

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY
21 OCTOBER 2021 AT 14:00 IN WATERSIDE TOWER AND ZOOM.**

- PRESENT:**
- Mrs Dolores Kelly (Chair)
 - Mr Michael Atkinson
 - Ms Liz Kimmins
 - Mrs Joanne Bunting
 - Mrs Janet Gray
 - Ms Linda Dillon
 - Mr John Blair (Zoom)
 - Mr Tom Buchanan
 - Mr Maurice Bradley
- PSNI:**
- (1) T/ACC Bobby Singleton (Zoom)
 - T/ACC Melanie Jones (Zoom)
 - Staff member Louise Crothers (Zoom)
- DOJ:**
- (2) Ms Julie Harrison, Director of Safer Communities
 - Mr Michael McAvoy, Head of Interfaces and PDB Branch
- OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE:**
- Mrs Sinead Simpson CEO
 - Mrs Dymphna Thornton, Director of Partnership
 - 4 Board Officials

(1) Present only for Item 6.1 and 6.2

(2) Present only for item 6.3

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from DCC Mark Hamilton.

The Chair wished to note condolences from all members to Sarah Reid on the recent passing of her Mother.

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 16th September 2021.

It was:-

RESOLVED:-

- That the draft minutes of the Partnership Committee meetings held on 16th September 2021 be approved.

4. UPDATE ON ACTION LOG:

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

AP 17.5 - a revised update has been noted against this action to reflect activity at the September meeting of Partnership. A Member requested that update on this action should revert to the previous wording.

AP 25.8 - Agenda item 6.4 of today's meeting therefore this action agreed for closure

AP 26.3 – This action agreed for closure as presentation from PSNI on MATT will come to February 2022 meeting.

AP 26.4 - Agenda item 5.8 of today's meeting therefore this action agreed for closure

AP 26.5 - PSNI will arrange for a presentation at November's meeting.

AP 26.9 and AP 26.10 - This action agreed for closure as requests were ratified at October Board meeting.

AP26.11 Letter to Crossmaglen Rangers GA accepting their invitation and also a visit to the local station will be arranged and Members kept informed, therefore this action agreed for closure.

NOTED

5. CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS

The Chair welcomed all Members to the meeting and advised that 8 items of correspondence would be included under this agenda item and invited the Partnership Director to provide further details.

5.1 Letter of thanks from Chair to S Lynch - Actioned

5.2 Letter of Condolence from Chair to C Lamont - Actioned

5.3 Letter from Chair to ACC Todd re: Multi Agency Triage Teams – Actioned with this presentation planned for February 2022 Committee meeting.

5.4 Letter from Chair to T/ACC Singleton re: Future presentation on victims of Domestic Violence/Sexual Violence – Actioned with delivery of this presentation planned for November's Committee meeting.

5.5 Letter from Chair to NICCY re: Training Opportunities – Actioned and NICCY have advised that Committee are to be contacted in early 2022.

5.6 Letter from Chair to Crossmaglen Rangers GFC – Actioned and members will be kept informed when a date is agreed for the visit to both the GFC and the PSNI station in Crossmaglen.

5.7 Letter from ACC Todd in response to correspondence from the Chair regarding progress on outstanding LPR Actions – the Director of Partnership is meeting Wendy Middleton w/c 25/10/21 and will provide Members with an update following that meeting.

5.8 Letter from ACC OSD re: Firearms Licensing –on Decision Time for Member’s information.

NOTED

6. ITEMS FOR COMMITTEE BUSINESS

6.1 Report on Policing Plan Measures 3.1.2 and 3.1.3 – NPT and Impact of Partnership

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 Measures 3.1.2 and 3.1.3 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, who was joining the meeting via Zoom. T/ACC Singleton provided the following overview:

- Aspiration that every Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) carries out the NPT survey;
- Report card and slides provided for this presentation represented high level findings and further detail will be provided in the coming months;
- PSNI advised information has had to go through further PSNI governance channels , however noted that the information provided by NPTs appears to be an honest reflection and 3.1.3 is an opportunity to compare the view of communities with NPTs perceptions;

- Slides also identified greater need for training, and PSNI noted that a Training Needs Analysis is underway which will have input from NPTs and which will inform training;
- Regarding the Policing Plan report card, PSNI were keen to contextualise this for Members;
- Increased levels of crime were noted in the following areas:
 - Offences against person without injury;
 - Sexual offences, particularly those in a domestic setting; and
 - Proactive policing in respect of drugs.
- The Next Door App was also discussed, as was the work being progressed on Problem Solving Folders; and
- PSNI were keen to stress that this is the first report on the new Policing Plan measure 3.1.2, and noted that going forward this report will provide a good deal of useful information for Members.

Members discussed:

- Impact analysis and queried if additional investment in IT is needed;
- Are there automated links between Next Door and PSNI systems?
- The effectiveness of PCSPs in the process;
- References to co-design in the report card;
- Queried individuals feeling more empowered in identifying issues;
- The importance of reflective practice for NPTs;
- What type of training do NPT Officers believe they need;
- Domestic rape and its prevalence;
- The need to ensure continuity in policing teams in order to establish and maintain local relationships; and
- The questions in the Community Survey, which are linked to Policing Plan measure 3.1.3, may require revision in the remaining years of the 2020-2025 Policing Plan should gaps in information become apparent.

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

- Measure 3.1.3 is designed to give evidence which will provide impact analysis of NPT interventions;
- The external survey which is being progressed by the Board will be helpful;
- PSNI's "Pulse" System is being developed with Policing Plan measures being prioritised in it;
- There is no automated bridge between Next Door and PSNI IT Systems however, issues raised on the App are read and considered by NPT Officers in alignment with their local knowledge of issues;
- Acknowledgement that the effectiveness of relationships between PCSPs and NPTs can vary;
- The survey linked to 3.1.2 aims to ensure consistent approach and a standardised level service to Communities;
- The evolution of survey questions was discussed with the possibility of development of questions going forward as this survey is an initial pilot;
- Acknowledgement that self-reflection is an important part of the NPT role;
- Confirmation that PSNI do have access to respond to comments on the Next Door App however it may be helpful for PSNI to advise people on the level of personal details which are shared by those using the App ;
- Domestic rape accounts for 27.9% of all rapes this financial year with an increase in reported incidents in this period; and
- For the remaining life of this Policing Plan other NPTs will be asked to undertake the survey in order to test and ensure its efficacy; and
- Training for NPT Officers starts in the Student Officer Programme.

It was:-

AGREED

- A presentation on the Next Door App will be provided to Members **(AP1)** and
- PSNI will provide information regarding the percentage of those domestic rape cases which are historic and the percentage which are current **(AP2)**;
- That the pilot Community Survey linked to Policing Plan Measure 3.1.3. is to be issued.

6.2 PSNI Update on Strategic Community Engagement Team

T/ACC Singleton was joined by T/ACC Jones and PSNI Staff Member Louise Crothers and Members received an update on the work of the Strategic Community Engagement Team (SCET) which included:

- The renaming of the Community Relations Task Force to the Strategic Community Engagement Team (SCET) as advised to the Policing Board in a letter from PSNI in summer 2021;
- Improved relationships with BAME community which has resulted in that community's increased confidence and trust;
- An outline of the five strands of work which SCET are progressing;
- Update on the next PSNI Student Officer Recruitment Campaign commencing November 2021, and the need to appeal to the broadest strands of the community to encourage a more representative applicant cohort.
- An appreciation of lessons learnt from the 2020 campaign which has led to wider consultation to seek interest from external groups and political leaders;
- T/ACC Jones noted the work of the PSNI Gold Group and their use of an Outreach Tracker which highlights gaps in engagement; and
- T/ACC Jones also noted the importance of local officers as advocates to assist in promoting representativeness in recruitment.

Members discussed:

- Representativeness particularly of the Catholic community;
- Importance of engaging with Schools, Loyal Orders and the Bands Forum;
- Role of the Board in supporting the PSNI Recruitment Campaign;
- Role of Independent Scrutiny Panels;
- Need for transparency regarding PSNI's Independent Advisory Groups (IAGs); and
- The need to ensure members remain informed on the PSNI's Communications Plan for recruitment.

In addressing Member's comments, PSNI commented:

- Innovative methods are being explored to build relationships in the education sector, which is important in the longer term as it encourages young people from a range of backgrounds to consider a career in PSNI;
- There has been significant engagement with Schools, Loyal Orders and other groups; and
- PSNI will consult with the Board in respect of the PSNI proposed Independent Scrutiny Panel and will take the opportunity to review the information made available regarding its IAGs.

It was:-

AGREED

- The PSNI Communications Plan for recruitment is due to be with the Board in the near future and this will be shared with Members **(AP3)**.

The Chair thanked PSNI representatives for attending the meeting.

6.3 PCSP Update – Update on proposed amendments to PCSP Strategic Priorities

The Director of Partnership provided Members with further update on the amendments to the PCSP Strategic Priorities in advance of consideration and approval by Partnership Committee ahead of a meeting of Joint Committee. The Committee Chair was keen to assure Members that when she and the Committee Vice Chair attend Joint Committee, they do so as representatives of the Board's Partnership Committee.

Following this update, DOJ representatives Julie Harrison, Director of Safer Communities and Michael McAvoy, Head of Interfaces, joined the meeting to discuss with Members the proposed amendments and wording and noted the following:

- Keen to emphasise that a top - down approach is not proposed, rather the development of a feedback loop is important; and
- Acknowledgement of the need to consider further conversations with PCSPs.

Members discussed:

- PCSP effectiveness, and the perception of some inconsistencies in approach by PCSPs;
- Whether there had been consideration of relevant sections of the Justice Act in the proposed rewording of the Strategic Priorities;
- References to Local Community Safety Forums in the draft revised wording;
- Need for local events to be meaningful;
- Whether PCPS provide funding or participation for the Community Safety Forums;
- The meaning of Co-Design as a term and the possibility of an alternative form of words for inclusion in the proposed revised Strategic Priority wording.

DOJ noted:

- There is a need to ensure that the knowledge held by PCSPs informs the work of bodies such as NIPB, and the Department;
- Terminology within the Justice Act relating to PCSPs has been fully considered in re-drafting of the Strategic Priorities;
- That it is routinely helpful to consider the Strategic Priorities
- PCSPs do not provide funding to Community Safety Forums, and those Forums only operate in certain areas, not all;
- The importance of a feedback loop to Joint Committee, which is mandated to govern PCSPs, and the need to recognise the ways in which Community engagement feeds policy and legislation; and
- Co-Design is a term which is used in a specific geographical area and would not be an appropriate term to use in a global context. As a concept, it should involve working with communities to deliver better service.

It was:-

AGREED

- DOJ will send the Community Safety Board's Terms of Reference to members **(AP4)**; and
- Correspondence will issue from the Chair to seek further information on Community Safety Forums (CSF) following the questions raised by Members in respect of this arrangement. **(AP5)**.

6.4 20th Anniversary Events – update

The Engagement Manager provided Members with an update on plans for an engagement event to mark the Board's 20th Anniversary which included:

- A special Board accountability session which is scheduled to take place on 4th November 2021 as this is date on which the Board was established;
- The session will be followed by a stakeholder event which Members, Officials and Senior PSNI Officers will attend;
- The Justice Minister has also been invited;
- A number of other options/locations for the event were considered but upon taking advice from DOJ Estates Services representatives, and in line with current Executive Office guidance, Board Officials have arranged for the event to take place in Committee Room 2 in Waterside Tower with appropriate covid-related measures in place.

NOTED

6.5 Draft Committee Programme of Work - November 2021 to February 2022

The Partnership Director provided Members with a draft of the Committee Programme of Work from Nov 2021 to February 2022 and an overview across the four business areas which Members had received in their papers. The Director sought Members views on this.

Members discussed:

- The reference to providing a further Update on the proposed revision of PCSP Strategic Priorities at the November Partnership Committee meeting.

It was:-

AGREED

- To revise this bullet point in the Programme of Work to note that this paper will seek to gain the approval of Partnership Committee for the wording of the PCSP Strategic Priorities in advance of bringing forward to Joint Committee **(AP 6)**

- The Programme of Work was otherwise accepted.

7. QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

NONE

8. Communications Issues/Opportunities

NONE

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 9.1** The Director of Partnership informed Members of one item for consideration under AOB regarding an invitation to attend the NILGA annual conference on 24th November 2021 and made reference to the flier which Members have access to on Decision Time. Members should let officials know should they wish to attend and this can be arranged. **NOTED**

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was agreed as 18 November 2021 at 2pm.

(Meeting closed at 5pm)

PARTNERSHIP DIRECTORATE

October 2021



Chairperson