

**NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD**

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY  
21 SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 9.30AM IN CONFERENCE ROOM JAMES HOUSE.**

**PRESENT:**

- Mr Mukesh Sharma (Vice Chair)
- Mr Les Allamby (Zoom)
- Mr Peter Osborne
- Dr Janet Gray
- Mr Gerry Kelly MLA
- Dr Kate Laverty
- (3) Mr Mark H Durkan MLA (Zoom)
- (1) Mr Maurice Bradley MLA

**EX OFFICIO MEMBERS IN  
ATTENDANCE:**

Mr Edgar Jardine (Board Vice Chair)

**POLICE SERVICE  
OF NORTHERN IRELAND IN  
ATTENDANCE:**

- (2) Mr Bobby Singleton, Assistant Chief Constable  
Local Policing
- (2) Mr Stephen Murray, Chief Superintendent
- (2) Mr William Calderwood, Superintendent
- (2) Ms Sue-Ann Steen, Superintendent
- (2) Mr Nigel Henry, Superintendent
- (2) Ms Sinead McIlldowney, Chief Inspector
- (2) Mr Brian Shankey, Sergeant

**OFFICIALS IN  
ATTENDANCE:**

- (4) Mrs Sinead Simpson, Chief Executive
- Mrs Sarah Reid, Partnership Manager
- Seven Board Officials

- (1) Joined meeting at 9.36am
- (2) Item 6.1 only
- (3) Joined meeting at 11.55am
- (4) Joined meeting at 11.20am

The Partnership Committee Vice Chair welcomed all Members to the Committee.  
The Vice Chair also welcomed the Vice Chair of the Board, Edgar Jardine.

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Mr John Blair MLA (Chair), Mrs Joanne Bunting MLA and Mrs Linda Dillon MLA.

The Committee agreed the agenda for the meeting.

**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 THE PREVIOUS TWO MEETINGS HELD ON 15 JUNE 2023 AND 27 JULY 2023**

The Committee considered the draft minutes of the Committee meetings held on 15<sup>TH</sup> June 2023 and 27<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- The minutes of the Committee meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2023 and 27<sup>th</sup> July 2023 be approved after a minor requested amendment is made to the July minutes.

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

The Committee **NOTED** the updates and correspondence detailed within the Action Log and the related verbal overview provided by the Partnership Manager.

It was agreed that the following actions would close as they had been implemented:

- Action Points 1,3,4,5 and 6 from the meeting in June 2023 and
- Action Points 1 from the meeting in July 2023.

##### **4.1 Correspondence re closure of Coleraine Custody Suite**

The Partnership Manager updated the Committee in relation to ongoing correspondence between the Board and PSNI on the closure of Coleraine Custody suite. Members were also asked if they wished to attend a tour of the new Waterside Custody Suite on 19 October which would coincide with the next Partnership Committee meeting. It was proposed that the meeting could take place on the afternoon of 19<sup>th</sup> October following the tour and would also give members an opportunity to speak with officers of different ranks in relation to the recent high profile search operations and public disorder in the Creggan area.

Members **NOTED** the update provided and agreed to the proposal for the 19 October visit .

Members expressed that they still had concerns with the rationale and criteria used when deciding on Coleraine Custody closure.

It was **Agreed**:

That Members will raise these concerns during the planned site visiting meeting in October.

#### **4.2 Committee/DOJ Correspondence re COP for PCSP Appointments**

The Partnership Manager updated the Committee that after a special meeting in July 2023 legal advice was sought in relation to the appointment of PCSPs. Correspondence between the Board and Department of Justice (DOJ) has been provided and a paper relating to the legislation to appoint Independent Members will be provided under Agenda Item 6.5 in today's meeting.

Members **NOTED** the update provided.

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

#### **5.1 Terms of Reference for Children and Young People's Human Rights Review**

Members were asked to note that the Terms of Reference for the Children and Young People's Human Rights Review were approved at this month's Performance Committee.

Members raised the point that some groups were not mentioned in the Terms of Reference. As this falls under the Performance Committee, Members agreed to forward their views to the Director of Performance for consideration.

Members **noted** the update provided.

#### **5.2 Letter to John Blair from South Belfast DPCSP re Members Expenses**

The Partnership Manager updated Members on correspondence received from South Belfast DPCSP in relation to Members Expenses. Members were advised that the Joint Committee met in June 2023 and made the decision that due to

the current budget climate and the fact that PCSP's received 100% funding for this year, there is no scope to review and/or to increase this rate.

Members were also advised that PCSP Managers were asked to disseminate this information to all their PCSP's.

It was **Agreed**:

- The Partnership Manager will draft a response to South Belfast DPCSP making this position clear. **(AP1)**

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

### **6.1 Policing Plan Measures – 3.1 (Hallmarks), 3.1.2 (Neighbourhood Policing), 3.1.3 (Impact)**

The Partnership Manager provided an initial update to Members on some recent feedback received from PCSP Managers in relation to Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPTs). Members were advised that concerns had been raised specifically around a perceived decrease in engagement from NPTs at PCSP events. It was noted that this could be attributed to resourcing pressures and NPT officers being moved to local response. It was highlighted that this could potentially have an impact the PCSP's ability to deliver against initiatives that are aimed at supporting confidence in policing and ultimately could result in funding being reallocated to other priorities.

A Board Official provided an analysis of the PSNI Measure Report Cards against the Performance Plan Measures of 3.1.1, 3.1.2 and 3.1.3 specific to Hallmarks, neighbourhood policing and the impact of partnership. This paper includes **Annex A** – PSNI OBA report card and **Annex B** – Community Policing Survey 2023.

Members were advised that measure 3.1.1 is a new measure for 2023/24 and includes an analysis of the OBA report card, which was added to the Policing Plan through the work of the Policing Plan Review Working Group. This analysis also included an update on the Neighbourhood Faculty at the Police Training College, and specific Neighbourhood modules. Members were advised that the crime rate remains above the baseline in 7 of the 8 neighbourhood areas with The Foyleside/Moor area continuing to have the highest crime rate and that the 3<sup>rd</sup> NPT Self-assessment survey is currently being conducted; therefore, no new data is available for analysis in this report card. The PSNI report card provides some informative case studies which demonstrate co-designed solutions to address local problems.

While the results of the Northern Ireland Policing Plan Survey 2023, and the Community Policing Survey 2023, are now available regarding Outcome 3, the Board Officials will need to conduct further analysis of the data provided to determine if they can provide specific and quantitative data in relation to all of the 3.1.3 impacts.

Throughout all 3 measures there is a lack of specific information in relation to the impacts noted in the Policing Plan. If available, further information should be explored to provide appropriate, measurable updates. If this data is not available, the impacts noted may need to be re-visited by the Policing Plan Review Working Group.

Members asked if they could be provided with more longitudinal data as the OBA card only provides one year of data. The Director of Performance provided a narrative as to why this was not possible but advised that the Annual Assessment Report for 2022/23 provides this data and the link will be shared with the Partnership Manager to be issued to members. **(AP2)**

The Chair welcomed PSNI to the meeting.

ACC Singleton provided Members with a summary of the presentation provided to members and a broad observation on his findings on 3.1 (Hallmarks), 3.1.2 (Neighbourhood Policing), 3.1.3 (Impact) which included:

- That despite the financial and resourcing pressures, examination of performance would contradict any media/public perception.
- The extraction of Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPTs) to assist in other areas.
- Hate Crime including resolution rates and Criminal Justice rates outcomes.
- Work is ongoing to capture the impact of the extraction of neighbourhood officers to other areas.
- Whilst maintaining NPTs remains a priority, ongoing budgetary issues mean that maintaining numbers will not be possible.
- The outstanding work of officers some of which is highlighted within the Bravery Awards.

Following the presentation by PSNI, Members discussed:

- The need for the public to be better informed of all the positive work that PSNI are achieving.
- The drop in NPT numbers, NPT officers having to be utilised in other areas of policing and the capacity impact this may have on Partnership and Problem solving in local areas.
- The need to build relationships in local communities to instil confidence to report hate crimes.
- The outworking's of the decision in relation to Pride.
- Some Board Members attended the Bravery Awards and were humbled by the continuous courage of officers whilst going about their day-to-day duties.

- Paramilitary/organised crime groups exploiting the reduction of police presence to conduct criminal activities.

PSNI addressed Members issues outlining the following:

- The perception that the media will not publish good news makes it difficult to showcase all the good work being done.
- The effect this has on the morale of officers.
- The issues of what to share with the media due to the fear/reluctance of officers to have their identity shared with the public.
- That while there is a need to extract NPT officers, numbers can be protected when there is a specific operation/situation when required.
- That PSNI will be able to provide a more in-depth analysis on extractions after the completion of the internal survey.
- Hate Crime Awareness Week will be 14<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> October 2023. There will also be a social media campaign called "Put yourself in their shoes" which will start on 9<sup>th</sup> October and run for the month of October. District Hate Crime Champions will be working with their respective PCSP Manager to look at bespoke engagement activities, to be delivered during this week, with communities affected by hate crime.
- The need for the hate crime review to bring legislation in line with the rest of the UK.
- PSNI have continued engagement with the LGBTQIA+ community around the decisions taken regarding PRIDE. Draft guidance has been prepared for officers in relation to the issue of street pastors this was informed by feedback received from the LGBTQIA+ community. The PPS were consulted on this guidance and provided some practical and pragmatic feedback. PSNI plan to finalise this guidance following further consultation with this community.
- The tools that are in place to support officers and police staff after they have dealt with or are involved in traumatic events.



- Conversations are ongoing with key partners in relation to paramilitary/crime gang activity.

Chair thanked PSNI for their attendance.

## **6.2 Engagement Strategy – Update on Consultation Responses**

The Engagement Manager provided Members with an update on the consultation responses received in relation to the Board's Draft Engagement Strategy (2023-2025).

Members were advised that the public consultation concluded on 5<sup>th</sup> September at which point 10 responses had been received. Board Officials have carried out an initial review of responses received and note that they appear to provide positive feedback on the strategy. It was noted that a further paper summarising all consultation feedback will be presented to the committee at the October 2023 meeting for review and consideration, along with the draft final Engagement Strategy (2023-2025).

Members **NOTED** the update provided.

## **6.3 Police Property Fund – Outreach for Third Call**

The Communications Officer provided Members with an update on planned preparations for launch and promotion of the Police Property Fund's third call which was approved by the Partnership Committee at their June 2023 meeting. There is up to £200k available in this funding call. The launch will take place on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023 and will be delivered through several formats/channels such as social media and existing volunteering and charity sector communication channels. Board Members are also asked if they could use their platforms to inform as many sectors as possible about the Police Property Fund and the PCSP appointment process and were reminded of the closing dates.

Members queried if there were any thematic or geographical gaps that may need addressed.

The Partnership Manager informed the Members that there are no apparent gaps at present, but this will be monitored.

Members **NOTED** the update.

#### **6.4 Feedback on Community Safety Priorities**

The Partnership Manager provided Members with the current community safety priorities which PCSPs focus on and sought feedback on any emerging issues that should be considered as part of the PCSP planning process for 2024/25 Action Plans. Members were reminded that part of the Joint Committee role is to provide strategic oversight and direction to the Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (PCSPs). This is partially achieved through the issuing of Planning Guidance, intended to assist the PCSP's with the submission of their yearly Action Plans. The purpose of the Community Safety Framework is to ensure effective connectivity between the community safety work of the responsible agencies and to provide an operational roadmap on how to collectively deliver the safer community objectives set out within Community Plans.

Following the update Members discussed:

- The need for a good focus on Hate Crime. ensuring that all areas of hate crime are covered for example, against people with disabilities.
- The work being delivered in relation to road safety.
- The need to explore best practice from other regions including the lessons learned by established and successful interagency /cross border initiatives.”
- Community interaction and the attendance of officials and public bodies at events.

- The Community Policing Survey report would be useful to share as it shows community safety prioritisation from respondents.

In addressing Members comments Board Officials noted:

- PCSPs are delivering successful initiatives in relation to hate crime with the most successful being those that target early intervention in schools. The upcoming PCSP Action plans will be reviewed, and clarification will be sought from PCSPs regarding any perceived lack of activity in this area.
- The need to be mindful of saturation in relation to road safety and not replacing statutory responsibility.
- The sharing of best practice with other PCSP regions and noting any issues that may have been encountered.
- The use of the Board's Community Policing Survey and telephone survey in mapping local areas in identifying any themes or signages which may develop.

It was **Agreed**:

The Partnership Manager will issue a response to include a copy of the Community Policing Survey report 2023. **(AP3)**

## **6.5 PCSP Appointment Process – Recommendations for Legislative Review**

The Partnership Manager provided members with the current legislative references to the PCSP Appointment Process and sought feedback on a potential legislative review for the Department of Justice. The Partnership Manager suggested some changes and highlighted that legislation is generally written at the highest strategic level and that the Code of Practice should provide more detailed process guidance, however, Members will be aware that changes

that were proposed through the updated Code could have been regarded as being contrary to the legislation.

Following the update Members discussed:

- PSCP's should be represented and representative of all areas of the community.
- The responsibility for legislative review is for the DOJ and not the Board.
- The fact that Department of Justice (DOJ) reply to the Board's correspondence does not address the fundamental issues that were initially raised.
- If there should be a maximum term for appointed PCSP's.
- The involvement of local councils and the use of council buildings for meetings.

The duty on designated bodies to attend PCSP meetings on a regular basis.

In addressing Members comments Board Officials noted:

- That the Board would be happy to approach DOJ highlighting areas of issue but not suggesting legislative changes.
- That ongoing work is required to improve confidence and the need for designated bodies to attend these meetings.
- The terms that elected PCSPS Members can serve.

It was **Agreed:**

- That the review of legislation is the responsibility of the DOJ. Members will email the Partnership Manager with their suggestions and then a letter should be issued from the Chair to the DOJ. **(AP4)**

## **6.6 Update on ICV Volunteer Conference**

The Engagement Manager provided Members with an update in relation to the upcoming Annual Volunteer Conference which will be held on 3 November 2023 in Clogher. Members were advised that an invitation will be issued once all details have been finalised.

Members **NOTED** the update.

## **7. QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE**

No questions were raised.

## **8. COMMUNICATIONS ISSUES / OPPORTUNITIES**

There were no communication issues or opportunities for update.

## **9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

This is in reference to the Reference, Engagement and Listening (REaL) Events.

The next event is a Children and Young Peoples community event on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2023 from 9.30am to 3.30pm.

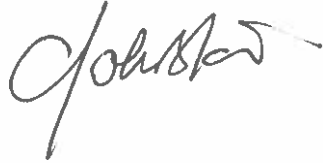
Members **NOTED** the update and will advise if they wish to attend.

## **10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2023 in Strand Road conference room. This meeting will follow a visit to the newly finished Waterside Custody Suite. Times are to be confirmed.

The meeting ended at 13.15pm

**CHAIR**



**PARTNERSHIP DIRECTORATE  
SEPTEMBER 2023**