

## **NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING OF PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 18 JUNE 2020 AT 10 AM AT THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD, WATERSIDE TOWER**

**PRESENT:**

- Mrs Dolores Kelly (Chair)
- Mr Michael Atkinson
- Mrs Janet Gray
- Mrs Joanne Bunting (Zoom)
- (2) Mr Mervyn Storey
- Mr Tom Buchanan
- (3) Mr Sean Lynch
- Ms Liz Kimmins
- (4) Ms Carmel McKinney

**PSNI:**

- (1) Chief Supt. Sam Donaldson
- (1) Chief Insp. Diane Pennington

**OFFICIALS IN  
ATTENDANCE:**

Mrs Sarah Reid, T/Director of Partnership  
3 Board Officials

- (1) Present only for Item 6.1
- (2) Left the meeting at 10:57am returned 11:00am, left 11:12am returned 11.24am and left 11.25am
- (3) Left the meeting at 11:29am returned at 11:32am
- (4) Left the meeting at 12:36pm

## **1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from John Blair. The Committee agreed the agenda for the meeting.

The Chair wished to record, on behalf of the Committee, their condemnation of the murder of Detective Garda Colm Horkan and send condolences to Mr Horkan's family and Garda Commissioner Drew Harris. **NOTED**

## **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 21 May 2020.

It was:-

### **RESOLVED:-**

That the draft minutes of Partnership Committee meetings held on the 21 May 2020 be approved.

## **4. UPDATE ON ACTION LOG:**

The T/Director of Partnership provided Members with an update on the Committee's rolling action log.

Action points 8.2, 11.1, 11.2, 11.6 and 11.7 will be actioned at future committee meetings, 9.10, 12.3, 12.4 have all been affected by the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and will progress in due course. Action points 13.3, 14.1, 14.2, 14.3, and 14.4 are all included on the agenda for today's meeting. Action point 14.5 has been actioned and is closed.

Members noted the current open actions and expected timeframes for these matters to be brought back to the Partnership Committee. **NOTED**

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

### **5.1 Response letter from the Chief Constable re: IAG – Covid-19**

A letter from ACC Mark McEwan was received in response to the letter issued to the Chief Constable from the Chair of Partnership Committee on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020.

Members discussed:

- The level of detail provided by ACC McEwan in response; and
- Lack of involvement from groups e.g. Faith based organisations.

It was:-

#### **AGREED**

- A letter will issue from the Chair requesting the names of group representatives and how often they meet. **(AP1)**.

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

### **6.1 Policing Plan Report on Measure 2.2.1 (Roads Policing)**

A Board Official from Partnership Branch provided an update on the analysis of work relating to PSNI performance against the Policing Plan 2019/20 in regards to Measure 2.2 – People are Safe on the Roads. Members were asked to note the information provided in relation to the Policing Plan on Measure 2.2.1 – Roads Policing. The Chair noted the comprehensive report by Board Officials and welcomed Chief Supt. Sam Donaldson and Chief Insp. Diane Pennington to the meeting who provided Members with a presentation on policing the roads during Covid-19 which included:

- Despite a reduction in traffic, incidents of driving under the influence were still prevalent;

- Alternative mechanisms have been developed for mandatory classes in road safety, speed awareness and RIDE; and
- Details on the Risk Matrix which was put in place for officers travelling together in cars and for officers stopping vehicles.

Members discussed:

- Infrastructure Committee currently developing the new Road Safety Strategy;
- Issues around rural roads, cyclists and farm vehicles in relation to risk of accidents;
- Update on working jointly with An Garda Síochána;
- The use of Speed Indication Detectors (SIDs) and whether PSNI cycling proficiency tests are still in operation;
- The serious issue around where rural roads meet urban roads and queried the deployment of speed cameras and how the data is collected from these;
- The need for more education in schools in relation to road safety;
- Any potential difficulties relating to MOT referrals; and
- Initiatives and plans for tackling the issue of accidents involving children/young people and the use of other technologies.

Members commended PSNI and PCSPs on their Roadsafes Roadshows, the Kids Court initiative, and the recent release of a film produced by Newry, Mourne and Down PCSP on the experiences of families who have suffered from roads fatalities and asked that the Committee's appreciation of the professionalism of PSNI Officers in dealing with the Smyth family incident in May be noted. **NOTED.**

PSNI provided the following responses:

- PSNI are seeking the ability to be able to issue fixed penalty notices for drivers who are driving carelessly around cyclists and hope to use social media for educating cyclists;

- There is currently no legislation in Northern Ireland for using dash cam footage as evidence unlike the UK who use "SNAP";
- PSNI are currently working on online formats to replace initiatives such as the Roadsafes Roadshows for the foreseeable future;
- In relation to the use of SIDs, Traffic Management Officers link with the Department For Infrastructure (DFI) to consider the engineering of roads to make them safer;
- Data is received daily on SIDs, however, the location and positioning of them is based on community intelligence and data;
- The Committee are welcome to visit the Sprucefield operation to see how it is tasked;
- Confirmed that a study is ongoing to look at the reoccurrence of offending and that PSNI bench mark with colleagues in An Garda Siochana;
- In relation to MOT referrals officers that stop vehicles continue to look for any faults; and
- Confirmed that a paper on resourcing roads policing is going to the Chief Constable in July.

The Committee thanked PSNI for their presentation and agreed that a focussed piece of work between Committee, Roads Policing and PCSPs should be developed with any ideas being sent to Board Officials.

It was:-

**AGREED**

- That a proposal for a workshop between the Committee, Roads Policing and PCSPs will be brought to the Committee in September 2020 **(AP2)**.

## **6.2 Impact of COVID-19 crisis update**

The T/Director of Partnership provided Members with an update on how the COVID-19 crisis has impacted on the work of Partnership Directorate (in particular PCSP initiatives) which included:

- PCSP Activity;
- The Independent Custody Visiting Scheme;
- Collectively Preventing Harm Working Group; and
- The Community Safety Board.

She also advised that the Education Authority had recently produced guidelines for the implementation of some of its summer youth initiatives and she would seek permission to share these with members via Decision Time.

Members discussed:

- Joint Committee concerns around the summer and young people gathering;
- Increased use of drugs and alcohol by younger people;
- Some PCSP initiatives being halted due to Schools being closed and no education authority involvement;

It was:-

**AGREED**

- Permission will be sought to share the EA guidelines with Members via the generic folder in Decision Time. **(AP3)**.

### **6.3 Police Property Fund – proposed timetable**

The T/Director of Partnership provided an update on the preparations for implementation of Police Property Fund, with a proposed timetable for launching of the fund.

Members discussed:

- The need for monitoring of restrictions to inform when to launch the fund;
- The uniqueness of the fund and the need to ensure that it is not succumbed within the current availability of Government and Non-Government 'Covid' funding;

- The need for professional design and printing of funding documents, and the finalising of a timetable for launching, receiving applications, funding decisions and letters of offer; and
- The importance of utilising the PCSPs to ensure that applicants can prepare for applying to the Fund.

The Communications Manager suggested timeframes of September 2020 to November 2020 for Launch, funding decisions December 2020 to January 2021 and letters of offer being issued from January 2021 onwards. The suggestion was also made for the use of online workshops to promote the fund through. Members were content with the timetable and agreed that a further update be provided at the September meeting based on the anticipated easing of restrictions.

It was:-

**AGREED**

- Board officials will provide details of the Fund to PCSP Managers including social media content for promotion of the Fund. **(AP4)**.

#### **6.4 ICV Annual Report 2019/20**

The T/Engagement Manager provided an overview of the Independent Custody Visiting annual Report for 2019/20 and asked Members to recommend to the Board to publish the report on the Board's website.

Members discussed:

- The definition of an unsatisfactory visit;
- The timeframe for Enniskillen Custody Suite to reopen;
- The provision of similar Schemes across the UK and comparable stats; and
- Why 10% of visits take place during unsociable hours.

The T/Engagement Manager explained the definition of an unsatisfactory visit, confirmed that while Northern Ireland is unique with only one police force as opposed to numerous forces as in the UK; and that in Northern Ireland the police force is monitored by the Northern Ireland Policing Board, whereby in the UK police forces are monitored by Police and Crime Commissioners. The Board feeds into the National Experts Forum (NEF) and the Independent Custody Visiting Association (ICVA) to share best practice and compare statistics. The T/Engagement Manager also clarified that carrying out visits during unsociable hours is an agreed requirement within the Scheme.

It was:-

**AGREED**

- The T/Engagement Manager will source comparable stats for other Schemes from the NEF and share with Members **(AP5)**; and
- The Committee will recommend to the Board to approve the report for publishing on the Board's website at their July meeting **(AP6)**.

The Chair wished to record Members thanks and appreciation to all ICV's for their hard work and dedication in the role especially during Covid-19. **NOTED**

## **6.5 Engagement Strategy – updated programme of work**

The T/Engagement Manager introduced the paper seeking sign off from Members for the draft Strategy and approval for the annual Programme of Work to support delivery of the Strategy to be a live and evolving document.

Members discussed:

- Further developing of the Engagement Strategy is required to include holding virtual engagement events;
- Broadening out of Engagement events including measuring impact in communities; and
- Increase the ICO role for PSNI Recruitment Assessment Centres.



It was:-

**AGREED**

- Members will email their views to the T/Director of Partnership to allow Officials to consider and update the Strategy to be brought to Committee in September 2020 **(AP7)**.

**7. QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE**

**NONE**

**7. COMMUNICATION ISSUES**

**NONE**

**9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The T/Director of Partnership introduced a letter received from the Cara Friend Fundraising and Development Manager requesting funding for training in relation to the LGBTQ+ and School's Charter focusing on staff and student training. Members considered the application and advised that the Committee is not in a position to award funding from the Policing Board.

It was:-

**AGREED**

- Board officials will reply to the letter from Cara Friend **(AP8)**.

**10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting was agreed as 17 September 2020.

(Meeting closed at 12.50 PM).

**PARTNERSHIP DIRECTORATE**

**JUNE 2020**

  
**Chairperson**