

# Minutes of Policing and Community Safety Partnership Special Meeting

**28<sup>th</sup> May 2024**  
**Council Chamber, Guildhall**

**Present:** Ald Darren Guy, Cllr Fergal Leonard, Cllr Emma McGinley, Ald Niree McMorris, Ald Keith Kerrigan, Cllr John Boyle, Deborah Cross (EANI), Aodh McCay and Ms Linda Watson.

**PSNI:** CI Yvonne McManus and Constable John Wootton.

**In Attendance at Meeting:** Sandra Duffy (PCSP Chair), Vanessa Russell (PCSP Manager), Louise Kitson (PCSP Officer) and Alexandra Wallace (Admin).

## **DSPCSP 40/24      Apologies**

Cllr Christopher Jackson, Bryan McCaul (NIFRS), Noel McNulty (NIHE) and Jeanette Warke.

## **DSPCSP 41/24      Introduction and Welcome**

The PCSP Chair, Sandra Duffy, welcomed all PCSP members to the meeting and informed all present that Cllr Emma McGinley will be taking over as Chair halfway through this meeting due to another meeting she has to attend.

The Chair commented on the very serious incident which saw the removal of weapons from the streets last week and stated that there is no place in our society for these types of weapons on our streets. She welcomed that the PSNI was able to intercept and make arrests on this matter.

Members offered their congratulations to PSNI on removing these weapons from the streets so quickly.

An elected member informed those present that an issue was raised by a resident of Caw Close yesterday in which a used needle had been discovered in the area. A mother who found it disposed of it down a drain and then contacted me to have it removed. He also highlighted that a strap was also found in the area so substances were being used. PSNI have carried out searches in the area recently and have found drugs, the residents are concerned that one or two houses are being used for parties with people coming in from all areas to attend these.

Elected members reiterated the importance of having community policing working within our areas to increase confidence in police, but are aware of the budgetary constraints concerning this.

CI Yvonne McManus wish to thank members for their support and stated that a small minority from the community who want to return the area back to the bad times instead of moving on. She also confirmed that the PSNI will focus on tackling crime and preventing harm, along with other offences which we are addressing.

## **DSPCSP 42/24      Approval of Minutes – Minutes of PCSP Meeting 30/04/24 (DSPCSP 32/24-39/24)**

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

**Proposed by: Cllr Emma McGinley**

**Seconded by: Ald Niree McMorris**

**DSPCSP 43/24**

### **Matters Arising**

**CCTV Monitoring Station** – an elected member informed the meeting that she availed of the opportunity to visit the CCTV station and stated the security is second to none and quality of the of the cameras is amazing throughout the city centre, which encompasses the level of security. The reason that she wanted to visit the station to view the camera located at the Irish Street and TOTH interface, she had a liaise with NPT beforehand and was informed that the quality of the camera footage was poor.

She added stated that she was shocked that you could identify people and area, following attacks in Irish Street area that no one was able to be identify and that no images from the camera was sought to allow identification of those attacking house within the area. She wished to reiterate to the police concerning the issue of petrol bombs being throwing in Irish Street area, stating it starts off as snowballs, then bricks and now petrol bombs. People in the area are living in fear of being attacked.

It is a small minority of approximately 10-15 young people carrying out these attacks and they also have the TOTH terrorized also and feel that we should reiterate that these cameras are there to catch the perpetrators on the interface. She requested reassurances from the police that they will look at the camera to identify and apprehend those causing these attacks on the community, as well as looking at upgrading the cameras.

The elected member expressed her appreciation in being able to view the cameras and to make the community aware that these can be used to identify people.

In response CI Yvonne McManus informed the meeting that CCTV is an excellent evidential tool, but it depends on positions and the angle of the camera at the time of the incident. The meeting was informed that the interface cameras are paid for and maintained by the PSNI, the cameras are scheduled for upgrade, due to the significant costs and budget restraints we cannot give a confirmed timeframe for this to happen.

An elected member stated that she had spoken to Jim Roddy and NPT concerning this matter and was informed that the cost would be approximately £100K to replace the cameras, however he had committed to speaking to the DOJ to see if they can help with funding and he seems quite positive that this will be forth-coming. CI McManus confirmed that they are exploring all options for upgrading the camera and they would be replaced as soon as possible.

Deborah Cross informed the meeting that EANI youth services will be meeting on Thursday morning to try and get interventions in place within the Irish Street area.

**DSPCSP 44/24**

### **Manager's Report**

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

#### **PCSP Action Plan/Budget 2023-2024**

The quarter 4 claim to the Joint Committee has been submitted. The total amount drawn down for 2023/24 was £441,127.73. In addition to this, a claim for meeting expense payments totalling £6,840 was submitted, which means that

£447,967.73 will be reimbursed to Council from the Joint Committee.

In 2023/2024, PCSP was also able to claim £3,600 from the Department of Justice towards the administration of the Derry and Strabane Support Hub meetings.

### **PCSP Action Plan/Budget 2024-2025**

The PCSP Action Plan for 2024/2025 was forwarded to the Joint Committee (Department of Justice and NI Policing Board) for consideration on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

On 9<sup>th</sup> April 2024 the Joint Committee advised that whilst they understood the financial pressures in relation to CCTV and Community Safety Wardens, they were not willing to approve our Action Plan in its original form, due to the larger budget allocation towards CCTV operational costs, which was not consistent with JC guidance issued in November 2022. Considering this, I had to re-work some of the budget lines in the action plan and this was circulated to members on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2024. In summary the changes are as follows:

Page	Key Activities	Original Budget Allocation	Updated Budget Allocation	Difference
<b>7</b>	<b>Hate Crime</b>	<b>£500</b>	<b>£1,000</b>	<b>+£500</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>CCTV</b>	<b>£63,000</b>	<b>£53,000</b>	<b>-£10,000</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Youth Engagement</b>	<b>£55,000</b>	<b>£64,500</b>	<b>+ £9,500</b>

The Joint Committee have advised that they are content with these changes to the Action Plan, however they cannot give final approval until the 2024/2025 budget is finalised.

### **Recruitment of PCSP Independent Members**

The PCSP Manager advised that the interview and selection process for the recruitment of Independent Members is now complete. In Derry and Strabane there will be 9 independent members taking up position with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2024. At this stage the names of successful candidates have not been provided by NIPB. In line with legislation, current PCSP Independent Members will remain in their appointments until the day before formal reconstitution, which under the current timeline will be 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024.

**PCSP Manager**

### **PCSP Audit 2023/2024**

As part of the Joint Committee funding agreement, Derry and Strabane PCSP is required to have an internal audit carried out annually. The purpose of the audit is to provide an independent professional opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of internal control, risk and governance processes with the PCSP.

The overall audit opinion emanating from the audit was “satisfactory”, which is the highest possible outcome level. This means that overall controls are adequate and effective to provide reasonable assurance that risk are managed.

Internal Audit made 6 recommendations to improve the control environment. The key priority 1 recommendation relates to the Authorisation of Purchase Orders. The other priority 2 recommendation relate to improving the control environment

in the following areas: declaration of interest forms for members, gifts/hospitality of PCSP member's/fraud response plan, timeframe for submission of meeting expense claims and PCSP date stamping of invoices.

A management response to the 6 recommendations was provided to the audit team along with the timeframe for implementation of same.

### **Conflict of Interest Declaration**

Elected and Independent members are reminded that they must complete a conflict of interest declaration annually, which must be held centrally by the PCSP office. These forms were emailed to members in June 2023 and despite several reminders, there are still three of these forms outstanding for 2023/2024.

One of the PCSP Audit recommendations was to highlight at each PCSP meeting the requirement for this declaration form to be completed and returned by all members. New forms will be issued in June 2024 and all members should complete and return these promptly to the PCSP office to ensure compliance with Audit.

### **Small Project Support Recommendations 2024/2025**

PCSP manager advised members that they must declare all conflict of Interests before the recommendations for funding are considered. There were no conflicts of interests declared.

The PCSP Manager advised that the open call for Small Project Support for 2024/2025 opened on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April for three weeks, closing on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2024. This 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 ran parallel to Council's Community Support Fund, Good Relations Fund and the Sports Development Programme.

To be eligible for funding under this the PCSP Open Call, applicants were 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

The PCSP Manager advised that a total of six (6) applications were submitted requesting support of £40,132.80. Officers assessed the applications and a recommendation table was presented for consideration. All applicants scored above the threshold (60%) and were therefore suitable for funding, however the total available support is £30,000.00 meaning that the fund was over-subscribed by £10,132.80.

Group Name	Score	Rank	Eligible funding	Funding Awarded
Shantallow Residents Association (SCRA)	100	1	£10,000.00	£10,000.00
Men's Action Network	98	2	£9,024.00	£9,024.00
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

The recommendation to award funding to the top five (5) groups was agreed on the proposal of Ald Niree McMorris and seconded by Cllr Emma McGinley.

As in previous years, should underspends be identified throughout the year, or if groups decline the offer of funding, then that will be re-allocated to the next group on the list up to their maximum eligible funding as per the table above. At this stage, all applications for funding are “at risk” until the PCSP receives a Letter of Offer from DOJ/NIPB.

**PCSP Manager**

### **Consensual Grant Aid 2024/2025**

The PCSP manager was advised that all elected members have a conflict of interest, as they all sit on the Local Growth Partnership Boards for each DEA.

The PCSP Manager advised that members had agreed to progress with the Consensual Grant Aid Model for 2024/2025 at the PCSP meeting in February 2024. Funding is allocated across all 7 DEAs and Strabane Town based on Population/deprivation/rurality, with the total allocation (subject to confirmation of funding from DOJ/NIPB) amounting to £141,600.00.

The PCSP Manager advised that PCSP staff have worked alongside colleagues in Community Development and Good Relations on the consensual grant aid element of small project support. This involved working closely with Local Growth Partnership to assist them in developing an action plan for consideration by the PCSP to ensure that projects meet the needs of each area and also contributes to addressing the priorities identified in the PCSP Action Plan.

PCSP Officers have reviewed the Action Plans submitted from all 8 Local Growth Partnership Boards and are satisfied that they all align to the PCSP Action Plan priorities. All requested funding is consistent with what we would consider eligible for funding under the Open Call process. The recommendation is that the PCSP approve funding as outlined in these Action Plans (see appendices 1-8)

**Proposed by Cllr John Boyle**

**Seconded by Cllr Emma McGinley**

**PCSP Manager**

### **Community Safety Wardens**

The PCSP Manager advised that between April 2023 and March 2024, the Community Safety Wardens dealt with 1,945 referrals and provided 17,390 patrols of ASB hotspots area. External funding towards the Community Safety Warden scheme for 2024/25 is £110,000.00.

### **RAPID Bins**

The PCSP Manager advised that the PCSP has facilitated the installation of 21 RAPID bins (Remove all Prescription and Illegal Drugs) across the city and district. Since their introduction in 2018, 79765 tablets/pills have been deposited

in and removed from the bins.

### **Safer Homes Scheme**

The PCSP manager stated that the PCSP continues to provide and arrange fitting of home security equipment for victims of crime and elderly and vulnerable residents. From April 2023 to March 2024, 220 homes in the city and district were supplied and fitted with additional home safety equipment.

The PCSP is working with colleagues in PSNI and domestic abuse agencies to roll out a CCTV scheme to protect those highest risk domestic violence victims.

### **Neighbourhood Watch**

The PCSP Manager advised that there are currently 44 Neighbourhood Watch schemes within the council area, covering approximately 3,500 homes.

### **CCTV**

The PCSP Manager stated that between April 2023 and March 2024, CCTV has dealt with 605 missing person reports, 245 attempted suicides and 850 suicide welfare concerns. It should be noted that the recent increase in suicide attempts is extremely concerning.

She added that external funding for the CCTV scheme for **2023/2024** was provided as follows:

- The Executive Office increased their contribution by £35,248 for the 2023/2024 financial year, bringing their total contribution to £67,248.
- PSNI provided a contribution of £75,000 towards capital investment for 2023/2024.
- PHA provided £99,000 contribution in 2023/2024.

In relation to external funding towards the CCTV scheme for **2024/2025**, the PCSP Manager advised that she is working with City Centre Initiative to secure a meeting with current and potential funders to discuss the long-term funding of the CCTV scheme in the DCSDC area. The following partners will be invited to participate: DCSDC, DOJ, NIPB, PHA, PSNI, TEO, WHSCT and the Mental Health Champion, Professor Siobhan O'Neill.

### **Road Safety**

The PCSP Manager confirmed that there are currently three **Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs)** available for placement at locations across the city and district. The devices act as a warning to motorists who are driving above the speed limit. PCSP Members are encouraged to submit requests for deployment by completing the SID request form and returning it to the PCSP Office.

### **PCSP Members**

The PCSP Manager advised that this morning (Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2024), PCSP is supporting the **Bikesafe** workshop at St. Columb's Park House. This event is delivered by PSNI Roads Policing and will give motorcyclists the opportunity to take part in a classroom session followed by a ride out with advanced police riders.

### **Strategic Objective 3: To Support Community Confidence in Policing**

The PCSP Manager advised that the next **PCSP Policing Committee** will take place on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2024 when the District Commander will deliver the quarter 1 performance report for 2024/25.

PCSP Members are invited to attend monthly accountability meetings with PSNI to scrutinise their use of **Justice and Security Stop & Search Powers**. PCSP members were unavailable to attend the last few monthly sessions of these meetings, however new dates have been circulated as follows:

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at 1.00pm

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2024 at 1.00pm

These meetings are held in Strand Road PSNI station and members are asked to notify the PCSP office if you would like to attend, stating your preferred date.

#### **PCSP Members**

The **Support Hub** continues to meet monthly, with the last meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024. Since its establishment in August 2016, the Support Hub has dealt with almost 330 referrals.

#### **DSPCSP 45/24**

#### **Community Safety Wardens' Reports**

PCSP manger informed all present that the Community Safety Wardens report for March and April 2024 as presented was for member's information.

#### **DSPCSP 46/24**

#### **Any Other Business**

Being no further business the meeting closed.

#### **DSPCSP 47/24**

#### **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place on **Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at 10am 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 28<sup>th</sup> May 2024  
Council Chamber, Guildhall

### ACTIONS

<b>Page 3</b> <b>DSPCSP 44/24</b>	<b>Recruitment of PCSP Independent Members</b> The PCSP Manager to advise on the names of those appointed as new Independent Members once this is confirmed by NIPB.	<b>PCSP Manager</b>
<b>Page 4</b> <b>DSPCSP 44/24</b>	<b>Conflict of Interest Declaration</b> Members were informed that 2024/2025 conflict of interest declaration forms will be circulated in June 2024 and that in line with audit recommendations, these should be returned promptly.	<b>PCSP Manager and PCSP Members</b>
<b>Page 4</b> <b>DSPCSP 44/24</b>	<b>Conflict of Interest Declaration</b> Members were reminded to return outstanding conflict of interest declaration forms for the period 2023/24 as soon as they can.	<b>PCSP Members</b>
<b>Page 5</b> <b>DSPCSP 44/24</b>	<b>Small Project Support 2024/25</b> The recommendation to offer funding support to the top 5 scoring groups was approved by PCSP Members.	<b>PCSP Manager</b>
<b>Page 5</b> <b>DSPCSP 44/24</b>	<b>Consensual Grant Aid 2024/25</b> The Action Plans submitted from all 8 Local Growth Partnership Boards were approved.	<b>PCSP Manager</b>
<b>Page 6</b> <b>DSPCSP 44/24</b>	<b>SID Requests</b> PCSP Members are encouraged to complete a SID request form if there are specific areas of concern re speeding within the district.	<b>PCSP Members</b>
<b>Page 7</b> <b>DSPCSP 44/24</b>	<b>Justice &amp; Security Stop &amp; Search Powers Accountability Meetings.</b> PCSP Members are to confirm availability to attend any of the following dates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June at 1.00pm</li> <li>Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July at 1.00pm</li> </ul>	<b>PCSP Members</b>