

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

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

PRESENT: Mrs Dolores Kelly (Chair)
Mr Colm McKenna
Prof Brice Dickson
(1) Mr Mervyn Storey
Mrs Wendy Osborne
(2) Mrs Joanne Bunting
Mr Sean Lynch
Ms Liz Kimmins

PSNI: (3) DCC Mark Hamilton
(3) Chief Inspector Barney O'Connor

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Adrian McNamee, Director of Partnership
3 Board Officials

- (1) Present except part item 6.3 (left at 12.00 and returned at 12.10pm, left 12.20pm and returned 12.30pm)
- (2) Present except part item 6.2 (left at 12.30pm and returned at 12.35pm)
- (3) Present only for Item 6.1

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for the meeting were received from Mr John Blair.

The Chair welcomed new Board Members Ms Liz Kimmins and Mr Seán Lynch. Mr Gary Middleton resigned from Partnership Committee with effect from 10 February 2020 and will be replaced by Mr Tom Buchanan who was unable to attend today's meeting.

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 19 December 2019 and 23 January 2020. The Committee agreed the minutes.

It was:-

RESOLVED:-

That the draft minutes of Partnership Committee meetings held on the 19 December 2019 and 23 January 2020 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, Board Officials will share Public Prosecution Service (PPS) Evaluation Report on Indictable Cases Process (ICP) when it is available.

5. CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS

The Chair noted a reply from ACC Todd to her letter of 15 January 2020 to ACC Mairs.

6. ITEMS FOR COMMITTEE BUSINESS

6.1 Update on the Local Policing Review

The Chair welcomed DCC Mark Hamilton and Chief Inspector Barney O'Connor to the meeting and congratulated DCC Hamilton on his recent promotion and wished him success for the future on behalf of Partnership Committee.

DCC Hamilton provided an initial overview of the progress and implementation of the Local Policing Review Action Plan and advised the Committee that a Review Board has been established in PSNI which meets fortnightly to ensure effective operationalisation of the Action Plan.

DCC Hamilton provided an update on:

Action 1 Visibility:

- Good progress has been achieved in regards to the visibility action including:
 - The procurement and livery of vehicles;
 - Allocation of 400 officers into Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPTs);
 - The development of training for officers;
 - The piloting of single officer patrolling; and
 - Deployment of a single co-ordination centre.

In relation to Action 1 Members discussed:

- The need for a consistent approach to vehicle livery across the community;

- The single co-ordination centre in relation to the difference it will make to operations;
- The recent PSNI trip to New Zealand in terms of good practices;
- The use of the Irish/Ulster Scots languages on vehicles;
- Any progress in taking volunteering forward; and
- The need for effective use of social media.

In response DCC Hamilton advised:

- The livery of vehicles is largely based on national guidelines;
- The type of livery is more dependent on threat levels where unmarked cars may be required;
- There are currently three locations of command centres, these will become one with a Chief Inspector on duty 24 hours a day;
- This will achieve a more centralised co-ordination of cases, however progress will be evaluated continuously;
- Good practice in relation to Neighbourhood Policing and task co-ordination was evident in New Zealand which will assist in thinking and practice for the PSNI;
- The subject of languages needs to be examined with the Executive indicating as to what might be required;
- A work stream co-ordinated by a Chief Superintendent is being taken forward to look at volunteering as one of the strands of the Neighbourhood Policing Plan; and
- There is a need for a corporate approach to the use of social media with approved content and branding.

DCC Hamilton provided an update on:

Action 2 Neighbourhood Policing:

- By April, 2 Chief Superintendents will be in place to command the highlighted areas with 11 Superintendents;
- Training is underway for 400 officers including Policing with the Community;

- Two districts have commenced working on the basis of 16 hour shifts;
- A cultural piece is required to shift the current mind set in relation to Neighbourhood Policing.

In relation to Action 2 Members discussed:

- The need for all officers to be trained in Policing with the Community (PwC);
- The need to highlight the value and importance of the Neighbourhood Policing role;
- The need to ensure a consistent approach to operations; and
- Potential risks around naming neighbourhood officers.

In response DCC Hamilton and Chief Inspector O'Connor advised:

- All NPT's are currently being trained in PwC with plans to look at problem solving models in the future;
- Cultural issues will be managed through Continuous Professional Development;
- PwC will be led from the front so that it feeds through the organisation;
- The changing command structures have been put in place to ensure a consistent approach in all areas;
- Work is needed to look at the timing of community impact assessments as different areas may require a different approach. Commanders need to weigh up action against potential consequences; and
- More thought is required around potential trolling of officers.

DCC Hamilton provided an update on:

Action 3 Vulnerability and Mental Health:

- A full review in relation to vulnerability and mental health demand has been completed and will be shared with the Partnership Committee;
- PSNI are still in negotiation with the Department of Health in developing a mental health nurse led model for health care in custody suites; and
- There is ongoing work to get the Belfast Support Hub up and running.

Action 4 Call Handling:

- Representatives from Surrey Police visited PSNI to assist with a review of the 101 call management structures in Northern Ireland. As a result the NI 101 answering time is around the best in the UK with 85% of the 30 second response time being met;
- Project for 101 improvement has been approved focusing on digital enhancement, vulnerability assessment, online reporting, and improving the quality of responses;
- Psychiatric nurses being available to deal with calls from vulnerable people; and
- Part of the review taken forward by Chief Supt Simon Walls includes a “single online home” option which allows PSNI to resolve some issues online.

In relation to Actions 3 and 4 Members discussed:

- The possibility of the use of an online chat facility;
- The need for a more strategic discussion on the wellbeing of individuals; and
- The potential future roles for the PSNI, the Board and other agencies.

In response DCC Hamilton advised:

- PSNI would like to explore the possibility of an online chat facility however, it requires interaction with social media platforms which current security levels do not permit; and
- There is a need to work in partnership with other agencies as PSNI should not be the first resort for all mental health/vulnerability issues.

DCC Hamilton provided an update on:

Action 5 Collaboration and multi-agency working and

Action 6 Competing Policing Demand:

- Most of the work under these actions is still to be progressed;

- In relation to Action 6.2, following the visit to New Zealand it was evident that the PSNI risk management process is further advanced than that in New Zealand; and
- A conversation is needed with the Board around Action 5.3 Delivery of Community Empowerment Approaches.

It was:-

AGREED

- The review conducted on vulnerability and mental health demand will be shared with the Committee. **(AP1)**

Members agreed that significant progress had been made in relation to implementing elements of the Action Plan in the first three months and the Chair concluded by thanking the DCC and Inspector O'Connor for their input to the meeting.

6.2 Performance Monitoring – Addressing Anti-Social Behaviour Report

The Director of Partnership provided an update on the analysis of work relating to PSNI performance against the Policing Plan 2019/20 in regards to measure 2.1.3 (Addressing Anti-Social Behaviour) and highlighted the following:

- The report demonstrates some of the impacts that the increased numbers in NPTs are having at a local level; and
- Recent discussions with PCSP's also highlighted the positive impact of increasing NPTs within their districts.

Members discussed:

- The varying level of reporting by district and the need for standardisation of these reports;
- The need for the provision of Board leadership in relation to community empowerment.

Members noted the update report on ASB. **NOTED**

6.3 Police Property Fund

The Partnership Manager advised Members that final draft documents for both the small and large grant fund have been provided and welcomed any comments from Members. The Chair acknowledged the work that has gone into producing the final documents.

Members discussed:

- The need for consistency across all documents;
- The PCSP tick box needs separated in the first section of the application forms;
- Project promoters should be based in Northern Ireland;
- Whether training would be provided for the selection panels;
- The need to clarify wording around complaints; and
- The need to state clearly that for projects where a review has been successful, they will only be funded subject to the availability of funds.

The Director of Partnership advised the Committee of comments he had received in advance of the meeting as follows:

- Amend paragraph 6.1 of the Large Grants Guidance Document regarding the Partnership Manager's responsibility to review the procedure will be enhanced to reflect that any updated procedure would be brought back to the Committee and Board for approval; and
- Amend Annex C of the Large Grant Scheme Guidance for Applicants to reflect that following the review panel meeting determinations will be brought to the Committee and Board for approval;

The Communications Manager provided the proposed branding for the fund and advised that Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) are currently being drafted for use by potential applicants. She also advised that contact has been made with the Charities Commission who have over 6,000 registered organisations that can be contacted regarding the launch and that larger organisations will be contacted directly.

Members discussed:

- The timetable for the Programme;
- Whether application clinics would be organised for potential applicants;
- The need to manage expectations of applicants for the large grant scheme in regards to the amount of funding available.

The Director of Partnership advised:

- Board officials will be carrying out PCSP Induction training in each area following reconstitution and intend to hold an application clinic in conjunction with this;
- In relation to the timetable, all documents will be amended in line with Member comments and will go to the Board on 6 March 2020 for formal approval;
- It is intended that the fund will launch after Easter;
- The fund will be open for applications for 12/14 weeks; and
- Applications will be screened for eligibility over the summer in advance of panels sitting between September and November 2020.

The Committee approved the documentation subject to the recommended amendments being made.

It was:-

AGREED

- Officials will make the requested amendments and provide all documents to the Board for approval on 6 March 2020 **(AP2)**.

6.4 Review of the Policy on the removal of Members

The Partnership Manager advised that following discussion during the January meeting of Partnership Committee around suggested changes, updated policies had been provided. The amendments focus on providing greater distinction between the two policies and how they will be implemented. The Partnership Manager also advised that she recently discussed with PCSP

Managers the option for guidance on resolving the issues locally and following this discussion she will be working with a sub group of Managers to ensure consistency and a viable approach.

Members discussed:

- The need to provide greater detail in relation to written warnings e.g. action if they have another breach within 12 months; and
- The need for PCSP Members to be involved in decision making.

It was:-

AGREED

- The Partnership Manager will work with PCSP sub group to develop a procedure at the PCSP level; **(AP3)** and
- Officials will bring back final documents to a future Partnership Committee meeting for approval. **(AP4)**

6.5 Strategic Review of Policing in England and Wales

The Director of Partnership advised Members that as part of a Strategic Review of Policing in England and Wales the vice chair and a senior official wish to visit Northern Ireland to collect evidence in late April 2020. A draft programme for this visit is included in Members papers and Members are welcome to advise of any additions to the programme and also attend any of the planned sessions. Members noted the draft programme. **NOTED**

7. QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

There were no questions for the Chief Constable identified.

8. COMMUNICATION ISSUES

Aside from the Police Property Fund communications plan, there were no further communication issues arising from the meeting.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

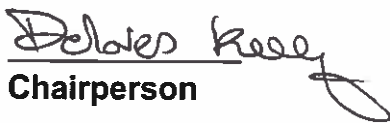
10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was agreed as Thursday 19 March 2020

(Meeting closed at 12.40 PM).

PARTNERSHIP DIRECTORATE

FEBRUARY 2020


Chairperson

