

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD HELD ON THURSDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2016 AT 2.00PM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST

PRESENT:

MEMBERS:

- Mrs Anne Connolly, Chairperson
- Ms Deborah Watters, Vice-Chairperson
- (1) Ms Deirdre Blakely
- Mr Keith Buchanan
- Ms Joanne Bunting
- Prof Brice Dickson
- (1) Dr Stephen Farry
- Mr Ryan Feeney
- (1) Mrs Brenda Hale
- (1) Mr Ross Hussey
- Mr Gerry Kelly
- Ms Jennifer McCann
- Mr Raymond McCartney
- (2) Mr Nelson McCausland
- Ms Roisin McGlone
- (1) Dr Paul Nolan
- (1) Ms Catherine Pollock

POLICE SERVICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND IN ATTENDANCE

- (3) Mr George Hamilton, Chief Constable
- (3) Mr Alan Todd, ACC Operational Support Department
- (3) Ms Liz Young, Head of Corporate Communications
- (3) Superintendent Phil Knox, Police College
- (3) Superintendent Andrew Freeburn, Command Secretariat

BOARD'S HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISOR IN ATTENDANCE

- (1) Ms Alyson Kilpatrick

OFFICIALS

- (1) Mrs Amanda Stewart, Chief Executive
- Mrs Paula Gow, T/Director of Partnership
- Ms Jenny Passmore, T/Director of Policy
- Mr David Wilson, Director of Support Services
- Two Board Officials

- (1) Item number 1 & part item number 2**
- (2) Part item number 2 to close**
- (3) Part item number 2**

1 APOLOGIES ETC

Apologies were received from Mrs Wendy Osborne.

2 POLICE COLLEGE REVIEW

The Board considered a paper which provided Members with the following information which had been received from PSNI following a request at the special Board meeting held on 27 October 2016:-

- Timeline of what the 22 week training looks like and what training and support is delivered throughout the rest of the probationer period.
- Timeline of who was in charge in the Police College at the different stages since recruitment was restarted.
- An organisational chart of who is currently in charge of the College.
- Timelines for each recommendation on the Implementation Plan.
- Review material regarding the Police Learning Advisory Council, to assist the NIPB consideration of recommendation 34.

The Board discussed issues to be raised orally with the Chief Constable later in the meeting.

The Chairperson welcomed the Chief Constable and his colleagues to the meeting.

Members outlined their views on the information which had been provided by the PSNI to the Board in relation to the Police College.

The representatives from PSNI outlined details of the content of the changes which would be made to the Foundation course before new Student Officers commenced training. The PSNI representatives also outlined details of the training and support which would be delivered to the Officers throughout their two year probationary period.

The following main points were discussed with the Chief Constable and the representatives from the PSNI:-

- Changes which would be made to the Foundation course.
- Policing with the Community being embedded into the content of the course.
- The training which is given to Police Officers during their probationary period.
- The Police Learning Advisory Council and the setting up of an Independent Advisory Group.
- Budget pressures which have had an impact on the Police College.
- A new Leadership Team which had been put in place in the Police College.
- The appointment of a civilian member of staff at the College to increase the leadership and skills base within the College Team.
- The consideration of the role of a Human Rights Trainer for the Police College.
- A continuous development programme for Trainers employed at the College.
- The recommendations assessed in the report as suitable for immediate and short term implementation being taken forward.
- The timeline for advising new Student Officers about the commencement of training in January 2017.
- The knock on effect that the delay in PSNI recruitment was having on police resources.
- The publication of the report on the review of the Police College.

At this point the Chief Constable and his colleagues left the meeting.

The Board discussed the information which had been provided orally by PSNI regarding the changes which would be made to the Foundation course before new Student Officers commenced training and training and support which would be delivered to the Officers throughout their probationary period.

In conclusion the Board:-

AGREED:

That PSNI should be asked to provide information on the new Foundation course and details of the training that Officers would receive during their probationary period for consideration at the Board meeting on 1 December 2016 when the Board would be in a position to decide whether to support Student Officer Training recommencing in the New Year.

The Chief Constable and his colleagues re-joined the meeting.

The Chairperson acknowledged the effect that the delay in recruitment was having on police resources. She asked the Chief Constable to provide the Board with information for the Board meeting on 1 December 2016 regarding the new Foundation course and details of training and support which would be delivered to the Officers throughout their probationary period. The Board would then be in a position to consider supporting Student Officer Training recommencing in the New Year.

The Board discussed the timeline for advising new Student Officers about the commencement of training in January 2017 with the representatives of the PSNI.

The Chairperson thanked the Chief Constable and his colleagues for attending the meeting

3. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

4. COMMUNICATION ISSUES

The Board agreed a statement should be issued regarding the Board's discussion on the College. A copy of the agreed statement is attached at Annex 1.

(Meeting ended at 5.45pm)

BOARD SUPPORT

November 2016