LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

Private Meeting of the Policing and Community Safety Partnership held at Lagan Valley Island, in the Council Chamber and via Zoom, on Monday 15 December 2025 at 6.37 pm

PRESENT:
Councillor A Martin (Chairperson)
Councillor C Kemp
Councillor J Laverty
Councillor M McKeever
Councillor T Mitchell
Mr D Cairns
Mr B Corr
Mrs Y Craig
Mr D Drysdale
Mr G McClory

PRESENT IN A REMOTE LOCATION:
Councillor S Lowry
Mr N Anderson
Mrs A Playford
Mr G Walker

IN ATTENDANCE:

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

PCSP Officer (JB)
Head of Communities and Wellbeing (VJ)
Community Planning Manager (PT)
PCSP Assistant (AB)
Member Services Officers (EW and FA)

Designated Organisations

Superintendent K Moore, PSNI
Chief Inspector M Rocks, PSNI
Mr J Crymble, EA
Ms C Cullen, YJA
Mr F Dubois, NIFRS via Zoom
Mr C Stitt (NIHE)
Mr P Beck (PBNI) via Zoom

Commencement of the Meeting

The Chairperson, Councillor A Martin, welcomed everyone to the private meeting of the PCSP. He also extended a warm welcome to Joanne Davidson from the Department of Justice (DoJ)

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1. Apologies

Apologies were accepted on behalf of Councillors J Gallen, A Givan, B Higginson and D Lynch.

2. Declarations of Interest

During the course of the meeting Mr G McClory declared an interest in Item 6 Applications for Funding Under £500 of the PCSP Officer's report in respect of Lisburn Feile.

3. Minutes

Superintendent K Moore asked that a change be made to the minutes of the PCSP Private Policing Committee Meeting held on 18 November 2025 – 'complaints against police down by 50% in the area of incivility'.

It was proposed by Councillor J Laverty, seconded by Mr G McClory, and agreed that the minutes of the Private Meeting held on 16 September 2025, minutes of the Public Themed Meeting held on 21 October 2025, and the minutes of the PCSP Private Policing Committee Meeting held on 18 November 2025 be adopted.

4. Update from Statutory Partners

The following representatives from the statutory organisations provided updates on the work of their respective organisations with regards to their community safety priorities:

4.1 PSNI Update

Superintendent K Moore provided an update on 'Op Season's Greetings' with the focus being on safer roads, safer shopping and safer socialising with increased foot patrols in retail centres and additional vehicle checkpoints across the district.

Superintendent Moore then went on to report that there had been 37 arrests made for drink/drug related driving offences in the last three months.

During her update, Superintendent K Moore, stated that the Safer Business Action week was held from 10th – 14th November, a Business Brunch for local retailers was also held and had a good turnout. Safe Shop Scheme, Business Watch and Text Alert are all going well. A new Selecta DNA product has been launched to help protect stock and reduce theft in the retail business.

There has been a 9% crime reduction in the district, a reduction in reported hate crime, unfortunately a slight increase in serious injury collisions.

PSNI representative on the Northern Ireland Road Safety Partnership who would like to attend a future PCSP meeting and make a presentation giving an overview of who they are and how they get their information and how they are deployed and give feedback.

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4.1 PSNI Update (Cont'd)

Monthly crime figures show an overall reduction in theft by almost 20% and burglaries by almost 30%.

Superintendent Moore then went on to say the PSNI would be keen to get feedback on stop and search statistics which had just been released and invited Members to have a look and provide feedback and put forward any questions they may have.

Superintendent Moore relayed apologies for the next meeting in January for herself and Chief Inspector Megan Rocks, and said that Chief Inspector Atkinson would be in attendance.

Questions to the PSNI

In response to queries from Members, Chief Inspector Megan Rocks confirmed that the stop and search statistics could be found on the PSNI website. She also stated that the report gave a breakdown for each district area.

Mr D Drysdale congratulated the PSNI on the recent burglary statistics.

4.2 Mr F Dubois, NIFRS

Mr Dubois provided an update as follows:

- A total of 107 fire safety checks carried out within the council area.
- Most of the schools' P5 fire safety talks have been covered.
- Five Fire Safety Week events carried out, which included fire safety aspects on electronic devices and charging use, cooking, smoke alarms, escape plans and alcohol consumption
- Up to mid-October there were 10 fatal fire incidents across the province.
- In November there was a Road Safety Week.
- Up to November there were 44 fatalities and 139 rescues.
- Two seasonal fire safety weeks, one in the run-up to Hallowe'en and there were 53 incidents, several relating to bonfires and fireworks
- Christmas Safety Campaign focused on electrics, cooking, candles and reinforcing the message to remain vigilant.
- In the last quarter there were 460 response incidents in the Lisburn and Castlereagh area
- Four fatal fires and one fatal road traffic collision, including two fatal fires in the Lisburn area.

Mr Dubois wished to convey his condolences to the families involved in the fatalities and also expressed his thanks to the fire crews attending for their professionalism at what was a very difficult time.

Questions to the NIFRS

In response to a query from Mr D Drysdale, Mr F Dubois stated that the best way to try and avoid fires in the home was to reiterate the safety messages at every

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4.2 NIFRS Update (Cont'd)

opportunity. Mr J Bingham agreed with this and stated that the PCSP always invited the NIFRS to any events held and would continue to do so.

Mrs A Playford wanted it to be put on record her thanks to the Fire Service who attended an incident the previous evening which involved a friend of hers and also thanks to the NIFRS for everything they do.

4.3 Mr J Crymble, Education Authority

Mr J Crymble provided an update as follows:

- A key highlight during this period was the Christmas Fair, which was planned and delivered by young people through their youth centre. The event attracted a strong turnout and raised £1,200 for two charities selected by the young people, demonstrating effective leadership, teamwork and social responsibility.
- Target work included intensive group-based engagement with a small cohort of young men in the Ballybeen area. The programme focused on themes around young men and violence, including behaviour, decision making and personal responsibility. The relationship led approach supported early intervention and constructive challenge within a safe and structured setting.
- Leadership development continued through the Horizons Leadership programme. A number of residentials were delivered during the quarter, including two with a peer leadership focus. These residentials supported young people to develop confidence and leadership skills while working towards accredited outcomes.
- During the quarter, youth work delivery across Lisburn and Castlereagh had focused on a combination of universal provision and targeted intervention in response to identified local need.
- Universal delivery through youth centres had prioritised the provision of safe, warm and welcoming spaces for young people, particularly during the winter period. These centres provided consistent, supervised environments where young people engaged positively, accessed support and spent time safely during evenings and weekends, contributing to wellbeing and community safety.
- Local Area Based funding notifications through the Education Authority had been issued, with all awards across the Lisburn and Castlereagh area confirmed, providing short term clarity for delivery, however, there is currently no confirmed budget for the 2026 to 2027 financial year, and continuation of the programmes outlined will be dependent on future funding decisions.
- Overall, delivery during the quarter had demonstrated the value of accessible youth provision, targeted intervention and leadership development in supporting young people and contributing positively to community safety outcomes across Lisburn and Castlereagh.

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Questions to the Education Authority

In response to a query from Councillor S Lowry, Mr J Crymble confirmed that the Horizons programme was being rolled out throughout Northern Ireland and that he hoped to have a similar programme in the Lisburn area in the near future.

Councillor J Laverty stated that it would be good to be notified of all events taking place within the Education Authority and also for the other bodies too.

4.4 Update from the Probation Board NI (PBNI) – Mr P Beck

Mr P Beck provided an update on Staffing, Community Service and Key Themes as follows:

Staffing

- Lisburn remains fully staffed with seven social work qualified probation officers.
- Recently ran a recruitment drive for recently qualified social workers from the Open University which was successful and a waiting list was compiled.

Community Services

- Always looking for more projects to be involved in and welcome ideas/suggestions.
- Lagan towpath remains a regular task for the CS squad, out litter picking.
- Maintained a recent placement with Maghaberry Community Centre, working at general maintenance and in poly tunnels.
- PBNI recently held a Christmas Community Service event to thank staff and partners in North Belfast.

Key Themes

- Housing, and increase in release from custody with no fixed abode.
- Domestic Abuse Campaign:
    - Mandatory training has been delivered to all staff in probation on recognising and responding to domestic or sexual abuse delivered by Onus.
    - Half of the staff received training in respect of ‘animal abuse as a strategy of coercive control’.
    - Operational staff in probation have been trained to understand how domestic abuse can escalate through Dr Jane Monckton Smith’s eight stage homicide timeline.
    - Probation operates a number of programmes which aim to tackle domestic abuse. In a group setting skilled programmes staff challenge behaviours and hold perpetrators to account.
    - Promoting Positive Relationships Programme (PRRP).
    - As part of this programme probation provide funding to Women’s Aid to provide Partner Support Workers (PSW). The PSW supports the partner/ex-partner of the man attending the intervention.
    - Probation has signed up to the White Ribbon Charter which pledges to never commit, condone or remain silent about violence against women and girls.

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4.5 Update from the Youth Justice Agency (YJA) - Ms C Cullen

Ms C Cullen reported that all staff are in the process of updating their Safeguarding training. 'Expert by Experience' is being developed, which involves a young person who has been through the justice system to come back to give practical guidance on what was helpful and provide an insight into ongoing issues and help develop guidance strategies.

In January changes will be made to the Children's Diversion Forum (CDF), which is a multi-agency forum specifically geared towards early-stage diversion and referrals come in through the police, social services and education welfare agencies. The changes will make the referral process more straightforward. Some staff have also received Y-Box training.

Questions to the Youth Justice Agency

In response to a query from Councillor M McKeever, Ms C Cullen stated that in order to take part in the 'Expert by Experience' programme young people have to be totally free from the justice system.

In response to a query from Mr D Drysdale, Ms C Cullen advised that every organisation must have a Safeguarding policy in place and that Access NI checks would also be carried out.

Mrs Y Craig thanked the Youth Justice Agency for the work that they do, and commented that she thought it would be as good idea if all organisations had a passport for Access NI which would be more cost effective rather than having to apply individually. In response, Mr J Crymble advised that all organisations, whether business, charitable or statutory bodies, had to have in place their own policies and procedures. He also stated that voluntary organisations received free Access NI and only businesses and statutory organisations pay for Access NI. He also stated that Access NI was only live at the time of processing.

In response to a query from Mr D Drysdale, Superintendent K Moore, advised that Access NI clearance did come through the police, and unfortunately it did take some time to process, which was mainly due to resources.

4.6 Mr C Stitt, NIHE

Mr C Stitt provided an update as follows:

ASB

- No new cases in the past month.
- 29 ASB cases reported from 1st April 2025.
- Strong belief that ASB is under-reported.
- Beechland – ASB issues have reduced significantly – thanks to the PSNI for their support in managing this difficult situation.

Stakeholder Engagement

- Continue to work closely with PSNI and Lisburn SAFE to address ASB issues.

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4.6 NIHE Update (Cont'd)

- Regular PSNI liaison meetings in Lisburn Office and Dundonald Office – strong working relationship/good communication channels.

Christmas Period

- Office opening hours:
  - Office closed to the public on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and Boxing Day.
  - Office opens again on Monday 29th December and will only be closed to the public on Thursday 1st January 2026.
  - Out of Hours/Emergency Services Team will be operating throughout the Christmas period.
- Staffing
  - Reduced staffing numbers – no impact on the service delivery.
  - New Maintenance Manager appointed – Chris Devenney.
  - New Good Relations Officer (GRO) in place – Jeanette Graham.
    - Working closely with Community Groups to complete funding applications.
    - May have met some local councillors at some of our recent Inter-Agency meetings.
- Homeless/Rough Sleepers
  - Please can you advise NIHE if you become aware of any Rough Sleepers in the lead-up to Christmas.
  - We are keeping a register to ensure that each individual is being provided with the necessary support over the Christmas period.

Business Update

- Response Maintenance
  - Significant backlogs still exist – reducing slowly.
  - Challenging environment – lack of skilled operatives in the sector. Increasing cost of materials.
- Planned Maintenance (Schemes)
  - Healthy Programme – feedback re scheme delivery, performance etc extremely good.

AOB

- Pleased to be informed that the Housing Liaison Forum has re-commenced.
  - Look forward to participating with the Group (Local Councillors and Housing Providers) in the new year – Next meeting scheduled for 14th January 2026.

Questions to the Housing Executive

Councillor M McKeever commented that one of his siblings had recently undergone a recruitment process with the Housing Executive and got an apprenticeship for training in order to get back to work, and asked if there was a similar programme in the Lisburn and Castlereagh area. In response, Mr Stitt stated that there was a programme linked to Direct Labour Force which is

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Questions to the Housing Executive (Cont'd)

now called Housing Executive Direct, but unfortunately it is not available in the Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council area, however people in the council area can apply but wouldn't be operating with the council area.

Mr D Drysdale asked what the position was regarding housing stock in the Ballybeen area, to which Mr Stitt replied that while there was still a sizeable amount of stock within the Ballybeen area but the waiting list was increasing all the time and to be re-housed in the area a sizeable amount of points was required.

5. Report of the PCSP Officer

5.1 PCSP Draft Action Plan 2026/27

The PCSP Officer delivered this report which the Partnership had already been furnished with.

In response to comments made by Mr N Anderson, the PCSP Officer agreed that hate crime was an area of concern and stated that the PCSP provide funding to various organisations to help combat hate crime.

In response to a comment from Councillor J Laverty, the PCSP Officer agreed to contact the Street Pastors and make them aware of the Support Hub where they could get help from the various organisations and as long as there was written consent from a cohort they could be recommended to join the Support Hub.

The Partnership agreed to the Draft Action Plan for 2026/27.

5.2 Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG)

The PCSP Officer set out in his report information regarding the above funding.

Mr B Corr asked that if there was anything specific in Schedule 1 Momentum Funding to address young men to challenge their behaviour and if there was anything to prioritise this within the Change Funding. In response the PCSP Officer advised that there was a number of campaigns, namely the PSNI's 'Power to Change' and 'Power to Challenge' to help combat this.

The Partnership agreed to note this item of the PCSP Officer's report.

5.3 Participatory Budgeting (Grand Choice) Update

Members noted an update in respect of the Downshire East DEA Grand Choice initiative that had taken place on 18 October. It was further noted that the next tranche of Grand Choice in the Lisburn South DEA would be open for applications from 12 January – 8 February, 2026. The Market Place event would take place on 21 March 2026 at Elmwood Presbyterian Church Hall, Ballymacash, Lisburn.

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5.4 Rapid Disposal Drugs Bins

The PCSP Officer reported that there are currently five rapid bins installed across Lisburn and Castlereagh, and that there are plans to install a further two bins at Ballymacash Community Centre, Lisburn and Ulster Hospital, Dundonald.

The PCSP Officer also advised that ASCERT had offered to come to a future meeting of the PCSP to deliver a report on the Rapid Disposal Drugs Bins.

The Partnership agreed to note this item of the PCSP Officer's report.

5.5 Applications for Funding over £500

The PCSP Officer outlined the detail of each of the below projects and the Partnership agreed that the following two applications for funding be approved.

Group	**Project**	**Amount**	**Appendix**
One Stop Shops	To provide One Stop Shops in Lisburn & Ballybeen between November 2025 and March 2026 in partnership with PSNI, Women's Aid, NIHE	£1,710.00	**Appendix 5**
Road Safe NI	To provide Street Smart Booklets for Post Primary students across Lisburn & Castlereagh	£1,000.00	**Appendix 6**

5.6 Applications for Funding under £500

The PCSP Officer outlined the detail of each of the undernoted projects, it was agreed by the Partnership that the applications for funding be approved.

Group	Project	Amount Requested
Lisburn Feile	Inter-Generational Community Cohesion Event – 5 De4ember 2025	£500
Lisnagarvey High School	Dangers of Drug Taking Presentation by Theresa Burke – 14 November 2025	£140
PSNI & Women's Aid	Information evening with children residing in the Women's Refuse, Lisburn- 16 December 2025	£250
PSNI & Seymourhill & Conway CA	Diversionary Project (Football Tournament) @ Seymourhill – 28-29 December 2025`	£500
Hillsborough Working Together	Marshall Training for various parades in the Hillsborough area including loyal orders, church and community organisations	£500

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5.7 Forthcoming Events

Members noted the following forthcoming events and were asked to attend where possible:

Date and Time	Event	Venue
12 January 2026	Launch of Grand Choice for Lisburn South	Lagan Valley Island, Lisburn
20 January 2026 6.30pm	PCSP Private Meeting	Lagan Valley Island, Lisburn
22 January 2026 9.30am	PCSP Road Safety Subgroup	Lagan Valley Island, Lisburn
17 February 2026 6.30pm	PCSP Private Meeting	Lagan Valley Island, Lisburn
26 February 2026 6pm	Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators Evening (Lisburn)	Lagan Valley Island, Lisburn
4 March 2026 6pm	Neighbourhood Co-ordinators Evening (Castlereagh)	Ivanhoe Hotel, Saintfield Road, Carryduff
6 March 2026 2pm – Post Primary School 8pm – Public Showing	'Wasted' – Two plays highlighting issues of EVAWG	Arts Studio, Lagan Valley Island, Lisburn
19 March 2026 7pm	PCSP Public Themed Meeting (EVAWG)	Elmwood Presbyterian Church Hall, Ballymacash, Lisburn

The Chair, Councillor A Martin, encouraged all PCSP Members to promote and attend all these events where possible.

6. Any Other Business

6.1 Applications for Funding under £500
Mr B Corr

In response to comments from Mr B Corr regarding the applications for funding under £500, the PCSP Officer advised that some of the applications came in before a PCSP meeting and therefore verbally agreed by the Chair, but stated that if the Partnership wished to see all the applications, that these could be added to the report.

Following a lengthy discussion with regards to the applications for funding under £500 to be included in the report, a vote was taken, with the result being 2 abstaining, 1 in favour and 7 against.

Mr G McClory proposed that the applications were sent to both the Chair and Vice-Chair to approve, this was agreed by the Partnership.

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6.1 Applications for Funding under £500 (Cont'd)
Mr B Corr

The Chair, Councillor A Martin proposed that a report on this matter be brought to the January committee, this was agreed by the Partnership.

It was proposed by Councillor C Kemp, seconded by Mr G McClory, and agreed to accept the PCSP Officer's report.

The Chair wished everyone a very Happy Christmas.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 8.48 pm.

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Chairperson

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