

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

**MINUTES OF THE PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON
THURSDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2016 AT 9.30AM IN WATERSIDE TOWER,
BELFAST**

PRESENT:

- Mrs Wendy Osborne (Interim Vice-Chairperson)
- Ms Joanne Bunting
- (1) Prof Brice Dickson
- (2) Dr Stephen Farry
- (3) Ms Jennifer McCann
- Mr Raymond McCartney
- (4) Mr Nelson McCausland
- (5) Mrs Anne Connolly (Board Chairperson)
- (6) Ms Deborah Watters (Board Vice-Chairperson)
- (7) Mr Gerry Kelly

**POLICE SERVICE OF
NORTHERN IRELAND IN
ATTENDANCE:**

- (8) Mr Drew Harris, Deputy Chief Constable
- (9) Mr Stephen Martin, ACC District Policing Command
- (8) D/Chief Superintendent Barbara Gray
- (10) Superintendent Ryan Henderson
- (11) Ms Maura Muldoon

**OFFICIALS IN
ATTENDANCE:**

- Mrs Amanda Stewart, Chief Executive
- Mrs Paula Gow, T/Director of Partnership
- 4 Board Officials

- (1) Except part of item number 5.3
- (2) Part item number 4.2 to close
- (3) Part item number 3 to close
- (4) Part item number 5.1 to close
- (5) Part item number 5.1, 6.1, 6.2 & 6.3
- (6) Part item number 5.1, 6.1 & 6.2
- (7) Part item number 6.1 & part item number 6.2
- (8) Part item number 6.2
- (9) Part item numbers 6.1 & 6.3
- (10) Part item number 6.3
- (11) Part item number 6.1

1. APOLOGIES, ETC

Apologies were received from Ms Catherine Pollock (Vice-Chairperson) and Mr Ryan Feeney.

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

The Interim Vice-Chairperson welcomed Mrs Paula Gow to her first meeting of the Committee in her role as T/Director of Partnership.

2. DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING OF PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE HELD ON 26 JULY 2016

The Committee considered the draft minutes of the Partnership Committee meeting held on 26 July 2016.

It was:-

RESOLVED:

That the draft minutes of the Partnership Committee meeting held on 26 July 2016 be approved subject to the agreed amendments being made to agenda item 5.1, Fresh Start Independent Panel Report.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING

3.1 Timetable for the Development of the Annual Policing Plan (Item 3.5 of minutes refers)

Officials explained that a provisional date for a meeting between the Board and the PSNI Service Executive Team had been arranged for 24 October 2016 at 11.00am to update the Policing Plan year 2 2017/18. NOTED.

Members discussed the list of groups/organisations which the Board had consulted with regarding the Policing Plan and suggested that the list should be expanded to ensure representativeness.

Following discussion it was:-

AGREED:

That the membership and Term of Reference of the Strategic Consultation Group should be reviewed.

3.2 Chairpersons Business (Item 4 of minutes refers)

This matter was dealt with at item 5.4.

3.3 Fresh Start Independent Panel Report (Item 5.1 of minutes refers)

This matter was dealt with at item 6.2.

3.4 Board Engagement with PCSPs (Item 5.2 of minutes refers)

The Committee noted that a paper on the way forward in respect of engagement with PCSPs would be brought to a future meeting of the Partnership Committee. NOTED.

3.5 Update to the 2016/17 Policing Plan (Item 5.4 of minutes refers)

Officials advised the Committee that minutes of previous Strategic Consultation Group meetings had been circulated to Members. NOTED.

Arrangements for the PSNI to be invited to a future meeting of the Partnership Committee regarding Local Commander engagement and reporting to PCSPs would be progressed. NOTED.

3.6 TALK Programme (Item 5.4 of minutes refers)

The Committee noted a paper, tabled at the meeting, which outlined

the key points which had been raised at the TALK Programme Review Session on 13 September 2016. NOTED.

Members discussed the benefits of the TALK Programme and it was:-

AGREED:

That the Committee should be provided with a paper for consideration at the next meeting regarding options for a Talk 3 Programme and maximise the potential of how to support the existing participants in the TALK Programme who are all PCSP Members.

3.7 PCSP Vacancy at Antrim/Newtownabbey PCSP (Item 5.5 of minutes refers)

This matter was dealt with at item 5.2.

3.8 CJINI Anti-Social Behaviour Follow Up Review – June 2016 and Terms of Reference for the Policing Plan target ‘Anti-Social Behaviour’ (Items 6.1 and 6.2 of minutes refers)

This matter was dealt with at item 6.3.

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

The Committee noted responses to questions which the Committee had submitted to the Chief Constable regarding:-

- Engagement by Local Commanders with PCSP Policing Committees, specifically the frequency of the reports provided in respect of performance.
- Training for Police Officers in relation to Anti-Social Behaviour and day to day policing of Anti-Social Behaviour.
- PSNI understanding of current protocols in relation to engagement with paramilitary groups and their acceptance of

the underlying rationale in recommendation A8 of the Fresh Start Independent Panel Report.

NOTED.

4. CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS

4.1 Chairperson's Correspondence – Request from Men's Aid NI

The Committee considered a paper in relation to a request which had been received from the Men's Aid NI for a meeting with the Board to discuss social media posts relating to a Senior Police Officer to attract recruitment

Members discussed the request and it was:-

AGREED:

- That a meeting should be held with the Chair of Men's Aid.
- That Ms Joanne Bunting and Professor Brice Dickson should represent the Committee at the meeting.

4.2 Committee Members Feedback from PCSP Meetings

Members updated the Committee on PCSP meetings that they had attended since the last meeting of the Partnership Committee.

NOTED.

5 ITEMS FOR DECISION

5.1 Partnership Strategy

The Committee considered a paper which related to a draft Partnership Strategy which reflected amendments by the Partnership Committee at its meeting in March 2016.

During discussion Members suggested further amendments that should be made to the Strategy and it was:-

AGREED:

That the Partnership Strategy should be amended and a revised copy of the Strategy and supporting Implementation Plan should be brought to a future meeting of the Committee for consideration.

Members discussed how the Board could engage with other Criminal Justice partners and in particular the Judiciary and it was:

AGREED:

That an options paper should be brought to a future meeting of the Committee regarding engagement with other Criminal Justice partners including the Judiciary.

5.2 PCSP Vacancy at Antrim/Newtownabbey PCSP

The Committee noted a paper which provided Members with further information regarding the process to recruit PCSP Independent Members for vacancies in Antrim and Newtownabbey PCSP.

Members considered:-

- Advice which had been received from the Equality Commission on an approach to advertising for PCSP Independent Members.
- Correspondence from the Chair of Antrim and Newtownabbey PCSP regarding appointment of new Independent Members.

Following discussion it was:-

AGREED:

That Officials should proceed to recruit Independent Members for vacancies in Antrim and Newtownabbey PCSP.

Members noted a draft advertisement, tabled at the meeting, seeking Independent Members for Antrim and Newtownabbey PCSP.

5.3 Consideration of the removal of a PCSP Independent Member (Derry and Strabane)

Mr Raymond McCartney and Ms Jennifer McCann declared an interest in this case.

The Committee considered a paper which sought a decision from Members regarding the removal of an Independent Member from Derry and Strabane PCSP, under the Board's policy on the removal of PCSP/DPCSP Members.

Members noted that a formal complaint had been made by a Member of the public regarding comments which had been made on social media by the Independent PCSP Member.

Members discussed:-

- The removal of the Member from Derry and Strabane PCSP and noted that there were precedence created by similar cases for dealing with this case.
- The process which had been undertaken at previous meetings in relation to Members declaring an interest.

During discussion Ms Jennifer McCann withdrew her declaration of conflict of interest in the case and it was:-

AGREED:

That the Committee should be provided with a paper at the next meeting setting out information in relation to precedence regarding previous decisions by the Committee concerning the removal of Members from PCSPs and the process undertaken at Committee meetings when considering these cases.

5.4 Proposal for a Public Meeting on Anti-Social Behaviour

The Committee considered a paper regarding a proposal to hold a meeting in partnership with Belfast PCSP on the theme of anti-social behaviour.

Following discussion it was:-

AGREED:

That a public meeting in partnership with Belfast PCSP should be held on 19 October 2016 in Belfast City Hall on the theme of anti-social behaviour.

5.5 Summary of Research on Young People's Confidence in Policing

The Committee noted a paper regarding the findings of research into the confidence levels in policing amongst young people within Northern Ireland and provided Members with an overview of the findings of both the Perceptive Insight Research Study, and subsequent focus groups conducted by the Queen's University Belfast Centre for Shared Education. NOTED.

5.6 Request to support Peace IV Hate Crime Project

The Committee considered a paper which sought a decision from Members regarding a request to support a Peace IV Hate Crime Project. Current partners include the Northern Ireland Probation Board and the Department of Justice (DOJ) Community Safety

Division. NIACRO were seeking the Board's permission to cite the Board in the initial submission as a partner organisation.

Members considered the request and it was:-

AGREED:

That the Board should be cited as a partner in the Peace IV Hate Crime Project initial submission.

6. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

6.1 Paper to support PSNI presentation on Measuring Young People's Confidence in Policing

The Committee noted a paper which provided Members with information regarding measuring young people's confidence in Policing. NOTED.

Members discussed issues to be raised with PSNI.

The Interim Vice-Chairperson welcomed Mr Stephen Martin, Assistant Chief Constable, District Policing Command and Ms Maura Muldoon to the meeting.

The representatives from PSNI briefed the Committee on measuring young people's confidence in Policing and outlined details of six areas across Northern Ireland where confidence in Policing was low where PSNI were proposing to conduct qualitative research.

During discussion the following main points were discussed with PSNI:-

- Work which had been carried out by a Researcher in the Rathcoole area in conjunction with PSNI to identify drivers for confidence.

- Details of funding that had been made available by the Cross-Departmental Programme Board to fund a further Policing with the Community bid to the amount of £114k for 2016/17.
- The six areas across Northern Ireland where confidence in Policing was low where PSNI are proposing to conduct qualitative research. (and the four District Electoral Areas proposed by PSNI to carry out research into anti-social behaviour).
- Development of a tool to measure confidence in policing.
- The timescale for carrying out qualitative research into young people's confidence in Policing.
- Engagement with participants of the TALK Programme who represent PCSPs regarding young people's confidence in policing.
- How PSNI will involve the Local Commander.
- How the research will look at existing interventions/activities in the areas and what could potentially be improved.
- A research project being undertaken by Deloitte regarding the barriers for individuals when considering joining the PSNI.

In conclusion it was:-

AGREED:

- That PSNI should carry out qualitative research in the six areas across Northern Ireland where confidence in Policing was low for both adults and young people which are both measures in the 2016/17 Policing Plan.
- That PSNI should provide details of the methodology to be used for the qualitative research for consideration at the November 2016 Committee meeting.

The Interim Vice-Chairperson thanked Mr Stephen Martin, Assistant Chief Constable, District Policing Command and Ms Maura Muldoon for attending the meeting and they left.

6.2 Paper to support PSNI presentation on the Fresh Start Independent Panel Report Recommendations

The Committee noted a paper which set out Members initial views in relation to the recommendations for the Board in the Fresh Start Panel Report on the Disbandment of Paramilitary Groups in Northern Ireland. NOTED.

The Interim Vice-Chairperson welcomed Mr Drew Harris, Deputy Chief Constable and D/Chief Superintendent Barbara Gray to the meeting.

The representatives from PSNI briefed the Committee on actions to support recommendations in the Fresh Start Independent Panel Report and commented on the relationship and overlap between various initiatives such as the Fresh Start Panel Report, the cross jurisdictional Cross Border Task Force and the Organised Crime Task Force.

During discussion the following main points were discussed with PSNI:-

- The provision of funding to take forward the recommendations in the Fresh Start Panel Report.
- A Planning Design Day which is scheduled to take place on 27 September 2016 to discuss funding to take forward the recommendations in the report. The Board and PSNI would be represented at this Event along with various Departments and Organisations.
- The transfer of Police Officers from other duties to carry out work arising from recommendations in the Fresh Start Panel Report.

- The Executive Office action plan which includes a series of actions which the Executive would take forward in conjunction with local communities.
- The resourcing and operation of policing in communities most vulnerable to criminal control.
- Review of protocols for engaging with representatives of Paramilitary Groups.
- Police Commanders engagement with Paramilitary Groups.
- How NCA are involved in dealing with paramilitary activity.

The Interim Vice-Chairperson thanked D/Chief Superintendent Barbara Gray for attending the meeting and she left.

In response to questions from Members the Deputy Chief Constable advised the Committee about the remit of a research project being undertaken by Deloitte regarding the barriers for individuals when considering joining the PSNI.

The Interim Vice-Chairperson thanked the Deputy Chief Constable for attending the meeting and he left.

6.3 Paper to support PSNI presentation on Anti-Social Behaviour

The Committee noted a paper regarding the implementation of the recommendations in the report relating to the 2015/16 Policing Plan target against anti-social behaviour; and how these recommendations would support progress against the target for anti-social behaviour in the 2016/17 Policing Plan. NOTED.

The Committee also noted documents, tabled at the meeting, regarding an anti-social behaviour project and strategic outcomes for the Chief Constable relating to reducing harm caused by crime and anti-social behaviour with a focus on protecting the most vulnerable.

The Interim Vice-Chairperson welcomed Mr Stephen Martin, Assistant Chief Constable, District Policing Command back to the meeting and Superintendent Ryan Henderson.

The representatives from PSNI briefed the Committee on a report on tackling anti-social behaviour and how the recommendations in the report would support progress against the target for anti-social behaviour in the 2016/17 Policing Plan.

During the briefing the representatives from PSNI outlined details of 4 locations for siting an action research project to target anti-social behaviour.

During discussion Members complimented Superintendent Henderson on producing the report and discussed the following main points:-

- The Board and PSNI continuing to work together to develop evidence based performance regime for assessing how PSNI tackle anti-social behaviour.
- The service which PSNI provide to members of the public who complain about anti-social behaviour in their area.
- The six areas across Northern Ireland where confidence in Policing was low where PSNI are proposing to conduct qualitative research and the four District Electoral Areas proposed by PSNI to carry out research on anti-social behaviour.
- Collaborative working.
- Recommendations 2, 7 and 8 in the report, which the PSNI asked for the Board's support.

It was:-

AGREED:

That PSNI should carry out an action research project to target anti-social behaviour in the four locations identified together with Falls and Glencairn wards.

The Interim Vice-Chair referred to a public meeting which the Board would be holding in partnership with Belfast PCSP on 19 October 2016 on the theme of anti-social behaviour and it was:-

AGREED:

That a Workshop should be held with PSNI in advance of the meeting to discuss the issue further.

The Interim Vice-Chairperson thanked Mr Stephen Martin, Assistant Chief Constable, District Policing Command and Superintendent Ryan Henderson for attending the meeting and they left.

6.4 Engagement with Local Bodies by PCSPs

The Committee noted a paper which provided Members with information about the Bodies that PCSPs engage with at a Council level. NOTED.

7. QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

It was:-

AGREED:

That a question should be drafted to ask the Chief Constable at the next Board meeting in relation to the Deloitte review regarding barriers to recruitment to PSNI.

8. COMMUNICATION ISSUES

There were no communication issues arising from the meeting.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business for discussion.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Committee agreed that the next meeting should take place on 20 October 2016 at 9.30am.

(Meeting closed at 1.55 pm)

BOARD SUPPORT

September 2016

Chairperson