

Minutes of Policing and Community Safety Partnership Meeting

**Tuesday 26th November 2024
Strabane Council Chamber**

Present: Barry O'Hagan, Louise Kitson, Ald Keith Kerrigan, Cllr Sandra Duffy, Cllr Christopher Jackson, Fergal Leonard, Ald Darren Guy, Michaela Boyle, Cathal Crumley, David Jackson, Patrick McGonagle, Karen McLaughlin, Alison Wallace, Linda Watson, Noel McNulty, and Caroline Quigley.

PSNI: CI Yvonne McManus and Con John Wootton.

In Attendance at Meeting: Barry O'Hagan (Head of Community Development and Leisure), Linda Watson (PCSP vice chair), Louise (PCSP Co-Ordinator) and Alexandra Wallace (Admin).

DSPCSP 73/24 Apologies

Ald Niree McMorris, Marie Brown, Eddie Doherty, Cllr Martin Reilly, Cllr Antaine O'Fearghall, Emma McGinley, Teresa Bradley, and Denise Stewart.

DSPCSP 74/24 Introduction and Welcome

Linda Watson welcomed all PCSP members to the meeting and informed members that she was Acting-Chair for the meeting.

DSPCSP 75/24 Consensual Grant Aid Independent Evaluation – Lorraine McCourt

Lorraine gave a presentation as follows: -

Background.

- Move away from open call centrally managed competitive grant making processes.
- Desire to empower local communities with local knowledge on needs/opportunities.
- Adoption of the Consensual Model of Grant Making as a pilot initiative.
- PCSP Funding.
- Good Relation Funding.
- Consensual (Local Community Planning).
- Funding allocation per DEA based on population, deprivation and rurality.
- 3 Rural DEAs opted not administer Community Support Programme funds.
- Restricted open calls for PCSP and Good Relations for BAME in several areas.

Lorraine explained that funding under the Consensual Grant Model that funding is allocated per DEA.

- Local identification of priority initiatives aligned to local change requirements / investment needs / local growth plan priorities.
- Action plans developed with oversight by Council.
- Funding recommendations - Expression of interest, networking conversations and Open community meetings.
- Implementation oversight / management by community with grant reclaim.
- Verification by Council.

Is the consensual grant making model the aspiration for the future?

If so, does anything need to change to make it better more effective? (Essential characteristics / criteria which needs to be embedded)?

What opportunities should be explored e.g. multi-annual approach, other funds?

If not – what should be adopted instead?

Lorraine invited members' feedback/questions:

Alison Wallace felt that it was on track and gave a balanced view to identify needs within the Waterside DEA to allow for flexible changes, e.g. holding workshops relating to Violence Against Women and Girls. Workshops were held and attended by 300 people.

The workshops were working well within the Ballyarnett DEA and 200 people attended events for ending Violence Against Women and Girls.

Members were requested to email Lorraine, lorraine@lorrainemccourt.com, if they had further feedback or questions.

DSPCSP 76/24

NIFRS Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) 2025-2030 Public Consultation

Assistant Group Commander Peter Malarkey presented NIFRS Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) 2025-2030 public consultation.

- Prior to CRMP the NIFRS used to inform strategic operational resource deployment (IRMP).
- Following an independent review IRMP was replaced by CRMP and is underpinned with current guidance and advice.
- UK Fire Standards Boards & National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC).
- NFCC have set national guidance for the consistent development of CRMPs across the whole fire sector.

Assess all foreseeable fire and rescue related risks that could affect communities including Local – Cross-border – National.

CRMP document encompasses key information.

- Legislative Environment
- Oversight & Accountability Arrangements
- Current Resources, Organisational & Operational Composition
- Community – Geography/Demographics/Deprivation
- Risks & historical analysis of demand; and
- 5-year strategic focus – 6 new strategic outcomes

Understanding Risks is important

- Strategic Assessment of Risk
- Ensures all potential and foreseeable risks to community are considered.
- Underpins our strategies and annual delivery plans.
- National, Local and emergent risks considered, which are: Hazardous material, loss of Critical infrastructure in NI, major incidents, climate change e.g. storms, flooding, wildland fires.
- Vehicle technology and renewable energy.

CRMP deliverables

Mr Malarkey highlighted that the NIFRS need to:

- Review their Service delivery model.
- Improve our IT systems.
- Introduce other interventions to support our current prevention and protection.
- Strengthen our planning, resilience and risk information.
- Strengthen our support for staff.
- Strengthen our governance system

Members welcomed the NIFRS presentation and the strategic approach outlined in the CRMP presentation.

DSPCSP 77/24 Approval of Minutes of PCSP Meeting 22/10/24 (PCPM 08/24-17/24)

The Minutes of the PCSP Meeting were checked for accuracy. The minutes were proposed with the following amendment as follows:

“Cllr Sandra Duffy thanked PSNI for the report and stated drugs were a scourge on our city and their families; she also highlighted the drug Naloxone which is used to reverse a drug overdose.” (to be confirmed by Cllr Sandra Duffy).

DSPCSP 78/24 Chairperson’s Business

There was no Chair’s Business.

DSPCSP 79/24 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

DSPCSP 80/24**Manager's Report**

The PCSP Co-ordinator took members through some of the issues within the report as follows:

PCSP Action Plan/Budget 2024-2025

The PCSP Action plan 2024/2025 was forwarded to the Joint committee (Department of Justice and NI Policing Board) for consideration on Friday 16th February 2024 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 2024/25. This means that the amount allocated to Derry and Strabane PCSP for administration and operational will be the same as last year with no reduction. The Letter of Offer to Derry and Strabane PCSP for 2024/2025 has been received for £441,496.

A Total of £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.

The Joint Committee has monitored the spend profile over the last five years and have identified a high level of underspend in PCSP Members meetings expenses. This means that the meeting expenses budget for 2024/2025 will be £12,500

In addition to this, 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 2024/2025 financial year. A claim for £1,800.00 has been forwarded to the Department of Justice for the first 6 months.

The quarter 1 expenditure claim for the period 01.04.24 to 30.06.24 has been submitted to NIPB and DOJ. This claim has been approved and payment of £66,908.86 has been made to Derry City and Strabane District Council. The Quarter 2 expenditure for the period 01.07.24 to 30.09.24 has been submitted to NIPB and DOJ for approval.

PCSP Facebook Page

In partnership with NIPB, a Facebook Page has been established for Derry and Strabane PCSP. Members are encouraged to 'like,' 'follow' and 'share' this page and our Facebook posts amongst colleagues so that we can increase our profile even further.

The Facebook page acts a conduit for the PCSP to inform and engage the community in relation to policing and community safety initiatives. The Facebook page has become an increasingly important engagement tool for the PCSP. The page currently has 1.9k followers across the lifetime of the page. The address is: <https://www.facebook.com/derryandstrabanepcsp>.

PCSP Induction Training

NIPB have advised that they are planning and developing a comprehensive training programme for PCSP members and members had the opportunity to attend the first training session which took place on 26th September and 23rd October 2024.

PCSP Members were issued correspondence on the next training session as part of the PCSP Induction Training Programme. The Policing Board, with the PSNI have planned a Policing Committee training session for **Tuesday 21st January 2025 6-8pm** with the venue to be confirmed by PBNI. Members were asked to reply to the email that was circulated to confirm attendance/apologies.

PCSP Members

Conflict of Interest Declaration

Elected and Independent members must complete a conflict-of-interest declaration annually. New forms were emailed to members at the start of June and all members were reminded to complete and return these as soon as possible. This is to ensure that compliance with the guidelines in the PCSP Member Handbook, the PCSP Financial Guidelines, and Internal Audit.

The PCSP Member Handbook states **“Members must declare a personal or business interest, financial or otherwise, immediately upon becoming aware of a potential conflict or before”**. The PCSP Financial Guidelines also state that this must be completed by all PCSP Members and Staff and returned to the PCSP Manager. If members require the form to be re-issued, this can be requested from the PCSP office.

One of the recommendations emanating from the PCSP Audit for 2023/2024 states: “Internal Audit recommends that the PCSP Manager highlight again at the next PCSP meeting the requirement for this declaration form to be returned by all members.”

ACTION REQUIRED BY MEMBERS: All PCSP members were requested to complete and return the Conflict-of-Interest Declaration to the PCSP Manager as soon as possible. Forms were made available at the meeting for members to complete.

PCSP Members

Gifts/Hospitality of PCSP Members

Section 11 of the PCSP Financial Guidelines provides guidance in relation to hospitality, competition prizes, gifts and incentives. In addition, the PCSP Member Handbook includes a section on Hospitality, Gifts and Entertainment which states the following:

“As a result of carrying out official duties, PCSP/DPCSP Members may on occasion be offered gifts/hospitality from third parties. Before accepting, PCSP/DPCSP Members should consider if it would be acceptable to the public for such a gift/hospitality to be received. Where a PCSP/DPCSP Member, having considered this issue accepts a gift/hospitality, it should be notified immediately to the PCSP Manager to be recorded in the Council Hospitality, Gifts and Entertainment Register. This disclosure requirement also relates to gifts/hospitality which are presented to a member’s immediate family and persons living in the same household. PCSP/DPCSP Members may only offer hospitality at the expense of the PCSP, with the prior approval of the Chair or in his/her absence the Vice-Chair and notification to the PCSP Manager following approval. A pre-condition for any such hospitality is that it will be in the direct interests of the PCSP and will assist the PCSP in fulfilling its statutory responsibilities.”

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." This has already been sent to members

PCSP Project Co-ordinator

Strategic Objective 2: To Improve Community Safety by Tackling Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

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

The PCSP received a total of six (6) completed applications requesting support of £40,132.80. The recommendation to award funding to the top five groups 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
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

All groups (both successful and unsuccessful) have been advised on the outcome of their application to the PCSP. Groups who have been awarded funding have been issued with a Letter of Offer and PCSP staff are working closely with groups to ensure that their project is delivered in line with expectations.

PCSP has received notification from Men's Action Network who have announced their suspension of services due to funding limitations and will no longer be able to fulfil the PCSP agreement of funding. As agreed in the PCSP meeting in May 2024 and in previous years, should underspends be identified throughout the year, then that under-spend will be re-allocated to the next group on the list up to their maximum eligible funding as per the table above. As agreed by members at PCSP September 2024 meeting the Reallocation and revised Letters of Offer have been issued to the following groups with both HURT and Street Doctors accepting funding.

Group Name	Score	Rank	Eligible Funding	Funding Awarded	Additional Funding
Have Your Tomorrows (HURT)	89	5	£9,000.00	£2,067.20	£6,932.80
Street Doctors	62	6	£3,200.00	£0.00	£2,091.20

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

All Local Growth Partnership Boards have been advised that the Action Plan submitted to PCSP has been approved and a Letter of Offer has been issued. Project delivery commenced over the summer months and the PCSP Chair and staff have been attending as many of these projects as possible.

As part of Consensual Grant Aid pilot DCSDC have recently appointed an independent consultant, Lorraine McCourt who will be engaging with key stakeholders including funders as part of the independent evaluation of this pilot model.

Campaigns/Initiatives

Community Safety Wardens – the Wardens continue to carry out patrols and have been engaging with several local initiatives to raise awareness of the service they provide and enhance the community safety of those living in the city and district. Between April and October 2024, the Community Safety Wardens have dealt with 930 referrals and provided 8,917 patrols of ASB hotspot areas. In addition to this, the Community Safety Wardens have attended 42 meetings and 51 events.

External funding towards the Community Safety Warden scheme for 2024/25 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	

The Community Safety Wardens work across 2 teams:

- City & Rural Team cover Triax/Waterside/Outer North/Outer West as well as Strathfoyle, Eglinton, Claudy, Park, Maydown and Newbuildings. There are 8 Wardens who provide patrols. Hours of service are 12 noon to 5.00pm Monday to Wednesday and 5.30pm to 3.00am Thursday to Sunday. This team is based in the Council Depot at Skeoge. This team will also provide ad-hoc cover in the Derg, Sperrin and Strabane Town areas, however their capacity will be reduced.
- Northland Team cover the university precinct and city centre. There are 3 Wardens who provide patrols. Hours of service are 10.00pm to 5.00am Sunday to Thursday. This team is based in the NIFRS office, Northland Road.

All the Wardens are trained in mental health first aid, ASSIST and water safety training and further compliance training will be delivered over the next few months. The Community Safety Wardens continue to work closely with CCTV operators, PSNI officers and community organisations to ensure effective communication and partnership delivery.

As agreed at the PCSP September meeting 2024 the wardens as part of their monthly reporting will include some case studies to reflect the type of work that is being undertaken by the Community Safety Wardens Scheme and these will be included as an addendum in the CSW monthly reports issued to members.

In response to the concerns for the safety of women and girls within the District the Community Safety Wardens have been involved in several events and initiatives to provide support and raise awareness. These have included attending the Rally for women's safety which took place on Friday 8th November Guildhall Square to distribute personal safety alarms and CSW contact leaflets. The Community Safety Wardens on request from a variety of organisations have facilitated several talks around personal safety and distributed personal safety alarms and CSW contact leaflets. The community safety wardens have also increased Patrols particularly during the day in our parks and greenspaces.

RAPID – Drugs Bins

The PCSP has facilitated the installation of 23 *RAPID bins* (Remove all Prescription and Illegal Drugs) across the city and district. The bins are located at:

1. Annie's B&B, Carlisle Road
2. Ballycolman Community Centre, Strabane
3. BHCP, Ballymagroarty
4. Bishop Street Community Centre, Bishop Street
5. Costcutter's - Haughey's Costcutter, Ballycolman, Strabane
6. Glen Development Initiative
7. Grangewood Hospital
8. HURT Offices, Clarendon Street
9. Lisnagelvin Shopping Centre – Tesco's
10. Northside Shopping Centre, Glengalliagh Road
11. Oaktree B&B, Spencer Road
12. Old Library Trust, Creggan
13. Pennyburn Youth Club
14. Shantallow Community Centre, Drumleck Drive
15. Simon Community, Bond's Hill
16. Simon Community, Melrose Terrace
17. Spar - Hamilton's Spar, Newtownstewart
18. Spar - Hamilton's Spar, Castlederg
19. Spar - Kelly's Spar, Strathfoyle
20. Spar - McKenna's Spar, Sion Mills
21. The Bridge B&B, Dacre Terrace
22. The Gasyard Centre, Bogside
23. The Station B&B, Northland Road

Since their introduction in 2018, 79,765 tablets/pills have been deposited in and removed from the bins. The PCSP commissioned a short animation explaining how the bins operate and where they are currently located. This has been shared with those groups hosting the bins and has been posted on the PCSP Facebook page: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UJMJ0Pz-Fp4>.

Any drugs removed from the bins are identified and logged by PSNI. Large amounts of potentially harmful drugs are being deposited in the bins and then destroyed. This is important given the high prevalence of prescription drugs named in suspected drug deaths in the Council area, especially tranquilisers and anti-anxiety drugs e.g. pregabalin, diazepam, naproxen, lyrica, tramadol, co-codomal etc.

Manchester United Foundation's Street Reds Project

The PCSP is part of the steering group that is working in partnership with the *Manchester United Foundation's Street Reds Project*, NIHE, PSNI and the Youth Work Alliance to develop opportunities to engage young people in cross community activities through sport. This programme re-commenced in September 2024 at Caw and St Joseph's Boys School, Creggan every Tuesday and Thursday evening. The Community Safety Wardens will continue to engage with young people at both locations.

Home Security Equipment

The PCSP continues to provide and arrange fitting of **home security equipment** for victims of crime and elderly and vulnerable residents. From April to September 2024, 68 homes in the city and district were supplied and fitted with additional home safety equipment.

A range of equipment is available including door chains, door peepholes, door wedge alarms, key safes, oil tank locks, padlocks, safe cans, security lights, door jammers and secure rings. Referrals for this scheme are taken from a range of partners including PSNI, community representatives, neighbourhood watch coordinators, community safety wardens, elected members and other statutory and voluntary agencies.

In response to the concerns for the safety of women and girls within the District PCSP has provided approx. 1000 personal safety alarms from requests received from the C&V Sector, PCSP Members and DCSDC Elected Members.

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.

The PCSP is working with colleagues in PSNI and domestic abuse agencies to continue the roll out a CCTV scheme to protect those highest risk domestic violence victims. This scheme provides added protection to victims and act as a deterrent to perpetrators. In addition to this, home and personal security and safety items are offered to victims of domestic abuse to help them feel safer at home and when they're out and about.

Neighbourhood Watch

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 produce a quarterly Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter for co-ordinators to distribute within their respective schemes. The Derry Neighbourhood Watch meeting was held on Monday 11 November 2024 and the Strabane Neighbourhood watch meeting is to be held on Thursday 21 November 2024. These meetings give co-ordinators the opportunity to engage with PCSP and PSNI in relation to crime, policing and community safety issues in their neighbourhoods.

The PCSP now manages the schemes in partnership with PSNI and produces a newsletter for coordinators to distribute. The PCSP works in partnership with the PSNI to produce content for the newsletters to include advice/ information on current issues. The latest issue no. 44 includes information/ advice on personal safety, Sextortion, Scams and how to contact the police. Over 800+ copies of the newsletter are to be distributed by coordinators to their communities in November 2024 and have also been issued by CSWs when providing talks around personal safety to groups.

CCTV

PCSP has been leading on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Review of CCTV Infrastructure and Monitoring. The previously disparate CCTV systems have been integrated with the monitoring of all the cameras carried out on a 24/7 basis from a single location.

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. Ninety-four (94) of these cameras are full function PTZ cameras that are capable of panning, tilting and zooming in for close-up images. The remaining twenty-nine (29) are IP fixed static cameras. All cameras

have AI technology imbedded to enhance the performance of monitoring and early alert and search capabilities.

The CCTV initiative takes a multi-agency approach with partners from PSNI, City Centre Initiative, The Executive Office and Council. Council approved a Tender Report in January 2023 appointing a service provider to undertake the monitoring, remedial maintenance and replacement of the city and district's public surveillance CCTV system for a period of 5 years, with an option to extend for an additional 2 years.

Part of this new contract included the upgrade of 75 existing cameras and the replacement of fibre boards during 2023-2024.

For quarter 2 of the current financial year (01.07.24 to 30.09.24) CCTV has dealt with 116 missing person reports, 66 attempted suicides and 211 suicide welfare concerns. It should be noted that the recent increase in suicide attempts is extremely concerning.

In relation to external funding towards the CCTV scheme for 2024/2025, a meeting was held in July and October 2024 with City Centre Initiative and current/potential funders to discuss the long-term funding of the CCTV scheme in the DCSDC area. At this meeting, attendees were provided with an overview of the current system including the number of incidents, types of incidents, requests and vulnerability issues, the cost effectiveness of the current system, comparisons with other CCTV schemes across NI, partnerships and communication streams and the current commitment of funders. This meeting was attended by representatives from CCI, DCSDC, PHA, PSNI, TEO and WHSCT. Since the July meeting, PSNI have subsequently committed to provide £12,000 towards the CCTV scheme for 2024/25. Officers will continue to liaise with potential funders to secure additional funding towards the CCTV scheme.

Road Safety

The PCSP currently have two *Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs)* available for placement at locations across the city and district. These devices act as a warning to motorists who are driving above the speed limit. The SIDs that are currently operational have been placed outside the Primary school on the Derry Road Strabane and Artigarvan Primary school.

PCSP Members can continue to submit requests for deployment by completing the SID request form and returning to the PCSP office and these will be added to the list for future deployments once the SIDs are operational again. All requests are held centrally and SIDs are rotated across these locations and remain on site for a period of 4 weeks to collect data, which is then collated and shared with PSNI and DfI on request. This information can be used to target follow-up action by PSNI or can be used by DfI to identify areas where speed reduction measures would be beneficial.

The PCSP supported the PSNI Roads Policing to deliver their cross-border RoadSafe Roadshow in Aura Leisure Centre, Letterkenny which took place on Wednesday 9th October 2024 at 11.00am. Over 2000+ pupils attended this event with several Schools from the Derry and Strabane District also attending. This hard-hitting event that mixed theatre, video, and first-hand accounts from police and emergency services to expose the dangers of driving. Family members of victims to road accidents also shared their stories in a bid to educate young drivers to respect the roads.

The PCSP 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 supported the *Life After and the NW Road Safety Partnership* to deliver the Road Safety Saturday event in Guildhall Square on 16th November 2024 which highlights the start of Road Safety Week 2024 in partnership with PSNI, NIAS, NIFRS, NI Air Ambulance, Journeys NI, DFI and CCI. The community safety wardens also attended this event to raise awareness of the CSW scheme.

The PCSP will continue to work in partnership with PSNI to deliver Trailer Marking Events throughout 2024/2025. Two trailer marking events were held on Saturday 12th October at St Josephs "Craigbane" GAC, Glenrandel Road/Crockmore Road from 9.00am to 3.00pm and Taylors of Flynn, Victoria Bridge on Saturday 19th October 10am-4pm. This initiative is an excellent crime prevention measure to deter criminals and to assist police to establish the legitimate owners of vehicles that are recovered. It is anticipated that further dates will be secured throughout 2024/2025.

Strategic Objective 3: To Support Community Confidence in Policing

Policing Committee Meetings

The last *PCSP Policing Committee* meeting was held on Tuesday 22nd October 2024 in The Council Chamber, DCSDC, Guildhall. At this meeting the PSNI District Commander's quarter 2 report was delivered from July to September 2024, detailing performance against the local and service policing plans and members had the opportunity to ask questions in relation to the report.

The next PCSP Policing Committee is scheduled for Tuesday 28th January 2025 when the District Commander will deliver the quarter 3 performance report for 2024/2025.

Earlier this year PCSP members agreed that the possibility of a PCSP Public Meeting should be explored. Members also agreed that this should be a themed meeting and at the October PCSP Policing Committee meeting members discussed a potential theme of Violence Against Women & Girls. A date and time for this meeting has not yet been agreed and members are asked to keep this under consideration. Public meetings provide a great opportunity to promote the work of the PCSP further and to explore in-depth some of the community safety issues affecting our communities.

Justice and Security Stop & Search Powers

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 member who attends 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. PSNI has requested that JSA Accountability Panels are to be paused to conduct a review of processes. PCSP Members will be informed if these meetings are to be reinstated.

Support Hub

The *Support Hub* continues to meet monthly, with the last meeting held on 5th November 2024. Since its establishment in August 2016, the Support Hub has dealt with 335 referrals.

The Support Hub was established to share information and deliver tailored support to those most vulnerable in our communities. The Hub is chaired by the PCSP Manager with PSNI, NIFRS, NIHE, YJA, PBNI, NIAS, EANI, A&E, Adult Safeguarding, Children Safeguarding, and Mental Health services in attendance.

Those that are most vulnerable are discussed within the Support Hub; these include; young people susceptible to paramilitary attack/influence, young people susceptible to organised crime gang influence, repeat victims of ASB, repeat victims of hate crime, older people subject to repeat incidents and repeat victims in general.

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 as a synopsis of the main challenges faced by referrals. In addition to this, each Support Hub has submitted a few case studies which include the stories of these referrals to the hub. The case studies included an outline of issues individuals have to deal with, the impact/benefits on their life or their wider family, how they interacted with the agencies that sit on the Support Hub, and the impact on agencies providing the support. Once this evaluation is complete, this information will be shared with PCSP members.

Inspection of Community Safety and Local Policing Arrangements for NI

The Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland (CJI) undertook an inspection of Community Safety and Local Policing Arrangements in NI during 2023. The inspection focussed on the three main elements of the CJI inspection framework and assessed the progress made against recommendations in CJI's 2019 review of PCSPs.

Inspectors made 9 recommendations for improvement (1 strategic and 8 operational) and all these recommendations were directed to either DOJ or PSNI for implementation.

A copy of the full report can be found on this link:

<https://www.cjini.org/TheInspections/Inspection-Reports/2024/Jan-Mar/Community-Safety-and-Local-Policing-Inspection>

Community Safety Forums/Interagency Meetings

Community Safety Wardens regularly attend the Community Safety Forums in Triax, Outer West, Outer North, Waterside, Top of the Hill and Strathfoyle/Maydown. These forums are community led and are also attended by PSNI Neighbourhood Police Teams, NIHE and other relevant organisations.

PCSP officers also participate in Strabane Rural and Urban Interagency meetings, which are led by Supporting Communities NI and attended by a range of statutory agencies such as DCSDC, DRD, NIHE, PSNI and community representatives. The Strabane Town Community Safety Forum is also attended by Community Safety Wardens.

DSPCSP 81/24 Community Safety Wardens' Reports & Case Studies

Members were referred to the CSW Reports and Case Studies for September and October 2024.

DSPCSP 82/24 Any Other Business**E-Scooters**

Micheala Boyle raised the subject of E-scooters stating they are an accident waiting happen; these are dangerous to pedestrians. It was agreed that information should go out to the public to inform them of what the legal requirement around the use of E-scooters is. There was a recent incident in Melmount Road, Strabane, where a member of the public was injured and PCSP wished them a speedy recovery.

Cllr Duffy stated there were also incidents in Galliagh with regards to scramblers and E-Scooters and people are afraid within the community.

It is worth issuing information regarding the legality of the use of E-Scooters.

CI Yvonne McManus informed members that incidents are not being reported to police concerning near misses with E-Scooters. CI McManus reminded members that E-scooters can only be used on private land and should not be used on public footpaths, etc.

CI McManus informed the meeting that this year's Christmas campaign is focusing on the following:

- Safer Roads
- Safer Shopping
- Safer Socialising

It was agreed that the Project Co-ordinator would speak to the Police Communications Team re information being distributed on the use of E-Scooters.

Project Co-Ordinator

PCSP Themed Public Meeting

Cllr Duffy raised the matter of a Public themed meeting in relation to ending Violence against Women and Girls and the importance of holding a PCSP Public Meeting in January on this matter.

After discussion, members agreed that PCSP should organise a themed public meeting on ending Violence Against Women and Girls.

Proposed: Cllr Sandra Duffy

Seconded: Alison Wallace

DSPCSP 83/24

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on **Tuesday 28 January 2025 in the Council Chamber, Guildhall at 10am.**

The Chair thanked members for their attendance and input at the meeting which ended at approximately 12.10 pm.