Minutes of
Policing and Community Safety Partnership Meeting

Tuesday 28 April 2026
Council Chamber, Guildhall

Present: Cllr John Boyle, Marie Brown, Cathal Crumley, Ald Darren Guy, Cllr Christopher Jackson, Ald Keith Kerrigan, Declan Gallagher (EA), Karen McLaughlin, Cllr Emma McGinley, Cllr Antaine Ó Fearghail, Caroline Quigley (NIHE), Cllr Martin Reilly, Paul Ryan (YJA), Beverly Simpson, Denise Stewart (PBNI), Alison Wallace, Linda Watson

PSNI: Chief Insp Graeme Craig, Sgt Caroline Crawford and Supt Claire Hamilton.

In Attendance at Meeting: Adam Donnell, Aileen Murphy, and Vanessa Russell.

DSPCSP 22/26 **Apologies:**

Ciara Bond, Karl Duncan, Davy Jackson, Cllr Fergal Leonard, Carey McKee (WHSCT), Patsy McGonagle, Ald Niree McMorris, Maura O'Neill (WHSCT)

DSPCSP 23/26 **Chairperson's Business**

Ald Keith Kerrigan (Chair) welcomed all members to the April PCSP Meeting. On behalf of the PCSP he condemned the recent bomb attack on Dunmurry PSNI Station. He said it was dreadful to see incidents like this taking place and thanked the PSNI for the way they are managing the situation.

The Chair also condemned recent graffiti on the war memorial in Strabane. He indicated this has never been attacked before and welcomed confirmation that it was being removed.

The Chair congratulated PCSP member Davy Jackson who had spoken about road safety on a radio programme that morning. He explained Davy Jackson had spoken highly of the PSNI and that he appreciated the restraints placed on police in terms of the numbers of officers on the ground.

DSPCSP 24/26 **Approval of Minutes of PCSP Meeting of 31st March 2026 - DSPCSP 11.26-21.26**

Proposed: Linda Watson
Seconded: Cathal Crumley

DSPCSP 25/26 **Matters Arising**

Cllr Darren Guy referred to an action from the March meeting whereby PCSP had agreed to write to Claire Sinton, and invite her to give a presentation to the PCSP in relation to 'Smartphone Free Childhood'. Cllr Guy asked if there had been any follow up on this.

The PCSP Manager said no reply had been received yet, but PCSP would follow it up.

PCSP Manager

DSPCSP 26/26 **PCSP Manager's Report**

The PCSP Manager referred members to the Manager's Report and covered the following areas:

PCSP Action Plan/Budget 2025/2026 – The Letter of Offer confirming the allocation to Derry and Strabane PCSP for delivery of the Action Plan for 2025/2026 was issued by the Joint Committee on 19th May 2025 for £441,496. Once again, PCSP budgets have not been reduced across Northern Ireland compared to 2024/2025. The Letter of Offer was signed by the Chief Executive and returned to the Joint committee on 23rd May 2025.

In addition to this, the Department of Justice has confirmed that it will provide funding of £3,600 towards administration for each support hub in the 2025/2026 financial year.

The quarterly expenditure claims for the first three quarters of 2025-2026 have been submitted to the Joint Committee for a total of £292,749.23 and subsequently reimbursed to Council. The quarter four expenditure claim was submitted to the Joint Committee on the 21st April 2026. The total claimed for 2025-26 was £452,596.00.

PCSP Action Plan/Budget 2026/2027 – The PCSP Action Plan 2026-2027 was sent to the Joint Committee for consideration on 28th January 2026. DOJ/NIPB Officials have considered all Action Plans and will formally meet on 29th April to sign off these Action Plans. Joint Committee have advised that they do not have a date for the issue of Letters of Offers to PCSPs, as they have not yet worked through their allocated budgets. Members will be kept updated as soon as budgets are confirmed.

Conflict of Interest Declarations – Elected and Independent members must complete a conflict of interest declaration annually. Forms for the 2026/2027 year will be emailed to members by the end of April 2026 and all members were asked to complete and return these before 31st May 2026. This is to ensure that we are compliant with the guidelines in the PCSP Member Handbook, the PCSP Financial Guidelines and Internal Audit. All members are asked to complete this even if it is a "nil return".

PCSP Manager

PCSP Meeting Expense Payments/Travel Claims – The PCSP office will continue to issue expense forms monthly ahead of each PCSP meeting. Members should make sure that their form is fully completed* and should bring their form with them to the PCSP meeting so that it can be processed for payment in a timely manner. This will make it easier for us to adhere to our budget profile throughout the year and will make it easier to keep track of expenditure.

Members are reminded that claims can only be approved if they are submitted within 3 months from the date of the meeting/event. Any claims submitted after 3 months will not be authorised for payment. Blank copies of claim forms have been emailed to members from the PCSP Office for completion and these can be handed into PCSP staff today or emailed to Ciara.

* As a result of the PCSP Audit report 2025/2026, PCSP members are reminded that they must ensure that meeting expense forms are fully completed to include name, address, month of claim. The start and end time for all meetings/events must also be included, otherwise claim forms cannot be processed.

Consensual Grant Aid 2026/27 – The action plans for each DEA were considered by the PCSP at their meeting on 31st March 2026 and subsequently approved, with the exception of the EVAWG elements, which are not yet complete for all areas. We anticipate that these should all be submitted within the next few weeks and these will be presented to the PCSP for consideration as soon as they are available. At this stage, all applications for funding are "at risk" until the PCSP receives a Letter of Offer from DOJ/NIPB.

Small Project Support 2026/2027 – Open Call – The on-line grant aid portal opened on Monday 23rd March at 10.00am and closed on Wednesday 22nd April at 12 noon.

PCSP Officers are currently assessing the applications submitted and will present a report to PCSP members for consideration by the end of May 2026 so that groups can be informed of the outcome of their application as soon as possible.

PCSP Manager

Campaigns/Initiatives - Between 01.04.25 and 31.03.26, the Community Safety Wardens have dealt with a total of 766 referrals from members of the public, 697 referrals from statutory agencies (1,463 referrals in total) and provided 15,182 patrols of ASB hotspot areas.

External funding towards the Community Safety Warden scheme for 2026/27 is as follows:

Funder	Allocation	Status
PSNI	NIL	Confirmed no funding available
DfC	£43,970	Confirmed
DOJ	£55,000	Application submitted via PCSP Action Plan
NIHE	£40,000	Application submitted
University of Ulster	£25,000	Confirmed
Apex Housing	£5,000	Confirmed
	£168,970	

RAPID Drugs Bins - 23 RAPID Drug Bins have been installed throughout the City and District. The latest information provided by PHA stated that 14,106 pills were deposited in the RAPID Drugs Bins in the DCSDC area between 01.04.25 and 20.03.25.

Neighbourhood Watch – there are 44 NHW Schemes covering 3,500 homes. The PCSP facilitates quarterly meetings with co-ordinators and PSNI and produces a quarterly Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter for co-ordinators to distribute within their respective schemes.

The next meetings will be held on Monday 18th May in Guildhall, Derry and Wednesday 27th May in Melvin Sports Complex. PCSP Members are invited to attend these meetings, however please advise the PCSP office in advance.

PCSP Members

CCTV - For the period from 1 April 2025 to 28 February 2026 CCTV has dealt with 405 missing person reports, 194 attempted suicides and 760 suicide welfare concerns

Road Safety - PCSP have agreed to work in partnership with PSNI to deliver a BikeSafe event in St. Columb's Park House on Friday 31st July 2026. This event will give riders the opportunity to learn more about how to bike safely. The format of this event includes a workshop and "ride-out" with PSNI trained officers.

During 2026/2027, the PCSP will continue to liaise with schools, community/voluntary sector, statutory partners and others to deliver key road safety messages as per our Action Plan.

Cllr Martin Reilly raised the issue of those who work as funeral directors and drive limousines to funerals having to register in the same way as taxi drivers. He said they are not carrying out the same duties as taxi drivers so they should not have to be registered in the same way. It is incumbent on funeral directors to carry out this necessary service and without them grieving families will have to make their own way to a funeral. Cllr Martin Reilly proposed that the PCSP should write to the Department for Infrastructure asking them to look at the issue and to consider the possibility of an exemption for those working in the funeral business. He said this is the only place in the UK and ROI where the driving of limousines for funerals is not exempt.

Proposed: Martin Reilly
Seconded: John Boyle

PCSP Manager

Policing Committee Meeting – The PCSP Manager advised that the next Policing Committee meeting will take place on Tuesday 26th May 2026 when the District commander will deliver the quarter 4 performance report for 2025/2026. She added that this meeting will be held in Strabane Chamber and not Guildhall, as noted on the agenda that was issued for today.

DSPCSP 27/26 **Community Safety Wardens' Reports**

Members were referred to the CSW Reports which were distributed for information.

Cllr Antaine Ó Fearghail referred to the CSW Report. He explained that Sion Mills had previously had a dedicated team of Community Safety Wardens and asked if it was likely to return to the village.
The PCSP Manager explained the service for Sion Mills was terminated due to funding cuts. She explained that the existing Wardens have a remit to cover the entire district, but that it was based on service requests. She reminded members that a new leaflet with contact details for the Community Safety Wardens had recently been distributed and encouraged them to ring with any concerns so that issues/areas are logged with the wardens and they will then visit the area.

The PCSP Chair said this was a point he raised regularly and noted that there was only one visit to Castlederg and three to Newtownstewart in the March report. He added that the Wardens are doing good work.

The PCSP Chair also took the opportunity to welcome Adam Donnell as a Project Coordinator with the PCSP.

DSPCSP 28/26 **Consultations**

The PCSP Manager informed members that there were two live consultations which PCSP had been asked to contribute to:

- The Criminal Justice (Sentencing etc.) Bill (closing date 08.05.26) and
- Consultation regarding proposed amendments to The Firearms (Northern Ireland) Order 2004 (closing date 29.05.26).

She explained that PCSP Officers could draft a response to the consultations or a consultation event for members could be arranged. It was agreed that PCSP Officers would draft a response and share it with members for review.

Cllr Antaine Ó Fearghail declared an interest as he is a member of a gun club.

Cllr Darren Guy asked for information on the current and proposed prices of holding a firearm. The PCSP Manager said this information could be circulated to members.

PCSP Manager

DSPCSP 29/26 **Any Other Business**

Anti-Social Behaviour Lisnagelvin - Cllr Martin Reilly raised the issue of anti-social behaviour at Lisnagelvin Pitches. He said Waterside councillors had been working hard in relation to the matter, but he felt it would be remiss not to raise it at the meeting and would welcome an update from PSNI.

Supt Claire Hamilton explained there has been an increase in ASB across the district since the good weather had arrived. She advised that NPTs have been taken off extractions, which means they are on neighbourhood duties. She said that due to the recent terrorist incident it had been necessary for the PSNI to review its resourcing, however all efforts would be made to keep Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPT) doing Neighbourhood duties.

Supt Hamilton has drawn up a briefing for the NPTs and Insp Gahan is leading on that. She said it remains a focus and reassured members that where offences are committed there is a good possibility an arrest will follow, even in juvenile cases. She said there is a real need for youth workers in the area and that it is really unfortunate that cuts are happening in this area.

Alison Wallace said there was a need for some joined up working on this issue and suggested setting up a working group between PSNI, EANI etc to facilitate this. She said last year there was some additional funding distributed to help with on-street work around this issue. This is not just a PSNI issue, it should be a youth work issue.

Supt Claire Hamilton said this was a good idea, that a tiered approach would help – with a community response and then PSNI came on board when it tipped in to criminal activity.

Cllr Christopher Jackson said this is a big issue and there have been some very serious incidents at Lisnagelvin Pitches. He said there are concerns about young people carrying hammers/knives and it doesn't bear thinking about what the consequences of that could be. There have been occasions when council have closed the gates early when aware of incidents.

He said youth workers are able to raise the alert when they are aware of tensions raising in the area and mitigation measures have been put in place. That community-led approach is the right approach. Cllr Jackson also commended the PSNI and local community workers for the pro-active work that has been done in relation to this matter.

Cllr Jackson said he also had concerns around the lack of continuity in NPTs in the Waterside, that turnover is very high. He said officers are coming along and they don't know the area or the individuals from the area. While he understood the security concerns PSNI are facing it can't be to the detriment of the community. He stated there is a meeting this afternoon with youth workers and PSNI and this will be discussed then.

Supt Claire Hamilton said that on some previous occasions PSNI would have had prior warning that something was being planned, but that on some of the more recent occasions the first police knew about them was when a call was made to PSNI. She explained by that stage the situation has already escalated and PSNI don't have a chance to put preventative measures in place. She referred to policing around a football match on Friday night and explained part of the PSNI planning was to have Neighbourhood Officers in the areas before and after the match.

In relation to continuity of NPTs, Supt Hamilton said it is sometimes hard to stop this due to natural career progression but explained that new officers coming into the NPTs have already been based there. That while it will take time for them to get to know individuals, they already know the area.

Cllr Christopher Jackson asked that there be some work done with local business and they have now secured their premises to prevent young people getting pallets. He advised that Young people are now targeting the garden centre and Tescos and asked if PSNI could engage with these businesses to remind them of their duty to secure premises.

PSNI

Cllr Darren Guy thanked the PSNI for the work they have already done. He referred to an incident in The Fountain recently where fireworks were thrown and young children had to run for cover. He said this incident happened at 6:30pm and that was too early to consider closing pitches as members of the public use them for activities, especially during summer months. He said normally there is a lull in ASB during the winter months but that hadn't happened this year, and it was worrying coming into the summer months. He added that while no-one wants to see a young person criminalised, it gets to the point when action needs to be taken.

Supt Claire Hamilton agreed that people living in these communities have a right to go about their daily business and this is the reason why PSNI have agreed to deal with it, so that this can act as a deterrent to others. She added that this is not a decision taken lightly, however throwing fireworks and carrying weapons is not acceptable and PSNI do not want to see someone get critically injured as a result of this activity.

Cllr Antaine Ó Fearghail referred to organised fights at the cricket pitches in Sion Mills. He said the first he knew about these was when he got a phone call from the parent of a young person involved in the fights. He notified PSNI and said the response was quick and the fight was stopped. He said he would contact PSNI if he had information from any other parents.

Cllr Ó Fearghail also raised the matter of long traffic delays in Clady village due to a PSNI checkpoint in the village recently and asked if more thought could be put into the siting and timing of checks like this.

Supt Claire Hamilton urged members to bring any information to the PSNI who can then visit the home of the young person involved and give a warning.

Marie Brown said it was important not to normalise the carrying of weapons like hammers or knifes. She said there is an increase in violence in homes and if people are happy to use weapons like this on the streets what are they doing with them at home.

Supt Hamilton agreed saying having the names of those involves allows PSNI to visit the home and follow up. She said knives is a worrying development and reports to the police so far had only mentioned sticks and hammers.

Condolences to Ald Niree McMorris – Linda Watson asked that condolences be passed on behalf of the PCSP to Ald Niree McMorris on the death of her mother.

Top of the Hill Mural – Alison Wallace said she wanted to highlight a recently completed mural in the Top of the Hill which had been created by young people in the area with the PSNI as part of the Ending Violence Against Women and Girls campaign. She said there had been really good engagement between the officers and the young people and it was something they hoped to do again.

Cllr Christopher Jackson agreed with the comments. He said he had been speaking to some of the young men involved and they are very proud of the work they have done. He said this was tremendous work and it had been delivered by funding from Council so it shows the impact that can have. He said the message is powerful but added that the young people took a lot from the workshops they attended and that adds real value to the project.

Comic Book – The Chair commended all those involved with the comic created by local young people to highlight issues around domestic violence. He said there had been

excellent engagement with schools and also commended the launch event in the Guildhall.

Marie Brown said the comic book was work well done and that she had a number of women tell her it had helped them start the conversation around domestic violence with young people in the family. She explained that Women's Aid will continue to use the comic book and develop it further. She commended the work of the PSNI officers involved in the project and said the launch event had been really good for the city.

DSPCSP 30/26 **Date of Next Meeting**

The next PCSP PC Meeting has been arranged for 26 May 2026 in the Council Chamber, Derry Road, Strabane at 10.00am.

The meeting ended at 10.50 am.

Policing and Community Safety Partnership Meeting

PCSP Meeting 28/04/2026

ACTIONS

25/26 – Pg 1	**Smartphone Free Childhood** – Following a request from Cllr Darren Guy, the PCSP Manager agreed to follow up an action from the March meeting whereby PCSP had agreed to write to Claire Sudgen, MLA and invite her to give a presentation to the PCSP in relation to 'Smartphone Free Childhood'.	**PCSP Manager**
26/26 – Pg 2	**Conflict of Interest Forms** - new forms to be issued to PCSP Members and returned to PCSP office by 31.05.26.	**PCSP Manager** **PCSP Members**
26/26 – Pg 3	**Small Project Support Funding 2026/2027** – PCSP Manager to present a recommendation report to PCSP members for consideration by the end of May 2026.	**PCSP Manager**
26/26 – Pg 3	**Neighbourhood Watch Meetings** – PCSP Members to advise PCSP Office if they wish to attend a NHW meeting in May 2026.	**PCSP Members**
26/26 – Pg 4	**Road Safety** - Cllr Martin Reilly proposed that the PCSP should write to the Department for Infrastructure asking them to look at the issue of funeral directors needing a taxi licence to drive limousines to the funerals.	**PCSP Manager**
28/26 – Pg 4	**Consultations -** PCSP had been asked to contribute to: The Criminal Justice (Sentencing etc.) Bill (closing date 08.05.26) and Consultation regarding proposed amendments to The Firearms (Northern Ireland) Order 2004 (closing date 29.05.26). PCSP Officers will draft a response and share it with members for review. The PCSP Manager will also circulate information about the current and proposed prices of holding a firearm.	**PCSP Manager**
29/26 – Pg 5	**ASB at Lisnagelvin** – PSNI to engage with the garden centre and Tescos to remind them of their duty to secure premises to prevent materials being taken for bonfires.	**PSNI**