

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY
19 MARCH 2020 AT 10 AM AT THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD,
WATERSIDE TOWER**

PRESENT: Mrs Dolores Kelly (Chair)
Mr Colm McKenna
Prof Brice Dickson
Mr Tom Buchanan
Mr Sean Lynch
Ms Liz Kimmins

PSNI: (1) T/ACC Mark McEwan
(1) Supt Norman Haslett

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

(1) Present only for Items 6.1 and 6.2

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for the meeting were received from Mr John Blair, Mrs Wendy Osborne and Mr Mervyn Storey.

The Chair welcomed new Board Member Mr Tom Buchanan and thanked Professor Brice Dickson and Mrs Wendy Osborne for their contribution to the work of the Partnership Committee as they complete their term as Board Members on 31st March 2020. Best wishes to Wendy for a speedy recovery were also recorded.

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 20 February 2020. Ms Liz Kimmins requested that an amendment at 6.2 to reflect standardisation of reports be made.

It was:-

RESOLVED:-

That the draft minutes of Partnership Committee meetings held on the 20 February 2020 were agreed pending the amendment.

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**

In relation to action point AP 9.10 the Director of Partnership stated that a meeting with the PSNI had to be cancelled due to the Coronavirus pandemic and that a conference call would be arranged instead.

In relation to action point AP 11.1 the Director of Partnership stated that the PPS Report had not yet been sourced but that it will be shared with Members when it is available.

5. CHAIRPERSON'S BUSINESS

NONE

6. ITEMS FOR COMMITTEE BUSINESS

6.1 PSNI Update on Policing with the Community (PwC)

The Chair welcomed T/ACC Mark McEwan and Superintendent Norman Haslett to the meeting for Agenda items 6.1 and 6.2 who updated the Committee on:

- The current focus of Policing with the Community (PwC) Branch in the areas of representativeness, confidence, early intervention and people;
- In terms of representativeness, PSNI officers provided an update in relation to the Representativeness Independent Advisory Group (RIAG), the Young People's Independent Advisory Group (YIAG), the PwC Strategic Calendar and the Work Experience Programme;
- In relation to confidence, the PSNI representatives outlined PwC Branch's role in Neighbourhood Policing training, the electronic capture of problem solving data, the progress with new Open University modules, implementing recommendation 171 of the Gillen Report and the development of the Children and Young People's Strategy; and

- PSNI representatives also provided an update in relation to PwC's role in Early Intervention through their work on crime prevention, youth volunteer academies, the support youth through engagement in schools (SYTES) project. They also outlined their role in relation to the Tackling Paramilitarism Programme, the Early Intervention Through Sport programme and their progress on Evidence Based Policing.

Members discussed:

- Current links with the Policing Plan 2020-2025 and the level of interaction at a community level and how this is documented and measured;
- The impact of the work of the PwC branch and its contribution to the greater confidence in policing;
- How do PSNI ensure representativeness on each of the IAGs highlighted?
- Clarification on the role and remit of IAGs; and
- How do PwC Branch identify areas to run programmes in?

PSNI representatives clarified these queries, responding that:

- The Policing Plan 2020-2025 is the PSNI's key document and it is currently informing the development of a Community Safety Framework. This Framework will also inform early interventions and community engagement and how PSNI will map, monitor and evaluate engagement in the future;
- There is still work to do on impact, but have evidence and examples of partnerships working effectively in intervening with young people. The focus needs to be on building more effective partnerships;

- In terms of representativeness, PSNI engages widely for participants on groups from within its staff organisations and also the wider community. The Youth Champions Forum is a good example of this with wide representation across the youth sector;
- PSNI outlined the context and concept of IAGs evolving from the Stephen Lawrence Report and their primary role is to provide a challenge on specific issues and work alongside the Board and PCSPs;
- The PSNI representatives clarified that the areas selected for programmes are carefully chosen on the basis of risk and where young people are most at risk of either joining paramilitaries or turning to crime.

6.2 PSNI Performance against the Policing Plan 2019/20 Communication and Engagement.

Superintendent Haslett provided an update to Members on the analysis of work relating to PSNI performance against the Policing Plan 2019/20 in relation to measures:

- 1.2.1 Embed and demonstrate PwC ethos:
Supt. Haslett referred Members to the paper provided which includes examples of good practice and progress in this area. He particularly highlighted the positive feedback and findings in relation to the Managing Expectations Initiative in North Belfast and the potential to extend this type of project to other areas.
- 2.1.1 Improve service to the most vulnerable:
Supt. Haslett provided an update on Multi Agency Support Hubs stating that significant progress has been made in provision across Northern

Ireland with 10 of 11 Council areas now having an operational support hub in place. He stated that DoJ intend to carry out an evaluation of support hubs later in the year using questionnaires and community based workshops. However, due to the Coronavirus pandemic this has been delayed.

The Chair commended PSNI on the report and work being done and noted that the hubs will benefit communities greatly over the next few weeks/months.

Members discussed:

- The update on the Continuous Improvement Project report and asked if a closure report is to be produced?
- Information Sharing agreements with the hubs and if these are GDPR compliant and if measures have been taken to ensure personal information is not shared;
- Regarding the youth volunteer academies can a breakdown of the location, spread and number of young people be shared with Members; and
- The Director of Partnership asked for an update on the "Exploring Current Assets, Practice and Partnership" report as highlighted in AP 3.7 on the Committee's action log.

In response TVACC McEwan advised:

- Regarding a closure report PSNI are intending to commission independent research on the PwC Project, PwC branch and the Continuous Improvement Project. This will inform the strategic development of a Community Safety Division within PSNI encompassing PwC and other areas with a focus on problem solving in a broad sense. It will also look to bring consistency across the support hubs, look at better use of information and aim to improve performance across a number of areas;

- In relation to the sharing of personal information, PSNI confirmed that they had worked closely with the Information Commissioners Office to ensure all information is treated confidentially and that GDPR guidance is adhered to;
- In relation to the Youth Volunteer Academy's Supt. Haslett agreed to provide a report on the 12 Academies that have run to date;
- Regarding the "Exploring Current Assets, Practice and Partnership" report, Supt. Haslett updated members on its progress and stated that once this has been completed it will be shared with Members.

It was:

AGREED:

- PwC agreed to share a report on the Youth Volunteer Academies **(AP1)**;
- The "Exploring Current Assets, Practice and Partnership" report will be shared with Members when updated **(AP2)**.

6.3 PCSP Effectiveness Report 2018/19

The Partnership Manager updated Members on the current situation regarding Reconstitution of PCSPs stating that contingency plans are in place and all appointees have been kept informed.

The Partnership Manager referred Members to the Annual Effectiveness Report for PCSPs in 2018/19 and highlighted initiatives that are making positive regional impacts and are making a significant contribution to the Programme for Government Outcome 7 which states "we have a safe community where we respect the law and each other".

PCSPs invest funding in a wide and diverse portfolio of activities that have had some of the following impacts in communities:

- In relation to illegal drug use, funded RAPID (Remove All Prescription and Illegal Drugs) bins have resulted in almost 45,000 drug items being disposed of;
- Regionally, anti-social behaviour incidents declined and PCSPs have supported a significant number of initiatives in this area, 9000 individuals attended through 500 sessions/events which were designed to support communities in their bid to reduce anti-social behaviour;
- Reporting of domestic violence incidents and crimes increased from the previous year. PCSPs supported many projects designed to raise awareness of domestic abuse and sexual violence, increase reporting and support victims/survivors; 65 events were held with almost 2000 attendees;
- PCSPs collectively organised 100 road safety events with almost 18,000 attendees; and
- In contributing to safer communities, the PCSPs co-ordinated 778 Neighbourhood Watch Schemes, covering 41,933 homes with 996 volunteers and recently have become even more important to support older and vulnerable people through the COVID-19 situation.

Members discussed:

- The quality and information contained in the report was commended;
- Partnership working in Derry and Strabane seems positive but match funding consistency in areas is not always evident, interventions that are co-funded are working well;
- Underspend in Newry, Mourne and Down due to staffing issues and a project that fell was declared late in the financial year and funding had to be handed back, however steps are now in place to monitor spend on a quarterly basis to ensure this does not happen in the future;
- Some PCSP events will be cancelled in the 2019/20 and 20/21 years but this is unavoidable in the current circumstances and will be monitored by the Joint Committee;

- The need for the 2019/20 Annual Effectiveness Report to be produced in a more timely manner to ensure that the information and learning is not historical;
- An Induction training programme is currently being agreed for new PCSP Members along with a review of the Handbook, action plans are to be aligned and whilst there are local policing plans in place Board Officials plan to run workshops with PCSP Managers and PSNI Commanders next year;
- Video conferencing was suggested as a resource to allow PCSPs to continue working to ensure the function does not stop;
- The launch of the Police Property Fund was discussed and Members agreed that consideration should be given to the fund going ahead to allow funding to reach communities with an extension to the closing date for applications; and
- The Communications Manager raised concerns about opening the Fund given the uncertain environment we are now entering with the Coronavirus situation.
- The Committee agreed to wait to evaluate the full effect of the current crisis before considering a Fund launch date.

6.4 Draft Board Engagement Strategy

The Engagement Manager provided an overview of the draft Engagement Strategy, how it had been developed and how it will be implemented to run parallel with the Board's Corporate Plan 2020 to 2023. The Engagement Strategy covers the three areas of why we engage, who we engage with and how we engage. The draft Engagement Strategy includes outward engagement from all branches and the Engagement Manager asked for any suggestions for improvement and approval from members.

Members discussed:

- The Engagement Strategy is agreed in principle but obviously we need to be aware of the current developing situation in relation to coronavirus;

- It is an excellent document and while endorsed by the committee will require Board approval;
- There is a role for PCSPs in engagement;
- The inclusion of faith-based organisations should be considered, it was felt that this will be a consideration under the wider community section of the engagement strategy and can be added as an annex;
- Attendance at exhibitions and events may be impacted due to low attendance and engagement is more productive when we have a message to deliver automatic engagement approach will be taken going forward;
- Members are to highlight events that may be worth attending; and
- A query arose as to whether board members should be referred to as stakeholders.

Officials agreed to take these points on board and make relevant changes prior to presenting a final draft document to the Board.

It was:-

AGREED

- Board officials will consider the changes and bring the draft engagement strategy to a future Board meeting **(AP3)**.

6.5 Review of Committee Business

The Director of Partnership provided an overview of work completed by Partnership Committee to date and asked that Members provide views and advice on the Committee's priorities for the next twelve months.

Members discussed:

- Board business will drive the Committee business and the Policing Plan 2020/25 will direct this;
- Holding meetings in public when guest speakers are present to highlight ongoing Board work;
- Papers are fine as they are and should remain in the current format;

- Current work of the Board and Committees is working more systematically against the Policing Plan but it is difficult for Members to deal with matters arising from reports;

It was:-

AGREED

- Board officials will consider the feedback from Members and take into consideration when developing a new work programme for the Committee for the next six to twelve months; **(AP4)**.

7. QUESTIONS FOR THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

It was requested that regular updates from the Chief Constable are provided to the public during the next few weeks and months.

8. COMMUNICATION ISSUES

NONE

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Director of Partnership informed members of written correspondence received from the Chief Constable requesting the suspension of the Board's Independent Custody Visiting Scheme due to the current COVID-19 emergency. Members agreed to recommend to the Board that a suspension should be introduced immediately.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was agreed as 19th May 2020.

(Meeting closed at 12.45 PM).

**PARTNERSHIP DIRECTORATE
MARCH 2020**

Dolores Keely
Chairperson