

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF MEETING OF PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 16 SEPTEMBER 2021 AT 14:00 IN WATERSIDE TOWER AND ZOOM.

PRESENT:		Mrs Dolores Kelly (Chair) Mr Michael Atkinson Ms Liz Kimmins (Zoom) Mrs Joanne Bunting (Zoom) Mrs Janet Gray Ms Linda Dillon (Zoom) Mr John Blair (Zoom) Mr Tom Buchanan (Zoom) Mr Tom Frawley – Ex Officio (Zoom)
PSNI:	(1)	T/ACC Singleton DCI Fisher – Public Protection Branch Ms L Jeapes
NICCY:	(2)	Ms M McCafferty CEO Ms A Tennant – Head of Policy and Participation
OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:		Ms Sarah Reid – Partnership Manager 4 Board Officials

- (1) Present only for Item 6.1
- (2) Present only for item 6.2

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Dympna Thornton, Amanda Stewart and the Deputy Chief Constable.

The Chair wished to note Member's thanks to Mr Seán Lynch, who has retired, Mr Mervyn Storey who recently left the Board and Ms Carmel McKinney who has moved to the Resources Committee. The Chair asked that a letter of thanks be sent to Seán Lynch following his retirement.

The Chair also welcomed Linda Dillon back to Partnership Committee and Maurice Bradley as a new Member of the Committee.

The Chair also wished to record Member's condolences on the recent passing of Maura Muldoon, who was the Commissioner for NI Human Rights and a former PSNI staff member. The Chair requested that a letter of condolence is sent to her partner on behalf of the Committee.

It was:-

AGREED

- A letter of thanks to be sent by the Chair to Mr Seán Lynch on behalf of the Committee; **(AP1)** and
- A letter of condolence to be sent by the Chair to Maura Muldoon's partner on behalf of the Committee. **(AP2).**

2. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

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

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Committee considered the draft minutes of the Partnership Committee meeting held on 17th June 2021.

It was:-

RESOLVED:-

- That the draft minutes of the Partnership Committee meetings held on 17th June 2021 be approved.

4. UPDATE ON ACTION LOG:

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

Following June Committee meeting there were 8 action points, Members were asked to note that 7 of these can be closed following today's meeting with 3 of the 7 actions dealt with at item 5.1 of today's agenda.

AP 25.3 - dates of PCSP meetings were shared with Members following the June meeting,

AP 25.5 - all Members have been invited to visit the PSNI Call Management Centre and have indicated their availability for this;

AP 25.6 - update at agenda item 6.4 of today's meeting;

AP 25.7 – update at agenda item 6.5 of today's meeting; and

AP 25.8 – remains open and a paper with further information will be brought to the October committee meeting.

Following a discussion Members agreed to keep Action 17.5 open from the October 2020 meeting. It was agreed that updates would be provided against this action when appropriate, with a monthly update not necessarily required.

NOTED

5. CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS

The Chair welcomed all Members to the meeting and advised that one item of correspondence would be included under this agenda item and invited the Partnership Manager to provide further details.

5.1 Response from PSNI re: Letter issued by Chair 22 June on Local Policing Review

Following the June meeting an update was received from ACC Todd following a request for further information on;

- the role profile for PSNI Neighbourhood Policing Team Officers;
- an update on the role of Multi-Agency Triage Teams (MATTs); and
- an update on the progress of training for all NPT Officers.

Members agreed that whilst the report is solid, it highlights key challenges for PSNI and/or other stakeholders. Following discussion in relation to the MATTs, Members agreed that the Chair Invite ACC Todd to a future meeting to provide further information which would include:

- How the MATTs are currently funded;
- How training gaps might be addressed in relation to this area of work; and
- In relation to the challenges raised in the report, how many of these relate to the PSNI and how many relate to other bodies.

It was:-

AGREED

- Correspondence to be issued by the Chair to ACC Todd inviting him to attend a future meeting to discuss the MATTs. **(AP3)**

6. ITEMS FOR COMMITTEE BUSINESS

6.1 Report on Policing Plan Measure 2.2.1 Victim and Service User Satisfaction

An Official from the Board's Police Performance Directorate introduced the item and provided an overview of the paper provided to Members which included the PSNI's report on Policing Plan Measure 2.2.1 and Board Official's analysis. In providing this, she highlighted a number of areas which Members may wish to consider when discussing the progress report with PSNI representatives.

The Chair welcomed T/ACC Bobby Singleton, DCI Lindsey Fisher, Public Protection Branch, and Lindsey Jeapes, Head of Performance and Insight, Community Safety Department to the meeting.

PSNI representatives provided an overview which included:

- The four questions in the Victim and Service User Satisfaction survey;
- Issues around the uptake of the survey;
- Noted a 3% increase in the response rate to the survey, bringing it up to 14.6% which is in line with police forces in England and Wales;
- COVID impact/atmospheric reasons for lower user satisfaction in some areas;
- Geographical impact on results which District Commanders are aware of;
- Noted 59% of replies have been satisfactory;
- Focus on performance management;
- Provision of laptops for frontline officers in a bid to increase response will continue to rollout within the next 2 months; and

- Survey does not seek satisfaction information from domestic/serious sexual violence victims, however there is ongoing work on a suitable mechanism to reach out to these victims; and
- Future work is focused on improving the survey uptake with a particular focus on attrition.

Members discussed:

- Differences in geographical responses in relation to Causeway Coast and Glens and Fermanagh and Omagh;
- What plans there are to increase participation of young males who are largely under-represented in the survey;
- How impact analysis is going to be developed;
- Issues in relation to the use of remote laptops related to signal strength;
- The difference between satisfaction in relation to outcomes rather than 'customer service';
- The need for more information to be provided to victims by PSNI to avoid unnecessary blame;
- The low response rate (25%) in relation to Firearms Licensing – what is being done to improve this;
- The potential gap in the process at the point where all investigation work is completed and sent to the PPS – important to let victim know at this stage;
- Ongoing work in relation to victims of domestic or serious sexual abuse;
- The positive uptake (over 4,000 staff and Officers) of the Coercive Control module of the Victim Support training; and
- Requested an update on the rollout of the pilot programme; Operation Encompass.

In addressing Member's comments, PSNI provided the following:

- In terms of Fermanagh and Omagh, the variation is within anticipated norms, however, there will be a particular focus on this area going forward;
- Causeway Coast and Glens are responding to the issues and ACC Todd will be focusing in this area over the next few weeks;
- Work is ongoing to improve engagement with young males as they don't tend to engage using social media platforms;
- In seeking to improve impact information, T/ACC Singleton would wish to bring future information in a narrative form;
- Methodology used is the best but recognition that a higher response rate is needed;
- Appreciate that there have been some issues with laptop signal but it is regarded as better that officers only have to move locations for a better signal rather than returning to stations;
- In relation to satisfaction, would wish to link in with Board survey which should report on confidence in general, responsiveness and service delivery to enable a better analysis of outcomes;
- The Working Together Board is looking at the criminal justice system in line with the Gillen Report and the CJINI report;
- A First Responders video has been produced to educate officers in relation to The Rowan Centre with ongoing work on compliance in relation to victim updates;
- SPOCs are currently being identified for specialist work in relation to rape investigations;
- A new Head of the Firearms Licensing unit has been appointed and a written response on progress will be requested to be sent to Members; and
- The rollout of the Operation Encompass pilot is at an early stage with no operational issues reported.

Following the discussion, the Members agreed that it would be beneficial to learn more about the work being undertaken in relation to victims of domestic/sexual violence.

It was:-

AGREED

- The newly appointed Head of Firearms Licensing will be requested to provide a written response on the progress in improving the Licensing process **(AP4)**; and
- PSNI will be invited to provide a presentation on work with domestic/sexual abuse victims at a future meeting **(AP5)**.

The Chair thanked PSNI representatives for attending the meeting.

6.2 Presentation from Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People (NICCY)

The Chair welcomed Mairéad McCafferty, Chief Executive and Alex Tennant, Head of Policy Participation and Insight (NICCY) to the Committee to provide Members with information on the Child Rights Impact Assessments and Framework. The presentation included:

- An introduction to Child Rights Impact Assessments (CRIA) and Framework;
- Programme for Government and Children Strategy and actions to support CRIAs;
- The eight stage process for undertaking CRIAs;
- CRIA resources; and
- Application of CRIAs to NIPB work

Members discussed:

- Would welcome help to improve in this area and whether there is training available that could build knowledge and capacity of Board Members and Officials;
- The role of the Board's Human Rights Adviser and whether he is looking at this work;
- Other areas of PSNI work where Children's Rights should be taken into consideration; and
- The potential for training to be rolled out to PCSPs.

It was:-

AGREED

- Officials will write to NICCY and request details of training availability **(AP6)**.

6.3 PCSP Update – Proposed amendments to PCSP Strategic Priorities/Policing Committee reporting

The Partnership Manager provided members with an overview of the paper which included a proposal to amend the PCSP Strategic Priorities (SPs) and a draft reporting template to enable consistent and effective reporting at Policing Committee.

In discussing the proposed amendments to the PCSP SPs, the Partnership Manager advised;

- The proposed amendments to SP1 have been designed to ensure an increased focus on engagement with the community, increased communication and a focus on promoting the work of the PCSP;
- SP2 has largely remained the same with the sub objectives amended to reflect increased partner working;

- The proposed amendments to SP3 whilst maintaining the legislative role have been updated to increase focus on community engagement and joined up working by the PSNI in terms of problem solving.
- This will enable consistent and effective reporting at Policing Committees;
- Changes will allow leverage for an increase in Community Engagement especially with hard to reach communities; and
- More emphasis on problem solving and will allow more effective reporting.

In relation to the proposed amendments to the PCSP SPs, Members discussed:

- Feedback from PSNI suggest that they are content with the existing priorities and wording;
- Joint Committee awareness of changes to Strategic Priorities;
- Concerns raised around new wording being “top/down” rather than “bottom/up” in approach;
- The potential for some wording to run contrary to the legislation;
- Most Members felt changes were positive and allow more outreach to communities, particularly those that are hard to reach;
- Concerns around the timeline for considering changes and the response deadline;
- The need to ensure that the word ‘local’ is retained; and
- The importance of being able to establish whether PCSPs are making a difference.

Following the discussion, Members agreed that the Partnership Manager meet a small group of Members to discuss concerns in relation to some of the wording in advance of the Joint Committee meeting and in advance of a final Committee decision.

In discussing the proposed Policing Committee reporting template, the Partnership Manager advised the following:

- The template is for PSNI District Commanders and is owned by the PSNI with Board officials advising in relation to the PSCPs;
- The format is similar to the report cards used to report Policing Plan measures to the Committee and uses the S.A.R.A and OBA methodologies;
- The reporting template will draw out the key area issues and provide Policing Committee Members with information in relation to community and partner involvement in relation to developing initiatives and addressing problems;
- The template will also report on whether the problem will be short or long term, whether further community engagement or partner involvement is needed and importantly, whether it remains a PSNI issue or should be moved to another appropriate agency;
- It is hoped that use of the template will result in an increase in consistent and quality information for Policing Committees to enable them to perform their legislative function.

In relation to the draft Policing Committee template, Members discussed:

- The need to ensure that the template ties in with the Policing Plan;
- The need to ensure that problem solving still leaves PSNI and PCSPs room for local prioritisation for issues in their own area;
- The potential for PSNI to take community concerns more seriously;
- The potential for allowing less talking and more action.

The Partnership Manager advised Members that the template is still under consideration by the PSNI Senior team and that a final agreed version will come to Committee for feedback when available.

It was:-

AGREED

- Those Members with concerns in relation to some of the wording of the revised SPs are to liaise with the Partnership Manager by Tuesday 21 September; **(AP7)** and
- Board officials will bring the final draft Policing Committee template to Committee following PSNI (senior team) consideration. **(AP8)**

6.4 Police Property Fund – update on Small Grants Scheme

The Partnership Manager provided Members with an update on the PPF which included:

- The number of applications (148) received into the Small Grant Scheme by the 8 July 2021 closing date;
- Basic Eligibility Checks, conducted by Board officials ruled out 48 applications;
- The majority of applications ruled out through the basic eligibility check related to capital expenditure which is not eligible;
- 98 applications progressed for full assessment (2 projects withdrew before the assessment stage);
- The assessment panel met on 13th & 14th September to consider the 98 applications;
- As a result, 15 projects, valued at just over £93k are recommended to receive a funding offer;
- Members were asked to recommend that the Board ratify the decision to approve these projects at their October meeting;
- A further 18 projects that passed the approval threshold, valued at just over £110k, have been included for Committee consideration;

- The panel agreed that the Committee should be requested to consider extending the value of the first call to enable funding to be offered to the additional 18 projects;

The Chair wished to express her thanks to the Partnership Manager and her team in relation to the smooth assessment process. The efficiency with which this was done and the high quality of papers presented to the panel was very much appreciated. This was seconded by another panel member.

It was:-

AGREED

- The Committee will request that the Board ratify the decision to approve the first 15 projects at a value of just over £93k; **(AP9)** and
- Board approval will be sought to increase the call value to enable funding of the further 18 projects. **(AP10)**

6.5 Proposal for meeting with Crossmaglen Rangers Gaelic Football Club

The Engagement Manager provided Members with information on an invitation to Members to attend the Crossmaglen Rangers Gaelic Football Club to discuss local policing issues in the area and progress finding a suitable date to do so.

Members discussed:

- Accepting the invitation and a Member suggested that a visit to the PSNI Station in Crossmaglen should also be included.

It was:-

AGREED

- The Engagement Manager will draft a letter to accept the invitation on behalf of all Members and arrange a suitable date to visit the Club and the PSNI station. **(AP11)**

7. QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

NONE

8. Communications Issues/Opportunities

NONE

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

NONE

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was agreed as 21 October 2021 at 2pm.

(Meeting closed at 5pm)

PARTNERSHIP DIRECTORATE

September 2021


Chairperson