons involved in ventures designed to reduce crime or enhance community safety in the district; and
 - (i) such other functions as are conferred on it by any other statutory provision.
- (2) The functions of a PCSP mentioned in subsection (1)(a), (b) and (c)—
- (a) are referred to in this Part as its “restricted functions”; and
 - (b) must be exercised, on behalf of the PCSP, by the policing committee of the PCSP.

(3) References in this section to enhancing community safety in any district are to making the district one in which it is, and is perceived to be, safer to live and work, in particular by the reduction of actual and perceived levels of crime and other anti-social behaviour.

(4) In exercising its functions, a PCSP shall have regard to the code of practice under section 23.

Functions of DPCSP

22—(1) The functions of a DPCSP shall be—

(a) to provide views to the relevant district commander and to the principal PCSP on any matter concerning the policing of the police district;

(b) to monitor the performance of the police in carrying out—

(i) the policing plan in relation to the police district; and

(ii) the local policing plan applying to the police district;

(c) to make arrangements for obtaining the co-operation of the public with the police in preventing crime and enhancing community safety in the police district;

(d) to make arrangements for obtaining the views of the public about matters concerning the policing of the police district and enhancing community safety in the police district and to consider fully any views so obtained;

(e) to act as a general forum for discussion and consultation on matters affecting the policing of the police district and enhancing community safety in the police district;

(f) to prepare plans for reducing crime and enhancing community safety in the police district;

(g) to identify targets or other indicators by reference to which it can assess the extent to which those issues are addressed by action taken in accordance with any such plans;

(h) to provide any such financial or other support as it considers appropriate to persons involved in ventures designed to reduce crime or enhance community safety in the police district;

(i) such other functions as are conferred on it by any other statutory provision.

(2) The functions of a DPCSP mentioned in subsection (1)(a), (b) and (c)—

(a) are referred to in this Part as its “restricted functions”; and

(b) must be exercised, on behalf of the DPCSP, by the policing committee of the DPCSP.

(3) References in this section to enhancing community safety in a police district are to making the police district one in which it is, and is perceived to be, safer to live and work, in particular by the reduction of actual and perceived levels of crime and other anti-social behaviour.

(4) In exercising its functions, a DPCSP shall have regard to the code of practice under section 23.

(5) If the principal PCSP is satisfied that a DPCSP is carrying out any of the DPCSP's functions in relation to a police district, the PCSP is not required to carry out any corresponding function it has in relation to the part of its district comprising the police district.

(6) But subsection (5) does not prevent the principal PCSP exercising its functions in relation to the whole of the district where it appears to the principal PCSP to be necessary or appropriate to do so.