

Minutes of Policing and Community Safety Partnership Meeting Policing Committee

**Derry City and Strabane District Council
Tuesday 22 October 2024
Council Chamber, Guildhall at 10.00am**

- Present:** Cllr John Boyle, Ms Marie Brown, Mr Karl Duncan, Cllr Sandra Duffy
Ald Darren Guy, Ald Keith Kerrigan, Cllr Christopher Jackson, Mr David Jackson, Cllr Fergal Leonard, Ms Karen McLaughlin, Ald Niree McMorris, Ms Linda Watson, Mr Cathal Crumley.
PSNI: Chief Supt Gillian Kearney, Const Gemma Stone, and Insp Cathal Pearce.
- In Attendance:** Teresa Bradley (Inclusive & Shared Communities Manager, DCSDC), Cllr Martin Reilly (Chair), Ciara Bond (Admin), and Alexandra Wallace (Admin).
- PCPM 08/24** **Apologies**
Cllr Emma McGinley, Ms Alison Wallace, Lousie Kitson (PCSP Project Co-ordinator)
- PCPM 09/24** **Chairperson's Business**
The Chair welcomed all members to the meeting in Council Chambers. The Chair raised an issue from the previous meeting in relation to the minutes not reflecting the speaker. He confirmed the issue would be discussed later in the meeting.
- PCPM 10/24** **Approval of Minutes of PCSP Meeting on 24/09/24 held in Council Chamber, Strabane**
The minutes of the previous PCSP Meeting (DSPCSP 67/24-72/24) were approved as follows:
Proposed by: Ald Niree McMorris
Seconded by: Cllr Sandra Duffy
- PCPM 11/24** **Matters Arising**
Page 1 DSPCSP 69/24 – Cllr Duffy raised the issue of why names were not contributed to members. The Chair confirmed that when checked this decision was taken by legacy DPP and noted in minutes of 29/10/12 Ref **DSPCSP 26/12** when it was agreed unanimously that individual names should be excluded to protect staff, see below:
'It was agreed unanimously that individual names should be excluded from the minutes and that if lengthy discussion ensued in relation to a particular matter that this would be summarised to reflect this. Names of PCSP members should only be stated when an item is proposed and/or seconded.'
Members unanimously agreed that from this point forward that members' names should be recorded within the minutes.

Reference Numbers of Minutes – it was identified that there was an issue with the numbering of items within minutes since April 2024. Due to the fact there are only 2 months left in 2024 referencing of items will revert to the normal practice in January 2025; ie, **DSPCSP 01/25** for PCSP Meetings and **PCPM 01/25** for PCSP Policing Committee Meetings.

Page 4 DSPCSP 70/24 PCSP CSW – Ms Alison Wallace raised the issue of the CSW giving a presentation to Board members on their work within the community. It was confirmed that Louise Kitson, PCSP Project Co-ordinator, met with the lead safety wardens and agreed that case studies would be provided in their Quarterly reports in future.

Page 6 DSPCSP 70/24 Speed Camera Van – Ald Darren Guy raised an issue of a speed camera van being placed in a dangerous location. It was agreed that Liam Dodds would be invited to a PCSP Meeting to explain the role of PSNI Road Safety Team.

Page 6 DSPCSP 70/24 SIDS Deployment in Winter Months – Question raised by Ms Alison Wallace as to why SIDS could not be used during winter months; this was due to charging of the panels being minimised in the darker evenings. Louise Kitson, Project Co-ordinator confirmed with DCSDC maintenance team that the SIDS would be adequately charged, without solar power, in order that they could be deployed over the winter months.

Stop and Search BWC/JSA Powers Accountability – this was discussed at both Council and PCSP Meetings and had been put on pause. Members will be kept up-to-date with the response, once received from PSNI and PBNi.

PCPM 12/24

Correspondence

The Chair referred to letter (circulated to members) dated 25/09/24 from Naomi Long, Minister of Justice, in relation to the murder of Katie Simpson.

PCPM 13/24

Presentation of Police Performance

Chief Supt Gillian Kearney referred members to the Police Performance Report for period 30/07/24-30/09/24. She stated that feedback from members was considered in the structure of the presentation.

Chief Supt Kearney gave sincere condolences to Montserrat Martorell's family on her recent death. This was a brutal murder and a suspect was arrested and dealt with before the court. Support was given to the family and officers who had to deal with this traumatic incident.

Members were referred to the detail/statistics within the report:

OUTCOME 1 – We Have a Safe Community

Domestic Abuse

- Domestically Motivated Incidents have fallen by 8.6%
- Domestically Motivated Crimes have fallen by 10.5%
- Domestically Motivated crimes resulting in a sanctioned outcome rate has decreased by 2.1%

The figures are broadly congruent with trends across NI. The percentage of domestically motivated crimes resulting in sanctioned outcome rate has decreased by 1.4% between Apr-Junn 2023 and Apr-Jun 2024, while domestically motivated crimes have fallen by 11.9% across the same period.

Theme 1 – Build Trust and Confidence

PSNI collaborate with stakeholders to ensure experiences are used to inform training, policy development and operational exercises. PSNI are actively involved in building trust and confidence in relation to violence against women and girls:

- Engagement with women's groups offering crime prevention events, and recently an event was held in the Women's Centre on, 'How to Report Incidents to Police'.
- Additional funding secured from PCSP for cameras for high-risk victims of domestic abuse.
- LPT supervisors visited the Foyle Family Justice Centre to familiarise teams. This is a much better location for victims.
- CPO and NH Officers will attend events in November 2024 which specifically focus on Women's Wellness.

Theme 2 - Safer Spaces

PSNI will support partners within the night-time economy to raise awareness of violence against women and girls to prevent offences occurring.

This is to be achieved by:

- **Social Media** posts on a regular basis to raise awareness of new legislation
- **'Safe Spaces Operation'** for Halloween with template to be used for future events and broader night-time economy. Plain clothed officers, along with uniformed officers, will be in various locations throughout the City. This is to identify those who may present as a risk within public spaces.
- **Collaborating with stakeholders.**
- **Attendance at Freshers Events** with presentation to over 800 students (including international) on safe socialising within the City.
- **Monthly Pop-Ups on Crime Prevention** within UU Magee.

Theme 3 - Relentless Perpetrator Pursuit

PSNI to collaborate with all stakeholders to ensure core policing outcomes are reflected in the Executive's Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy (VAWG).

- PPB & Support Hub hold periodic meetings with Foyle Family Justice Centre to seek feedback and share learning.
- Training for NH Officers to ensure they are aware of vulnerable repeat victims in their ward and where action can be taken for those most vulnerable, including partnership problem solving via the Support Hub.
- Ongoing collaboration with PP Branch to ensure awareness of repeat offenders in their ward.
- Continually review investigations and processes to ensure Victim Focus.
- Circulation of 'Wanted Person' list to all internal teams with a particular focus on VAWG.

Case Study

Chief Supt Gillian Kearney took members through a case study where a male was sentenced to 30 months on 30/09/24 in relation to common assault, criminal damage, threats to kill, and breach of a restraining order. The sentence is to be split between imprisonment and probation licence. This was due to an assault on a woman on 05/08/23. Court bail was sought but the perpetrator remained on remand until the date of sentencing.

Assessment

Many women are reluctant to make statements for a variety of reasons. PSNI continue to work with stakeholders and community groups to remove any barriers to reporting and/or participation in the criminal justice process.

PSNI endeavour to do their best to secure all available evidence, to support the victim in any way, alongside Victim Support, Women's Aid, and other support groups.

Outcome/Result

- Within District we have governance to analyse, review and respond.
- PSNI will work hard to implement the 7 year Tackling VAWG action plan.
- PSNI will continue to seek support from our partners with implementing wider initiatives.

Road Safety

Chief Supt Kearney stated there had been tragic fatalities in the Derry and Strabane district. Road safety has been incorporated formally as an area priority within Derry City and Strabane to tackle motor offences that impact public safety. Motoring offences have risen by 10%, with mobile phone usage having increased by 67%, for the same period the previous year. PSNI work with agencies to improve road safety. In August 2024 Road Safety Camera Vans made 1050 detections with a top speed of 111mph in a 70mph area (A6 Claudy-Dungiven). NH Teams proactively engage with local community groups to raise awareness on Road Safety.

Assessment

There has been a significant increase in Road Traffic Collisions resulting in death. Road Safety will remain an integral aspect of policing and in conjunction with key partners, to reduce the level of harm inflicted on the public.

Speed detection results have indicated key geographical areas for enforcement and education. All three top recorded speeds were on the A6 motorway.

Case Study

A dangerous vehicle was seized on 13/09/24 from Bradley Way, Strabane. The driver is to be interviewed in due course.

Officers from Foyleside and Moor seized a number of vehicles on 21 & 22/09/24 in relation to a road safety operation, with 14 vehicles seized, a number of them received prohibition notices. A number of fixed penalty notices were issued and 3 motorists were reported to Public Prosecution Services.

OUTCOME 2 – We Have Confidence in Policing

Drugs

Chief Supt Kearney informed members that a significant amount of work had been conducted in this area. Drug statistics as follows:

- Cannabis remains most commonly seized drug followed by Cocaine and Pregabalin.
- PSNI have not observed a discernible increase in intravenous drug use.
- PSNI are focusing efforts on prioritising drugs causing the most harm and those involved in their supply.
- PSNI figures show reductions across almost all PSNI districts, with 9 out of 11 policing areas having experienced reductions in amounts of seizures. There has been an increase in drug trafficking, investigations, charges, and

convictions relying on mobile-based evidence, as opposed to physical seizures of drugs.

Analysis

- Increase of 20 drug related arrests in July 2023 – July 2024.
- Increase in sanctioned outcome rates for Possession of Drugs from 86.8% to 94.4% April-Aug 2024.
- Sanctioned outcomes for Trafficking decreased by 23.1% between April-Aug 2023 and April-Aug 2024.

Response

- PSNI continue to have a close relationship with postal providers to proactively recover and seize drugs.
- DST Officers are trained in the use of preliminary drug testing wipes that can be used for motorists suspected of driving under the influence of drugs.
- School engagement continues with schools, highlighting the harm posed by drug misuse, and the consequences.
- DCS area have introduced the EDIT drug testing process from 19/06/24 allowing for evidential testing of substances, including Cocaine, Heroin, and Amphetamine. This has had a tangible impact on timeliness of outcomes and charges for drug offences. To date, 85 officers have been trained.

Case Study

- DST investigations resulted in a male suspect being arrested for attempted possession of a seizure of 5kg herbal cannabis with a street value of £6000. Enquiries in custody and from his mobile phone confirmed further offences of supply of Class A and Class B drugs. He also admitted previously importing 3kg of herbal cannabis. The suspect was charged with 7 offences and was remanded in custody. Over £3,000 in cash was seized, along with a vehicle.
- Information was received following the high profile 'Encrochat' encrypted communications platform. A male suspect was arrested and 23kg of herbal cannabis, imported from Holland, was seized. A sum of £20,000 was also seized. The suspect was jailed on 25/09/24 for 44 months. The case was part of Operation Ventic, a UK wide response to the communication platform 'Enchrochat'.
- In relation to a domestic dispute the Local Policing Team conducted enquiries which led to a search of a backpack which contained vacuum sealing device, weighing scales, and 1.3kg of MDMA Class A drugs with a value of £39,000. The suspect who had 2 previous convictions for drug supply, admitted possessing drugs with intent to supply. He was charged with 4 offences and remanded in custody.

Assessment/Outcome

- Drug misuse and supply remains a dedicated area priority.
- The issue of drug supply and related harm is a societal issue and Police and stakeholders must work together.
- Engagement continues with partners/agencies.
- Drug trends are consistent with other areas in NI.
- Police continue to seek forfeiture and confiscation orders in respect to proceeds of crime assets following convictions at court which are then delivered back into the community.

OUTCOME 3: We have Engaged and Supported Communities

Extremism

Chief Supt Gillian Kearney took members through Outcome 3 within the report.

Analysis

- DCSDC has experienced a decrease in incidents related to violent extremism in comparison to the previous year.
- The number of casualties resulting from paramilitary style assaults and shootings has decreased by 75% which is a reduction in harm inflicted on the local community.
- Whilst 9 shooting incidents were reported in 2023/24 financial year, none have been reported in the current financial year to date.
- There has been a marked reduction in the number of munitions and explosives recovered by Police, representing 2.73kg less explosives, 5 less firearms, and 53 less rounds of ammunition when compared to last year.
- The results of disruptive Policing activities is having an impact on those intent on causing harm to Police and within the community.

Response

- Community Impact Assessment is completed prior to any search activity.
- NH Teams continue to engage with the community to ensure the style and tone of policing re search and arrest operations takes into consideration the potential impact on community. Debriefs are held to pursue opportunities for learning.
- District Support Team and NH Polcing Teams work in co-operation with specialised resources from across the PSNI, eg, Terrorism Investigation Unit, to disrupt and investigate those involved in Violent Extremism.
- District Training to introduce enhanced training around the use of Justice and Security Act powers to all officers.
- There have been 646 Stop and Searches utilising Section 24 of the Justice and Security Act during the period July 2023-June 2024 which is 31% less compared to the same period last year.

Assessment

- Disruptive work conducted by District Support Team is having an impact on those intent in causing harm in the area both to Police and community.
- NH Policing and the partnership work it brings is vital to strengthen confidence and trust to build legitimacy. Partnership work is based on openness and transparency. PSNI are fully invested in these relationships and the support it brings.
- Work carried out by Terrorism Investigations Unit (TIU) is having a major impact on those involved in violent extremism through the use of the existing Criminal Justice Strategy.

Outcome & Moving Forward

PSNI will remain committed and focused on reducing harm caused by Violent Extremism via the following means:

- NH Teams to engage with local community in visible, accessible ways to build trust and confidence in the service provided. This is to be achieved through school visits, community consultation, and working with local businesses and partners when planning events.
- PSNI to work collaboratively with statutory and third-sector agencies to safeguard the most vulnerable from exploitation and harm by violent extremists.
- Alternative Criminal Justice pathways to be used to divert young people away from violence and extremism and to avoid criminalisation.
- PSNI to seek regular accountability and feedback from community leaders to ensure the service delivered is of consistent quality across the communities we serve.
- PSNI to provide funding for diversionary activities to divert and prevent potential membership and involvement in Violent Extremism.
- Collaborative problem solving in conjunction with key partners such as DCSDC, YJA, and Probation Board.

Case Study

- **Bonfires** - Critical engagement work took place on the Feast of the Assumption (15/08/24) to ensure events were conducted safely and to minimise disruption to local residents. PSNI met with local leaders on location of bonfires which avoided an impact on critical infrastructure such as road networks, and water supply. It was noted that the majority of people would agree that there was a reduction in ASB due to partnership work with NH Teams and communities.

The Chair thanked Chief Supt Gillian Kearney for the collaborative work. The Chair confirmed he had attended a range of different events and seen how funding was being used for diversionary work which is so important.

Insp Cathal Pearce referred to the case study and the co-operation of community leaders re bonfire gathering. He said a renewed effort was being made by all agencies. He stated it been a very worthwhile approach with a successful summer. It is hoped that working collaboratively might eradicate a lot of ASB. Insp Pearce thanked all for their input in the summer.

PCPM 14/24

Comments/Questions on District Commander's Report

The Chair welcomed comments/questions from members:

Cllr Fergal Leonard thanked PSNI for all their work in this area.

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) (Outcome 1 – Theme 3)

Chief Supt Kearney said that as PSNI work through this, there will be a focus that NH Officers will know of those with convictions, with regards to VAWG, to protect those most vulnerable. Bail checks will be carried out with a focus to get as many to court as possible.

Chief Supt Kearney stated that was the reason why PCSP had funded cameras. She informed members that out of 24 murders, 18 had taken place at victims' homes. DCSDC area have been the first to put out cameras and there have been no reported attacks at homes. The cameras prevent re-offending.

The cameras have been a huge asset to victims. Chief Supt Kearney thanked PCSP for funding the cameras.

Cllr Fergal Lenoard said it was so important that all PSNI Officers know who the perpetrators are.

Cllr Sandra Duffy stated that in relation to VAWG there have been too many tragedies; there has been one in ten in the last number of months. She specifically thanked PSNI for the work carried out regarding an investigation and the swift work in arresting the perpetrator. Cllr Duffy referred to the report and the reduction in numbers; although the preference would be to see an increase. Women do not feel safe and do not feel confident in reporting as they do not think they will be believed. It is a worry when women are out.

Cllr Duffy welcomed the operation of officers out and about to spot predators who are evident in the City and said that maybe this was how these men, who prey on young vulnerable women, could be caught. Cllr Duffy welcomed the fact that PSNI took part in Freshers Week and stated it was important to get the information out and that avenues needed to be pursued for women to feel believed.

Ms Marie Brown reiterated what had been said and referred to the stats that were down. She stated that Women's Aid were not getting the referrals they had been. Women in Justice Centre are coming through the services and at times Women's Aid organised meetings with PSNI. When confidence is up people will report. Ms Brown stated that a lot of women were frightened and referred to older women who are being assaulted.

MARAC helps in reviewing high risk victims and to get more resources. There are concerns re homelessness and repeat victimisation. Ms Marie Brown referred to a TV Programme where a victim with 5 children was wandering about; 2 of them did not want contact with the father and it affected one of the other children who had wet themselves. Ms Brown said there was a high risk for women.

Ms Brown stated that resources were required for suicide, strategies need to be reviewed to see an improvement, and it would need to be monitored. It is about keeping people safe and MARAC should be included. How stakeholders work together is more important.

Cllr Duffy asked was there any sense of what the hold-up was with MARAC?

Ms Marie Brown stated that a review should have taken place in order to get things moving. The question of where it was at was directed to Chief Supt Kearney.

Chief Supt Gillian Kearney thanked members for their comments. She stated there was a slight change in harassment and stalking which had dropped considerably; this has made a difference.

In relation to predators' behaviour, PSNI need to go where this is happening, people need to make statements and report under difficult circumstances. If PSNI can prevent someone being a victim and stamp it out at the beginning, it is hoped people will feel more confident in reporting. Policing Teams are going through training and there will be collaboration with the Justic Centre. It would mean victims would not have to come into the Police Station. NH Teams are aware of offenders in specific areas and must prioritise accordingly.

Cllr Christopher Jackson concurred with all that had been said. He commended PSNI for all they were doing re VAWG and said people needed to be encouraged to report. Cllr Jackson queried what PCSP could do to support PSNI in reporting crimes, especially violence against women and girls, and stated that as a partnership this was something that members should take seriously.

The Chair, Cllr Martin Reilly, agreed that PCSP needed to be doing more in relation to this.

It was stated that a review of MARAC had been completed with DoJ and PSNI. MARAC in its present form is not fit for purpose. It needs to be considered by the Dept. The question is how it can be pushed forward.

The Chair stated that PCSP should be dealing with it, with a great degree of focus. A Public Meeting had been discussed prior with the focus/theme being about tackling VAWG. He said there was an interest in this area. The Chair asked for members' thoughts on the issue and availability of support. It was agreed that this would be followed up by Teresa Bradley and Louise Kitson.

PCSP

Road Safety (Outcome 1)

Cllr Fergal Leonard mentioned speeding at schools and asked how to secure a road safety van in the area.

Chief Supt Gillian Kearney was unsure of the exact process but stated that evidence of Road Traffic Collisions and speeds in the area would be required.

Cllr Leonard responded by saying, 'prevention is better than care', rather than working on stats.

Chief Supt Kearney said if a SID was available, this could be located in the area, and with DfI preventative road measures for the areas could then be examined.

Cllr Leonard stated that previously when DfI were approached for signage, etc, he was told, if it was in relation to speeding, then it would be PSNI that should be contacted. PSNI in turn state to go to DfI.

The Chair referred to the speeding on A6 and asked if PSNI had contact with DfI regarding signage for the area as some parts of the motorway have no signage and relate to either 60mph or 70mph. These speeds only show up on a Satnav. The Chair queried if there were efforts to get adequate signage.

Chief Supt Kearney stated it was raised before with road safety re adequate signage on the motorway. Some speeds are well above what they should be.

Ald Darren Guy mentioned driving safely and drivers staying off their mobile phones. He queried what PSNI were doing to stop this.

Cllr John Boyle educating people of the consequences of road traffic collisions. There have been some media campaigns over the years but he stated there was not much evidence of it now, enforcement is not currently seen through public advertisements. Cllr Boyle asked if PSNI agreed that when people see these advertisements it had an enormous effect. Younger drivers and passengers are being impacted severely including across the border. The question was asked how cross border work is carried out with Gardai Siochana.

The year that the most money was spent on media campaigns was 2012 which was the year there was the least fatalities.

Chief Supt Kearney informed members that mobile phone usage had increased by 67%. Usage of mobile phones in cars is a regular occurrence; road safety needs focus and officers need to be visible to tackle issues. Unfortunately, with regards to DfI, there is no funding for television advertisements.

NH Teams continue to visit schools where road safety is one of the themes. PSNI work collaboratively with Gardai Siochana and the Roads Policing Team. They are

seeing a significant increase in fatalities on the road.

The Chair informed members that he attended a Road Safety event in Letterkenny which brought together schools. It was a cross community and cross border event which showed an example of car crashes and accidents. School children could listen to the stories and seen involvement from emergency services and the impact it had.

Ald Keith Kerrigan said that at times drivers get careless, are tired, and then at times others put the foot down. He asked if there was evidence to back this up? He referred to 3 schools in Castlederg on the main route and confirmed he had spoken to DfI in order to get signage of 20mph. Ald Kerrigan was informed there was a lack of resources and told if the issue was speeding to go to PSNI.

Ms Linda Watson stated there was hardly any speed limit signage on the route to Dungiven. DfI have signage with red text on them and she asked if this could be used to reiterate **'stop use of mobile phones'**.

The Chair suggested that contact be made to DfI re signage and agreed to write to DfI on this issue.

Chair

Chief Supt Kearney said that it would be suitable to mention in the letter that NH Teams collaborate with schools and PCSP re SIDS re infrastructure in areas.

Drugs (Outcome 2)

Cllr Jackson stated that drugs were a scourge on society and destroy lives. He referred to the number of drug seizures within the report and congratulated PSNI in seizing drugs. It is a role for everybody, steps should be taken to address it, and people need to be encouraged to report.

Sentencing reflects the significant seizures within the case studies. There needs to be recognition of the damage drugs are doing. Cllr Jackson thanked PSNI in relation to seizures of drugs; with their engagement there is reassurance. It is encouraging to hear that the issue of drugs remains a focus. In relation to perpetrators preying on vulnerable members of society in communities, this is one way to hold them to account. Cllr Jackson stated that PSNI have full support of PCSP.

Road Safety (Outcome 3)

Cllr Fergal Leonard referred to a recent death in Ballymagorry and passed his sympathies to the family. An investigation is ongoing in relation to the incident. A lot of stories are going about. He queried if there were any immediate learning points although stated he knew it may not be able to be shared.

Chief Supt Kearney also gave sympathies to Kyle and the family in relation to such a distressing incident. She confirmed the criminal justice process was under way. In relation to immediate learning, nothing would have been conducted differently. Hopefully, it will give people confidence that there is a process in place.

The Chair mentioned his shock and sadness at such a tragic incident. The deceased was a relative of an elected member.

Cllr Jackson thanked PSNI for the report. He referred to armed groups within the City and stated there was a degree of sophistication around that. The focus on armed gangs needs to remain. There are concerns that different sections of PSNI deal with different areas. Drugs are largely controlled by groups; if PSNI are involved there is less chance of this.

Hate Crime

Cllr Jackson asked had PSNI noticed a significant rise in related hate crime? He said there is a huge rise in people feeling unsafe. Are there any steps PSNI are taking or to tackle the issue, including safe spaces, in relation to building confidence.

Chief Supt Kearney stated a significant amount of work was being conducted. There are a number of race hate crimes. Nationally it is under reported. The focus would be more on helping people. PSNI work closely across the district to secure engagement with those feeling unsafe at the moment. PSNI have been able to reach out to groups across the district. It has been helpful to have monthly meetings with various groups. PSNI have been out engaging with faith leaders and groups across the district to explain what they are doing. A working group has been set up alongside the hospital for those feeling unsafe. Various locations are consistently monitored.

Drug Crime Gangs

Chief Supt Kearney stated in relation to drugs crime gangs PSNI are not in isolation working on this; there is a collective focus in different areas of the organisation. PSNI will not tackle one without the other. This will increase the confidence of the public when dealing with this and gives additional reassurance. Before searches in homes, information is required, do not assume PSNI already know or have the information.

Ethnic Minority Groups

Ms Marie Brown brought up the issue of ethnic minority groups which may not result in crime. Accommodation is not appropriate; she referred to a whole family, including children, who were packed into one room with a gas ring. There was CP status and this family was in the same street where a recent murder had taken place. The lady was very frightened and there was a fire escape to the back of the house. She was taken out of the home and moved to a community in Belfast. She had been brought in by the Health Board and was living there. Ms Brown mentioned she worked with the Home Office and these families do not get much; they are not taking anything from anybody. The lady and her family were put in terrible accommodation. Ms Brown said everyone needed to be diligent. She commended PSNI in the arrests in the summer.

PCPM 15/24

Drugs Strategy Presentation

Sgt Cathal Pearse confirmed the strategy had been submitted.

Overview – PSNI refreshed the strategy with the focus on drugs/prescription drugs which was put in place for 2024.

Objective – to tackle supply and misuse of drugs, to be dealt with appropriately, with outcomes.

Met with CC, spoke in court re the concern of misuse of drugs in respect of the City, to support sentencing.

There is a daily priority in relation to drugs. PSNI work with Gardai Siochana and the Crime Branch provincewide. There is a task force to deal with gangs and they are supported by local officers. The Support Hub discusses those involved with drugs. PSNI work with intelligence to achieve an outcome.

All partners are aware of the different agencies; ARC do great work with NH Teams. They are supported with regards to drugs misuse and harm.

Criminal Justice Strategy deals with seizures and supply. In relation to this, 5 cases went through the court, based on intelligence and mobile phone information.

In relation to drug testing, 85 officers have been trained in the Derry and Strabane district. Two main drugs are within the drug testing although it is hoped this will move

to 5 substances for those driving illegally.

A key area is postal intercepts; this is UK wide. PSNI have had impressive results with postal intercepts. Those using this method have no link to themselves therefore Police need to ensure the right people are dealt with. They can be manipulated by those involved in drug supply.

There is a daily assessment of intelligence. Information is gained through Crimestoppers, elected representatives, and community representatives. Whilst information might be insignificant to others it would be enough to carry out an operation/investigation. PSNI are acting on intelligence better and with officers trained the operation is proactive. Two weeks ago, a vehicle was stopped with drugs to supply. The vehicle was intercepted on the A6; it was the first of this kind in about 10 years. All were encouraged to give information.

The Chair urged members to obtain information as no matter how small, it is crucial for the work being carried out.

Cllr Sandra Duffy thanked PSNI for the report and stated drugs were a scourge on our City and that families were in the midst of it. A vulnerable person 'Loughlan' was mentioned. The question was asked about training with regards to a pilot project and would it be rolled out here? The question was also asked if there was any movement re administration of nasal spray, eg, for the NHT who may have to deal with vulnerable people that have overdosed. Those working in the community could encounter those who may have taken a drug overdose.

PCPM 16/24

Any Other Business

Working Group Meeting re Draft Programme for Government - The Chair reminded members of the Working Group Meeting re Draft Programme for Government to be held in Meeting Room, Harbour House, on Thursday at 10.30am.

Working Group re Policing Plan 2025-2030 - A Working Group also needs to be established in relation to NIPB and PSNI who are in the process of developing a new Policing Plan for 2025-2030. Public consultation on draft proposals close on 10/12/24. The Chair requested that those who were interested in sitting on the Working Group should contact Louise Kitson/himself.

PCSP Members

Expense Claim Forms - The Chair informed members that Expense Claim Forms will be issued as a blank form. It is up to members to complete, sign the form, and return to Ciara/Louise in PCSP office for authorisation.

PCSP Admin

Training for Members 16/12/24 - Members' training has been arranged for Monday 16/12/24. Members were asked to let the Chair/Louise know if the date does not suit. Cllr John Boyle requested that the email be reissued on the training.

PCSP Members

Event on Domestic Violence in the Guildhall - Ms Marie Brown informed members that there was an event re Domestic Violence taking place in the Guildhall and events/vigils would be co-ordinated across various Trusts. It was agreed that dates would be forwarded to members. She stated that one of the Simpson family are due to speak at the event. Ms Brown also mentioned that they were successful in getting a video link in the Justice Centre to attend court. They are working in partnership with Victim Support. There will be a launch of that in the New Year.

Ms M Brown, Foyle Women's Aid

The Chair thanked Ms Brown for the information on the event and congratulated her in obtaining video link in the Justice Centre.

PCPM 17/24**Date of Next Meeting**

The next **PCSP Meeting** has been arranged for Tuesday 26 November 2024, Council Chamber, Strabane at 10am.

The next **PCSP PC Meeting** has been arranged for Tuesday 28 January 2025 in the Guildhall, Derry at 10am.

The meeting ended at approximately 12 noon.

Policing and Community Safety Partnership Meeting Policing Committee

**Derry City and Strabane District Council
Tuesday 22 October 2024
Council Chamber, Guildhall**

ACTIONS

Page 8 PCPM 14/24	Public Meeting with focus/theme on VAWG Members to inform Chair of thoughts on issue and availability of support. To be followed up by Teresa Bradley & Louise Kitson.	PCSP Members TB & LK
Page 12 PCPM 16/24	Working Group re Policing Plan 2025-2030 Members who wish to sit on the Working Group to contact Louise Kitson or Chair.	PCSP Members
Page 12 PCPM 16/24	Expense Claim Forms Forms will be issued as a blank form. It is up to members to complete fully, sign the form, and return via email/post to Ciara/Louise in PCSP Office for authorisation.	PCSP Admin (issued via email on 22/10/24)
Page 12 PCPM 16/24	Training for Members 16/12/24 training has been arranged for Monday 16/12/24. Members to inform Chair/Louise if date not suitable. Cllr Boyle requested that the email be re-issued re the training.	PCSP Members LK
Page 12 PCPM 16/24	Event on Domestic Violence in the Guildhall Marie Brown, Foyle Women's Aid to forward dates to members.	Marie Brown