

**Minutes of
Policing and Community Safety Partnership Meeting**

**Tuesday 25 November 2025
Council Chamber, Guildhall**

Present: Marie Brown, Cathal Crumley, Cllr Sandra Duffy, Declan Gallagher (EANI), Ald Keith Kerrigan (Chair), Cllr Fergal Leonard, Bryan McCaul (NIFRS), Cllr Emma McGinley, Patsy McGonagle, Karen McLaughlin, Ald Niree McMorris, Caroline Quigley (NIHE), Paul Ryan (YJA), Denise Stewart (PBNI), Alison Wallace, and Linda Watson.

PSNI: CI Graeme Craig, Insp Simon Gurney, Supt Avine Kelly.

In Attendance at Meeting: Ciara Bond, Aileen Murphy, and Vanessa Russell.

DSPCSP 49/25 Apologies:

Jacqueline Doherty (WHSCT), Cllr Christopher Jackson, Cllr Antaine O'Fearghail, and Cllr Martin Reilly.

DSPCSP 50/25 Chairperson's Business

Ald Keith Kerrigan (Chair) commended Davy Jackson for the Road Safety Awards that were held on Friday 21/11/25. It was an interesting aspect of PCSP work and how they work with other organisations.

The chair congratulated three local groups/individuals who received awards:

- Easilink – HGV & Training
- Elizabeth Jack – Road Crossing Person of the Year at Artigarvan PS
- Eamonn Karran – Open Category for Support Network for Bereaved

DSPCSP 51/25 Approval of Minutes of PCSP Meeting of 21/10/25 PCPM 28/25-35/25

Proposed: Cllr Niree McMorris

Seconded: Ms Linda Watson

DSPCSP 52/25 Matters Arising

Domestic Violence – Cllr Sandra Duffy mentioned that it was the first day of 16 days of action re Domestic Violence and International Day for EVAWG. She recognised work going on in the communities and stated it was important to mark it as a Committee and asked PSNI if there was anything planned for this.

Several events are taking place in relation to this. Cllr Duffy stated it was important not to be silent on the issue as this pushes victims into bad places and protects perpetrators.

PSNI responded stating two officers were planning and attending events. Information on events, etc, to be sought and shared with PCSP Members.

PSNI

Security Alerts – Cllr Sandra Duffy informed members of two security alerts in the Glenabbey area of Galliagh, where one turned out to have two viable devices and one resulted in nothing being found.

The disruption caused to the local community was noted, especially at night where people had to leave their homes. In the last alert, only some homes were evacuated

and residents felt like prisoners in their own houses as the alert lasted most of the day. A school bus could not get to a family to take a special needs child to school.

Cllr Duffy referred to comments made by residents that ATO had to come from Belfast and raised concerns about the time it takes for this to come. The security alert happened at 5am and the ATO arrived at lunch time. The community felt isolated. Cllr Duffy asked why it takes so long for ATO to come to Derry from Belfast.

Chief Insp Craig stated he had met with ATO to get a better understanding of how they operate. He advised that they have standard operating procedures that they must adhere to and that Neighbourhood Policing have also expressed their feelings on this.

Cllr Duffy condemned the devices and asked that an answer on this is provided to PCSP members so that they can explain this to local communities to provide reassurance.

Chief Insp Craig said PSNI are professional and cannot take risks; they are led by their expertise. He stated he would come back to Cllr Duffy on the issue.

PSNI

DSPCSP 53/25

PCSP Manager's Report

The PCSP Manager referred members to the Manager's Report and covered the following areas:

PCSP Action Plan/Budget 2025-2026 - First and second claim have been submitted for the current year. Currently awaiting confirmation of payment.

Conflict of Interest Declarations - Members were reminded that forms are overdue for two elected members. Ciara to forward reminder email and members are asked to return these as soon as possible.

PCSP

Small Project Support 2025/2026 – The total amount of funding accepted was £27,490; those that have delivered projects include Shantallow Community Residents' Association, Kabosh, and HURT.

The PCSP Manager advised that earlier in the year, PCSP Members gave approval for the underspend from small project support to be redirected to other projects within the PCSP Action Plan. She confirmed that five performances of '*I Love You, Mum – I Promise I Won't Die*', will be delivered in schools across the district in late February/early March 2026. It is a powerful production that raises awareness of risks associated with drug use and promotes positive choices among young people. The production is facilitated and delivered by DSM Foundation; they will liaise with all post-primary schools in the district to co-ordinate dates/venues.

Consensual Grant Aid 2025/2026 – Delivery is currently underway; the general consensus from groups was they were satisfied with the process. Officers are working closely with rural areas re capacity with volunteers to help in the delivery of projects. The PCSP Manager confirmed the Action Plan was being assessed for next year.

Community Safety Wardens – Between 01/04/25 and 30/09/25, the Community Safety Wardens have dealt with 499 referrals from members of the public, 423 referrals from statutory agencies (922 referrals in total) and provided 8,992 patrols of ASB hotspot areas.

Members were referred to case studies within the CSW Reports which reflect the type of work that is undertaken.

EVAWG – At previous PCSP meeting in April 2025, members approved the allocation

£8,500 towards a 'Comic Book' project under the theme of Ending Violence Against Women and Girls, which will be delivered in partnership with PSNI.

A number of meetings have taken place to finalise the details for delivery of the project. It is anticipated that it will commence early January 2026 and be completed by mid-March, with an official celebration event on Tuesday 31 March at 12 noon in the Guildhall. Members will be kept informed as this project progresses.

RAPID Drugs Bins - 23 RAPID Drug Bins have been installed throughout the City and District. Between 01/04/25 and 30/09/25 12,790 pills have been removed, including anti-depressants, painkillers, anti-biotics, pregabalin and some unknown pills.

Home Security – From 01/04/25 to 10/11/25, 120 homes have been referred to the Safer Homes Scheme for home safety equipment to help reduce fear of crime and to feel safer in their own homes. Members were encouraged to contact the PCPS office if they are aware of any residents within the council area who would benefit from this service.

Neighbourhood Watch – there are 44 NHW Schemes covering 3,500 homes within the Council area. Meetings with Co-Ordinators were held in October in Derry and Strabane. Members will be informed of further meetings in the New Year.

CCTV - From the period 01/04/25 – 31/10/25 CCTV has dealt with 280 missing person reports, 113 attempted suicides, and 482 suicide welfare concerns. In addition, 217 assaults, 93 incidents of drunkenness, 23 incidents of criminal damage, and 38 drugs related incidents have been dealt with.

Road Safety

SIDs are still being redeployed. Members were reminded that they can continue to submit requests for deployment by completing the SID request form and returning to the PCSP office.

Road Safety Week – The PCSP worked closely with partners in relation to Road Safety Week which took place from 16-22 November 2025, commencing with Roadsafte Saturday which was held in Guildhall Square on Saturday 15th November.

PCSP are working in partnership with PSNI to deliver road safety messages to local primary school students during November. Hi Vis road safety packs have been provided to local primary schools across the district to raise awareness of road safety.

Roadsafe Roadshow – PCSP has been liaising with PSNI's Roads Policing, and it has been confirmed that this event will take place in the New Year. Members will be updated once a venue has been secured.

Trailer Marking Event – event took place on Saturday 18/10/25 at Taylor's Fyfin where 20 trailers and 13 quads were marked. Members to be informed of future dates.

The Chair referred to the Trailer Marking Event and an engraving kit that Mitch Freedman, Crime Prevention Officer used, which was discreet for marking equipment but was very expensive. Unfortunately, PCSP do not have the funding for this piece of equipment.

Policing Committee Meetings – the next PCSP PC Meeting is scheduled for 27/01/26 when the District Commander will deliver Q3 Performance Report for 2025/26.

DSPCSP 54/25**Draft Action Plan**

The PCSP Manager referred members to the Draft Action Plan for 2026/27 that had been distributed. The three-year Strategic Assessment is valid for another two years, therefore there are no changes to priorities for the new Action Plan, as it must link back to the Strategic Assessment. Planning Guidance issued by the Joint Committee indicates that the budget for 2026/27 should be the same as 2025/26.

The PCSP Manager agreed to circulate the draft Action Plan to all PCSP members by email so that members have more time to consider the Draft Action Plan. If required, a Working Group can be arranged.

PCSP Manager

DSPCSP 55/25**Community Safety Wardens' Reports**

Members were referred to the CSW Reports which were distributed for information. The reports show a breakdown of patrols, events, meeting, and case studies of their engagement throughout the district.

DSPCSP 56/25**Correspondence**

The PCSP Manager referred to the response from Minister of Justice re PSNI Recruitment Challenges and Pay which had been circulated to members.

There were no comments from members on the response.

DSPCSP 57/25**PSNI's Investigation into Drug Supply in North West**

Supt Avine Kelly said she was responsible for organised crime and human trafficking. She informed members there was a small team dedicated to look at the North West which had significant results. Last year £5.7m worth of drugs were seized, 27 searches, 19 arrests, recovered cash of £92,000, and ammunition.

The Team looks at the higher level of drug supply prior to it getting to street level. There are lower-level drugs with NPTs as well. There are good working relationships with engagement, it is a struggle, but PSNI work on it well.

In Strabane, during the summer, £3.6m worth of drugs were seized in a cannabis factory. Any information received from communities, PSNI will action.

Questions/Comments from Members

Issues re Drugs - Patsy McGonagle queried/commented on the following:

1. Was anyone charged for cannabis factory in Strabane and is there any intention of anybody else being arrested?
2. The two people caught, claimed they were coerced into working there.
3. In relation to post boxes (out-of-home lockers) outside shops, there seems to be a lot of deliveries coming that way.

PSNI Response:

1. Two were arrested and charged, they were remanded in prison.
2. The arrests happened at the time. Investigations are ongoing with regards to INLA, other things are going on in the background.
3. As the PSNI Drugs Lead it is a concern; out-of-home lockers seem to be used especially in the border areas. PSNI also liaise with An Gardai

Siochana to try to resolve the issues. There is information that people from the South are getting drugs delivered to out-of-home lockers and coming North to get them. Communication is constant in relation to this.

Drug Problems - Marie Brown stated there was an upsurge in young women with drugs problems, and of them supplying, once they are hooked and in debt. There is a lot of exploitation of young women who then recommend it to their friends. Every organisation knows what they are doing. There is both financial and sexual exploitation for young men and women. This is different to what was seen five years ago. Meetings have been held in the South as this is an all-Ireland sophisticated drugs business. Partners are seeing the same things happening.

PSNI Response – Drug dealers want to line their own pockets and do not care who they exploit; these are high level drug dealers. Others become debt-bound, and they are aware of that and use it to target those that are vulnerable who in turn keep drugs in their homes. There are loan sharks as well; it is the same people who have control in the communities, using the vulnerable to keep their items. PSNI have money lending officers who offer help, support, and signpost people who are victims of this. It is important to get that message out there.

Marie Brown requested that the Money Lending Officers come to talk to their Team. Parents end up paying debt as they are afraid for their children. They try to talk to young girls and the EVAWG Officer is also present. It is good to hear that the PSNI are trying to get the message out to give advice to parents.

PSNI Response – Agreed that Christine, Money Lending Officer, would contact Marie Brown. Information needs to come through to PSNI. There have been 40 investigations re illegal money lending in the last 6-8 months from the community and not victims.

PSNI

Marie Brown stated that young people are being sexually exploited as well and that they are being blackmailed. If someone is in prison, then they hone in on the partner/girlfriend to do their work.

Cllr Sandra Duffy agreed with all regarding B&Bs and/or temporary accommodation as she works directly with them. Young girls are being exploited, dogs in the street know, and there is frustration in the community that it is not being tackled. Evidence gathering is required but if in a community and see who is responsible, it is very frustrating.

Cllr Duffy stated she welcomed the Team dedicated to the issues. There are close links with loyalist and republican groups, along with criminal gangs, working together with their only function to exploit young people.

With regards to the cross-border element, routes are known, and she confirmed she was glad to know PSNI were working with AGS. There is frustration at the low-level dealers being lifted and not the organisers, the big players need to be targeted.

Cllr Duffy thanked PSNI for the presentation, she confirmed she was happy to support this work and asked PSNI to inform PCSP if there was anything that could be done to support it.

PSNI Response – Police hear every day about the dogs on the street'. The issue is that these people are widely known, and the public think Police know who they are but sometimes PSNI do not. All information should be reported, even via CrimeStoppers. There are those in the community who know who it is. PSNI must follow evidence/intelligence, and it is not always known. There is a crossover between loyalists and republicans; they line their own pockets and do not care who they exploit to get money.

PSNI have a scoring matrix in the organised Crime Branch who take groups with the highest marks in the community; sometimes organised crime groups in various areas, and not just INLA. These groups are consistently investigated for drugs.

Involvement of Local Businesses - Patsy McGonagle said he agreed with Cllr Duffy; it is not just the INLA. There are some major businessmen involved, approximately six local businessmen. It comes to light every so often. He requested that PSNI spread the word in Strabane as some would be surprised as to who is involved. They are all criminals, dignified criminals, who own businesses and who are making money from this.

DSPCSP 58/25

Any Other Business

ASB in Sion Mills - Cllr Fergal Leonard mentioned there were ongoing issues in Sion Mills where young people were tormenting older people throwing eggs at homes and graffiti in the area. He asked that PSNI investigate the issue and provide a presence in the area.

Insp Graeme Craig stated he would request Insp Ken McDermott to investigate this.

PSNI

The Chair also mentioned incidents of sectarian graffiti in Sion Mills had been raised with him and said this was a backward step for the area.

Patsy McGonagle mentioned that Andy Patton had spoken to the parents of those involved and there has been ongoing work with NPT.

Vacancy within Independent Members - Patsy McGonagle queried if there was any word on filling the vacant independent member position.

The PCSP Manager said the NIPB confirmed they had contacted the candidates on the reserve list for Derry & Strabane PCSP, they were progressing through Access NI checks currently and hoped to have this process complete early in the New Year. Members will be informed of any update.

PCSP Manager

DSPCSP 59/25

Date of Next Meeting

The next PCSP PC Meeting has been arranged for 27 January 2026 in the Council Chamber, Strabane at 10.00am.

The meeting ended at 10.45am.

Policing and Community Safety Partnership Meeting**PCSP Meeting 25 November 2025****ACTIONS**

DSPCSP 52/25 Page 1	Domestic Violence Events and International Day of VAWG. PSNI to confirm what events were being attended by the 2 appointed officers.	PSNI
DSPCSP 52/25 Page 1/2	Security Alerts within Galliagh – PSNI to ascertain why it takes so long for ATO to come to Derry from Belfast so that local residents can be reassured.	PSNI
DSPCSP 53/25 Page 2	Conflict of Interest Declarations – two forms still required from elected representatives. Ciara issued reminder email on 26/11/25.	PCSP
DSPCSP 54/25 Page 2/3	Draft Action Plan 2026/27 – draft Action Plan to be emailed to all members so that they have time to consider the content. PCSP Manager issued email on 26/11/25.	PCSP
DSPCSP 57/25 Page 5	PSNI Money Lending Officer – PSNI to request that the PSNI Money Lending Officer contacts Foyle Women's Aid to arrange to come and talk to their team.	PSNI
DSPCSP 58/25 Page 5	ASB in Sion Mills – Inspector Ken McDermot to be asked to investigate these issues and provide a visible presence in the area.	PSNI
DSPCSP 58/25 Page 5	Vacancy within Independent Members –Members will be informed of update.	PCSP Manager