

Minutes of Policing and Community Safety Partnership Meeting

**Tuesday 29 April 2025
Council Chamber, Guildhall**

Present: Cathal Crumley, Cllr Sandra Duffy, Karl Duncan, Ald Darren Guy, Cllr Christopher Jackson, Ald Keith Kerrigan, Cllr Fergal Leonard, Mr Bryan McCaul (NIFRS), Cllr Emma McGinley, Mr Patsy McGonagle, Karen McLaughlin, Ald Niree McMorris, Cllr Anatine O'Fearghail, Caroline Quigley (NIHE), Paul Ryan (YJA), and Linda Watson.

PSNI: Supt William Calderwood and CI Luke Moyne.

In Attendance at Meeting: Ciara Bond, Cllr Martin Reilly, and Vanessa Russell.

DSPCSP 19/25 Apologies:

Cllr John Boyle, Marie Brown, Eddie Doherty (NIHE), Declan Gallagher (EANI), and Alison Wallace.

DSPCSP 20/25 Chairperson's Business

Cllr Martin Reilly (Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The Chair stated he was aware of ASB sectarian attacks over the last few days. This issue to be discussed under Matters Arising.

DSPCSP 21/25 Approval of Minutes of PCSP Meeting of 25/03/25 DSPCSP 11/25-18/25

Proposed: Cllr Christopher Jackson

Seconded: Cllr Fergal Leonard

DSPCSP 22/25 Matters Arising:

ASB at Weekend

Commentary on Radio Foyle referred to a number of incidents at the weekend. The Chair stated his own view was that there was no place for sectarianism or violent attacks. All incidents were very worrying. Many incidents have gained Social Media attraction resulting in more people being aware of the incidents. Sectarianism or damage to people's property needs called out. There is a sense on the ground that we have to pull together to call for calm and action to deter people from engaging in such activities, which could end up with them getting a criminal record at a young age.

There has been an indication from PSNI that arrests are forthcoming. The Chair asked PSNI for an update on this.

Supt Calderwood referred to an incident in the Waterside and said it was important to note that there were incidents throughout the City, eg, Galliagh, Waterside, Strathfoyle and in the Bogside (at flyover).

Supt Calderwood informed members that there has been an increase in the amount of pallets being collected throughout the city. He referred to some

disorder in Nailers Row on Easter Monday that seemed to be orchestrated, and which escalated over the weekend. There was an incident in Nelson Drive where an assault caused a frenzy on social media which had not been helpful. There were organised fights in the area which developed into a number of hours of disorder. Videos were shared and the language was disgusting and clearly sectarian. On the interface, masonry was thrown at PSNI. As there is a lack of resources in policing, resources were used to focus on the area.

The response from the community has been reassuring; everyone in this room and the wider community working to try and de-escalate the incidents. Young people may be arrested; he stated if Police had to take action, they would as prevention is better than cure.

A number of arrests have been made and more will follow from the weekend and Easter Monday. PSNI will continue to do their job but sometimes if they react, it causes a bigger reaction. Murals in the Fountain area were damaged, so the incidents are coming from all sides of the community. PSNI will continue to be robust in their need to support everyone and quell this.

Supt Calderwood advised that PSNI will focus all neighbourhood resources to deal with this, and they will continue to focus on the issues at hand. He thanked everyone for their response and stated that this was what was required; we need everyone with influence to speak up.

The Chair said quite a few members were at the scene of the incident at the weekend and thanked PSNI for their response. Society needs to come together to tackle the problem. He stated there was damage to buses and properties within the area. He was asked to comment as Chair of PCSP but confirmed he had not spoken in the public domain thus far.

There was further discussion on the incident at the weekend; points discussed as follows:

- Meeting of Waterside CSF took place where discussion of the incidents were discussed.
- Everybody needs to work together and show a united voice.
- Due to it coming into marching/summer season a contact list is to be drawn up so that all communities can work together
- Horrific violence and attacks were witnessed at the weekend.
- Boys were coming from all areas and they were not young people you could have spoken to rationally; they are goading one another from either side
- Police were commended for their proportionate presence and defused what could have been a horrific situation; thankfully nobody was hurt
- Education of the 'one punch' mantra needs to be shared on social media again
- Parents need to be involved as to what is going on; maybe there could be a campaign for parents/public as many are oblivious to what is going on
- Arrests are being made
- Do not want the anger to build as it will fester; people will get involved and the young people will be used
- Cllr Jackson was disappointed that he was excluded from the recent CSF Meeting as he was in the community during the incidents
 - There was some criticism against the PSNI, but it was a difficult situation
 - Social Media posts were mentioned as being dangerous and there was disappointment at elected reps and others showing videos which may have stoked things up. This was difficult when trying to calm things down.

- Danger of young people being exploited; some already are and are from both sides of the community therefore Police have to be proportionate on all sides. It was felt that Police focussed on one side of the community at the weekend.
- Congratulations to all involved leading on the incident in the Waterside, eg, local reps, PSNI, and elected reps, as it could not have been carried out alone.
- Photo of Police dog was shared on social media. Thoughts were:
 - it possibly showed the wrong message and did not show police confidence and the public need wider reassurance;
 - It was thought a good tactic as the young people were not going to tackle a Police dog. The Police dog quelled the potential risk that people would have attacked PSNI or others.
- If using social media, the tone needs to be correct.

Press Release

Supt Calderwood said he was part of the Press Release which was a difficult situation and agreed that maybe he got it wrong. The Press Release was very factual due to the fact that a response was required for the wider community. The Police dog was there as a tactical response. PSNI did not give their views in the Press Release. Supt Calderwood said advocacy and accountability was required from everybody; need to be dealing with the issues together. Supt Calderwood stated the tone to the Press Release was not deliberate and stated he would take the feedback from members.

Further discussion took place on tone used, advocacy and credibility. Supt Calderwood said officers continue to put themselves at risk and stated he had a responsibility for his officers and staff.

The Chair said it was not the first time ASB was dealt with and it was not confined to the Waterside. It was an ongoing issue and said that people need to work together so that attacks at weekend do not happen again.

Community Policing/Resources

Ms Linda Watson stated that through everything discussed it showed that community policing was needed in the City and district and PCSP should make the point that more NH Officers are required. This shows that we need more NH Officers and a commitment that they won't be extracted to other duties.

CI Moyne stated that PSNI continuously advocate for increased NH Officers, however we know the resourcing/budgetary restraints and advised PCSP to raise these issues with NIPB.

He stated he was in charge on the night of the incident at the weekend and made reference to the criticism. He said that in any public order situation, you are trying to balance the needs of the community and what the police actions could lead to. Some of the NPT's had been on from 7am and were still there at 11pm. CI Moyne confirmed PSNI were dealing with the ongoing situation.

The Police dog was there as a tactic. Did have other resources; two TSG's were waiting but things had de-escalated at that time. Three arrests were made with further arrests to be made later today. CI Moyne said there was a wider issue with regards to the disorder, the serious violence, and the social media aspect. PSNI will have to take a robust approach.

Further information has come to light. PSNI are taking the preventative route rather than continue to make arrests. NPT's are to attend all schools in the district to highlight the consequences of such disorder. PSNI have gone from 94 officers to 64 officers on the ground, therefore they know the impact it has had.

CSF Meetings and Social Media

Ald Guy referred to Cllr Jackson's comment re the CSF Meeting and stated the time had been changed but that Cllr Jackson should have been invited. He referred to social media post which was posted by someone else and stated that it could be taken up the wrong way by young people.

Cllr Jackson was thankful for the invitation and looked forward to future CSF Meetings as he has been an elected member for many years. Some councillors and community workers dealt with situation and others (MLA's) were nowhere to be seen. This was extremely frustrating for those on the ground speaking to young people who were posting on social media which made things more difficult. social media is dangerous; posting or sharing on social media is not helpful. Politics need to be taken out of it to look at the issue of young people being exploited and not for PCSP members to get social media 'likes'. The reality of the situation was that it made the work of those on the ground more difficult than for those at home posting on social media.

Road Safety/SIDs

Cllr Duffy raised the issue of quads/scramblers/e-bikes in relation to road safety which has become a problem across the city. There is an escalation of their use in various areas and helmets or lights are not being used. Residents and motorists are afraid of killing someone. There was a serious incident in Belfast and a death in Dublin. Cllr Duffy said she was aware that some scramblers have been confiscated. She asked was there a plan of action and welcomed the fact that NH Teams were on the ground.

PSNI said that the statistics speak for themselves; there are too many incidents on the road. Lifesaver has recently been launched. Sgt Ryan Robb has put a lot of work into it and it will continue to address it. Supt Calderwood agreed to check with Sgt Robb to see what plans are in place.

PSNI

PSNI confirmed that 5 scramblers were seized. Unfortunately, the issue with scramblers is that people like the Police chasing them, but this could cause a serious RTC. It was agreed to invite CI Simpson to attend a future meeting of PCSP to see how we can work with Roads Policing to have operations specific to scramblers. CI Moyne also advised that he is liaising with CI Simpson re visits to secondary schools and to work in partnership with other agencies re road safety.

PSNI

The Chair stated there is a danger of e-bikes on the road and also of charging devices/batteries. The Chair agreed that it might be useful to have the conversation around road safety and to raise awareness re regulations on the use of these.

DSPCSP 23/25 PCSP MANAGER'S REPORT**PCSP Action Plan/Budget 2024-2025**

The Quarter 4 expenditure claim is currently being finalised and will be submitted to NIPB and DOJ by the end of April 2025 along with the OBA report cards for each priority. It is anticipated that the full funding award of £441,496 will be claimed.

PCSP Action Plan Budget 2025-2026

Correspondence received on 14.04.25 confirmed that the JC are meeting on 30.04.25 and officials have no reason to believe there will be any changes required to either the Strategic Assessment or the Action Plan. The PCSP can expect to receive official confirmation after that date, when a Letter of Offer will be issued. PCSP members will be kept up to date once we are advised what the budget for 2025/26 is.

The Department of Justice have confirmed that they will continue to provide funding of up to £3,600 towards administration for each support hub in the 2025/2026 financial year.

Conflict of Interest Declaration

There are 2 conflict of interest declarations that remain outstanding. An email reminder has been sent this week to these members to urge them to complete this and return to the PCSP office as a matter of urgency.

PCSP Members**Meeting Expense Payments/Travel Claims – PCSP Members**

Following a PCSP Audit, it has been agreed that the PCSP office will issue expense forms monthly ahead of each PCSP meeting to ensure they are within the deadlines of Finance. Members should complete their form and bring it with them to the PCSP meeting so that it can be processed for payment in a timely manner.

PCSP Members**Small Project Support 2025/26 – Open Call**

The PCSP Open Call for Small Project Support for 2025/2026 opened on Wednesday 16th April for 3 weeks, closing on Friday 9th May 2025 at 3.00pm. 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. In addition, PCSP Co-Ordinators circulated the advertisement among all their contacts. The PCSP call for applications for small project support will run in parallel with Council's Community Support Fund, Good Relations Fund and the Sports Development Programme.

The total amount of funding allocated to the Open Call process is £30,000 which is the same as 2024/2025. To be eligible for funding under the PCSP Open Call, applicants are 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, Foyle side, Moor, Sperrin, Strabane Town and Waterside.

After the closing date, a panel of PCSP officials will assess the applications and a recommendation report will be presented to the next PCSP meeting, which is scheduled to take place on Tuesday 27th May 2025. By this date, the PCSP should have received confirmation of funding from the JC, which means that if approved by PCSP members, PCSP staff can issue Letters of Offer to the successful applicants so that project delivery can commence before the Summer period.

Consensual Grant Aid 2024/25

All projects delivered via the Consensual Grant Aid model are now complete for 2024/2025 and all claims have been fully drawn down and processed via our finance team.

Consensual Grant Aid 2025/26

As part of the PCSP Action Plan 2025/2026, the PCSP agreed to allocate funding to the 8 Local Growth Partnership Boards in the Council area using the consensual grant aid model. For 2025/2026 there is an additional £5,000 per DEA allocated specifically for the theme of Ending Violence Against Women and Girls.

Staff from the PCSP and Community Development sections are currently working alongside each of the Local Growth Partnership Boards to develop Action Plans for the delivery of projects that will address the priorities in each of those areas during 2025/2026. Once drafted, these action plans will be brought to the PCSP for approval.

Ending Violence Against Women and Girls

At the PCSP meeting held in February 2025, under the theme of Ending Violence Against Women and Girls, PSNI spoke with members about the potential to develop a Comic Book project on this theme, similar to the one that was produced previously on drugs and violent extremism (and circulated to PCSP members).

The aim of this project is to give young people the opportunity to work in partnership to tell their own story about issues that affect their local communities and allow them to see that they have more in common with each other than they think. This project will consist of a series of 10 workshops to allow the kids to express themselves and create the story. During these workshops, participants will have short talks delivered by PSNI and other partners such as PCSP, Women's Aid, CRJ and other local groups, but most of the time will be used to let the kids work with the comic book producer. The completed comic can be used as a preventative educational tool in schools and Youth Clubs.

The cost of this project is approximately £8,500. In the PCSP Action Plan 2025/2026, we have an allocation of £48,000 for EVAWG and £40,000 of that has been allocated to consensual grant aid. Members are asked to consider if they wish to approve expenditure on this project with PSNI on a very topical theme so that plans can be put in place for delivery.

CI Moyne gave an overview of a previous project with young people (re drugs and violent extremism) on their story and how it impacts them and their own areas. This has now been used as a learning tool. PSNI talked with them, rather than at them. PSNI are trying to get the message out through schools and online.

He informed members that it was hoped this could be adapted for EVAWG.

Women's Aid and EANI have confirmed they want to be involved. It is hoped all partners would come together to get involved. Workshops would be held for boys and girls as an educational piece. The information would not be diluted; it would have to be told by the young people.

The PCSP Manager stated there was £8,500 funding towards this project.

Cllr Niree McMorris agreed that we should do what we can to end violence against women and girls and that this starts with education; young boys needed to know what a healthy relationship looks like. She agreed that it is a really good project, where outcomes can be measured, adding that it is very important to hear young people's voices, some of them may experience domestic violence in their own homes and we need to know the impact this has on them.

Cllr McMorris stated that in relation to extra resources for NH Police and in relation to violence and other issues she formally proposed that PCSP write a letter to NIPB and the Chief Constable asking for more resources based on the major violence experienced in the district recently.

Proposed: Cllr McMorris

Seconded: Ms L Watson

PCSP Manager

Cllr Duffy supported this proposal regarding the NH Teams, adding that NH Officers know our communities and the people who live/work there, however we need to build confidence in policing. The work that NPTs have done is excellent, however more NH officers are needed

Cllr Duffy proposed that the EVAWG comic should be funded and produced; she appreciated the synopsis given on the comic. The message needs to be shared with peer education where they need to be heard and understood and confirmed she was supportive of this. It is a societal issue and healthy relationships need to be discussed, especially with young boys as to what is appropriate.

Proposed: Cllr Duffy

It was agreed unanimously by all members that the comic should be funded.

PCSP Manager/PSNI

Cllr Jackson agreed with what had been said re EVAWG. He stated that as part of the advocacy role, PCSP should write to NIPB and the Chief Constable to stress the importance of NH Policing. He added that the impact of reduced NPTs is increased ASB, sectarian tensions, and issues around scramblers. In that correspondence, the difference is that the PCSP has raised these concerns previously, however we are not seeing the impact on the ground.

Neighbourhood Watch

The PCSP Manager confirmed that the next round of meetings for Co-ordinators of NH Watch schemes will take place on **Tuesday 13 May 2025 from 6.30 to 8.00pm in the Guildhall** and **Thursday 29 May 2025 from 6.30 to 8.00pm in the Alley Theatre, Strabane**

PCSP Members who would like to attend one of these meetings should advise the PCSP office in advance.

PCSP Members

The NH Watch newsletter will be issued to NH Watch Co-ordinators mid-May for distribution to their communities, will be issued by CSWs when providing talks around personal safety to groups and will also be sent to PCSP members.

Home Security

The PCSP continues to provide and arrange fitting of home security equipment for victims of crime and elderly and vulnerable residents. From April 2024 to March 2025, 167 homes in the city and district were supplied and fitted with additional home safety equipment to help reduce fear of crime and feel safer in their own homes.

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. The Safer Homes equipment is fitted by Teamworks.

CCTV

The Executive Office has confirmed funding of £76,827.35 for 2025/2026. Officers will continue to liaise with potential funders to secure additional funding towards the CCTV scheme.

SIDs

The PCSP currently have two Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) available for placement at locations across the city and district. At the March 2025 PCSP meeting, members agreed to move the location of each SID after 2 weeks, turning them around to capture traffic going in the opposite direction after one week. Members were asked to contact the PCSP office if they find that any of the SIDs in their locality is not working

PCSP Members**PCSP Meetings**

The next PCSP Policing Committee is scheduled for Tuesday 27 May 2025 when the District Commander will deliver the quarter 4 performance report for 2024/2025.

Support Hub

The Support Hub continues to meet monthly, with the last meeting held on 1st April 2025. Since its establishment in August 2016, the Support Hub has dealt with over 335 referrals.

DSPCSP 24/25 COMMUNITY SAFETY WARDENS REPORT

The CSW report for March 2025 was provided for information.

DSPCSP 25/25 LOCAL POLICING PLAN 2025/2026

Supt. Calderwood stated this year's Local Policing Plan is now more victim focused and wider community focused. He added that PSNI will also focus on Officer welfare.

Indicators are similar to last year's plan and will focus on EVAWG, as many of the issues we face this year are the same as previous years. He added that PSNI

have tried to streamline how things are evidenced and want to ensure that PCSP members are happy to ratify the Local Policing Plan.

K Duncan said there was a lack of mention about drug crime.

PSNI confirmed within indicators it is generalised under other headings and stated they had a responsibility to report on drug crimes and said it was still a priority and would be reported on monthly. It remains a local priority and PSNI have a Drugs Lead within the community.

F Leonard asked if PSNI would consider a specific indicator for rural crime, adding that it could be linked to 2.2 and 2.4, but a specific indicator would provide reassurance to people living in rural areas.

Supt Calderwood agreed that PSNI can report specifically on agricultural crime as a specific indicator is available for this.

PSNI

N McMorris enquired about referencing the impact on victims as part of the Local Policing Plan.

Supt Calderwood advised that PSNI get feedback on monthly victim satisfaction surveys to demonstrate how they have dealt with victims and would be keen to expand how we understand impact on victims. It was agreed that PSNI would ascertain if they could share some information from victim satisfaction surveys with PCSP members in future.

PSNI

C Crumley agreed that it would help PCSP members to understand more about the victim feedback process to provide reassurance that issues are being dealt with adequately.

Supt Calderwood stated that PSNI rely on NPTs to provide feedback, adding that PSNI constantly review what they are doing both operationally via communication from NPTs. He advised that they also use other indicators such as information from reports, figures, number of complaints to the Ombudsman etc, which are reviewed monthly, as well as looking at internal grievances to ensure that PSNI are providing a satisfactory service.

After a discussion, it was agreed that PSNI would take feedback after the Quarter 1 report to PCSP.

DSPCSP 26/25

CORRESPONDENCE

Members were referred to correspondence received from NIPB re the NI Policing Plan 2025-2040 and Annual Performance Plan 2025/2026 as previously circulated by email.

DSPCSP 27/25

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

K Duncan mentioned that £63,000 funding had been withdrawn from Northlands Addiction Centre. He proposed that PCSP should acknowledge the impact this has by writing to the Health Minister specifically in relation to the impact on public health and policing and request that this funding should be reinstated.

Proposed: Karl Duncan

Seconded: Patsy McGonagle

PCSP Manager

DSPCSP 28/25

Date of Next Meeting

The next PCSP Meeting has been arranged for 27 May 2025 in the Council Chamber, Guildhall at 10.00am.

The meeting ended at 11.15am.

ACTIONS

