

Minutes of Policing and Community Safety Partnership Meeting

25th June 2024
Council Chamber, Strabane

Present: Cllr John Boyle, Ms Michaela Boyle, Mr Cathal Crumley, Ms Jacqui Doherty (WHSCT), Mr Karl Duncan, Ald Darren Guy, Cllr Christopher Jackson, Mr David Jackson, Ald Keith Kerrigan, Cllr Fergal Leonard, Cllr Emma McGinley, Mr Patsy McGonagle, Ms Karen McLaughlin, Ald Niree McMorris, Mr Noel McNulty (NIHE), Cllr Antaine O'Fearghail, Caroline Quigley (NIHE), Ms Alison Wallace and Ms Linda Watson.

PSNI: CI Michael Gahan.

In Attendance at Meeting: Louise Kitson (PCSP Co-Ordinator), Martin Reilly (PCSP Chair), Vanessa Russell (PCSP Manager) and Alexandra Wallace (Admin).

DSPCSP 48/24 **Apologies**

Ms Marie Brown, Ms Deborah Cross (EANI), Cllr Sandra Duffy, Stephan Gaffrey (NIFRS), CI Yvonne McManus (PSNI) and Denise Stewart (PBNI).

DSPCSP 49/24 **Introduction and Welcome**

Cllr Martin Reilly welcomed all PCSP members to the meeting. He read out a statement from Cllr Sandra Duffy giving her apologies for not being able to attend the meeting today. She wanted to put on record her thanks to the PCSP team for their support over the course of the last year as Chair of the PCSP and wished the incoming Chair and new independent members the very best for the year ahead.

Cllr Reilly explained that he will be taking on the role of PCSP Chair from July 2024 and that Cllr Sandra Duffy was happy for him to Chair the PCSP meeting today. He welcomed the new independent members onto the PCSP, and a round of introductions took place.

DSPCSP 50/24 **Approval of Minutes – Minutes of PCSP Meeting 28/05/24 (DSPCSP 40/24-47/24)**

The Minutes of PCSP Meeting were checked for accuracy. The minutes were proposed as follows:

Proposed by: Cllr Emma McGinley

Seconded by: Ms Linda Watson

DSPCSP 51/24 **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

DSPCSP 52/24 **Manager's Report**

The PCSP Manager took members through some of the issues within the report as follows:

PCSP Action Plan/Budget 2024-2025

The PCSP Action Plan for 2024/2025 was forwarded to the Joint Committee, following

approval by members at the Special PCSP meeting held on 6th February 2024.

In a Communique Issued on 7th June 2024, the Joint Committee advised that despite other competing pressures, they have decided to protect the overall PCSP budget for 2024/2025. This means that the amount allocated to Derry and Strabane PCSP for administration and operational will be same as last year with no reduction. The Letter of Offer to Derry and Strabane PCSP for 2024/2025 will be £441,496 and was received on Wednesday 19th June 2024.

They have also confirmed that the budget for PCSP Members meeting expenses for 2024/2025 will be £12,500.

The PCSP Manager advised that £171,600 of this allocation has already been agreed for the PCSP Small Project Support Scheme for 2024/2025 via open call and for Consensual Grant Aid via the Local Growth Partnerships. The recommendation to approve this expenditure was endorsed at the PCSP meeting in May 2024.

In addition to this, the Department of Justice had confirmed that they will continue to provide funding of up to £3,600 towards administration for each support hub in the 2024/2025 financial year.

PCSP Independent Members

The PCSP Manager welcomed the new independent PCSP Members to their first meeting of Derry and Strabane PCSP. She advised that nine members have been appointed following interview and selection process co-ordinated by NIPB and that formal re-constitution of the PCSP is effective from 1st June 2024.

PCSP Induction Training

The PCSP Manager advised that independent PCSP Members had the opportunity to attend an in-house induction meeting on Friday 21st June. In addition to this, NIPB have advised that they are planning and developing a comprehensive training programme for new PCSP members, including elected members. It is anticipated that this training will commence in the Autumn, however members will be kept updated as soon as dates/venues/themes are agreed.

Conflict of Interest Declaration

The PCSP Manager advised that elected and independent PCSP members must complete a conflict of interest declaration annually. She explained that new forms were emailed to members at the start of June and all members are asked to complete and return these before the end of June 2024 as this is a requirement under the PCSP Financial Guidelines and is also one of the recommendations from the PCSP Audit for 2023/24.

The PCSP Manager informed members that copies of the form are available at this meeting if anyone wanted to complete them at the end.

PCSP Elected and Independent Members

Gifts/Hospitality of PCSP Members

The PCSP Manager stated that one of the recommendations emanating from the PCSP Audit for 2023/2024 states: "Internal Audit recommends that the PCSP Manager reissue the Handbook to Members as a reminder to members of their obligations with regards to this area."

She explained that a copy of the PCSP Members Handbook has been included as an

agenda item for members' information and draw member's attention to section 11, which relates to gifts/hospitality from third parties.

PCSP Members

Small Project Support Recommendations 2024/2025 – Open Call

This year (2024/2025) the PCSP has allocated £30,000 of small project support to 5 local groups/organisations delivering initiatives to improve community safety and increase confidence in policing.

The PCSP received a total of six (6) completed applications requesting support of £40,132.80. The recommendation to award funding to the top five groups (as per the table below), was approved at the PCSP meeting in May 2024.

Group Name	Score	Rank	Eligible funding	Funding Awarded
Shantallow Community Residents Association	100	1	£10,000.00	£10,000.00
Men's Action Network	98	2	£9,024.00	£9,024.00
Foyle Women's Aid	93	3	£7,038.40	£7,038.40
New Driver Safety Ambassador	93	4	£1,870.40	£1,870.40
Have Your Tomorrows (HURT)	89	5	£9,000.00	£2,067.20
Street Doctors	62	6	£3,200.00	£0.00
TOTALS			£40,132.80	£30,000.00

The PCSP Manager stated that all groups (both successful and unsuccessful) have been advised on the outcome of their application and the Letters of Offer will be issued to the successful groups this week.

As in previous years, should underspends be identified throughout the year, or if groups decline the offer of funding, the that will be re-allocated to the next group on the list up to their maximum eligible funding as per the table above.

Consensual Grant Aid 2024/2025

For 2024/2025 the PCSP has allocated £141,600 funding to the 8 Local Growth Partnership Boards in the Council area under the consensual grant aid model. The recommendation to award funding based on the Action Plans submitted was approved at the PCSP meeting in May 2024 as follows:

DEA	Allocation (Rounded up)
Ballyarnett	£24,700
Derg	£18,200
Faughan	£14,200
Foyleside	£14,600
Moor	£22,000

Sperrin	£11,900
Strabane Town	£13,400
Waterside	£22,600
TOTAL ALLOCATION	£141,600

The PCSP Manager advised that all Local Growth Partnership Boards have been advised that the Action Plan submitted to PCSP has been approved and informed members that the PCSP staff are currently working on the Letters of Offer which will be issued this week.

Community Safety Wardens

The PCSP Manager advised that between April and May 2024, the Community Safety Wardens have dealt with 269 referrals and provided 2,662 patrols of ASB hotspots areas. In addition to this, the Community Safety Wardens have attended 18 meetings and 17 events.

External funding towards the Community Safety Warden scheme for 2024/2025 is as follows:

Funder	Purpose	Allocation	Status
PSNI	Community Safety Wardens Scheme	NIL	Confirmed no funding available
DfC	Community Safety Wardens Scheme	£40,000	Confirmed
NIHE	Community Safety Wardens Scheme	£40,000	Confirmed
University of Ulster	Community Safety Wardens Scheme	£25,000	Confirmed
Apex Housing	Community Safety Wardens Scheme	£5,000	Confirmed
TOTAL Funding		£110,000	

RAPID Bins

The PCSP Manager advised that the PCSP has facilitated the installation of 21 RAPID bins (Remove all Prescription and Illegal Drugs) across the city and district.

The PCSP Team have been liaising with Melmount Community Forum and the WHSCT regarding the installation of a RAPID Drug Bin at Ballycolman Community Centre, Strabane and Grangewood. It is anticipated that these bins will be installed with the next 2 weeks.

Safer Homes Scheme

The PCSP Continues to provide and arrange fitting of **home security equipment** for victims of crime and elderly and vulnerable residents. From April 2023 to March 2024 220 homes in the city and district were supplied and fitted with additional home safety equipment. During April and May 2024, 40 homes have availed of this scheme to have additional home safety equipment fitted.

Members are encouraged to contact the PCSP office if they are aware of any residents within the council area who would benefit from these products. This equipment is fitted that

Teamworks. The PCSP Manager advised that consent forms were issued to Independent Members after their induction which was held on Friday 21st June 2024 and will be issued again to all PCSP members.

PCSP Manager

Neighbourhood Watch

The PCSP Manager stated that there are currently 44 Neighbourhood Watch schemes within the council area, covering approximately 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 PCSP Manager informed members that the next series of meetings will take in September 2024.

The PCSP Project Co-ordinator to Liaise with Independent Member re Neighbourhood Watch.

PCSP Co-Ordinator

CCTV

The CCTV system now comprises a total of 123 cameras, which are monitored 24/7 as part of the current contract. This also includes the integration and upgrade of the Ebrington public realm site, city centre, interface, Peace Bridge, Foyle Bridge, along the riverfront and Strabane town.

Road Safety

The PCSP currently have **three Speed Indicator Devices (SIDS)** available for placement at locations across the city and district. These devices act as a warning to motorist who are driving above the speed limit. PCSP Members are encouraged to submit requests for deployment by completing the SID request form and returning to the PCSP office.

The PCSP also continues to work with partners in Life After, New Driver NI, NW Road Safety Partnership, Road Safe NI, and our emergency services to raise awareness of the consequences of risk-taking behaviour when driving.

PCSP will support **Life After and the NW Road Safety Partnership** to deliver the Road Safety Saturday event in Guildhall Square in November 2024 to highlight the start of Road Safety Week 2024.

Rural Crime

The PCSP will continue to work in Partnership with PSNI to deliver **Trailer Marking Events** throughout 2024/2025. The first of these events will take place on Saturday 21st September at Taylors of Fyfin, Victoria Bridge. It is anticipated that further dates will be secured throughout 2024/2025 and members will be kept updated.

Policing Committee Meetings

The next PCSP Policing Committee is scheduled for Tuesday 30th July 2024 when the District Commander will deliver the quarter 1 performance report for 2024/2025.

Justice and Security Stop & Search Powers – Accountability Meetings

PCSP Members are invited to attend monthly accountability meetings with PSNI to scrutinise their use of **Justice and Security Stop & Search Powers**. At these meetings, the PCSP members who attend will have the opportunity to randomly select a number of body worn videos to watch and see how searches have been carried out. Members will have the opportunity to ask questions and discuss the search(es) with PSNI. The purpose of these meetings is to ensure transparency and accountability.

The next tranche of these meetings will re-commence from September 2024 and members will be advised of the dates as soon as these are available.

PCSP Manager

Support Hub

The PCSP Manager advised that the Support Hub continues to meet monthly. She explained that since its establishment in August 2016, the Support Hub has dealt with almost 330 referrals.

The Support Hub is currently undergoing an evaluation to measure the effectiveness of the hub. As part of this evaluation, each Support Hub has provided data on the number of referrals on the hub as well a synopsis of the main challenges faced by referrals. In addition to this, the Derry & Strabane Support Hub has submitted 2 case studies to demonstrate the difference made by the Support Hub to individuals.

It was agreed that the outcome of the Support Hub Evaluation would be shared with PCSP members when it is complete.

PCSP Manager

Questions on the PCSP Manager's Report

PCSP Action Plan/Budget 2024-2025

An Independent member asked if the PCSP budget as presented was reduced from the previous year, also can they receive information on the Neighbourhood Watch and can only statutory bodies attend the Support Hub meetings?

The PCSP Manager advised that the budget allocated for PCSP was in line with PCSP Action Plan as submitted to the Joint Committee. She added that information in relation to Neighbourhood Watch will be forwarded by the PCSP Co-Ordinator. The PCSP Manager advised that due to the confidentiality agreement, only statutory partners are able to attend Support Hub meetings.

Community Safety Wardens

An independent member expressed disappointment that the Strabane/Derg/Sperrin CSW scheme has ceased to operate within these areas and asked if the scheme can be reinstated. They are also keen to see what the PSNI are doing to plug the gap left by the Community Safety Wardens not being on patrol on a regular basis and to explore funding opportunities. The member highlighted that residents dread the summer months especially in relation to anti-social behaviour when the schools are closed for summer. We are aware of funding shortages and the Community Safety Wardens do a lot of work as well as working closely with the PSNI. Member stated that other organisations contribute to the Wardens and they understand the budgetary pressures being faced.

The PCSP Manager explained that are still exploring ways to secure additional funding to extend the scheme to the Rural areas.

Insp. Michael Gahan responded stating that when it comes to patrolling, we are working towards where the greatest harm is within the areas and it is no secret that the PSNI are

going through budgetary restraints and have fore warned that people will see a different service. He advised that the allocation of additional funding is unlikely to change in the near future. The police go where the greatest harm is in terms of volume and asked that PCSP members help to spread this message. He also stated that the Community Safety Wardens are totally invaluable to us and a great resource. As NPT inspector, anti-social behaviour isn't always criminal, PSNI needs to know the context of the anti-social behaviour and the finance for policing is unlikely to change.

Elected Member responded that we all agree the value and of the importance of the Community Safety Wardens. All organisations are facing budgetary pressures, but despite this they recognise the value of contributing financially to the Community Safety Wardens. We have heard from senior PSNI and they value the contribution of the Wardens. As PCSP Committee we should not just accept that there's no money and we should continue to keep this on the agenda. The resource implications from PSNI by weighted calls, the PSNI need to send their resources to these based on priority so that the Wardens can make up the flack. Community Wardens address issues via early intervention and which might not meet the threshold by PSNI.

The Community Safety Wardens can de-escalate situations, therefore PSNI response is not required. I would suggest we continue to make it known that there's an expectation for PSNI to make a contribution towards the Wardens and to the CCTV. The figures for CCTV and what it achieves save lives every single year and if we need to have a sustainable system, everyone need to play their part and we can't have partners stated that it is not up to them. We all need to work together on the Community Safety Wardens and CCTV, Partners are unable to fund at this stage, they should keep it on the Agenda this is to advise that there is an expectation and that they will be asked for funding again next year.

PCSP Members

Trailer Marking

An elected Member raised the question concerning the trailer marking event at Victoria Bridge and asked if other events could be organised e.g. in Drumlegagh, Sperrin Heritage Centre at Cranagh (this site has no shelter), Plumbridge Market or Beatties in Donemana. The PCSP Manager responded that that they usually budget for 3 of these events per year.

CCTV

An elected Member concurred with the previous comments relating to the Community Safety Wardens. She asked if there was any update in relation to upgrading the interface cameras owned by PSNI.

CI Michael Gahan responded that there was no updated at present.

PSNI

Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs)

An elected Member requested that the request form for SIDs be issued to all members again.

PCSP Manager

**DSPCSP
53/24**

PCSP Annual Report 2023/2024

It was agreed that the draft PCSP Annual Report for 2023/2024 would be submitted to DOJ/NIPB before 30th June 2024 and that members would consider the report in full at the Policing Committee meeting on 30th July 2024.

PCSP Manager

**DSPCSP
54/24**

Community Safety Wardens' Reports

The PCSP manager informed all present that the Community Safety Wardens report for

May 2024 was presented was for member's information.

An independent member requested if case studies could be provided on a quarterly or t-month basis to demonstrate what they have done to address fear of crime. She added that this work could be used to encourage more funding for the schemes. Another member asked if this additional information could also include a brief synopsis on how the ad hoc service is working in Derg, Sperrin and Strabane town areas.

PCSP Manager

An elected Member queried why the statistics within the Northland Road area shows the same numbers for a few areas. The PCSP Manager advised that these are regular patrol routes for the Wardens.

The Chair stated that there is clearly support for the scheme and that funding should be continually sought.

PCSP Manager

**DSPCSP
55/24**

Any Other Business

The Chair informed members that the governors of Lisnagelvin nursery had contacted him following an inspection of their school grounds being carried out by PSNI, where a few issues regarding the height of the fence were identified. He added that the school are facing financial pressures and are querying that since PSNI carried out the inspection, should they not be covering the cost of the heightened fence. The chair said he is happy to forward on information to the PSNI on this so that they can follow up and liaise with the school.

PCSP Manager/PSNI

An independent member asked about Policing over the summer period in relation to parades, bonfires etc. and what engagement is ongoing with communities - instead of heavy handed are they engaging across the district?

Insp. Michael Gahan responded stating that problem solving has commenced, we are working with elected members and NPTs are out visiting community centres, it is about education and to get the facts out, we feel this is the most effective line to take. He also informed the meeting that they have been working with NI Water in relation to bonfires. PSNI still has an obligation to investigate, we are aware that bonfires are both wanted and unwanted within the communities it is up to them to decide.

PSNI still have to mitigate harm within the areas, police do not clear bonfire sites and we will be concentrating on safety, dealing with theft but most times we don't get a chance to follow up as people withdraw their complaint. PSNI are keen to shape rather impose.

An independent member highlighted that the NPT are being pulled away to do other duties, the community needs them to be active within their areas dealing with community based issues.

Insp. Michael Gahan responded stated that it is a busy period for policing with the Maritime festival. As a Bronze Commander, I will try to use NPT in the Waterside, we are keen to keep them within their respective areas. There will still be focus towards the waterways, but still within the Waterside area. PSNI are trying hard to make this work and I have been NPT so I understand how frustrating it is when you're called to other duties.

An elected Member re-iterated what the Independent Member had said and stated that they are aware that NPT is ring fenced, but police are being pulled to other duties which is concerning. In relation to bonfires within the Waterside, an action plan has been put forward involving engagement with young people and it would really be encouraging to see the police attend to build relationships with the young people in our communities which has

been lacking within area. The CSF has requested NPT to part-take in estate inspections to highlight their presence within the areas to engage rather than responding. It's very important over summer to ring-fence NPTs as much as possible to build relationship so that people have a quiet, safe summer.

Insp. Michael Gahan agreed that often NPT is the first port of call. We try to keep them in the areas where they are meant to be. I share your frustrations, policing in communities to build relationships. We try to make time to engage in school setting in a non-crisis/non-confrontational setting – it gives you a good starting point and quite often it's those types of relationships that make it work, rather than the first encounter being a response call/stop and search etc. however it can be very difficult to ring-fence. Staffing levels for response is better, but it's not perfect. We are recruiting at present, some new officers are commencing training in Garnerville but it will be 6 months before they're here. The turning circle has started but we're just not there yet.

NIHE highlighted that a Positive Energy District workshop will be held on Tuesday 2nd July 2024 in Strabane Library from 10am – 2pm, which will be focusing on the Canal Basin and the Derry Road. We encourage people to attend and engage with this process on the regeneration of the area. It was agreed that information would be sent to the PCSP Manager for onward circulation to PCSP members.

NIHE/PCSP Manager

**DSPCSP
56/24**

Date of Next Meeting

The Policing Committee meeting will take place on **Tuesday 30th July 2024 at 10am in the Council Chamber, Guildhall.**

The Chair thanked members for their attendance and input at the meeting which ended at approximately 11.10 am.

Policing and Community Safety Partnership Meeting

PCSP Meeting 25th June 2024
Council Chamber, Derry Road, Strabane

ACTIONS

Page 2 DSPCSP 52/24	Conflict of Interest Declaration Elected and Independent PCSP Members to complete this form and return to the PCSP office before 30 th June 2024	PCSP Members
Page 2 SDPCSP 52/24	Gifts/Hospitality of PCSP Members Members are asked to review the PCSP Members Handbook in relation to gifts/hospitality.	PCSP Members
Page 4/5 DSPCSP 52/24	Safer Homes Scheme The PCSP Manager to issue the Safer Homes Scheme Consent Form to all PCSP Members.	PCSP Manager
Page 5 DSPCSP 52/24	Neighbourhood Watch The PCSP Project Co-ordinator to Liaise with Independent Member re Neighbourhood Watch.	PCSP Project Co-ordinator
Page 5/6	JSA Stop & Search Powers Accountability Meetings The PCSP Manager to circulate the dates for the next tranche of these meetings to PCSP Members once they have been agreed.	PCSP Manager
Page 6 DSPCSP 52/24	Support Hub The PCSP Manager to share the outcome of the Support Hub Evaluation with PCSP Members when it is complete.	PCSP Manager
Page 7 DSPCSP 52/24	CCTV PSNI to provide an update on the upgrade of interface cameras owned by PSNI.	PSNI
Page 7 DSPCSP 52/24	SID Consent Forms This template is to be circulated to all PCSP Members.	PCSP Manager
Page 7 DSPCSP 53/24	PCSP Annual Report 2023/24 This report will be considered in full at the Policing Committee meeting on 30 th July 2024	PCSP Manager
Page 7/8 DSPCSP 54/24	Community Safety Wardens To explore the possibility of including case study type examples on a quarterly or 6 monthly basis.	PCSP Manager
Page 8 DSPCSP 55/24	Fence at Lisnagelvin Primary School Information received from Lisnagelvin Primary School to be shared with PSNI so that this can be followed up in relation to funding.	Cllr Reilly
Page 9 DSPCSP 55/24	Positive Energy District Workshop. Information on this event to be passed to the PCSP Manager for onward circulation to PCSP Members.	NIHE/PCSP Manager