

Minutes of Policing and Community Safety Partnership Meeting Policing Committee

**Derry City and Strabane District Council
Tuesday 29 July 2025
Council Chamber, Guildhall at 10.00am**

Present: Cllr John Boyle, Mr Cathal Crumley, Cllr Sandra Duffy, Mr Karl Duncan, Ald Darren Guy, Cllr Christopher Jackson, David Jackson, Ald Keith Kerrigan, Cllr Fergal Leonard, Cllr Emma McGinley, Mr Patrick McGonagle, Ald Niree McMorris and Ms Alison Wallace.

PSNI: Supt Calderwood, CI Cherith Craig and Insp Katie Slater.

In Attendance: Ciara Bond (Admin), Aileen Murphy (Project Co-ordinator) and Vanessa Russell (PCSP Manager).

PCPM 18/25 Apologies

Michael Gahan (PSNI), Gillian Kearney (PSNI), Cllr Martin Reilly, Marie Brown and Ms Linda Watson.

PCPM 19/25 Chairperson's Business

The Chair invited all members to the July PCSP PC Meeting. The Chair mentioned the recent incident at Maguiresbridge and offered condolences to the family involved where 3 people sadly died.

Cllr Fergal Leonard passed on his deepest sympathies to families affected and stated he did not want to speculate what happened but said every case/report of domestic abuse/violence/stalking must be treated as a potential murder. He felt this needed to be embedded throughout PSNI at all levels to ensure that these cases were treated as such. He said it applied to all agencies involved in looking after women and girls and currently felt this was not happening.

He requested that it should be strongly emphasized to the Justice System that sentencing is far too lenient. There will be no reduction in this type of incident; unless there is proper sentencing given to these types of perpetrators.

There has been a lot of good work in raising awareness about the help available to women and girls, but this only goes so far. It is now time to take control of this in our society. Cllr Leonard reiterated that every domestic incident must be treated as a potential murder.

Supt Calderwood passed on his condolences to the wider community in relation to the recent deaths in Maguiresbridge. He stated it was a societal issue and was a priority for the PSNI. Every domestic incident that happens is reviewed within 24 hours and we will continue to do this.

Ald McNorris also passed on condolences to the family and wider circle and could not comprehend how they would be feeling. Violence against women and girls has to end; it is on the news more and more about women being murdered. This was not just domestic violence; it was third degree murder. It is not just about women; it was

children as well.

Ald Guy reiterated what had been said and passed on deepest condolences to the family circle. Everybody is against violence against women and girls, and it is at a point where things need stepped up. He has spoken to victims of domestic abuse, and the family and criminal courts need to work together. Ald Guy proposed that PCSP write to Justice Minister to state that Family Court and Children's Court work together.

Cllr Boyle expressed his sympathy from SDLP to the families affected by the Maguiresbridge murders. Everyone was extremely shocked, and these incidents are escalating. He said he understood what the PSNI were doing and what they could add to it; sentencing is an issue through the courts. He endorsed the proposal of writing to express concern about how the courts deal with these types of incidents. Unfortunately this may not be the last time we have to deal with an incident like this.

Proposal by Ald Guy to write letter to Justice Minister to ask for solutions to be found to expedite closer working relationships between the Family and Criminal Courts and that tougher sentencing be introduced as a matter of urgency.

Proposed: Ald Darren Guy

Seconded: Cllr Niree McMorris

PCSP

There was no further Chair's business.

PCPM 20/25

Approval of Minutes of PCSP Meeting on 24/06/25

The minutes of the previous PCSP Meeting (DSPCSP 29/25-40/25) were approved as follows:

Proposed by: Ald Niree McMorris

Seconded by: Mr Patrick McGonagle

PCPM 21/25

Matters Arising

The following matters were raised:

DSPCSP 32/25 Violence in Interface Areas – Cllr Jackson mentioned the lengthy discussion held around violence at Nailor's Row and what was perceived as a heavy-handed approach by PSNI.

Violence re Football Match in Bogside and Brandywell - In contrast there was violence on Friday with a large group of people, and the feedback was they had travelled from Dublin to cause havoc in our City. He was on the ground, and everybody asked where were the PSNI? People who attended the match in the Bogside and Brandywell and the residents were terrified, and he requested that this be recorded.

There was only 3 land rovers circling around whilst there were masked individuals who were running around for over an hour had weapons intent on causing damage. This was in comparison to the 14 Land Rover charging at youths in the Nailor's Row.

Councillors are constantly trying to get people to report to PSNI to give them confidence in policing. He said as a member of PCSP he knows when PSNI go over and above to help but this did not happen on Friday night. There were repeated calls to PSNI but they were told that the resources were not available. Cllr Jackson asked what action would be taken to prevent this in future.

Further discussion took place and the following issues were raised in relation to Friday night, as follows:

- There did not seem to be any control; thankfully nobody died;
- PSNI need to be prepared for all eventualities;
- PSNI confirmed they had no resources when contacted;
- How did a large group of individuals, distinctly dressed, and with weapons, end up within our community? These people were not football fans of Bohemians or Derry City; it was not a reflection of Bohemian fans.
- The public in Bogside and Brandywell need to be reassured that their safety is paramount;
- PSNI need to liaise with Football Club and Gardai Siochana on the issue;
- Gardai Siochana have units in Dublin to look after football fans; cannot understand how they were not involved prior to event;
- Important to keep visitors and people within the City safe.

Patsy McGonagle requested that PCSP should write a letter to Drew Harris, An Garda Siochana (AGS) to see what could be arranged for future events within the City.

Cllr Jackson stated that if PCSP were writing to Drew Harris that it should be extended to Chief Constable in PSNI as people were left in a vulnerable situation.

Cllr Boyle agreed and stated both AGS and PSNI should be written to. He agreed with Cllr Jackson that it was a societal issue.

Supt Calderwood informed members that every football match is assessed for risks with dedicated football officers who link in with Gardai. PSNI spoke to AGS that morning and they were not furnished with information that would change the fact that it was a low-risk operation. He confirmed he was first contacted at 7.07pm whilst Cllr McGinley stated it was earlier.

There were reports that the ASB was arranged by social media. It was disgusting that a group of young people went into the area with weapons and vehicles were damaged. He confirmed that those within the stadium did not cause the issue, it involved Bohemian fans who did not have tickets.

Supt Calderwood said once the incident occurred, they did not have enough resources to deal with it. Air support had been requested. Another TSG was secured from Belfast for the end of the match. PSNI tried to scramble as many resources as possible. The work with the Club has been phenomenal, especially with Luke Moyne. PSNI have looked at resources for football, ie, low risk matches but if more Police are there when not needed it can cause a reaction. We are moving forward but some people do not want police in the area with regards to the reputation of the club.

Supt Calderwood stated that as he was silver command he knew it would escalate. He reminded members that the Club also have responsibility for their own event. He said they need to ensure it does not happen again.

PSNI put in a response based on the intelligence received but the scenario changed very quickly, and they did not have enough resources; PSNI were not aware of the disorder that was going to happen.

They were aware of young people trying to get over the railings. Supt Calderwood

spoke to the Club and felt their frustrations. The Marshalls did very well.

PSNI were caught by surprise with what resources were available to move the youths back. The simple premise is to look at the intelligence and prioritise the risk which was after the match. Communication on the night was very difficult. The Club wanted PSNI to go into the Lone Moor Road area to disperse the youths. If PSNI had gone to the Lone Moore Road they would not have had Police there to get people out. Police intervened and put a unit into the area to hold people back. There was a drone up and also the unit from Belfast. People were leaving via Lone Moor Road, they were petrified whilst trying to get out.

There were a lot of reports at that point and reports from the Club trying to get Bohemian fans onto the bus. The bus drivers were petrified and did not want to leave. PSNI were in different areas in order to get buses out with no impact to the Bohemian fans as they were targets at that stage. The priority was to get fans out safely which Police did.

Supt Calderwood said he knew Police would get criticism as they did not have enough resources to deal with the situation. If they had have had different intelligence it would have been escalated. There needs to be discussions with the Club and stakeholders with regards to the information shared.

These people were not supporters; they were here to cause havoc in our City which is not good for anyone. He stated he would work with anybody to try and deal with the issues. He said he knew there would be comparisons made but assured members that the PSNI look at the risk and then put operations in place to deal with the issues at hand. There is always learning from these situations.

Cllr Jackson said he was devastated at Luke Moyne's illness and gave his best wishes to Luke Moyne. He said he knew how much work he had put into building relationships in our area and he had worked closely with the Club to improve safety at events.

Cllr Jackson referred to Friday night and said he trusted that the PSNI were best equipped with the experience to make decisions and had the backing of his party. He mentioned it was the wider context of it and a response was needed at the Brandywell end. He mentioned that thousands of fans were in the City that week for the Foyle Cup and a lot would have attended the Brandywell for the Derry City match. There were scenes of people leaving the stadium who were terrified and this is the impression they will now have leaving our City.

It was felt there was a comparison with Nailor's Row and the Brandywell. There were large groups of people with masks and weapons and the Police were driving around with no intention to arrest anybody. It caused a large disruption within the community and in the City Centre.

Cllr Jackson stated he had been contacted by people who had their property damaged and the response of the PSNI when reporting this was disgraceful; they were dismissive and said it was not their problem. He said for the people of the area the responsibility of PSNI had fallen short. He apologised for raising it at the meeting and there needed to be discussions to work together, to discuss resourcing issues, and the different approaches of PSNI.

Mr Duncan (Vice-Chair) mentioned two issues:

Video of fireworks – it was lucky someone was not seriously injured; there was shock at the level of it. He asked from a Marshall's position what would you do and what resourcing would be available for that?

Video and Stories from the area – a huge group of people with weapons damaging property. It was terrifying; a wee girl was screaming for her daddy. That is her lasting vision of the day.

Supt Calderwood said he was keen to get names of those people whose property was damaged. Meetings have been held in relation to the incident; evidence is being secured for investigation. Two officers from the Response Teams have been assigned to look at all reports on Friday night and the reports of criminal damage. Information will be catalogued from victims and witnesses and incidents re victims will be followed up. Supt Calderwood requested names of victims and said the names would be welcomed as a dedicated officer would be responsible for dealing issues in relation to the incident.

Cllr Jackson

Officers who were not responsive in relation to damaged property would be dealt with. The Public Order team will link in with Gardai and the Club. There needs to be questions as to the actions the Club took and are to take in the future to minimise the risk as it cannot happen again.

CI Craig stated she would reach out to those affected.

PSNI

Further discussion took place in relation to drone availability. Supt Calderwood confirmed whilst PSNI have a drone there is a lot of governance around it, eg, pilot hours, intelligence in order to get the drone up, and the weather. Initially it was a helicopter that was requested but this was not available. If PSNI had intelligence sooner the drone would have been up a lot quicker. The TSG that came from Belfast was dealing with an issue but when Supt Calderwood highlighted the issues in Derry he confirmed he got assistance.

Ald McNorris passed on regards to Luke Moyne; he worked with her in Waterside. He knew the extent of what was going on. She said he would be sorely missed as a member of the Team.

After further discussion in relation to the events it was agreed that a letter would be written to both AGS with regards to lack of communication and the dissatisfaction at their response and to the Chief Constable of PSNI.

It was also agreed that a second letter would be issued to PSNI with regards to resourcing.

Proposed: Mr Patrick McGonagle

Seconded: Cllr John Boyle

PCSP

Supt Calderwood stated that contact should be from PCSP but not PSNI to AGS as they have a good relationship with AGS.

Bonfires, Meenan Square - Cllr Jackson referred to areas including Meenan Square, Creggan, and Top of the Hill where young people are exposed to sinister elements in the community and where the bonfires are being used to recruit and groom the young people. Constant lorries have been seen dropping off pallets.

Cllr Jackson questioned if there was any monitoring of illegal fire sites and any action

that could be taken with regards to environmental damage in the City. He said there was all sorts of criminal activity and he hoped PSNI would not turn a blind eye, that they would focus on this and take action.

Supt Calderwood stated that it is never acceptable for people to break the law, adding the following points:

- questions should be raised with the Bonfire Working Group in Council;
- land owners have a responsibility;
- dumping of pallets is a Council issue;
- there should be a risk assessment carried out due to the environmental issue;
- a bigger community responsibility was required.

Supt Calderwood said it should not be on Police to sort out; a wider conversation is needed. With regards to property being damaged it was confirmed PSNI would get involved if reports were made and they would not turn a blind eye to issues.

Cllr Duffy said she was on the bonfire working group and was aware of agencies around the table. There had been a push the last number of years to move away from bonfires due to damage cause to the community. Different agencies have different responsibilities for different elements of it. There is a criminal element to it all and young people are being groomed. The focus needs to be on criminal gangs. PSNI need to play their part in it.

Supt Calderwood confirmed PSNI would be at the Bonfire Working Group meeting and stated they would continue to collaborate with all partners and respond in relation to criminal offences.

PSNI are led by the community, and they may be advised not to come in due to escalation or a bigger impact on community. PSNI respond accordingly even though they may be compared in relation to issues/incidents. PSNI have to take the criticism but operational decisions are taken with the best interest of the community at the centre.

Further discussion took place on the issue of illegal bonfires and who was dumping the pallets. Solutions are required. Whilst the issues of lorries have been reported to Council, due to southern registrations, Council cannot obtain information. It was questioned if this was something PSNI could help with.

Supt Calderwood encouraged all to inform PSNI of registration plates so they could assist in identifying truck owners.

Supt Calderwood agreed with all comments and stated that moving forward there needed to be a wider conversation re sinister elements. PSNI know what is going on and will be fully supportive at the next Bonfire Working Group Meeting.

PCPM 22/25

Presentation of Police Performance

Supt Calderwood referred members to the report which had been for the first time, compiled by Michael Gahan, who had temporarily taken over from Luke Moyne.

Supt Calderwood referred members to QTR1 report which had been issued to members prior to the meeting and gave an overview. Areas covered included:

OUTCOME 1 – PSNI is Victim Focussed

Themes - Domestic Abuse, Hate and Signal Crime.

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

Policing

Themes – Drugs, ASB, and Violent Extremism.

OUTCOME 3 – PSNI has a Representative, Valued and Enabled Workforce

Themes – Stop and Search, and Frequency of Use of Powers.

PCPM 23/25

Questions on District Commander's Report

Drug Offences – Ald Keith Kerrigan re Page 11, drug offences by DEA – Derg has had biggest increase in recorded crime but significant reduction in outcomes.

Supt Calderwood stated he would get the Derg Team to look at this.

PSNI

Impact Team – Cllr Fergal Leonard acknowledged the work of the Impact Team which had been very successful. The energy, enthusiasm, and passion demonstrated has been brilliant. They established links with community groups and it is hoped that this resource would remain.

A lot of events have been held but at times there is a difficulty in women and girls coming forward. It was thought that there would be higher figures in relation to victim satisfaction. Would like to see how it could be improved. If results/reports of Domestic Violence have fallen, is it because people feel there is no point reporting?

Supt Calderwood stated reports are produced monthly where they get the narrative; this data would need to be reviewed to check trends, etc. The Impact Team will continue this work, even though it has removed them from other duties. Part of their job is to reach out to people and to understand the barriers. Indicators will be used to improve the service re EVAWG, and trends/issues will be assessed in this area.

Drug Seizures – Cllr Duffy commended the strategy based on multi-agency approach not just the criminality approach and welcomed the intervention in Strabane which disrupted criminal gangs.

The work in the Support Hub has been good for vulnerable people and it would be useful if this work was continued. Information on social media does not help anyone. Good to see figures going in right direction re criminal activity.

Strabane Investigation - Mr Patrick McGonagle queried if the investigation was still ongoing. Romanian guys are on remand at the minute; he hoped the investigation would bring them to justice.

Insp Slater confirmed that a wider PSNI investigation was ongoing behind the scenes.

PCPM 24/25

Correspondence – from PSNI re NPT's

The PCSP Manager referred members to the correspondence that had been issued regarding officer numbers within Neighbourhood Policing Teams.

PCPM 25/25

DOJ Consultation on proposed expansion of Out of Court Disposals including Penalty Notices in the Justice Act (NI) 2011**Consultation on Proposals to Criminalise Sexually Explicit Deepfake Images**

The PCSP Manager referred to the two consultation papers (listed above), which close on 28/09/25 and 06/10/25. Members agreed to convene a Working Group in September to draft a response from Derry & Strabane PCSP to both consultations.

PCSP

Any Other Business

PCPM 26/25

Rural Crime – The Chair thanked PSNI for highlighting rural crime re theft of sheep in Plumbridge. There have also been issues of dog attacks on stock and referred to an irresponsible dog owner who has over 30 dogs. PSNI and Dog Warden are working together but there is a lack of action based on legislation and there is a risk that some will take the law into their own hands. Some individuals are afraid to go out of the house at night because of this.

Plumbridge Sheep Show – Cllr Fergal Leonard referred to theft of sheep in Plumbridge and asked if PSNI can attend the sheep show on Saturday to give reassurance to rural community. He said he had previously requested PSNI to include a specific rural indicator in their quarterly reports, but it did not seem to have been included in quarter 1.

PSNI

Letter re Core Funding for Northlands to Dept. of Health – Mr Karl Duncan said correspondence had been received from Aileen. Letter had been sent to DOH 3 months ago relating to core funding for Northlands, reminder letters have been sent and there still has been no response. This is a community safety issue that needs dealt with.

PCSP

Paramilitary Money Lending – Mr Karl Duncan advised that he had discussed paramilitary money lending with PSNI, specifically when people are struggling financially at certain times of the year, e.g. to buy uniforms when children are going back to school. He referred to the harsh consequences of this and requested that PCSP share information on Facebook on this.

PCSP

ASB at Bonfire Sites – Cllr Jackson mentioned ASB at different bonfire sites. There have been calls from residents who felt intimidated. He requested that CSW focus on these areas to reassure residents and try to deter any ASB. He confirmed community representatives and elected representatives would also be on the ground.

Supt Calderwood asked if there was anything PSNI needed to do. If communities are living in fear patrols can be increased; PSNI do not want to be the silent partner. Patrols can be increased as long as this does not increase tensions within the community.

Cllr Jackson said he trusted those conversations would take place at the Bonfire Working Group Meeting.

The PCSP Manager stated that CSW do not engage at bonfire sites, as the risk is too high. She advised that the CSW have a huge geographical area to cover across the district and that they would continue to provide patrols in areas that have been identified as hotspot areas, but that do not pose any risk to their safety. The PCSP Manager confirmed that the CSW would continue to liaise with local community representatives and statutory agencies and would engage regularly with the Community Safety Teams/Forums over the summer months to provide reassurance to local communities.

PCPM 27/25

Date of Next Meeting

The next **PCSP Meeting** has been arranged for Tuesday 30 September 2025 in the Council Chamber, Strabane at 10am.

The meeting ended at approximately 12.30pm.

ACTIONS

PCPM 19/25	It was agreed to write a letter to the Justice Minister asking for solutions to be found to expedite closer working relationships between the Family and Criminal Courts and that tougher sentencing be introduced as a matter of urgency	PCSP
PCPM 21/25	Cllr Jackson to provide names of victims who had their property damaged for follow up action by PSNI.	Cllr Jackson
PCPM 21/25	PSNI to speak with PSNI officers re being dismissive to victims who had their property damaged. It was also agreed that PSNI would reach out to victims.	PSNI
PCPM 21/25	It was agreed that a letter would be written to both AGS with regards to lack of communication and the dissatisfaction at their response and to the Chief Constable of PSNI. A second letter to be written in relation to PSNI resourcing.	PCSP
PCPM 23/25	It was agreed that the Derg PSNI team would look at the large increase in recorded crime with reduced outcomes in the Derg area.	PSNI
PCPM 25/25	It was agreed to convene a working group to draft a response to two DOJ consultation papers	PCSP
PCPM 26/25	PSNI were requested to attend the Plumbridge Sheep Show to provide reassurance to the rural community following the theft of sheep in the area. PSNI to ensure that a rural indicator is included in the quarter 2 PSNI report to PCSP.	PSNI
PCPM 26/25	It was agreed to follow up on previous correspondence with DOH re core funding for Northlands	PCSP
PCPM 26/25	Information on Money Lending to be shared on social media.	PCSP