

**NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD**

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY  
19 DECEMBER 2019 AT 12 NOON AT THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING  
BOARD, WATERSIDE TOWER**

**PRESENT:**

- Mrs Dolores Kelly (Chair)  
(1) Mr Colm McKenna  
Prof Brice Dickson  
(2) Mrs Linda Dillon  
Mr Philip McGuigan  
(3) Mr Gary Middleton  
(4) Mr Mervyn Storey  
Mrs Wendy Osborne  
Ms Debbie Watters (Board Vice Chair)

**OFFICIALS IN  
ATTENDANCE:**

Mr Adrian McNamee, Director of Partnership  
5 Board Officials

- (1) Present except part item 6.2 and 6.3 (left at 12.40pm and returned at 12.50pm)  
(2) Present except part item 6.2 (left at 12.40pm and returned at 12.45pm)  
(3) Present except part item 6.3 (left at 12.50pm and returned at 12.55pm)  
(4) Present except part item 6.2 (left at 12.30pm and returned at 12.35pm)

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for the meeting were received from Mr John Blair.

**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 meetings held on 17 October 2019 and 21 November 2019. The Committee agreed the minutes.

It was:-

**RESOLVED:-**

That the draft minutes of Partnership Committee meetings held on the 17 October 2019 and 21 November 2019 were agreed.

**4. UPDATE ON ACTION LOG:**

The Director of Partnership provided Members with an update on the Committee's rolling action log. Members noted the current open actions and expected timeframes for these matters to be brought back to the Partnership Committee. **NOTED**

In relation to action point 9.6, a Member requested that the Committee see the Public Prosecution Service (PPS) Evaluation Report on Indictable Cases Process (ICP) in full.

It was:-

**AGREED:-**

Board officials will share the full PPS Report on the ICP on Decision Time **(AP1)**.

## 5. CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS

The Chair noted that a letter of Congratulations from Partnership Committee had been sent to Sgt George as Vice President of the National Black Police Association.

## 6. ITEMS FOR COMMITTEE BUSINESS

### 6.1 Review of the Policy on the Removal of Members

The Director of Partnership introduced the item referring to a previous discussion at the September Partnership Committee meeting and the October Board meeting in relation to a complaint against a member of North Belfast DPCSP. Following discussions concerning this complaint, at the October Board meeting, Members expressed dissatisfaction with the current policy and requested that Partnership Committee review some suggested amendments and consider further or alternative options that Members could consider in addition to the removal of Members of PCSPs.

Members discussed:

- Consideration being given to developing two separate procedures;
- Concerns in relation to the definition of minor/major breaches;
- Panel Member arrangements and reporting back;
- Removal of Members; and
- The use of the word "mistake" being removed from the draft procedure.

The Partnership Manager explained that officials have been working with PCSP Managers to update the PCSP Members handbook, focusing largely on the Code of Conduct which would link to a policy that deals with potential breaches.

It was:-

#### **AGREED**

- That Officials will review Members comments, draft new procedures and table the item at the January 2020 meeting of Partnership Committee **(AP2)**.

## 6.2 PCSP Recruitment Process Update

The Partnership Manager provided Members with an update on progress in the implementation of stage 2 of the recruitment process. The update included identified risks in relation to the lower than anticipated numbers of suitable candidates in a number of Councils. In addition, the Partnership Manager highlighted the CJINI strategic recommendation in relation to removing the Belfast Principal PCSP and advised that the recruitment of independent members of the Belfast PCSP must proceed until there is formal agreement and potentially a legislative amendment to remove the principal PCSP in Belfast.

The Committee discussed the risks identified and agreed that the appointment process should proceed with the current numbers to establish whether the required number of appointments can be made for each PCSP/DPCSP.

The Partnership Director provided an update on progress towards implementing stage 3 of the process and advised members that legal advice is currently being sought on the Board's policy. Members were also advised that Board officials also sought advice from CPANI who have reinforced the need for compliance to legal requirements.

Members discussed:

- Officials proceeding with the process depending upon legal advice when received.

The Board's Vice Chair advised the Committee and Board officials to take time over these issues and ensure that the process is robust.

It was:-

### **AGREED**

- To proceed with the appointment panels in relation to the current numbers and the current policy pending legal advice and that the policy will be discussed again at the January meeting of Partnership

Committee and depending on legal advice seek Board approval in February 2020 **(AP3)**.

### 6.3 Policing Plan Report on Measures 1.1.1 and 1.1.4

The Police Performance Monitoring Officer provided an update and highlighted the analysis of work relating to PSNI performance against the Policing Plan 2019/20 in regards to measures 1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.1.3, and 1.1.4 (Trust and Confidence in Policing). Members praised the quality of the report and information provided. Members made the following comments:

- It is recognised that there is excellent work going on but it is still not being reported effectively;
- More analysis on the impact of the Youth Volunteer Academy (YVA) is required;
- Reporting on young people needs to include more than the work of the YVA;
- PSNI inconsistency in reporting on Police Performance measures;
- Importance in getting reporting right in the new Policing Plan;
- Consider research to look at issues around Confidence in Policing and what reporting we should be asking for; and
- Key issues raised in the paper should be sent to PSNI.

The Director of Partnership noted that Policing with the Community would be invited to the March 2020 meeting of Partnership Committee to address some of the issues.

It was:-

#### **AGREED**

- Board officials will identify the key strategic issues and formulate questions to issue from the Chair to the PSNI **(AP4)**.

#### 6.4 **Police Property Fund**

The Partnership Manager advised Members that the Police Property Fund procedure has been updated to include proposed implementation arrangements for the Strategic/Large Grants Scheme. Members discussed:

- The eligibility of salaries and overheads for larger grants;
- Additional criteria to be considered for eligibility for larger grants;
- The quantum of funding for larger grants; and
- The need to remove "where appropriate" from Appendix A.

The Communications Manager provided an update on the Communications and Engagement Plan for the fund. A Member suggested adding the Department for Communities to the key audience list at Annex B. NOTED.

It was:-

##### **AGREED**

- Amendments will be made to the procedures as agreed and officials will bring a draft application form and guidance notes for both grants to a future Committee meeting in advance of the Board meeting in March 2020 **(AP5)**.

#### 6.5 **Study Visit to Gartcosh, Scotland**

The Chair introduced the item and Members agreed that officials would bring a more detailed programme to the January meeting of Partnership Committee.

It was:-

##### **AGREED**

- Board Members and PSNI will be invited to attend the visit to Gartcosh in late March 2020 **(AP6)**.

#### 7. **QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE**

There were no questions for the Chief Constable identified.

**8. COMMUNICATION ISSUES**

There were no communication issues arising from the meeting.

**9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Director of Partnership requested any feedback from the pilot of using Decision Time as a resource for sharing papers of meetings. All Members were content with the web based application. The Director of Partnership provided an overview of guests planned for January to March 2020 meetings as follows:

- 21 January 2020 - ACC Gray, Tackling Paramilitarism and Independent Reporting Commission Secretariat, Second Report November 2019
- 20 February 2020 - ACC Hamilton, Local Policing Review
- 19 March 2020 – Policing with the Community

Any questions for ACC Gray should be with the Director of Partnership by 17<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

The Vice Chair raised an invitation to a NILGA Conference which is due to be held on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2020. He suggested that the Board should have a speaking role and be represented at the conference and that this would also provide an engagement opportunity for the Board.

**10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting was agreed as Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2020

(Meeting closed at 2.00 PM).

**PARTNERSHIP DIRECTORATE  
DECEMBER 2019**

*Dorcas Kelly*  
**Chairperson**