

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

MINUTES OF THE PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY

13 DECEMBER 2016 AT 9.45AM WATERSIDE TOWER, BELFAST

PRESENT:

Mr Nelson McCausland (Chairperson)
Ms Roisin McGlone (Vice-Chairperson)
(4) Mr Gerry Kelly
Mr Keith Buchanan
Dr Paul Nolan
Ms Debbie Watters (Board Vice-Chairperson)
(3) Mrs Anne Connolly (Board Chairperson)

CJINI IN ATTENDANCE

(1) Mr Brendan McGuigan (Chief Inspector of CJINI)
(1) Mr Bill Priestley

PSNI IN ATTENDANCE

(2) D/Ch/Supt George Clarke
(2) D/Ch/Insp Stephen Wilson

**BOARD'S HUMAN RIGHTS
ADVISOR**

Ms Alyson Kilpatrick

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

(3) Mrs Amanda Stewart (Chief Executive Officer)
Ms Jenny Passmore (Temporary Director of Policy)
2 Board Officials

- (1) Item 3.1 only
- (2) Item 3.2 only
- (3) Item 3.1 to close
- (4) Open to item 3.2

1. APOLOGIES, ETC

Apologies for the meeting were received from Professor Brice Dickson, Mr Raymond McCartney and Ms Deirdre Toner.

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

2. MATTER ARISING FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 8 DECEMBER 2016

2.1 Committee for Justice Review of the need for Stalking Legislation on Northern Ireland

The Committee considered correspondence from the Committee for Justice in relation to a review of the need for stalking legislation in Northern Ireland and discussed a revised draft response which incorporated the views expressed by Members at the 8 December 2016 Performance Committee meeting. Following discussion, It was:-

AGREED:

The response regarding the review of the need for stalking legislation in Northern Ireland is issued to the Committee for Justice.

3. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

3.1 CJINI briefing on the Inspection of the arrangements in place in the PSNI to manage and disclose information in support of the Coronial Process in Northern Ireland

The Committee considered a paper providing Members with background information and the key findings from the Criminal Justice Inspection of the arrangements in place in the PSNI to manage and disclose information in support of the Coronial process in Northern Ireland. Members were also provided with a full copy of the inspection report.

The Chairperson welcomed Mr Brendan McGuigan and Mr Bill Priestley of CJINI to the meeting and invited them brief the Committee on the key findings of their inspection. Mr McGuigan outlined to Members the Terms of Reference for the inspection and also its scope which focused on the the processes within the PSNI and Crown Solicitors Office in relation to the disclosure of material to the Coroner rather than investigating individual cases. Other aspects discussed by CJINI included the complexity of the system which has developed, the work already carried

out by the Lord Chief Justice and Mr Justice Weir and the classification of documents held by the PSNI.

The Committee noted the seven recommendations included in the inspection report and following Mr McGuigan's comments, Members also discussed with CJINI:

- The risk averse nature of the current process;
- Whether or not legislative change is needed to support improvements to the process;
- The role of Coroners counsel in reviewing and determining the relevance of discovered material;
- The adversarial instead of inquisitorial nature of the Coroners Court in relation to legacy inquests;
- The need for back record conversion of PSNI files as soon as possible, and;
- Resources issues relating to the implementation of the recommendations included in the inspection report.

The Chairperson thanked Mr McGuigan and Mr Priestley and they left the meeting.

The Committee was of the view that before considering the report further it would be necessary to seek the PSNI's response to the inspection report and receive a detailed action plan with regard to the implementation of the recommendations included in the report. Following discussion,

It was:-

AGREED:

Correspondence is issued to the PSNI inviting them to the February 2017 meeting of the Performance Committee and requesting a written response outlining their position in relation to the recommendations included in the CJINI Inspection Report on the arrangements in place in the PSNI to manage and disclose information in support of the Coronial process in Northern Ireland

3.2 Briefing from PSNI's Public Protection Unit

The Chairperson welcomed Detective Chief Superintendent Clarke and Detective Chief Inspector Wilson to the meeting and invited them to brief the Committee on the work of the Public Protection Unit and specifically regarding the work of the Child Internet Protection Team.

Detective Chief Superintendent Clarke introduced the work of the Public Protection Unit (PPU) and provided a breakdown of the structure and various work streams which make up the PPU including the Rape Crime Unit, Domestic Abuse Unit, Central Referral Unit and work regarding Child Sexual Exploitation and offender management. He also discussed with Members the upward trend in reporting particularly the impact of historic abuse allegations on the work of the PPU. He further provided an overview of the work of the PPU in relation to identifying and safeguarding children and ongoing work with the Safeguarding Board on Northern Ireland (SBNI) in respect of education initiatives.

In response to questions from Committee Members the PSNI also discussed:

- Training provided to officers in the constantly evolving internet environment;
- The role of the NCA in supporting the PSNI in this area and the PSNI's relationship with other police forces such as the An Garda Siochana;
- Early intervention work conducted by the PSNI, and;
- Support and resilience training for officers working with images of child sexual abuse and exploitation.

The Chairperson thanked the PSNI and they left the meeting.

Following discussion,

It was:-

AGREED:

To bring to a future meeting of the Performance Committee the training and education package currently being developed in partnership by the PSNI and SBNI.

4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No further business was conducted.

5. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Performance Committee will be held on Thursday 9 February 2017 at 9.30am.

(Meeting closed at 12:30pm)

BOARD SUPPORT

December 2016

Chairperson