

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Policing and Community Safety Partnership held in the Council Chamber and via zoom on Tuesday 15th March, 2022 at 6.30pm

PRESENT IN THE CHAMBER: Mr J Bentley

PRESENT IN A REMOTE LOCATION: Councillor M Guy (Chairperson),
Alderman A Ewing
Councillor A Gowan
Councillor H Legge
Councillor J McCarthy
Councillor A McIntyre
Councillor S Skillen
Mr D McBurney
Mrs Y Craig
Ms A Landa
Mrs G Conroy
Mrs P Yellamaty

IN ATTENDANCE IN THE CHAMBER: Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
Acting PCSP/Member Services Manager
PCSP Support Officer (SA)
Member Services Officer (BF)

Designated Organisations
Chief Inspector J Wilson, PSNI (in the Chamber)
Mr C Stitt, NIHE (via Zoom)
Mr J Crymble, Education Authority (via Zoom)

Commencement of the Meeting

The Chairperson, Councillor M Guy, welcomed everyone to the meeting, which was being held via Zoom and in the Council Chamber.

1. **Apologies**

Apologies for non-attendance were received by Councillor R Carlin, Mrs J Harkness, Mr D Marley, Ms N Bradshaw, Ms A Twomey, Mr G Clifton, Superintendent J Mullan and Mr J Bingham.

2. **Declaration of Conflicts of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

3. **Minutes**

It was proposed by agreed by Mr D McBurney, seconded by Mrs Y Craig, and agreed that the minutes of the following meetings be confirmed and signed:

- the minutes of the PCSP meeting held on 16th December 2021;
- the minutes of the Policing Committee meeting held on 15th February 2022;
- the minutes of the Special Private meeting of the PCSP held on 15th February 2022.

4. Update from Statutory Partners

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

Update from Chief Inspector J Wilson, PSNI

Chief Inspector Wilson reported that currently crime across Lisburn & Castlereagh City had risen by approx. 6.6%, which equated to an additional 380 crimes, whilst crime clearance had reduced by approx. 2.6% to just over 29%. The Partnership was advised also that:

- Drug related crime - officers across the District had undertaken a surge operation under the 'Op Dealbreaker' heading, which had resulted in a number of searches being carried out. Two recent searches had resulted in the seizure of approximately 4kg of cannabis and 0.5Kg of suspected Class A Drugs;
- Burglaries had increased by seven incidents, a rise of 3.2%. Two hotspots within the Lisburn & Castlereagh areas had been identified and were the focus of increased patrolling.
- Antisocial behaviour had reduced by approximately 26%, although hotspots were emerging in Lisburn City Centre, Moira Demesne and in the Dundonald area. In addition to Police patrolling, partnership working was carried out to address these issues. NPT officers had been working an alternative shift rota due to the emergence of the Omicron variant, however, they had reverted to their normal shift pattern and this should allow them to engage on key issues with partners;
- Regarding ongoing initiatives, Chief Inspector Wilson updated members on three projects within the Castlereagh area, i.e., Fresh Start through Sport, Young Person's Diversionary Program and an Empowering Women Program;
- On domestic violence, a member from Assist NI continued to work within Lisburn station and there was work is ongoing to support victims of crime; and
- Road Safety – in the past month, NPT officers had engaged with five schools at both primary and secondary level providing road safety talks for pupils.

Update from Mr J Crymble, Education Authority

Mr Crymble reported that a Youth Council consultation exercise had taken place at the Dundonald International Ice Bowl on 31st January, which had been attended by several Elected Members and the Chief Executive of Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council. The meeting had considered the PCSP Action Plan and Mr Crymble reported that the members of the Youth Council had engaged meaningfully with the Council Members on their vision for the district. He added that the Youth Council would be attending a future PCSP public meeting and a full meeting of the Council as part of ongoing engagement work.

Update from Mr C Stitt, NIHE

Mr Stitt reported that the Housing Executive continued to engage with tenants and encourage them to report incidents of antisocial behaviour. He pointed out that there had been a drop in the number of incidents reported during March, with four cases being brought to the Housing Executive's attention, while there had been 58 cases since the start of the year. He added that formal meetings between the Housing Executive and the PSNI had recommenced recently to consider and address issues of antisocial behaviour.

5. Report of the Acting PCSP/Member Services Manager

5.1 Northern Ireland Ambulance Service – Body Worn Video Consultation

The Acting PCSP/Member Services Manager reported that the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service (NIAS) had launched a consultation exercise regarding the use of body worn video cameras by staff for violence prevention and reduction purposes. The Partnership was informed that the initial consultation exercise sought to consider the principle that staff should be issued with such equipment, with a further consultation exercise being undertaken later in the year to consider a range of factors, such as the deployment of, and the governance for, the use of body worn video cameras.

The Acting PCSP/Member Services Manager indicated that the response, a copy of which had been circulated previously, was supportive, in principle, of the use of body worn video cameras to address escalating levels of violence against NIAS staff. Given the limited timescale for the submission of responses, the Partnership was requested to give retrospective approval to the response, which had been drafted after consultation with Independent Member, Mrs Y Craig, given her membership of the Partnership as a Clinical Support Officer with NIAS.

It was moved by Councillor S Skillen, seconded by Mrs Y Craig, and agreed that the Partnership grant retrospective approval to the response as submitted.

5.2 Department of Justice Consultation on Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy

The Acting PCSP/Member Services Manager outlined the main aspects of a response which had been drafted in response to the above-mentioned consultation exercise, copies of which had been circulated to Members in advance of the meeting. She indicated that the consultation exercise sought to inform the development of two new strategies, which were:

- A Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy, led jointly by the Department of Health and the Department of Justice; and
- An Equally Safe Strategy - a Strategy to tackle Violence against Women and Girls - led by the Executive Office.

In considering the draft response, Members suggested that it might be amended to reflect that any new strategy should emphasise the need to address the issue

of serial offending and that additional safeguards could be identified through joint working between the Prison Service and the Probation Board. In addition, enhanced care and protection arrangements for children affected by domestic and sexual violence should be addressed as a priority within any new strategy.

After discussion, it was proposed by Councillor H Legge, seconded by Councillor S Skillen, and agreed that Partnership endorse the response as presented. It was noted that further comments and suggestions could be submitted to the Acting PCSP Manager to consider, in consultation with the Chairperson, Councillor M Guy, not later than 18th March, prior to the document's onward submission.

5.3 Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service (NIFRS) Consultation on Realignment of District Structures to those of Local Government Authorities

The Partnership was informed that NIFRS was undertaking a consultation exercise on the realignment of their district structures to reflect those of local government authorities, submissions to which would close on 28th March 2022.

The Acting PCSP/Member Services Manager explained that such a realignment would ensure that each Council had a single dedicated point of contact and would ensure also that NIFRS would be fully involved in the development and implementation of local Community Risk Management Plans. Such a realignment would allow also for NIFRS to enhance collaboration at a local level, better identify those most at risk and work more effectively in partnership to enhance public safety, whilst signposting to the most appropriate support available.

The Partnership agreed that the Acting PCSP Manager be authorised to liaise with the NIFRS representative on the Partnership, Mr G Clifton, in consultation with the Chairperson, to co-ordinate a response to the consultation on its behalf. It was noted that the response will be submitted for notation purposes at the Partnership's next private meeting.

5.2 Project Support Programme – Proposed Timescale

It was proposed by Councillor A McIntyre, seconded by Mrs Y Craig, and agreed that the Partnership approve the timescale for the Project Support Programme, which would be launched on 25th April, and which would close for submissions on 27th May. It was noted that the estimated fund for the programme would be £40,000.

5.3 PCSP Meeting Dates and Venues for 2022/23

The Partnership agreed to meet at the locations outlined on the following dates during 2022/23:

Thursday 22.04.22	Private Meeting – moved to Thursday as Tuesday is a Bank Holiday	LVI/Zoom
Tuesday 17.05.22	PCSP Themed Public Meeting at 7.00pm	Lisburn Rural
Tuesday 21.06.22	PCSP Special Private Meeting at 6.15pm & Policing Committee 12 Month Monitoring Meeting in Public at 7.00pm	Castlereagh

Tuesday 16.08.22	Policing Committee 3 Month Monitoring Meeting in Private at 6.30pm	LVI
Tuesday 20.09.22	Private Meeting at 6.30pm	LVI
Tuesday 18.10.22	PCSP Themed Public Meeting at 7.00pm	Castlereagh
Tuesday 15.11.22	Policing Committee 6 Month Monitoring Meeting in Private at 6.30pm	LVI
Tuesday 20.12.22	Private Meeting at 6.30pm	LVI
Tuesday 17.01.23	Private Meeting at 6.30pm	LVI
Tuesday 21.02.23	Policing Committee 9 Month Monitoring Meeting in Private at 6:30pm	LVI
Tuesday 21.03.23	PCSP Themed Public Meeting at 7:00pm	Lisburn

5.4 Police Property Fund

The Partnership noted that the Police Property Fund was currently open for applications for projects between £1,000 and £10,000, with a closing date for submissions of 12.00 noon on 12th May 2022.

5.5 Applications for Funding under £500

It was proposed by Councillor A Ewing, seconded by Mrs G Conroy, and agreed that the Partnership approve the following funding applications for projects under £500:

Group	Project	Amount
PSNI	Engagement event for PSNI Rural NPT Officers and CPO to attend at Hillsborough Village Centre on the 26 March 2022 to celebrate the royal status being awarded to Hillsborough	£321.12
PSNI	Provide funding for PSNI CPO to attend the Dub-Shed event at Balmoral Park	£368.50
Maghaberry Community Association	Provide funding to address the fear of crime of females	£300.00

(Councillor A Gowan left the meeting at 7:00pm)

5.6 Graffiti Bus Project

The PCSP Support Officer (SA) reported that, in partnership with the Council's Environmental Health Department, an initiative would be undertaken with the Probation Board Northern Ireland (PBNI) using their 'Graffiti Bus' to remove graffiti in some of the worse affected areas within the Four Winds and Newtownbreda areas. He reported that the work would be undertaken by young offenders as part of their community service, on dates as yet to be confirmed. He added that, should the pilot project be deemed successful, that, subject to PBNI agreement, there

may be a possibility that the project be extended to other sites within the Council area.

After discussion, during which the Chairperson thanked the PCSP Support Officer for the work he had carried out in this regard, the Partnership noted the information provided.

6.0 Any Other Business

6.1 Crimestoppers NI

The Partnership noted that an invitation had been circulated from Crimestoppers NI for Members to attend a virtual event on Wednesday, 23rd March, to view the launch of new videos on a range of crime prevention initiatives.

6.2 Grand Choice

The Acting PCSP/Member Services Manager reminded the Partnership that the Grand Choice Participatory Budgeting initiative for the Downshire West Council Area was due to close on 20th March, and she gave an overview on how applications for support could be submitted.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 7.06 pm.

Chairperson