

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD HELD ON THURSDAY 27 OCTOBER 2016 AT 6:00 PM IN WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST

PRESENT:

MEMBERS:

- Mrs Anne Connolly, Chairperson
- (1) Ms Deborah Watters, Vice-Chairperson
- (2) Ms Joanne Bunting
- (2) Mr Keith Buchanan
- (3) Dr Stephen Farry
- Mr Ryan Feeney
- Mr Gerry Kelly
- Mr Raymond McCartney
- Mr Nelson McCausland
- Ms Roisin McGlone
- Mrs Wendy Osborne

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
- (3) Superintendent Andrew Freeburn, Command Secretariat

BOARD'S HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISOR IN ATTENDANCE

Ms Alyson Kilpatrick

OFFICIALS

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

1 APOLOGIES ETC

Apologies were received from Ms Deirdre Blakely, Professor Brice Dickson, Mrs Brenda Hale, Mr Ross Hussey, Ms Jennifer McCann, Dr Paul Nolan and Ms Catherine Pollock.

The Chairperson advised the Board that Mr Will Kerr, ACC Crime Operations had been offered a post with the National Crime Agency, which had to be approved by the Home Office. She undertook to keep Members informed of developments.

2 POLICE COLLEGE REVIEW

The Board considered a paper which provided Members with a summary of the key issues which had been discussed at the special Board meeting on 20 October 2016 and the implementation plan which had been provided by PSNI to inform a further discussion with the Chief Constable later in the meeting.

The Board noted an updated Police College Review Report which had been provided by C/Superintendent Alan Gibson, Police Scotland after discussion with the Board at the special Board meeting on 20 October 2016.

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.

The Chief Constable referred to the report in relation to a review which had been carried out to examine issues arising at the Police College, Garnerville during which Student Officers breached the confidentiality agreement linked to the examination process and briefed the Board on other confidential issues relating to other matters at the College.

During discussion Members outlined their views on the findings in the report.

The following main points were discussed with the Chief Constable and the representatives from the PSNI during consideration of the report and the implementation plan:-

- Leadership issues within the Police College.
- The appointment of a civilian to the Leadership Team at the College.
- A continuous personal development programme for Trainers employed at the College.
- Changes to the culture within the Police College.
- The transfer which had taken place of PSNI Training from Human Resources Department to Operational Support Department.
- Accountability arrangements at the Police College.
- The leadership of the Police College at different stages once recruitment was restored.

In response to a request from a Member, the Chief Constable undertook to provide the Board with a timeline of who was in charge at the different stages since recruitment was restarted.

- A Briefing which was given to Student Officers on Policing with the Community.
- The recommendations assessed in the report as suitable for immediate and short term implementation being taken forward.
- The establishment of a Group of Board Members to oversee the implementation of the recommendations in the report.
- The Police Learning Advisory Council.
- The recommencement of recruitment to PSNI.
- The PSNI Training and Development Strategy.
- The publication of the report on the review of the Police College. and the handling plan around dealing with the media in relation to publication.
- Disciplinary investigations arising from allegations relating to issues at the Police College.

In conclusion it was:-

AGREED:

That PSNI should provide the Board with information regarding:-

- 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 (including vacancies).
- Timelines (with specific dates) for each recommendation on the Implementation Plan.
- Review material regarding the Police Learning Advisory Council, to assist the NIPB consideration of recommendation 34.

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

3. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Members agreed that another special meeting of the Board should be held to; consider the information provided by PSNI following this meeting; to discuss the re-commencement of recruitment to the PSNI; and the arrangements for publication of the report on the review of the Police College.

(Meeting ended at 8.30pm)

BOARD SUPPORT

November 2016