

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

THURSDAY 17 OCTOBER 2019 at 10.00am

WATERSIDE TOWER

PRESENT: Mr Colm McKenna (Chair)
Mr John Blair
Mrs Joanne Bunting
Prof Brice Dickson
Mrs Linda Dillon
Mr Philip McGuigan
Mr Gary Middleton
Mr Mervyn Storey

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Adrian McNamee, Director of Partnership
3 Board Officials

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE IN ATTENDANCE: (1) Ms Julie Harrison (TPPT)
(1) Ms Debra Whyte (TPPT)

(1) Item number 6.1 (arrived 10.10am and left 11.20am)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for the meeting were received from Mrs Dolores Kelly, Mrs Debbie Watters and T/ACC Barbara Gray. In the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair Linda Dillon proposed Brice Dickson to act as Chair and Philip McGuigan seconded this. Brice recommended moving Agenda Item 6.1 to the start of the meeting, members agreed.

6.1 The Chair invited Julie Harrison, Director of the Tackling Paramilitary Programme Team (TPPT) to provide the committee with an update on the Tackling Paramilitary Programme. The update included background on the

programme, an update on programme delivery, locality working, the protocols for engagement in relation to A8 and the future focus for implementation. Committee members were also advised that the TPPT are currently developing a review of programme implementation to date. During and following the presentation Members discussed:

- The statistics provided in respect to attitudinal change and requested further information;
- The need for governance around some restorative justice agencies;
- A need for more progress in developing a protocol for engagement in relation to A8;
- The importance of early intervention activity; and
- The status of the internal review and whether it will be available to the Board.

The Director of Partnership requested an update in relation to the implementation of B4 and also advised of the forthcoming Police Property Fund. The following responses were provided by the TPPT:

- Further detail will be forwarded to Members for information around the statistics;
- Advised that they are currently working on an effective accreditation process in relation to restorative justice agencies;
- Recognise the challenges around A8 and they will continue to work in partnership to progress this area;
- Advised that projects and programmes are up and running in areas such as early intervention work, however they are currently working with groups and fora to identify areas where vulnerable youths are not as obvious. An update on this would be forwarded for the Committee to note;
- Confirmed that they will provide a summary of the interim review at the TPPT conference on 12 November 2019; and

- Provided an update in relation to B4 and welcomed further information on the Police Property Fund which the Director of Partnership will provide.

It was:

AGREED:

TPPT would provide the Committee with further details on the statistics provided and an update on the early intervention work **(AP1)**, and the Director of Partnership will provide further information on the Police Property Fund **(AP2)**.

Mervyn Storey joined the meeting at 11.05am.

Gary Middleton joined the meeting at 11.10am.

Colm McKenna joined the meeting at 11.10am.

The TPPT left the meeting at 11.20am and Vice Chair Colm McKenna took the Chair and commenced Committee business.

2. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The Chair asked Members to declare any conflicts of interests arising from the agenda. No Conflicts of Interest were declared. NOTED

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Committee considered the draft minutes of the Partnership Committee meeting held on 19 September 2019. A member queried point 6.6 of the minutes with regards to the Committees decision to adopt option C. The Member proposed changing to option B and sought Committee agreement. The Committee agreed to retain option C but noted the objections of the Members Linda Dillon and Philip McGuigan.

It was:

RESOLVED:

That the draft minutes of the Partnership Committee meeting held on 19 September 2019 be approved.

4. UPDATE ON ACTION LOG:

The Director of Partnership provided Members with an update on the Committee's rolling action log. Members noted the current open actions and expected timeframes for these matters to be brought back to the Partnership Committee. **NOTED.**

5. CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS

The Chair highlighted correspondence to the PSNI regarding the Tackling Paramilitarism Action Plan and advised that there will be an opportunity to explore this further at the Partnership Committee Meeting in November.

6. ITEMS FOR COMMITTEE BUSINESS

6.2 Police Property Fund

The Director of Partnership advised the Committee that the three papers provided have been drafted in line with the decisions made at the September Committee meeting and they propose arrangements for the Small Grants Scheme and on the basis of the discussion would assist in informing the Larger Grants Scheme. Members provided the following feedback and requested:

- The removal of two eligibility criteria;
- Amend inconsistencies between the three documents; and
- To extend the duration of the Small Grants Scheme from 18 to 24 months.

Joanne Bunting joined the meeting at 11.45am.

Further discussion took place around:

- Whether groups should be constituted or registered with the Charities Commission;
- Phasing of funding around projects;
- The need for an appeals process;
- Quantum of funding between small and larger projects and the amount of funding available at the first phase.

It was:-

AGREED:

- To remove the two discussed eligibility criteria from the documents;
- Weighting for assessment will be 30:30:20:20 as agreed in Appendix A of the Guidance for Applicants;
- This will primarily be a small grants scheme with up to 80% of the total project fund available for small grants;
- Audited accounts will be amended to official accounts;
- The maximum duration of small grants projects will be amended to 24 months;
- An information sheet for applicants will be developed; and
- No appeals process will be available for the small grants scheme.

All amendments to be made by Board Officials and brought to the next meeting **(AP3)**.

Joanne Bunting recorded her objections to there being no appeal process for the small grants scheme.

6.3 PCSP Recruitment 2019/20 Update

The Partnership Manager provided an update on stage two of the PCSP recruitment process and advised that the full list of appointable candidates should be with the Board by mid-December.

John Blair left the meeting at 12:40pm.

The Partnership Manager also advised that training for Board panels will commence in January with panels sitting in February 2020.

The Director of Partnership confirmed that a meeting with DoJ had occurred and outlined the main points as follows:

- Confirmed that the PCSP recruitment process is not CPANI regulated but we should follow good practice;
- DoJ confirmed that they would not be amending the current Code of Practice, in light of the Probation Board report and that we should ensure that our processes are legal;
- There is a current policy for implementing stage 3. Board officials will discuss the current policy for stage three with CPANI and if required the Equality Commission;
- If Board officials identify the need for amendments to the policy, the amended version will be brought to the next Committee meeting for discussion and approval; and
- Legal advice will also be sought if required.

The Chair requested it be noted:

- Partnership Committee is disappointed in relation to the delay by DoJ in replying to correspondence sent to them in May 2019 regarding this matter and whilst welcoming clarification provided by DoJ, it will now be the responsibility of the Board to implement stage 3. NOTED

Members were content with the proposed actions as outlined by the Director of Partnership.

John Blair re-joined the meeting at 12:45pm

It was:-

AGREED:

- Board officials will implement the actions in relation to the current policy **(AP4)**.

6.4 Independent Custody Visitor Annual Report 2018/19

The Director of Partnership introduced the report and requested the committee approve the report and recommend to the Board to publish it on the Board's website.

It was

AGREED:

- Report is approved by committee and Board approval will be sought at the Board meeting in November 2019 **(AP5)**.

6.5 Independent Community Observer Annual Report 2018/19 and 2017/18

The Director of Partnership introduced the reports and requested the Committee approve the reports and recommend to the Board to publish them on the Board's website.

It was

AGREED:

- Reports are approved by committee and Board approval will be sought at the Board meeting in November 2019 **(AP6)**.

6.6 Probation Board NI – Consultation on Corporate Planning 2020-2023

The Director of Partnership introduced the item explaining that the Probation Board are seeking views on five strategic priorities as outlined in the consultation document (Annex A) and the four questions which consultees have been asked to consider. Members identified the following to be included in the consultation response:

- Probation Board should have more focus on restorative justice initiatives;

- Probation Board should develop more innovative approaches to working with young people;
- Probation Board should develop more effective communication and publicity around the good work that they do; and
- Probation Board should work closer with local councils to develop more effective work schemes and training.

It is proposed that Members provide their views in relation to these questions and Board officials will include these as part of the draft response provided in Annex B of the paper. It was agreed that a complete draft consultation response will be tabled at the November Board meeting for approval.

It was

AGREED:

- A draft consultation response will be tabled at the November Board meeting for approval **(AP7)**.

- 6.7 Members discussed the request for financial support received from the National Black Police Association (NBPA) and whilst supportive of the bursary, agreed that it was more appropriate for the PSNI to financially support this.

It was

AGREED:

- The Director of Partnership will bring this request to the attention of the PSNI and also advise the NBPA of the forthcoming Police Property Fund **(AP8)**.

7. QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

There were no questions for the Chief Constable identified.

8. COMMUNICATION ISSUES

There were no communication issues arising from the meeting identified.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Director of Partnership reminded Members who attended the NIPB Corporate Plan session and advised those who were not in attendance to provide feedback and any comments through to Board Official Rob Gilmour. Rob will send a reminder to all Board Members along with a copy of the current draft **(AP9)**.

The Partnership Manager requested that Members promote the recruitment campaign for Independent Custody Visitors which closes on Friday 18th October 2019.

The Director of Partnership reminded Members of the launch date for the Local Policing Review Consultation Response on 5th November 2019.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was agreed as Thursday 21 November 2019 and we will visit Grosvenor Road Police Station.

(Meeting closed at 1:10pm).

PARTNERSHIP DIRECTORATE

OCTOBER 2019



Chairperson

