

# Minutes of Policing and Community Safety Partnership Special Meeting

**26 March 2024  
Council Chamber, Guildhall**

**Present:** Cllr Jason Barr, Cllr John Boyle, Mrs Mary Casey, Ms Deborah Cross (EA), Ald Darren Guy, Ald Keith Kerrigan, Cllr Christopher Jackson, Ms Collette Latimore attending on behalf of Ms Denise Stewart (PBNI), Cllr Fergal Leonard, Mr Aodh McCay, Mr Bryan McCaul (NIFRS), Cllr Emma McGinley, Ald Niree McMorris, Mr Noel McNulty (NIHE) and Ms Linda Watson.

**PSNI:** CI Yvonne McManus and Insp Ryan Robb.

**In Attendance at Meeting:** Ciara Bond (Admin), Cllr Sandra Duffy (PCSP Chair) and Vanessa Russell (PCSP Manager).

## **DSPCSP 23/24      Apologies**

Mr Thomas Conway, Ms Jacqueline Doherty (WHSCT), Mr Paul Ryan (YJA), Ms Denise Stewart (PBNI) and Mrs Jeanette Warke.

## **DSPCSP 24/24      Introduction and Welcome**

The PCSP Chair, Sandra Duffy, welcomed all PCSP members to the meeting.

An elected member acknowledged Jordan Gallagher who had gone missing in Strabane. He commended the interagency work that took place on a daily/nightly basis by various statutory and voluntary organisations, such as Foyle Search & Rescue, and Strabane Community Rescue. Volunteers from as far away in Mallow, Co Cork, helped in the continued rescue. Sadly, Jordan's body was recovered on 25/03/24.

Members passed on their condolences to Jordan's family and friends at this very difficult time.

The Chair said she had followed the search on social media with the family's plea and offered her condolences to the family.

## **DSPCSP 25/24      Approval of Minutes – Minutes of PCSP Meeting 27/02/24 (DSPCSP 10/24-22/24)**

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

**Proposed by:** Ald Niree McMorris

**Seconded by:** Ald Darren Guy

## **DSPCSP 26/24      Matters Arising**

**CCTV Funding** – the PCSP Manager referred to recent media coverage re CCTV funding following confirmation from PSNI that owing to their current budget allocation and their requirement to contain costs within that budget, PSNI is not in a position to contribute to funding towards either CCTV or the Community Safety Wardens for 24/25.

The Chair reiterated how important CCTV was in the city and district with regard to crimes and the need for CCTV, especially at the riverfront in preventing

suicides.

The PCSP Manager stated that on 11/03/24 PCSP were informed that there would be no funding from PSNI for 2024/25. There was significant media coverage on this. The PCSP Manager referred to the fact that no doubt all members were aware of the value CCTV and the decision was based on financial pressures. The PCSP Manager has spoken with DoJ and NIPB, along with a number of other partners, with the hope of putting together a high-level meeting to showcase the excellent resource provided by CCTV in a bid to secure additional funding.

The Chair stated it would be worthwhile for PCSP to issue a letter to all agencies to reiterate the issues. This was agreed:

**Proposed by: Cllr Sandra Duffy (Chair)**

**Seconded by: Cllr Emma McGinley**

**PCSP Manager**

**CCTV Monitoring Visit** – an update was requested on the issue.

The PCSP Manager confirmed that upgrade work had just been completed at the CCTV Monitoring Station. She added that she hoped to be able to confirm dates for this visit after Easter, however she stated that there would be a restriction on the number of persons allowed access at any given time, therefore she would try and secure a range of dates to facilitate all PCSP members.

**PCSP Manager**

**SIDs** – whilst SIDs were not out over the Winter, an update was requested as to when they would be going out.

The PCSP Manager stated that whilst SIDs were off the road over the winter they were scheduled to be re-deployed on the week ending 30/03/24. Four SIDs would be deployed for a period of 4 weeks at each location. Members were advised that there was a bit of a back-log in requests and indicated that any requests for SIDs in the vicinity of schools would be during term time as far as possible.

## **DSPCSP 27/24**

### **Manager's Report**

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

**Quarter 3 Claim** for £159,320.17 was submitted for to Joint Committee and has now been reimbursed.

**Action Plan 2024/25** was forwarded to Joint Committee on 16/02/24. The outcome would be determined at a JC meeting on 26/03/24; members will be kept updated.

**PCSP Manager**

A meeting was held with DoJ and NIPB on 25/03/24. The budget has not been confirmed but advice was given to base the first 3 months of the year on last year's budget. The Letter of Offer should be received by the end of April.

**Support Hub Meeting** took place in March where representatives from Sligo HSE and An Gardaí Sióchana attended. The Derry and Strabane SH was the first to be established therefore it is seen as a model for best practice.

**Recruitment of Independent Members** – an appointment panel from NIPB has

been arranged to meet on 28/03/24 to go through the list of independent members to decide on who will be offered positions. AccessNI checks will then be conducted for new members.

Three Councils will re-open the appointment process again as there were no reserves. This does not apply to Derry and Strabane Council.

PCSP's current independent members will remain in position until May and the new members will take up position on 01/06/24.

**PCSP Induction Training** – NIPB advised they are facilitating a training programme for new PCSP members; this is to include elected and independent members. Members will be kept updated.

### **PCSP Manager**

**Conflict of Interest Declarations** – members have been issued with a 'reminder email' to return the form promptly; these are required as part of the PCSP audit.

**Small Project Support** – at the February meeting members agreed to Consensual Grant Aid for 2024/25. The PCSP Manager referred to a table where £30,000 has been retained for Council wide initiatives. Members were informed there would be an Open Call for this which will be advertised on 08/04/24. The online portal opens on 15/04/24 at 10.00am and closes on Friday 03/05/24 at 3pm and members are asked to share the advert for onward circulation.

### **PCSP Manager & Members**

#### **Campaigns/Initiatives**

**CSW** dealt with 1,836 referrals and provided 15,834 patrols of ASB hotspot areas between 01/04/23 and 29/02/24.

**Man Utd Foundation Street Reds Project** – delivery commenced in Autumn last year and CSW are still involved in this project to deliver safer community workshops to young people.

**CCTV** – under the new contract 75 cameras have been upgraded and fibreboards replaced. Between April 2023 and January 2024 CCTV has dealt with 519 missing person reports, 207 attempted suicides and 683 suicide welfare concerns.

The PCSP Manager referred to recent media attention where PSNI confirmed they were not in a position to provide funding for CCTV in 2024/25. A lack of overall funding is the issue. DoJ are to try and secure an equitable budget settlement going forward. Members will be kept updated.

### **PCSP Manager**

**SIDs** will be re-deployed throughout the district with effect from 30/03/24.

**PCSP PC Meeting** – the next PCSP PC Meeting has been arranged for 30/04/24 where the District Commander will deliver the performance report for 2023/24. This meeting will take place in Strabane Council Chamber.

**PCSP Public Meeting** – members agreed at the February meeting to hold a Public Meeting. They were asked to consider theme, venue, date, and time.

The PCSP Manager referred to PCSP Meeting due to take place on 28/05/24 and stated the meeting could take place that afternoon, if suitable.

In relation to the Public Meeting possibly taking place on 28/05/24 the Chair stated that there was normally a CODA meeting the same afternoon (last

Tuesday of the month). It was agreed that the PCSP Manager would email members with a few suggested dates and to ask for suggestions re time and venue so that this can be progressed.

**PCSP Manager**

**Justice and Security Stop and Search Powers** – members were informed that these meetings give members the opportunity to scrutinise their use of the JSA Powers by randomly selecting body worn videos to watch and see how searches have been carried out and then discuss the search(es) with PSNI. The PCSP Manager stated that some members had requested alternative dates to those that were given, ie, 10/04/24 and 08/05/24. Members to be informed of alternative dates if confirmed.

**PCSP Manager**

**Support Hub** – an evaluation is currently taking place to measure the effectiveness of the Support Hub. Information will be shared with members once the evaluation is completed.

**PCSP Manager**

The Chair referred to the fantastic work of the Support Hub where it brings agencies together to provide a better way forward for people. She also referred to the value of CCTV within the City and District.

#### **Questions/Issues:**

**Incidents dealt with via CCTV** - an independent member mentioned the number of incidents dealt with via CCTV, eg, missing persons, attempted suicides and suicide welfare incidents. In past meetings, the need for single identity had been identified, and it was queried had a task force been set up to deal with this. With the SH and all statutory agencies involved, it was queried had it been discussed within the SH as to what could be done; it was felt it was one step from suicide. The stats are dreadful. The question was asked, “Could you sit back and do nothing?”

The PCSP Manager informed members of the clearly defined remit of the SH. There are a wide range of statutory agencies involved in the SH and each can refer clients onto the hub but there must be consent. Some people do not wish to give consent, either in the over 18 or under 18 bracket. The PCSP Manager stated the figures were startling. She confirmed that suicide prevention was not the responsibility of PCSP, however the SH partner agencies work together to help and signpost people with MH issues.

**CSW** – the withdrawal of funding from PSNI towards the CSWs was mentioned by an elected member and the work that is carried out by the Wardens regularly. He stated that the CSW defuse situations and should be commended for that. It was questioned what the Justice Minister was doing?

It was discussed that a letter should be sent to the Justice Minister to see what is being done to secure funding for PSNI and towards the CCTV and CSW schemes.

**Proposed: Cllr Sandra Duffy**

**Seconded: Ms Linda Watson**

**PCSP Manager**

CI Yvonne McManus agreed that the CSW do amazing work and play an important role. She stated it was unfortunate that PSNI do not have the budget to make a contribution. She stated there was a lot of deprivation in Derry City and Strabane as a district which increases crime and addiction.

#### **DSPCSP 28/24 Community Safety Wardens' Reports**

Members were referred to the following reports of the Wardens:

- February 2024

#### **DSPCSP 29/24 Correspondence - Closure of Police Service Enquiry Offices**

Members were referred to correspondence on the closure of PSNI Enquiry Offices due to challenging budgets. It was confirmed there would be a reduction from 28 to 17 offices; the final decision on the location of these has not been taken. Members were informed that it was likely that Derry and Strabane would be affected.

**The following queries in relation to this were discussed:**

**Which stations could be affected?**

**Answer:** No update at present.

**Could all issues be brought together?** (eg, closure of offices, addictions, deaths). A large number of organisations now wish to sign up to partner with PSNI and it could actually help in addressing the issue. It was stated there was a need for group discussion re suicides to bring all issues to one meeting.

**How many Enquiry Offices are in Derry and Strabane?**

**Answer:** Waterside (large custody suite), Strand Road and Strabane. Members were informed it was best not to speculate which offices would close at this stage.

**Opposition to Cuts on Services** – as PCSP and a local Council, the focus should be on the opposition to cuts on services.

**Strabane Enquiry Office** – whilst enquiry offices are good the office in Strabane has restrictive hours; it was supposed to be brought up to speed to be more amenable. If an office is not being used then another option should be looked at with the possibility of it being shut down.

**Letter to Chief Constable** – a suggestion was made to write to the Chief Constable highlighting these issues and to advocate that PSNI don't close any of the 3 enquiry offices in the Derry and Strabane district:

**Proposed by: Ald Niree McMorris**

**Seconded by: Ald Darren Guy**

**PCSP Manager**

#### **DSPCSP 30/24 Any Other Business**

**Policing Plan 2024/25** – the Chair referred members to the Policing Plan that had been shared prior to the meeting and asked members if they wished to suggest any amendments.

**Issues/Comments raised as follows:**

**Two-way communications** requested to be highlighted and discussed at the

next PCSP PC Meeting.

**Confidence in Policing Initiatives** - in rural areas it should be recorded as an outcome that could be measured; something more robust is required to tackle this.

CI McManus agreed that Rural Crime and Agricultural could be separated to give specific statistics.

## PSNI

**Resources** – there are issues PCSP will want delivered but it is whether or not they can be delivered when there is a gap and PSNI are limited in resources. When reviewing the progress it is whether all the targets are being met.

An elected member stated he was happy to endorse the Policing Plan therefore it was:

**Proposed by: Cllr Christopher Jackson**

**Seconded by: Ald Niree McMorris**

CI McManus stated that all measures would be taken to deliver on all aspects of the Policing Plan.

## Flags within Communities

Lengthy discussion took place in relation to flags. Issues raised were as follows:

- Flags have been discussed in the past and whilst there is no simple solution, Councillors have been contacted as it is causing huge concern within the community.
- Members of the community have contacted councillors with regards to flags and graffiti. The level of intimidation is significant and causing tension within communities. People are terrified.
- A play park was to open in Drumahoe and the night before the opening Union Jack flags were placed everywhere.
- Nationalist flags were then erected but not at the same level of intimidation but still unsettling.
- As PCSP we do have a multi-agency approach. It is known that it is not the responsibility of PSNI or Council but surely there is something that can be done. Members of the community are being intimidated by people who do not live in these areas. It would be good if there was something that could be done collectively. This has been a major issue over the last few days.
- Issues have been raised with PSNI NH Team. There are concerns re safety issues, especially in the Waterside area. Public bodies are facing the same resourcing issues.
- Engagement is required with young people.
- The contractor in the area at one time tried to work with the community to get flags taken down; it was paramilitary flags at that time.
- Engagement and communication with young people who are putting up the flags is difficult. Even if flags were up for a short span of time and then taken down to give respect for both sides of the community.

- The flags have an impact and are a big challenge for social housing, especially recently in Strabane. If an estate is new it only takes one flag to change the aspect of things. People will not want to live there. This is a challenge for NIHE especially when there is a housing crisis in the district.

The Chair stated that the flags and sectarian graffiti was an issue that needed dealt with as people living in fear. Whilst it is not anyone's responsibility it is sometimes a community responsibility is the one that works.

The Education Authority referred to the EA Planning and Intervention Fund that is currently open for applications and closes on 07/04/24. This is to deal with the youth service locally and would address a number of local issues discussed at the meeting.

The Chair stated she would not be opposed to a community meeting in the Drumahoe area. Any intervention would be helpful.

In new estates flags are put up and nobody wants their territory marked any more. Members of the community do not want to see nationalist flags either. A small minority are intent on doing this to intimidate people; the people need to be addressed and help is required to do this. In the short-term, it would be helpful to have the offensive items removed in Drumahoe.

An independent member referred to the Culmore area of the city where there was graffiti on walls and a lot of young people about. Members of the community were afraid to go into the shop. That area got the young people vetted, got WELB involved, and got the young people involved in their own community. The independent member said she was a firm believer in engagement; there is good work in education but others are needed.

EANI advised that the participation of young people is crucial. She referred to the NW Ministry of Youth , which is the voice for young people in the district and is keen for more young people to get involved.

It was reiterated by an elected member that it was important to work together to address the issues, to work with statutory partners to have the items removed. Engagement is important. The local contractor, Braidwater, have said they are not taking action. If PSNI do not remove the items who does remove them?

A dedicated meeting may work with interested partners to have a discussion initially about Drumahoe. People within the community have a right to live in the area free from intimidation. The elected member proposed that a meeting be arranged to address this.

The Chair agreed to co-ordinate a meeting in the Waterside Shared Village to discuss this. It was also agreed that elected representatives of council from the Waterside DEA would be invited.

**Proposed: Councillor Christopher Jackson**

**Seconded: Councillor Emma McGinley.**

**PCSP Manager**

**DSPCSP 31/24**

**Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place on **30 April 2024 in the Strabane Council Chamber.**

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



## Policing and Community Safety Partnership Meeting

**PCSP Meeting 26 March 2024**  
**Council Chamber, Guildhall**

### **ACTIONS**

<b>Page 2</b> <b>DSPCSP 26/24</b>	<b>Letter to Agencies re CCTV Funding</b> It was agreed it would be worthwhile for PCSP to issue a letter to all agencies to reiterate the value of CCTV and to potentially secure additional funding towards the scheme.	<b>PCSP Manager</b>
<b>Page 2</b> <b>DSPCSP 26/24</b>	<b>CCTV Monitoring Visit</b> Dates to be distributed to members to visit the CCTV Monitoring Station.	<b>PCSP Manager</b>
<b>Page 2</b> <b>DSPCSP 27/24</b>	<b>Action Plan 2024/25</b> Members to be kept updated on outcome of Joint Committee Meeting held on 26/03/24.	<b>PCSP Manager</b>
<b>Page 3</b> <b>DSPCSP 27/24</b>	<b>PCSP Induction Training</b> Members to be kept updated on training programme for elected and newly appointed independent members of PCSP.	<b>PCSP Manager</b>
<b>Page 3</b> <b>DSPCSP 27/24</b>	<b>Small Project Support</b> Open Call for PCSP Small Project Support for 2024/25 opens on 15/04/24 and closes on 03/05/24. Advert to be shared with PCSP members for onward circulation.	<b>PCSP Manager</b>
<b>Page 3</b> <b>DSPCSP 27/24</b>	<b>CCTV</b> Members to be kept updated on funding secured by DoJ and other partners.	<b>PCSP Manager</b>
<b>Page 3</b> <b>DSPCSP 27/24</b>	<b>PCSP Public Meeting</b> PCSP Manager to email members with a few suggested dates and to ask for suggestions re time and venue so that this can be progressed.	<b>PCSP Manager &amp; Members</b>
<b>Page 3</b> <b>DSPCSP 27/24</b>	<b>Justice and Security Stop and Search Powers</b> Members to be informed of alternative dates for the accountability meetings once these have been confirmed.	<b>PCSP Manager</b>
<b>Page 4</b> <b>DSPCSP 27/24</b>	<b>Support Hub</b> Information on the SH evaluation to be shared with members once complete.	<b>PCSP Manager</b>
<b>Page 4</b> <b>DSPCSP 27/24</b>	<b>CSW</b> Letter to be sent to the Justice Minister to see what is being done to secure funding for PSNI and towards the CCTV and CSW schemes.	<b>PCSP Manager</b>
<b>Page 5</b> <b>DSPCSP 29/24</b>	<b>Letter to Chief Constable</b> Letter to be written to Chief Constable highlighting the issues around enquiry offices and to advocate that PSNI don't close any of the 3 enquiry offices in the Derry and Strabane district.	<b>PCSP Manager</b>
<b>Page 6</b> <b>CSPCSP 30/24</b>	<b>Local Policing Plan</b> Rural crime and agricultural specific statistics to be included in LPP.	<b>PSNI</b>
<b>Page 7</b> <b>DSPCSP 30/24</b>	<b>Flags in Communities</b> It was agreed that to co-ordinate a meeting in the Waterside Shared Village to discuss flags. It was also agreed that elected representatives of Council from the Waterside DEA should be invited.	<b>PCSP Manager</b>