Minutes of
Policing and Community Safety Partnership Meeting
Policing Committee

Derry City and Strabane District Council
Tuesday 26 May 2026
Council Chamber, Strabane at 10.00am

Present: Cathal Crumley, Cllr Darren Guy, Ald Keith Kerrigan (Chair), Cllr Fergal Leonard, Ald Niree McMorris, Cllr Antaine Ó'Fearghail, Beverly Simpson, Alison Wallace and Linda Watson.

PSNI: Chief Insp Cherith Craig, Serg Caroline Crawford, Insp Michael Gahan, Chief Supt Gillian Kearney, and Const Gemma Stone.

In Attendance: Joanne Davidson (DOJ); Adam Donnell, (PCSP Project Coordinator), Jennifer Clarke (DOJ); Aileen Murphy (PCSP Project Coordinator), and Vanessa Russell (PCSP Manager).

PCPM 09/26 **Apologies**

Ciara Bond, Karl Duncan, David Jackson, Cllr Emma McGinley and Martin Reilly.

PCPM 10/26 **Chairperson's Business**

The Chair welcomed all members to the May 2026 PCSP Policing Committee Meeting.

Beverly Simpson raised concerns regarding an increase in race hate crime. She explained summer is coming and there will be a rise in anti-social behaviour and the targeting of minority groups. She asked if there were ways of getting children involved in divisionary activities during the summer months.

Beverly Simpson also asked PSNI to give an update on a number of issues: the family who were targeted in Strathfoyle; the PSNI attendance at an Equality Commission event; shooting in Creggan; and issues surrounding young people dressed in black travelling on E-scooters, especially around Circular Road.

She also highlighted an event taking place on Friday, 29th May in the Guildhall. Members were invited to register for 'Race, Gender, Justice', a special public event featuring Professor Kimberlé Crenshaw.

Chief Supt Kearney explained that she would respond/address many of the issues raised as she presented the PSNI Performance Report.

PCPM 11/26 **Approval of Minutes of PCSP Meeting on 28/04/26**

The minutes of the previous PCSP Meeting (DSPCSP 22/26 to DSPCSP 30/26) were approved as follows:

Proposed by: Cllr Antaine Ó'Fearghail
Seconded by: Alison Wallace

PCPM 12/26 **Matters Arising**

The Chair explained that vandalism to the war memorial in Strabane had been raised at the April meeting and that unfortunately the memorial had been attacked again.

Ald Darren Guy highlighted that the minutes incorrectly referred to Claire Sudgen, MLA giving the 'Smartphone Free Childhood' presentation. He asked that his be updated to reflect the presentation was given by Claire Sinton.

PCPM 13/26 **Recommendation Paper on PCSP Funding Allocation via Small Project Support and EVAWG for 2036/27**

Alison Wallace indicated a conflict of interest in relation to EVAWG funding in the Waterside DEA. She left the meeting.

The PCSP Manager explained it was necessary to bring this item before members at a PCSP PC meeting to get approval in order to allow groups to start delivering on projects.

In terms of the Small Project Support grants the PCSP Manager explained the open call for Small Project Support for 2026/2027 opened on Monday 23rd March 2026 for four and a half weeks, closing on Wednesday, 22nd April 2026. The open call for applications was advertised in the six local newspapers, circulated to PCSP members and profiled on the PCSP and Council Facebook pages.

To be eligible for funding under the PCSP Open Call, applicants were advised that they must deliver their project across the entire Council area, i.e. it must be delivered in all 8 District Electoral Areas (DEAs) as follows: Ballyarnett, Derg, Faughan, Foyleside, Moor, Sperrin, Strabane Town and Waterside.

The PCSP received a total of eight (8) completed applications requesting support of £59,520.51. Officers assessed the applications and a recommendation table is now presented for consideration. Seven out of eight applicants scored above the threshold (60%) and were therefore suitable for funding, however the total available support allocated via the PCSP Action Plan is £30,000.00 meaning that the fund was over-subscribed by £29,520.51. The recommendation is that all groups will be allocated funding as follows:

Group Name	**Score**	**Rank**	**Eligible funding**	**Funding Awarded**
Shantallow Community Residents Association	100	1	£10,000	£10,000
Have Your Tomorrows (HURT)	93	2	£10,000	£9750.00
New Driver / Road Safe NI Charity	93	2	£2,500	£2,500
Foyle Women's Aid	91	4	£9,065.60	£7,750.00
Women's Centre Derry	85	5	£6,400	£0.00
Men's Action Network	82	6	£4,800	£0.00
Tyrone Dippers	76.5	7	£10,000	£0.00
Bracken Projectile Club	26.5	8	£2,500	£0.00
TOTALS			**£52,765.60**	**£30,000.00**

Although the eligible amount for Foyle Women's Aid was £9,065.60 there was only £7,750 remaining after the successful applications were scored. As in previous years, should underspends be identified throughout the year, or if groups decline the offer of funding, then that will be re-allocated to the remaining groups in rank order starting with Foyle Women's Aid up to their maximum eligible funding as per the table above. Members were asked to approve the recommendations.

Proposed by: Ald Niree McMorris
Seconded by: Beverly Simpson

Consensual Grant Aid 2026/2027 - EVAWG

As part of the PCSP Action Plan 2026/2027, the PCSP agreed to allocate funding to the 8 Local Growth Partnership Boards in the Council area using the consensual grant aid model. These action plans were considered and approved by PCSP members at the PCSP meeting on 31st March 2026.

Members were advised at that stage that action plans in relation to EVAWG funding had not been completed. Action plans for six DEAs are submitted for members approval today. Work is still progressing on the EVAWG action plans for the remaining two DEAs and they will be presented to members for decision at a later date.

DEA	**Additional Funding 2026/2027 for EVAWG**	**Action Plan Status**
Ballyarnett	£5,000	For approval by PCSP
Derg	£5,000	For approval by PCSP
Faughan	£5,000	Action Plan not submitted
Foyleside	£5,000	For approval by PCSP
Moor	£5,000	For approval by PCSP
Strabane Town	£5,000	For approval by PCSP
Sperrin	£5,000	Action Plan not submitted
Waterside	£5,000	For approval by PCSP
TOTAL ALLOCATION	**£40,000**	

PCSP Officers have reviewed the EVAWG Action Plans submitted from the six Local Growth Partnership Boards and are satisfied that they all align to the PCSP Action Plan priorities. All requested funding is consistent with what PCSP would consider eligible for funding under the Open Call process. Members were asked to approve the recommendation.

Proposed by: Ald Niree McMorris. **Seconded by:** Cllr Antaine Ó'Fearghail

Alison Wallace returned to the meeting.

PCPM 14/26 **Presentation of Police Performance Report 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026**

Chief Supt Gillian Kearney presented the PSNI Performance Report.

OUTCOME 1 – PSNI is Victim Focussed

Indicators – Violence Against Women and Girls; Domestic Abuse; Child Criminal Exploitation; Hate Crime; and Providing a High-Quality Service to Victims.

Responses included – **Theme 1** – Build Trust and Confidence; **Theme 2** – Relentless Perpetrator Pursuit; **Theme 3** – Safer Spaces.

Outcome 1 - Questions/Issues Raised:

Confidence in Police – Alison Wallace raised the recent review into PSNI handling of the Katie Simpson case and asked if any additional actions have been put in place by PSNI locally to make sure people are confident reporting to police.

Chief Supt Kearney said the report had been difficult reading for everyone in the PSNI. She explained domestic violence is an area which is acutely felt in this District and there has been ongoing work to try and build confidence in this particular area. She explained that officers are aware that every incident they respond to has the opportunity to make or break that confidence. Every incident is reviewed at a team briefing each morning. She said PSNI would continue to follow recommendations from Assistant Chief Constable Beck and will introduce any measures deemed necessary. Chief Supt Kearney added that if PCSP members had any ideas on how PSNI locally could help to improve confidence she would be happy to consider them.

Alison Wallace said collaborative work is key to this. She explained that various groups receive funding for EVAWG but there are still a lot of groups working in silos.

The PCSP Manager confirmed council had recently appointed a member of staff whose focus is on EVAWG and that work was being done to ensure the message from all council departments was consistent and trauma-informed.

Ald Niree McMorris said a recent case in England where custodial sentences were not given to two 14-year-old boys convicted of rape is another issue which is affecting people's confidence. She said the impact cases like this have on the general public and on young girls needs to be considered. She also raised the issue of changing the age of criminal responsibility and said this is something which needs to be lobbied on as it will impinge on confidence in the police.

Chief Supt Kearney said one of the biggest challenges faced by police when presenting cases to court is getting people to proceed with the case. She explained that officers use every tool at their disposal – body-worn cameras, first accounts – to try and manage the risk and safeguard the victim as much as possible.

Cllr Antaine Ó'Fearghail asked if the PSNI Vulnerability Coordinator could come to a meeting and give a presentation to PCSP members.

Chief Supt Kearney said the EVAWG Team had already given a presentation to PCSP members and that the Vulnerability Team covers more than that. She said if members could highlight particular areas they would like discussed that could be facilitated.

PSNI/PCSP Manager

Hate Crime – Responding to the matters raised by Beverly Simpson under Chairperson's Business Chief Supt Kearney explained that there has been an increase in hate crime across the district. She urged people to continue to report these incidents

as the more police are aware, the more they can respond and support victims.

Incident in Strathfoyle – Insp Michael Gahan explained that this incident had not initially been reported to police, they information came via a representative. He said the information then allowed police to investigate and within a matter of hours they had identified two young people involved and spoken to their parents. He said this was a good example of strong community relationships.

Insp Gahan said it was important that people were encouraged to report directly to police. He also said they work with young people to get them involved in divisionary activities to help them stay out of the criminal justice system. He encouraged people to use the online reporting facility to report a crime as there can be issues with the 101 number.

Ald Niree McMorris said this highlighted the importance of good community representatives on the ground. She said the community reps can resolve a lot of issues on a local basis, but they all need to be reported back to police. Ald McMorris also said it would be useful if police were able to share information with community reps. In particular she said community reps have an important role in helping minority groups to feel safe in their homes. Ald McMorris also raised concerns about the 101 phone number, she said some people did not have the capacity to report a crime online and the 101 number needs to be looked at.

Ald Darren Guy asked if PSNI were aware of any reason why the family involved had not initially contacted police.

Insp Gahan said he would check with the relevant officer to find out.

PSNI

Chief Supt Kearney said it was not about insisting people to report online, rather about giving them more options. She said 101 does not seem to serve its purpose and she would feed that information back.

PCPM 15/26

OUTCOME 2 – We Have Safe and Engaged Communities with Confidence in Policing

Indicators – Public Confidence in Policing; People Feel Safe in Their Community; Tackling the Threat Posed by Terrorism, Paramilitarism and Serious and Organised Crime Gangs; Working in Partnership with PCSPs and Local Communities to Provide Local Solutions to Local Problems; Working in Partnership to Reduce Death and Serious Injury on our Roads.

Responses included – Drug offences; Pro-Active Drug Detections; Anti-Social Behaviour; and Road Safety.

Outcome 2 - Questions/Issues Raised:

E-Scooters and Scramblers – Chief Supt Kearney explained this was something Neighbourhood Policing Teams had been working on for quite some time. PSNI have been using the Ride Right Scheme – a positive partnership initiative aimed at helping young people use scramblers, e-bikes, revvies and off-road bikes safely, responsibly and legally.

She explained these items can only be used on private land. She explained there is work ongoing to adopt the legislation to fit what is needed. Officers are continually working on education and trying to get as much information out to parents and young people as possible. A number of items have been seized.

Cllr Antaine Ó'Fearghail asked if they are allowed to be used on roads/streets. Chief

Insp Kearney reiterated that they should only be used on private land.

Ald Niree McMorris explained that council has an Open Space Policy and asked if there was any collaboration between PSNI and council for these vehicles being used on council-owned land. She asked if there could be feedback from council in relation to ways they are trying to mitigate the risks.

PCSP Manager

Beverly Simpson asked if there was any legislation which covers the parents as it is generally adults who buy the bikes/scramblers for children. Chief Supt Kearney said there is currently work ongoing around this.

Ald Darren Guy raised concerns regarding the use of motorbikes in Kilfennan Valley Park. He said council needs to do more to tackle this issue, as there have been times when riders have gone down through the pitches when teams are practicing on them.

Chief Insp Cherith Craig said this was an ongoing piece of work for all Neighbourhood Policing Teams. It takes a lot of effort because it is difficult to pursue anyone riding one of these vehicles as there is a risk of injury. She explained police are trying to reinforce the message with parents that they shouldn't buy these items, however some parents are not accepting of the risk, rather they are cross that the scooter has been seized.

Chief Insp Craig explained the current legislation isn't fit for purpose and this makes it difficult for police. There have been items seized, with 14 seized in Ballyarnett during one operation. She added that it is an ongoing piece of work which involves local communities as well as PSNI.

Cathal Crumley said the Ride Right Scheme sounds excellent when it comes to helping young people understand the dangers of these vehicles. He explained there are some anti-community problems connected to scramblers in particular in the Ballyarnett area – with reports of them causing noise aggravation - particularly at night, along with tearing up green/public spaces.

He said a multi-agency approach is needed to tackle the issue, with NIHE/housing agencies involved in the conversations as some of these activities are taking place on their land. Council also have a role to play – particularly in relation to Ballyarnett Country Park. He also spoke about Galliagh Linear Park which he said is like a race track with large wide footpaths around the entire area, and that local reps were trying to get some barriers erected. It's also accessible for money lending, drug dealing etc. It would be good if PSNI could engage with other agencies proactively to ensure good partnership working.

PSNI

Linda Watson agreed with the previous comments. In relation to Kilfennan Park she asked what the role of the park rangers is? They come to open and close the park but don't do anything else. She explained she had tried to phone them but had not got an answer and had rang the Community Safety Wardens instead.

PCSP Manager

Linda Watson also asked if the PSNI had been able to get funding to extend the roadside drugs testing kits which they had availed of at Christmas time.

Chief Supt Kearney explained that the drugs testing had been suspended at the request of Forensic Science NI until the funding is secured.

She agreed with members in relation to collaborative working to tackle E-Scooters and said it would require education, engagement, enforcement, and also designing out the issue when looking at new areas to make them less attractive for this type of activity. She explained the Department for Infrastructure will need evidence when it comes to making decision like that and PSNI can help with that if reports are made to them

Ald Niree McMorris asked if it would be possible to get collective funding to run an advertising campaign to remind parents and children that these are not toys, rather they are lethal weapons.

Chief Supt Kearney explained the Department for Infrastructure have the remit for road safety, and funding would need to be available for such a campaign. She also said there is a difference in E-Scooters, bikes and scramblers and that PSNI would provide this information to PCSP members so they would have the correct information when speaking with people in relation to this matter.

PSNI

Chief Insp Cherith Craig told members that PSNI had recently expanded their Neighbourhood Policing Teams and new contact details for each area would also be shared with PCSP members.

PSNI

Keith Kerrigan added that here are businesses selling these items and that they should be making people aware of the legislation. Parents are annoyed when items are seized as they are so expensive.

Tackling Organised Crime – Chief Supt Kearney spoke about the recent attacks on PSNI stations in Lurgan and Dunmurry and explained that as a result they have had to prioritise resources, that has proved challenging as there are competing demands on limited resources.

Road Safety – Chief Supt Keaney spoke about the recent Kids' Court event in Artigarvan which she said had been really effective and helped to get the road safety message across.

PCPM 16/26 **OUTCOME 3 – PSNI has a Representative, Valued and Enabled Workforce**

Themes – Representativeness of the Police Service; Standards of Professionalism and Conduct; and Making the Best use of Resources.

Chief Supt Keaney explained there has been 149 applications from the District in response to the recent PSNI recruitment campaign and said more work needed to be done to promote the job.

Beverly Simpson asked if enquiries into a recent shooting in Creggan were ongoing. Chief Insp Craig confirmed it was an active investigation led by CID.

PCPM 17/26 **Correspondence: Response from DfI 13.05.26**

The PCSP Manager informed members that a response had been received from the Department for Infrastructure to a letter from PCSP regarding regulations for funeral directors. She advised the Department had explained that a review of Class C taxi licensing, which includes the regulation of funeral vehicles, is currently in the final stages.

PCPM 18/26 **Any Other Business**

Violence in City Centre - Alison Wallace said it was important for officers in the Neighbourhood Policing Teams to engage with community representatives, particularly in relation to flags, bonfires, and issues over the summer months. In particular she said officers needed to attend the Community Safety Forums.

Ald Niree McMorris spoke about violence in the city centre over the weekend, and the impact of this sort of disruption over the summer months. She said that while it is a policing issue there is more work which can be done to make the city centre as safe place and asked about the possibility of more engagement with CCI. She suggested that CCI could be asked to facilitate a special meeting to focus on city centre issues, including ASB.

PSNI/PCSP Manager

Chief Supt Kearney said tensions have been rising over the last few months and PSNI are very aware of this. She said PSNI were happy to work with any forum to help get the message out and prevent violence in the city centre.

Cathal Crumley said the Community Safety Forums are a great mechanism. It would be great if PSNI got involved and bought into these forums. He said engagement with local communities can help solve problems before they arise.

Chief Supt Kearney said lack of funding for youth workers was creating real problems for PSNI. Without that provision there is nowhere for police to go when something happens.

Cathal Crumley agreed and said youth workers have the expertise to deal with these matters, and elected representatives need to focus on lobbying to get more funding in place.

Ald Darren Guy extended thanks to the PSNI for their engagement and efforts to get on top of things in the Fountain. He said nobody wants to see young people arrested and when police had spoken to parents in the area, they had been ashamed and spoken with their children. It had given people in the Fountain confidence in policing and will hopefully act as a deterrent.

Damage to SIDs – Ald Keith Kerrigan (Chair) highlighted that one of the PCSP's Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) had been vandalised recently. He said this was very disappointing to see, particularly given the fact PCSP are not permitted to buy new SIDs.

The PCSP Manager explained the damaged SID had been repaired temporarily by using part of another broken SID. Long-term she explained that the cost of a proper repair is quite costly, that it would be more cost-effective to purchase a new SID but that planning guidance from DOJ/NIPB states that purchasing new SIDs are not permitted as part of the PCSP Action Plan.

Final Meeting – Ald Keith Kerrigan explained that this was his last meeting as Chair of the PCSP. He extended his thanks and appreciation to Chief Supt Kearney and the PSNI, to the PCSP staff and to the members for all their support over the year.

Cllr Antaine Ó'Fearghail, Ald Niree McMorris and Ald Darren Guy extended their appreciation to Ald Keith Kerrigan for all his work during the year in office.

Ald Kerrigan also acknowledged the attendance of two members of staff from DOJ to the meeting.

PCPM 19/26 **Date of Next Meeting**

The next **PCSP Meeting** has been arranged for **Tuesday 30 June 2026** in the Council Chamber, Guildhall at 10am.

The meeting ended at approximately 11.35.

ACTIONS

PCPM 14/26 – Pg 4	PSNI Vulnerability Coordinator organised to give a presentation to PCSP members.	**PSNI & PCSP**
PCPM 14/26 - Pg 5	PSNI to provide an update on why victims of Strathfoyle attack did not report the incident to police.	**PSNI**
PCPM 15/25 – Pg 6	In light of Council's Open Space Policy, PCSP Manager to get feedback from council re relation to ways it is trying to mitigate risks in open space area from E-scooters/bikes etc	**PCSP**
PCPM 15/25 – Pg 6	PSNI to engage with other agencies proactively to ensure good partnership working	**PSNI**
PCPM 15/26 – Pg 6	PCSP Manager will get an update on the role and responsibilities of the park rangers.	**PCSP**
PCPM 15/26 – Pg 7	PSNI to provide information to PCSP members about the difference between E-Scooters, bikes and scramblers.	**PSNI**
PCPM 15/26 – Pg 7	PSNI to circulate contact details of new Neighbourhood Policing Teams to PCSP members.	**PSNI**
PCPM 18/26 – Pg 8	PCSP to work with CCI and PSNI to facilitate a special meeting to focus on city centre issues, including ASB	**PCSP**