

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

**MINUTES OF THE PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY
11 FEBRUARY 2016 AT 2.00 PM WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST**

PRESENT:

- Mrs Dolores Kelly (Chairperson)
- Professor Brice Dickson
- (4) Ms Caitriona Ruane
- (5) Mr Robin Newton
- Mr Ryan Feeney
- Ms Wendy Osborne
- (6) Ms Brenda Hale

PSNI IN ATTENDANCE

- (3) C/Supt Noble
- (2) Supt Singleton
- (2) 1 PSNI Official
- (2) 2 PSNI Officers

GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

- (1) Ms Maureen Treacy
- (1) Ms Melissa Wood
- (1) Mr Stewart Finn

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

- Mrs Siobhan Fisher (Acting Director of Partnership)
- 5 Board Officials

- (1) Item 5.1 only
- (2) Item 5.1 & 5.2
- (3) Item 5.2 only
- (4) Item 4.1 to close
- (5) Open to item 5.3
- (6) Items 5.1 – close (excluding items 6.1- 6.3)

1. APOLOGIES, ETC

Apologies for today's meeting were received from Ms Catherine Pollock, Mr Trevor Lunn and Mr Pat Sheehan.

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

2.1 DRAFT MINUTES OF PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 10 DECEMBER 2015

The Committee noted a Members request to have item 3.3 of the draft minutes amended to reflect that the PSNI Youth Volunteering Scheme is now the Youth Volunteer Academy. The Committee noted the Members request however were of the view that references to the PSNI Youth Volunteering Scheme were correct at the time of the meeting and that the minutes should not be amended.

Following discussion,

It was:

AGREED:

To approve the draft minutes of the Partnership Committee meeting held on 10 December 2015.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10 DECEMBER 2015

3.1 Update on Youth Volunteering Scheme (Item 3.3 of minutes refers)

The Committee noted correspondence received from the PSNI regarding the Youth Volunteering Scheme and that the name of the scheme had changed to the Youth Volunteer Academy. Officials advised that PSNI would be attending to discuss the Youth Volunteering Academy at agenda item 5.2.

3.2 Draft Policy on Police Property Fund (Item 3.8 of minutes refers)

Officials advised Members of an upcoming meeting of the sub-group to consider the draft policy on the Police Property Fund. Members noted that an update would be provided to the March meeting of the Partnership Committee. NOTED.

3.3 Briefing from Perceptive Insight – Interim findings on Confidence in Policing Research (Item 5.1 of minutes refers)

The Committee noted that Perceptive Insight would join the meeting at agenda item 5.1 to discuss their final report on Young People's Confidence in Policing research. NOTED.

3.4 Meeting with PCSP Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons (Item 5.2 of minutes refers)

The Committee noted correspondence issued to the PCSP Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons following their meeting with the Committee on 10 December 2015. NOTED.

3.5 Consultation on the Code of Practice for the Exercise of Functions for PCSPs and DPCSPs (Item 5.3 of minutes refers)

The Committee noted correspondence dated 11 January 2016 to the Department of Justice in response to the Consultation on the Code of Practice for the Exercise of Functions of PCSPs and DPCSPs. NOTED.

3.6 Terms of Reference for an Independent Evaluation of PSNI Policing with the Community delivery plan (Item 5.4 of minutes refers)

The Committee noted that a response is awaited regarding a request that PSNI Internal Auditors carry out an independent evaluation of the PSNI Policing with the Community Delivery Plan. Officials advised that the response would be brought to the Committee in due course.

3.7 Funding request for Truecall Devices (Item 5.6 of minutes refers)

The Committee noted that, as agreed at the 10 December 2015 Partnership Committee meeting, £3000 has been provided for the purchase of TrueCall devices. NOTED.

3.8 Overview of PCSP Training (Item 5.7 of minutes refers)

The Committee noted that correspondence at agenda item 3.4 included a request for recommendations/suggestions from PCSPs regarding training and how a higher uptake of training could be encouraged. NOTED.

3.9 RADAR Centre: PCSP Funding (Item 6.3 of minutes refers)

The Committee noted that correspondence at agenda item 3.4 also advised PCSPs of proposals in respect of the RADAR Centre. NOTED.

3.10 Update on PCSP Youth Engagement Activity (Item 6.4 of minutes refers)

Officials advised that a paper on PCSP Youth Engagement Activity would be considered at agenda item 5.3.

3.11 Questions to the Chief Constable (Item 7 of minutes refers)

The Committee noted the response received from the PSNI to the question submitted by the Partnership Committee for the 4 February 2016 Board meeting. Members were not satisfied with the PSNI's response regarding how the role of PCSPs and their interface with PSNI is covered in the new student officer training programme and following discussion, It was:

AGREED:

To issue a follow up question to the Chief Constable regarding the collaborative working relationship between the PSNI and PCSPs and how the PSNI ensures officers and staff understand the role and benefits of working with PCSPs.

4. CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS

4.1 Correspondence

The Committee noted correspondence received from the Minister of Justice regarding the Report of the Impartial Assessor on the Appointment of Independent Members to PCSP and DPCSPs.

The Committee also considered a letter of resignation to the PCSP Joint Committee received from an Independent PCSP Member. Members expressed concern at the issues raised and also discussed:

- Wider concerns previously raised by Independent PCSP Members regarding the format of PCSP meetings;
- The role and extent to which PSNI are engaging locally with PCSPs, and;

- Independent PCSP Member resignations to date and appointment panels convened to fill these positions.

Following discussion,

It was:

AGREED:

Officials would discuss the operation of the PCSP with the Council's Chief Executive Officer and provide an update to Members at a future meeting of the Partnership Committee.

4.2 Engagements

Officials provided the Committee with an update on the Policing with the Community Workshop and following discussion,

It was:

AGREED:

The PSNI's presentation to the Policing with the Community Workshop is circulated to all Board Members.

5. ITEMS FOR DECISION

5.1 Perceptive Insight Presentation

The Chairperson welcomed to the meeting Ms Maureen Treacy and Ms Melissa Wood of Perceptive Insight, Mr Stewart Finn (Youth Advisory Panel Member from Include Youth) and Supt Singleton with 2 PSNI colleagues.

Ms Treacy and Ms Wood were invited to present Perceptive Insight's final report to the Committee following the completion of their research regarding confidence levels of young people in the PSNI.

Ms Treacy provided a brief overview of the specific aims and objectives of the research followed by a summary of the key findings and areas of analysis including age, gender, community background, quintile of

deprivation and urban/rural location (*a copy of Perceptive Insight's Final Report is appended with these minutes*).

The Committee noted that the conclusions of the report were broadly positive, however acknowledged that certain groups including young males aged 16-18, those from a Catholic background, those from urban areas and participants from Quintile 1 continue to have a more negative view of policing.

Following the briefing from Perceptive Insight the Chairperson invited comment and discussion from the Committee, the PSNI and the Youth Advisory Panel representative. Areas of discussion included:

- How the issues highlighted in this report may be addressed in the upcoming Policing Plan;
- The need for more detailed information regarding the interactions with the PSNI of certain groups;
- Young people's social media interaction with the PSNI;
- How confidence levels are affected the level of interaction with the PSNI, and;
- How young people's confidence levels may affect future PSNI recruitment.

Officials also asked Members to note that the Board has contracted the Centre for Shared Education (Queens' University Belfast) to take forward focus groups and interviews in February 2016.

The Chairperson thanked all the guests in attendance at the presentation and they left the meeting. Following discussion,
It was:

AGREED:

- To issue to Partnership Committee Members a copy of the focus group and interview guide, and;

- To bring to a future meeting of the Partnership Committee a paper and recommendations to move forward following the completion of the focus group interviews.

5.2 Youth Volunteer Academy

The Chairperson welcomed C/Supt Chris Noble and his colleague to the meeting and invited them to update the Committee further to correspondence received from C/Supt Noble dated 6 January 2016.

The PSNI advised the Committee that as this is now a joint programme with the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service the name of the scheme has been agreed as the Youth Volunteering Academy. Members were advised that two of the three pilots (Newry and Ballymoney) are now up and running with the third in Belfast due to commence towards the end of February 2016.

Members were updated on the numbers and the age range of young people volunteering in each pilot and engagement with PCSPs and Councils in relation to the Youth Volunteer Academy and its sustainability of in the community.

In response to questions from Members the PSNI also commented further on:

- The partnership between the PSNI and the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service in the delivery of the Youth Volunteer Academy pilot schemes;
- Progress in respect of the branding to be used for the Youth Volunteer Academy;
- The external review to be carried out to evaluate and assess the pilot schemes and the review's terms of reference;
- The extent to which the young people participating have input in the Youth Volunteer Academy's syllabus, and;
- The inclusion of volunteering within local communities as an integral part of the programme.

The Chairperson thanked the PSNI for their attendance at the Committee and requested a further update be provided to a future meeting of the Partnership Committee.

5.3 PCSP Youth Engagement Pilots

The Committee considered a paper providing Members with an update on the pilot with 2 PCSPs to assess how PCSPs could develop their youth engagement programme of work in partnership with existing youth structures in their council areas or working with the TALK PCSP members.

Officials provided an update on the two pilots, one in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon PCSP working with TALK PCSP Members and one in North Belfast DPCSP working through their established relationships with the Education Authority and the youth council.

The Committee noted that findings so far indicate the model in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon PCSP made less progress than the model in North Belfast DPCSP. Members noted that officials will meet with PCSP Managers in March 2016 to discuss the outcome of the pilot and share good practice.

5.4 TALK Cross Border Strand

The Committee considered a paper advising Members of the plans in respect of the cross-border strand of the TALK programme. Members noted the itinerary and the engagements taking place with the TALK participants. Officials advised that Committee Members available on the specified dates would be welcome to join participants on the cross border strand of the TALK programme. One Member advised their availability to attend and,

It was:

AGREED:

To issue to participating Committee Members further information regarding the two day trip to Dublin for TALK participants.

5.5 PCSP Member/Staff Exemption from Jury Service

The Committee considered a paper seeking Members views on whether the Department of Justice should be asked to review the requirement for PCSP Members and staff to perform jury duty.

Officials updated Members on a specific case which led to the general question regarding PCSP Members/staff requirement to perform jury duty.

The Committee considered the role of the PCSP and considered the possible conflicts of interest which may be perceived in relation to PCSP Members. The Committee also noted the views of individual Members in relation to the broader question of who should/should not be eligible to be considered for jury duty. Following discussion,
It was:

AGREED:

Correspondence is issued to the Minister of Justice requesting a review of the requirement for PCSP Members/staff to perform jury duty.

6. INFORMATION PAPERS

6.1 PCSP Member Expenses Review

The Committee considered a paper providing Members with the proposed Terms of Reference for the review of PCSP Member expenses being commissioned by the Minister of Justice.

The Committee noted the issues relating to expense payments previously raised, including expenses claimed by those who attend meetings only for

a short while and also the disparity between Statutory Designated Members and Locally Designated Members in relation to expenses.

Other areas highlighted by Members included the tax implications of PCSP Members receiving a flat rate payment and the inclusion in the Terms of Reference that the successful provider may be required to attain security clearance. Following discussion,
It was:

AGREED:

Correspondence is issued to the Department of Justice providing the Committee's views and raising a Member's concern regarding the necessity of security clearance for the successful provider.

6.2 Update on Engagements regarding Policing Plan Strategic Objectives

The Committee noted a paper providing Members with an update on the Consultation on the Strategic Objectives for Policing 2016-2020. Officials advised that a response had been received from the Department of Justice and,
It was:

AGREED:

To issue to Partnership Committee Members the response received from the Department of Justice to the Strategic Objectives for Policing 2016-2020 consultation.

6.3 Correspondence from the Minister of Justice regarding Cross Border Policing Strategy

The Committee considered correspondence received from the Minister of Justice regarding the New Cross Border Policing Strategy. Members discussed the role of the Policing Board in relation to the Cross Border Policing Strategy and following discussion,
It was:

AGREED:

Officials will discuss the current position regarding the Cross Border Policing Strategy with Department of Justice officials and provide an update at a future meeting of the Partnership Committee.

6.4 Update on PSNI Continuous Improvement Projects 2015/16

The Committee noted a paper providing Members with updates on the PSNI's Policing with the Community and Review of Public Administration Continuous Improvement Projects.

A Member noted references in the PSNI's report to the establishment of a Culture and Ethics Committee and asked that further information on the work of this Committee be requested from the PSNI. Following discussion,

It was:

AGREED:

Correspondence is issued to the PSNI requesting the Membership and Terms of Reference for the PSNI Culture and Ethics Committee.

6.5 Partnership Committee Draft Programme of Work

The Committee noted the updated draft Programme of Work for Partnership Committee. NOTED.

7. QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

It was:-

AGREED:

A question is drafted from the Partnership Committee to the Chief Constable regarding the collaborative working relationship between the PSNI and PCSPs and how the PSNI ensures officers and staff understand the role and benefits of working with PCSPs.

8. COMMUNICATION ISSUES

It was:-

AGREED:

To recommend to the Board the publication on the Board's website of the Perceptive Insight Final Report on Young People's Confidence in Policing Research.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A Member requested an update regarding progress in respect of the Research Consortium Conference. Officials advised that information regarding the conference is awaited from the PSNI and an update would be provided at a future Partnership Committee meeting.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Partnership Committee will be held on Thursday 10 March 2016 at 2.00 pm.

(Meeting closed at 4.05pm)

BOARD SUPPORT

February 2016

Chairperson