

LISBURN AND CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

**Public Themed Meeting of the Policing and Community Safety Partnership,
held in Laurelhill Youth Centre, Laurel Hill Road, Lisburn, on Tuesday 21
October 2025 at 7.00 pm**

PRESENT: Councillor A Martin (Chairperson)
Mr D Cairns
Mr B Corr
Mr D Drysdale
Councillor B Higginson
Councillor C Kemp
Councillor J Lavery BEM
Mr G McClory
Councillor M McKeever
Councillor T Mitchell
Mrs A Playford
Mr G Walker

IN ATTENDANCE: PCSP Officer (JB)
Member Services Officer (EW)
PCSP Assistant (AB)

Designated Organisations

Superintendent K Moore, PSNI
Chief Inspector M Rocks, PSNI
Sergeant Shelley Regan, PSNI
Constable Matt Lavery, PSNI
Ms Linda Clarke, Youth Diversion Officer, PSNI|
Mr J Crymble, EA
G Parker, NIFRS
Ms C Cullan, YJA
Ms Natasha Todd, YJA

Commencement of the Meeting

The Chairperson, Councillor A Martin, welcomed those present to the Public Themed Meeting on 'Keeping Yourself Safe' and extended a warm welcome to all the young people attending with their leaders and thanked the following groups – Resurgam Youth, Lisburn YMCA and EA Youth. He extended thanks to the PSNI, Education Authority and the Youth Justice Agency for providing staff for the workshops, which would cover Vaping and Spice; Intimate Pictures and Choices and Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG); Challenging Stereotypes of Young People, Fireworks and E-Scooters; and Consequences of Actions within the Criminal Justice System.

The Chair also extended a warm welcome to Patrick Nelson from the Northern Ireland Policing Board (NIPB) and hoped he would find the event interesting. He also thanked the Education Authority for the use of the facilities at Laurel Hill Youth Centre.

Councillor A Martin (Cont'd)

The Chair stated that the evening would conclude with pizza for everyone. He then invited Johnny Crymble from EA Youth Services to outline the evening's agenda.

It was noted that an apology had been submitted by Councillor J Gallen.

Johnny Crymble introduced himself as a senior youth officer responsible for the youth services across Lisburn and Castlereagh and Ards and North Down. He then went on to explain that the meeting was about hearing from young people, their experiences, ideas and priorities when it came to safety. Johnny stated that feeling safe was not just about policing or enforcement, it was about community spaces, relationships, online life, and opportunities for young people to have a voice. He then explained that there would be rotating group workshops and proceeded to divide the young people present into three groups.

Lisburn YMCA

Group One – Vaping and Spice

- Understanding vaping as a mechanism for substance use
- Understanding what spice is as relates to other drugs
- Spice vs spicy challenge – comparing spice to hot sauce as an analogy to better understand the scales of cannabinoids

Lisburn YMCA

Group Two – Intimate Pictures and Choices and EAWG

- Used a case study to discuss being asked for intimate pictures
- Responses
- Do we think it is ok
- The law regarding taking and sending of pictures

Education Authority

Group Three – Challenging Stereotypes of Young People, Fireworks and E-Scooters

- Identifying Stereotypes
Young people discussed common stereotypes they experience, such as being seen as disruptive, uninterested, or irresponsible, and reflected on how these assumptions can affect their confidence and opportunities.
- Impact of Negative Perceptions
Participants shared how stereotypes influence how they are treated in public spaces, by adults, and within their communities, sometimes leading to mistrust or unfair judgement.
- Positive Representation
The group highlighted examples of young people contributing positively through volunteering, leadership, and community involvement, and the importance of promoting these stories.

Education Authority (Cont'd)

- Challenging Stereotypes
Young people explored practical ways to challenge negative perceptions, including through respectful communication, community engagement, social media, and positive role modelling.
- Changing Public Perception
Participants suggested that adults and organisations can help by providing more opportunities for youth voice, showcasing young people's achievements, and creating intergenerational spaces for understanding and connection.

Consequences of actions within the criminal justice system

The three groups then amalgamated as one to receive a presentation on 'The Impact of Offending' which was given by Natasha Todd from YJA and Linda Clarke, Youth Diversion Officer with the PSNI.

Natasha explained that young people could be held criminally accountable from the age of 10 years old in Northern Ireland. She stated that criminal records and convictions could and would change any future prospects, what jobs could be applied for and places to travel to. She also stated that convictions did not disappear when a person turns 18 years old, and that depending on the offence they can stay with a person for life.

Examples of factors that may lead to offending:

- Alcohol and/or drugs
- Family relationships
- Peer pressure
- Lack of confidence and/or qualifications
- Impulsive behaviour
- Lack of understanding of consequences

Linda explained that her role centred around 'prevention and intervention' and that the ethos was to divert young people from offending behaviour, and from entering the criminal justice system. She stated that when any person under 18 came into contact with the police the incident was recorded and she would then decide how police officers on the ground dealt with that young person, and that quite often it was about signposting a young person and their family to organisations which were better placed to help/support them such as the Youth Justice Agency, the Education Authority or Social Services.

In response to a question from a youth in the audience about how long a CRN (Community Resolution Notice) lasted Linda stated 12 months.

Closing Remarks

Superintendent Kelly Moore introduced herself and stated that it had been an excellent evening and that she had been encouraged by the challenging work of all those who had presented on the various topics. She offered her sincere thanks to Johnny Crymble, James Bingham and the PCSP team, the Chair Councillor Martin

Closing Remarks (Cont'd)

and everyone else for their involvement. She also thanked all the young people who had attended and hoped that they had enjoyed themselves and had learned valuable lessons that they could take back to their families and friends.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 8.35 pm and everyone in attendance enjoyed the pizzas provided.

Chairperson