

**LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Private Meeting of the Policing Committee of Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council Policing and Community Safety Partnership held in the Council Chamber and via Zoom on Tuesday 17 February 2026 at 6.30 pm**

**PRESENT IN COUNCIL CHAMBER:** Councillor A Martin (Chair)  
Councillor P Catney  
Mrs Y Craig  
Mr D Drysdale  
Councillor A Givan  
Councillor B Higginson  
Ms G McDonald (Vice Chairperson)  
Councillor M McKeever  
Councillor T Mitchell

**PRESENT IN A REMOTE LOCATION:** Mr D Cairns  
Councillor J Lavery BEM  
Councillor D Lynch

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council  
  
PCSP Officer (JB)  
PCSP Support Officer (AB)  
Member Services Officers (EW and FA)  
  
Designated Organisations  
  
Superintendent K Moore, PSNI  
Chief Inspector M Rocks, PSNI

**Commencement of the Meeting**

The Chair, Councillor A Martin, opened the private meeting of the PCSP Policing Committee and welcomed all attendees. The Chair also extended a warm welcome to Ms Joanne Davidson from the Department of Justice. He also welcomed Superintendent K Moore and Chief Inspector M Rocks, who were present to deliver the 9-month policing report.

1. Apologies

Apologies were recorded on behalf of Mr N Anderson (Ind Member), Mr B Corr (Ind Member), Mrs V Jackson, Head of Communities, Councillor C Kemp, Councillor S Lowry, Mr G McClory (Ind Member) and Mr G Walker (Ind Member).

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

### 3. 9-Month Report on Policing in the Lisburn and Castlereagh District

Superintendent K Moore delivered a presentation of the report, which had been circulated to attendees. The report covered the period from 1 October 2025 to 31 December 2025. The report addressed three key outcome areas: (1) Victim-Focused Policing, (2) Safe and Engaged Communities with Confidence in Policing, and (3) A Representative, Valued, and Enabled Workforce.

During her presentation, Superintendent K Moore highlighted the following key points on the Lisburn and Castlereagh area:

- **Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWAG):** 'One Stop Shops' are continuing encouraging victims to come forward. There has been an increase in reporting.
- **Violence with/without injury:** Violence against the person is up by 11%. With injury is slightly down and without injury is up.
- **Repeat Offending:** Within Lisburn and Castlereagh there were 16 repeat offenders accounting for just over 11% of violence against women and girls' offender rates.
- **Domestic Abuse:** An increase in domestic abuse incidents and crimes.
- **Youth Diversion:** 297 referrals were made to the Youth Diversion Officer. Of these, 52 cases were forwarded to the Public Prosecution Service (PPS), while 245 were classified as non-offence incidents.
- **Hate Crime:** An increase in reported hate crimes was noted. There were various pieces of graffiti seen around Lisburn City Centre and one person was identified as being the main culprit and had a positive criminal justice outcome.
- **Public confidence and victim satisfaction:** There was a 17.6% response rate to a 'victim satisfaction survey'. Response to emergency calls had an average of 11.19 minutes while priority calls had an average of 29.6 minutes.
- **Social media engagement:** Lisburn and Castlereagh PSNI currently have the following reach across a number of platforms – Facebook: 53,349 followers; Nextdoor App: 38,916 followers; X (formerly Twitter): 7,529 followers.
- **Crime Rates:** Overall recorded crime was down by 5.3% in comparison to the same period last year. Violence against the person (with and without injury) 3.2% decrease, stalking and harassment 23.7% decrease, theft 21.3% decrease, burglary overall 11.5% decrease and shoplifting 24.4% decrease. Sexual offences 8.8% increase, criminal damage 4% increase and drug offences 7.6% increase.
- **Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB):** Increased by 3.9%. Lisburn City NPT remain very active in the Beechland area of Lagan Valley. The Castlereagh NPT were heavily involved with various community forums in an effort to combat and reduce ASB.
- **Multi-Agency Support Hub:** Monthly MASH meetings are continuing and Vulnerability meetings in Lisburn Station are ongoing.
- **Reducing Offending Unit (ROU):** The ROU are currently managing 12 priority offenders. 9 arrests were made in relation to ROU nominals, and 6 ROU nominals were charged during this period.
- **District Support Team – Searches and Seizures:** Drug seizures continued during this period.

- **OP Lifesaver:** DST continue to target vehicles and drivers who pose a risk on our roads.
- **Road Safety:** During October the Road Safety Focus was on uninsured driving.
- **Recruitment/Reward and Recognition:** Recruitment is ongoing with several new officers attending Lisburn for their district day as part of their training experience in the Police College. 3 Officers from Lisburn LPT were recognised for their swift action and courageous actions whilst off duty at the scene of a domestic incident in June 2023. Lisburn City NPT alongside PCSP and Women's Aid have made the finals of the PSNI Problem Solving awards for their multi-faceted approach last year around tackling the issue of Violence Against Women and Girls.
- **Complaints:** A slight decrease. The number of complaints around incivility continue to drop.
- **Recruitment:** Chief Inspector M Rocks advised that the student officer recruitment campaign which ran from 14<sup>th</sup> January 2026 to 4<sup>th</sup> February 2026 attracted 4,100 applicants and the custody detention officers campaign which is a staff role ran from 19<sup>th</sup> January 2026 to 9<sup>th</sup> February 2026 and attracted 477 applicants. She also advised that as part of the recruitment process there were a number of events held which were online Q&A with the PSNI's Human Resources Department, engagement with Jobs and Benefits Office, and locally attended post primary schools and had recruitment stands in shopping centres.
- **HollieGuard:** Chief Inspector M Rocks explained that this was a new app for Smartphones aimed at Ending Violence Against Women and Girls and was created by the father of Hollie Gazzard who had been murdered by her boyfriend. HollieGuard is a personal safety app for those facing domestic violence, stalking, or harassment, and anyone seeking peace of mind when travelling alone. Alerts are monitored by a police approved monitoring centre 24 hours a day.

#### 4. Question and Answer Session

Councillor D Lynch commented on the recent burglaries in the Dunmurry and Lambeg areas and wanted to pass on his thanks on behalf of the local businesses affected for the swift action taken by the PSNI. Superintendent K Moore advised that the local businesses would be updated in due course.

Councillor M McKeever asked that congratulations on behalf of the Partnership be passed on to officers who have received awards for their work and recognition of same.

In response to questions from Councillor M McKeever around recent burglaries, Op Encompass, hate crime, response times and gradings, Superintendent K Moore advised that overall there had been 12 reported burglaries of a similar nature, and regarding Op Encompass referrals, each time that a domestic related incident was attended a referral would be made for any children in the home and the schools attended would also be informed, but that there were no stats on the families involved and that repeat referrals could be made. Superintendent K Moore advised that due to the graffiti incident it had pushed hate crime figures up and that there was a concern that hate crime was under

4. Question and Answer Session (Cont'd)

reported. She also advised that there were only two official call gradings at present but adding to this was being looked at and that there was improvement in activity around victim updates.

Chief Inspector M Rocks advised that through the My Victim Portal approximately 30% of calls to the contact centres were from victims requesting an update and that once victims signed up to the My Victim Portal they could go online and request an update from the investigating officer which would be via email or checking the updated status. Superintendent K Moore asked the Partnership to encourage people to sign up to the My Victim Portal.

Councillor B Higginson wished to convey his thanks to the Castlereagh Neighbourhood Team for their engagement workshops and coffee mornings in Carryduff, Saintfield Road and Newtownbreda, and also the engagement with schools. He also wished to pass on his thanks to the Neighbourhood Teams for the work they do within the Castlereagh South area, and also his congratulations to all officers who had received recognition and awards for this work.

In response to a question from Councillor B Higginson regarding protection money, Superintendent K Moore advised that she was aware of discussions around this, but that there were no reports on this and nothing had been brought to her attention.

In response to a question from Councillor A Givan regarding identifying a certain trend around domestic violence and anti-social behaviour, Chief Inspector M Rocks advised that offending often increased around the Christmas period with increased use of alcohol and other substances, but in terms of domestic violence it doesn't discriminate and would mostly be through coercive behaviour.

Councillor T Mitchell commented about officer recruitment and enquired about when to expect a full quota of officers in the Lisburn and Castlereagh area, to which Superintendent K Moore advised that every five weeks new officers were coming through and anticipated that by June across local policing there would be a majority establishment in place.

In response to a question from Councillor T Mitchell regarding the difference between the free and paid app for HollieGuard, Chief Inspector M Rocks advised that the app was free for anyone to download and that the paid app links to the 24/7 monitoring centre and was beneficial for more high-risk victims.

Councillor P Catney enquired if there was any way to encourage people to persevere when they had reported a crime, and Superintendent K Moore advised that this could prove difficult, but there was help and support available to people.

In response to a query from Mr D Drysdale regarding attrition rates, Superintendent K Moore advised that she didn't have figures for the Service or

4. Question and Answer Session (Cont'd)

for the district, but said that two probationers had recently resigned in Lisburn and Castlereagh, and that some officers had decided to return to a previous career or move to a different country.

In response to a query from Mrs Y Craig regarding how discreet the HollieGuard app was, Chief Inspector M Rocks advised that it can be disguised as a calculator app, and that a victim can put in a duress pin which is 999 and the offender wouldn't be able to see it, and also if an offender smashed the phone against the wall it would still trigger through to the monitoring centre and give the last geographical location.

Councillor A Givan proposed that the Chair, Councillor A Martin, write to the Minister of DfI, on behalf of the Partnership, highlighting the severity of potholes on the roads in the Lisburn and Castlereagh area and requesting that these were addressed with a matter of urgency. Councillor A Martin seconded, and it was agreed to write to the Minister of DfI.

Councillor B Higginson commented that a woman had unfortunately lost her life recently in Carryduff and requested that the PSNI, when out on patrol, could be vigilant in the area for speeding motorists.

Mr D Drysdale commented that there had been a very sad accident in Dundonald recently where a young man had got out of his car as his tyre had blew out, and unfortunately got knocked down and killed by a passing motorist, and that although not known at present why the tyre blew out, he highlighted that it could have been the result of a pothole.

It was proposed by Councillor B Higginson, seconded by Mrs Y Craig, and agreed to approve the 9-Month Report on Policing in the Lisburn and Castlereagh District.

Superintendent K Moore asked for feedback on the local policing plan which was previously shared with the Partnership, to which Mrs Y Craig commented that the layout was very helpful and clear, and Councillor M McKeever commented that it was very easy to read, but that he missed the outcomes where comparisons were made from the previous year.

5. Any Other Business

5.1 Shared Island Civic Society Fund  
PCSP Officer, Mr J Bingham

The PCSP Officer, Mr James Bingham, advised the Partnership that a Shared Island Civic Society Fund, NILGA and the Association for Irish Local Government (AILG) will hold a cross-border event on developing the leadership and influence of councillors in relation to Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG), on 24-25 March 2026 in the Slieve Russell Hotel, Co Cavan, which was a two day event with one night's accommodation, and invited the Partnership to nominate two elected members to attend.

5.1 Shared Island Civic Society Fund (Cont'd)

It was agreed that the Chair, Councillor A Martin and Councillor B Higginson would attend this event.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 7.59 pm.

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Chair