

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE  
THURSDAY 17<sup>th</sup> November 2022, 2pm  
CONFERENCE ROOM, NEWRY PSNI STATION AND ZOOM.**

**PRESENT:** Mr John Blair (Chairperson)  
Mr Michael Atkinson (Vice Chair)  
Mr Mark H Durkan (Webex)  
Ms Janet Gray  
Ms Linda Dillon  
Ms Liz Kimmins  
Mr Colm McKenna

**PSNI:** (1) ACC Bobby Singleton  
(1) Judith Bailie PSNI Staff  
(1) Fiona Hart PSNI Staff  
(1) C/Insp Liam McPhillips – (Webex) Observing only  
(1) Lianne Band PSNI Staff – (Webex) Observing only

**OFFICIALS IN**

**ATTENDANCE:** (2) Mrs Sinead Simpson, Chief Executive  
Mrs Dympna Thornton, Director of Partnership  
7 Board Officials

**(1) Present for Items 6.1 – 6.3**

**(2) Present for Items up to 6.3**

Chair welcomed everyone and thanked PSNI for their hospitality during the visits and requested that a letter of thanks be drafted by Board Officials **(AP1)**

## 1. **APOLGIES**

Apologies were received from Joanne Bunting MLA, Liz Kimmins MLA, and Carmel McKinney, Independent Member.

## 2. **CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

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

## 3. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Minutes of meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> October agreed.

## 4. **UPDATE ON ACTION LOG**

The Director of Partnership provided Members with an update on the Committee's rolling Action Log:

**AP 28.7 from November 2021** – It is expected that the visits to PSNI Operational Support Department will take place in early 2023 and will form part of the induction training for any new Board Member. **Members agreed to keep action open.**

**AP 29.4 from December 2021**– The Engagement Manager is progressing with plans to hold a webinar in December with the PCSPs in relation to Cyber Crime. **Members agreed to keep action open.**

**AP 32.8** – Paper on Regional Events: Final event was held in the Northwest on 26th October. Paper outlining feedback from all 4 regional events will be brought to the Committee for information and consideration in December 2022. **Members agreed to keep action open.**

**AP 33.4** – Future Survey work linked to Policing Plan Outcome 3- PPRWG will meet 1<sup>st</sup> December at which point it is hoped discussions can progress regarding this work. **Members agreed to keep action open.**

**AP 33.6** – Engagement Strategy 2020-2023 - Meeting to be arranged in late November with interested Board Members to discuss future Engagement opportunities. **Members agreed to keep action open.**

**AP 34.1** – PSNI Strategic Community Engagement team - PSNI are providing a Presentation to the Members at this meeting of Partnership Committee meeting. **Members agreed closure of this action.**

**AP 34.2** - Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy - PSNI provided a response which is included in Chair's correspondence. **Members agreed closure of this action.**

**AP 34.3** - Multi-Agency Triage Teams (MATTS) - Following collaboration with PSNI, Director of Partnership wrote to Minister of Health and Minister of Justice on 27th Oct 2022. Response has not yet been received to this correspondence. **Members agreed to keep action open.**

**AP 34.4** - PCSP Reconstitution – 2023/24 – The Board ratified the Committee's decision to progress plans for PCSP recruitment of Independent Members to PCSP's / DCPSP's. **Members agreed closure of this action.**

**AP 34.5** – Targeted Consultation on Code of Practice for appointment of independent members to PCSP/DPCSPs - Copy of the targeted consultation was shared with all Board Members on 25th Oct 2022. Member's

comments were to be received by 8th November 2022 and draft response will be presented at this meeting. **Members agreed closure of this action.**

**AP 34.6 - Local Policing Review (LPR) – Response provided by PSNI to indicate agreement with Partnership Committee position to postpone publication of the LPR Infographic until early 2023. Members agreed closure of this action.**

## **5. CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS**

### **5.1 PSNI Additional Information on Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Plan**

Discussed and Noted

### **5.2 Letter from Committee Chair to Minister of Health/ Minister of Justice re: Multi Agency Triage Team**

Discussed and Noted

### **5.3 Letter from Committee Chair to ACC Singleton re LPR Infographic- Nov 2022**

Discussed and Noted

All items of Chair's Correspondence noted above were discussed as part of Action Log updates and considered by Members.

**NOTED**

## **6. ITEMS FOR COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

### **6.1 Report on Confidence PSNI Performance - Performance Plan 2022/23 - Measures: 1.3.1 & 1.3.2 (People who feel safe, and places repeatedly victimised)**

Members were provided with an overview of the analysis of work relating to PSNI against Performance Plan 2022/23. The Measures discussed were Measures 1.3.1 and 1.3.2 (People who feel safe and places repeatedly victimised) and included the OBA report card to enable effective oversight and informed scrutiny of police performance in relation to people who feel safe and places repeatedly victimised.

The Committee welcomed ACC Singleton, Judith Bailie and Chloe Smith to the meeting.

ACC Singleton identified a number of key points from the report card. It was noted that particular groups within communities may feel unsafe, for example in cases where someone has previously been a victim of crime or where contact with Police has not been positive. The ACC indicated the need to consider information against this Policing Plan measure alongside Victim Satisfaction information and noted that problem solving is not simply the preserve of NPTs with excellent work being taken forward by other teams such as response and public protection to address feelings of safety in both rural and urban communities.

Members discussed:

- The positive information contained in the very detailed report card;
- The possibility of ascertaining if negative perceptions are because of delayed justice outcomes or interaction with PSNI;
- The need to ensure that good practice identified in the recent Problem-Solving awards is cascaded throughout the service;

- The possibility of obtaining data on perception of safety in the online domain;
- The need to be realistic about the level of inter-agency working which can be new to some partner agencies.
- The visibility of NPTs in rural areas;
- Whether the Board should be concerned about the attrition rate in NPT's and whether resilience and possible complimentary career paths might be identified in the NPT arena.

In addressing Members comments PSNI noted the following:

- The possibility of a review of survey questions in relation to the Policing Plan which may assist in capturing information to identify the reasons for negative perceptions;
- Within PSNI the Problem-Solving examples which were submitted to the recent Awards ceremony are available within PSNI on a Problem-Solving Hub which provides officers and staff with good examples. PSNI also noted that a further 40 Problem Solving Champions have recently been trained across PSNI and that a conference planned for April 2023 will include partners and allow for sharing of good practice;
- PSNI acknowledged the volume and changing nature of crime in the online arena. Freedom of speech versus harassment was also considered. Due to the increased complexity of these crimes, investigations may be slower however the new Force Management Statement will help explore demand levels and identify cyber enabled aspects of that demand;
- PSNI noted that abstractions and NPT shift patterns may negatively impact on the visibility of NPTs. It was noted that it is important for NPTs to be as effective in rural areas as in urban areas;
- PSNI advised Members that quite soon after placing 700 officers in NPT posts, numbers in those teams started to reduce. PSNI noted that there are approximately 80 vacant posts at present with approximately a further 100 NPT officer posts unfilled due to officers having been

promoted or offered lateral development opportunities. In addition, there is uncertainty regarding the continuation of EU exit funding which created the 700 NPT Officer posts.

**Noted**

## **6.2 Strategic Community Engagement Team**

PSNI provided Members with an update on the work of the PSNI Strategic Community Engagement Team (SCET). In summer 2022 the SCET developed a high-level Engagement Strategy with an emphasis on five key pillars, namely: Attraction/recruitment; Engagement; Procedural fairness; Effective neighbourhood policing, and Local accountability.

Members discussed:

- Whether PSNI have improved its operational response as a result of its assessment of community sentiment;
- The information contained in the Community Impact Assessment which was provided By PSNI as part of this presentation, and the need to consider the context in which PSNI operate;
- The Cultural Awareness event referred to by PSNI;
- The need for the SCET to ensure engagement with a broad range of community groups, including minority groups.

In addressing Members comments PSNI noted the following:

- The central role of SCET and the associated Engagement Group which has been established by PSNI ensures no duplication of effort;
- Opportunities for complementary work to bring coordination and consistency in respect of Engagement;

- PSNI discussed its use of the Community Impact Assessment which informs decision making rather than directing the actions of a District Commander;
- It was acknowledged that the Community Impact Assessment is a snapshot which reflects dominant themes which are present at the time of the Assessment and noted they will share future versions of these assessments;
- PSNI discussed good relationships which exist between themselves and a number of key sporting bodies and referenced a recent event where PSNI District Commanders met senior figures of the GAA noting this was positive event and provided a good opportunity for shared learning as well as relationship building;
- PSNI discussed their internal NPT Survey which asks about those community groups which NPT's work with at a local level, and noted that in the most recent NPT survey, officers indicated that improved partnership working would be assisted by appropriate sharing of information within PSNI internally.

The Chair thanked PSNI for their attendance and presentations.

### **6.3 Targeted Consultation – Amendments to Code of Practice for appointment of PCSP / DPCSP Independent Members.**

The Director of Partnership provided Members with an overview on Department of Justice (DOJ) Targeted Consultation on proposed revisions to the Code of Practice (hereafter referred to as The Code) for the appointment of Independent Members to PCSP / DPCSPs and Members discussed the Board's draft response which was included at Annex B of this paper.

Members discussed:



- How the Board might fulfil its legislative function should the proposed revisions be incorporated in The Code;
- The need to ensure outreach to younger people, women, and newly arrived communities in Northern Ireland;
- The key paragraphs within the proposed revisions which form the basis of the Board's draft response to the Targeted Consultation
- Members considered paragraph 3.80, which they agreed should remain and be included within the amended Code.

In addressing Members comments, Board Officials noted the following:

- Acknowledgement that the Board is required to, as far practicable, ensure that PCSP/ DPCSP membership is representative of the community in which it operates;
- It will be important that PSCP's/DPSCP's include broader representation and that outreach to as broad a range of groups as possible will be paramount for this recruitment exercise. It was noted however that it may be difficult to encourage individuals to make application to this recruitment exercise in this current post pandemic/cost of living crisis period.

It was **AGREED**: -

- That the Board's draft response to the Targeted Consultation (Annex B) be updated in line with Member's comments and issued to the Board seeking approval by Written Procedure to ensure the Board's response is issued in line with the response deadline of 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022 **(AP2)**

#### **6.4 Police Property Fund - Update**

A Board Official provided members with update on the Police Property Fund (PPF) Small Grants Scheme (Calls 1 & 2).

The Board has now opened and completed two successful calls for this Scheme resulting in 46 approved projects across the 2 Calls, with a total funding allocation of £320,000.

Further details were provided as below:

- Call 1 – 31 approved projects with a total funding allocation of £199,000. Currently 22 projects approved in this Call are active and 9 are now completed and closed.
- Call 2 – 15 approved projects with a total funding allocation of £121,000. Currently 12 projects approved in this Call are active and 3 are in the contracting phase.

Members discussed:

- The need to consider projects from hard-to-reach areas for future funding;
- The PPF has been a positive undertaking for the Board;
- The ongoing funding for the Police Property Fund and spending to date;
- The possibility of outlining added value and positive engagement opportunities which projects funded by PPF have made possible.

In addressing Members comments, Board Officials noted the following:

- The budget spent to date may allow for between 3 and 5 projects to funded when the Call for applications to the PPF Large Grant Scheme opens, however it may also be possible to advertise one more Small Grants funding call depending on overall use of the remaining budget.

- The Board are keen to keep this initiative alive for as long as possible and Officials noted that some recently funded projects are due to run until 2026.
- The importance of considering the impact that projects have in a more comprehensive way.

**NOTED**

**7. QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE**

A Committee Member noted that a question will be submitted regarding PSNI reporting to the Home Office on the status of individuals who report a crime.

**NOTED**

**8. COMMUNICATIONS ISSUES / OPPORTUNITIES**

An update was provided on communications activity since the last meeting and the ICV Recruitment Campaign was highlighted as ongoing. Members were asked to encourage applications in their local areas.

**NOTED**

**9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Committee Chair informed the Committee that the previous Chair of the Partnership Committee, has recently suffered a family bereavement. The Committee Chair requested that a letter of condolence be drafted by Board Officials. **(AP3)**

The Committee Chair acknowledged that this would be the Director of Partnership's last meeting and expressed thanks on behalf of the Committee for all her hard work and commitment over her time at the Board.

The Committee also acknowledged that this would be Independent Board Member Colm McKenna's last meeting and wished to express their thanks for his hard work and dedication to the role.

The Committee wished to offer their condolences to the Partnership Manager on the recent loss of her father.

**NOTED**

**10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting will be on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2022 at 2pm in Waterside Tower.

(Meeting closed at 16.05 PM).

**PARTNERSHIP DIRECTORATE**

**NOVEMBER 2022**



**Chairperson**