

Minutes of Policing and Community Safety Partnership Meeting Policing Committee

**Derry City and Strabane District Council
Tuesday 27 May 2025
Council Chamber, Guildhall at 10.00am**

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

PSNI: Supt Calderwood, CI Cherith Craig, CI Luke Moyne, CI Cathal Pearce, Insp Katie Slater, and Const Gemma Stone.

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

PCPM 09/25 Apologies

Ms Michaela Boyle, Ms Karen McLaughlin, and Cllr Antaine O'Fearghail.

PCPM 10/25 Chairperson's Business

The Chair welcomed all members to the meeting in the Council Chamber. The Chair stated it was his last PCSP Meeting as Chair and wanted to mark the occasion.

The Chair thanked members for the work that had been completed over the past 12 months and thanked the Vice Chair, Ms Linda Watson, for covering meetings and events at short notice. He thanked the PSNI for their involvement with PCSP and for dealing with the challenges that presented over the past year. The Chair also thanked the PCSP Staff; Vanessa Russell (PCSP Manager), Louise Kitson, and Ciara Bond for their work throughout the year.

The Chair welcomed new member of staff, Aileen Murphy, who recently joined PCSP.

Cllr Jackson, on behalf of Sinn Féin, congratulated Cllr Reilly for his term of Chair and how business was conducted impartially. In particular, he mentioned the focus and efforts of the team re Public Event for EVAWG and similar events that were held at such a time when tensions were particularly high. It helped Women and Girls in the City and District to feel safer when there had been several attacks.

Ald McMorris thanked the Chair, on behalf of DUP, for the diligent work throughout the year and on events such as EVAWG. She also thanked the Vice Chair, Ms Linda Watson, for stepping in when required.

Ald Guy passed on his thanks to the Chair who excelled as always and praised him for events held. He also thanked the Vice Chair, Ms Linda Watson as his associate.

PCPM 11/25 Approval of Minutes of PCSP PC Meeting on 29/04/25

The minutes of the previous PCSP Meeting (DSPCSP 19/25-28/25) were approved as follows:

Proposed by: Cllr Emma McGinley

Seconded by: Ms Linda Watson (Vice Chair)

PCPM 12/25 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

Prior to the Meeting proceeding:

- Alison Wallace left the room due to conflict of interest.
- Cllr Jackson and Ald McMorris informed the Chair they were on the Board of CCI.

PCPM 13/25 PCSP Small Project Support and Consensual Grant Aid 2025/2026 Recommendation Report

The PCSP Manager confirmed that the Letter of Offer had been received from DOJ and NIPB for 2025/2026.

PCSP Open Call opened on 16/04/25 and closed on 09/05/25. To be eligible for funding under this fund, applicants were advised that they must deliver their project across the entire Council area, i.e. it must be delivered in all 8 DEAs. There were 4 applications submitted requesting funding of £36,580, meaning that the fund was over-subscribed by £6,580.00. The PCSP Manager referred to the table outlining the recommended allocation of funding as follows:

Group Name	Score	Rank	Eligible funding	Funding Awarded
Shantallow Community Residents Association	100	1	£10,000.00	£10,000.00
Kabosh	93	2	£9,930.00	£9,930.00
Have Your Tomorrows (HURT)	78	3	£7,560.00	£7,560.00
City Centre Initiative (CCI)	63	4	£5,800.00	£2,510.00
TOTALS			£36,580.00	£30,000.00

The Chair informed members that one of the first things the newly appointed Chair would have to do is visit organisations to see how funding has impacted the community. Members were asked to propose and second the Recommendations for Small Project Support for 2025/26.

Proposed by: Cllr McMorris

Seconded by: Cllr S Duffy

Mr McGonagle queried if there were any Strabane-based applications; he felt it sent out a bad message from PCSP and more work was required as Strabane projects were under-represented.

The PCSP Manager advised that only groups who could deliver projects across all 8 DEAs were eligible to apply under this fund, that no Strabane-based groups applied for

funding, which was possibly because they were only able to deliver in the Strabane area and that would make them ineligible under this fund. She added however that Strabane town DEA would have a separate allocation under Consensual Grant Aid.

The PCSP Chair confirmed that only 4 applicants had come forward.

Alison Wallace returned to the meeting.

Consensual Grant Aid 2025/2026

The PCSP Manager stated that Consensual Grant Aid was piloted in 2024/25 and that members had agreed to continue with this model of funding in 2025/26. PCSP staff worked alongside colleagues in Community Development and Good Relations to assist each Local Growth Partnership to develop an action plan for consideration by the PCSP. She added that all Action Plans submitted have been reviewed and PCSP Officers are satisfied that they all align to the PCSP Action Plan priorities and that all requested funding is consistent with what is eligible for funding under the Open Call process.

The PCSP Manager referred members to Page 2 of the Recommendation Report for a breakdown of the funding, see below:

DEA	Original Allocation	Additional Funding 2025/2026 for EVAWG	Total Funding 2025/2026
Ballyarnett	£24,700	£5,000	£29,700
Derg	£18,200	£5,000	£23,200
Faughan	£14,200	£5,000	£19,200
Foyleside	£14,600	£5,000	£19,600
Moor	£22,000	£5,000	£27,000
Sperrin	£11,900	£5,000	£16,900
Strabane Town	£13,400	£5,000	£18,400
Waterside	£22,600	£5,000	£27,600
TOTAL ALLOCATION	£141,600	£40,000	£181,600

The Action Plans for each of the DEA's now require approval from PCSP Members.

Declaration of Interest: Cllr Duffy informed the Chair that she is Chair of GSAP.

Action Plans were approved as follows:

Proposed: Cllr McMorris

Seconded: Cllr McGinley

Allison Wallace returned to the meeting.

PCPM 14/25

Presentation of Police Performance

Supt William Calderwood thanked the Chair, Cllr Martin Reilly, for his support over the past 12 months. He introduced the PSNI members in attendance at the meeting.

Supt Calderwood referred members to QTR4 report and gave an overview of the past year.

Overall crime decreased by 13.5% in domestic motivated crimes and domestic motivated incidents had decreased by 12.2%. Domestic Violence and Women and Girls decreased by 8% and the most notable decrease was in stalking and harassment with a reduction of 12.9%.

Outcomes are down; there appears to be less crime but maybe people are not reporting. Hate crime is also down.

PSNI have to focus on resources to deal with EVAWG, drugs, and security. He referred to a number of operations by NPT to get the right response and deal with local areas.

Supt Calderwood referred to the partnership approach with PCSP members and communities and hoped this approach would continue.

Supt Calderwood mentioned various events, incidents, and interface tensions within the City and confirmed PSNI would continue to work with all to get a positive response. All crime figures are down which is positive considering the lack of resources. This is due to the partnership work that is being carried out.

From the report, members were informed that EVAWG was still a focus for PSNI. A working group looks at each incident. Whilst drug seizures are down, drug related arrests are high.

Members were referred to the detail/statistics within the report:

OUTCOME 1 – We Have a Safe Community

Insp Katie Slater informed members that Domestic Abuse was down as well as EVAWG.

Theme 1 – Build Trust and Confidence

PSNI to work collaboratively with partners to utilise experiences of policing to inform training, policy development, and operational practices:

- NPT Lead Impact Team has been established to engage with partners with regards to VAWG. The group meets monthly to analyse figures, ongoing trends, and training.
- NPT engage with local Women's Groups and have attended bespoke events.
- Engagement with local schools and Youth Groups to raise awareness of EVAWG.
- Women's Aid have delivered training to all LPT Teams.

Theme 2 – Safer Spaces

PSNI to focus on night-time economy to raise awareness of EVAWG, to prevent offences from occurring:

- Impact Team have attended Foyle Justice Centre for 4-week period.
- ABE trained officers have attended Foyle Justice Centre to familiarise themselves with facilities. ABE interviews have conducted with victims in this safe environment.
- NPT to deliver training to Supervisors at Altnagelvin Hospital.
- Domestic Abuse Cameras to continue to be funded by PCSP.
- Ongoing partnership with CCI, City Centre CCTV and CSW to maintain a safer city centre in line with Purple Flag Status.

Theme 3 – Relentless Perpetrator Pursuit

PSNI to work collaboratively to ensure core policing outcomes are reflected in the Executive's EVAWG Strategy:

- Internal Working Group created within DCS to bring together LPT, NPT, VCST, PPB, Custody, CPO and SH. Monthly meetings take place to review performance figures, engagement, repeat victims/perpetrators, learning, training opportunities, and work practices.
- Domestic incidents reviewed at AMM.
- 24hrs in Police Custody – this allows best use of investigative time to achieve positive criminal justice outcome for VAWG and allows perpetrators to be charged in court. (12 charged in court, since April re VAWG related offences).
- Investigations and processes are continually reviewed to ensure PSNI remain Victim Focussed.

Case Studies

Several Case Studies were referred to within the report:

- 04/05/25 – male charged to court for domestic related criminal damage, common assault, and non-fatal strangulation. He was remanded in custody and remains there.
- 21/03/25 – male was 38-day charged for harassment and attempted criminal damage re ex-partner (tried to gain entry to house and shouting sectarian abuse). He was convicted on 07/05/25 and awaits sentencing.
- 14/05/25 – male overnight charged for common assault against a female. Male was alleged to have head-butted the female causing injury.
- 10/05/25 – male charged to court for attempted sexual communication with child to facilitate the commission of sex offence. He had travelled from England intending to meet with 13yr old female; he was remanded into custody where he remains.

Assessment

- EVAWG and Domestic Abuse remains a dedicated priority.
- Working Group and Impact Team continue to work internally and externally to support victims and bring offenders to justice.
- Impact Team to continue to engage with local community and partners to remove barriers to reporting and participation in criminal justice process.
- Police committed to pursuing and securing all available evidence to ensure convictions for perpetrators.
- PSNI remain victim focussed and will continue to work alongside Victim Support and other support groups.

Outcome/Result

- Within the district PSNI have governance to analyse, review, and respond.
- PSNI will work hard to implement the 7-year Tackling EVAWG Action Plan.
- PSNI to continue to seek support from partners with implementing wider initiatives.

OUTCOME 2 – We Have Confidence in Policing

CI Cathal Pearce informed members that overall drugs were showing a reduction, overall showing outcome of 4.2%. It is thought the improvement in drugs supply was due to partnership work and PSNI being able to charge quicker.

Theme 2 – Drugs - Scanning

Drug seizure incidents are down, showing in Derry City and Strabane -4.6% and for Service down -18.4%.

Analysis

- Positive news that drug related arrests show an increase of 50 arrests from July 2023-January 2024. DCS area are one of only 2 Local Policing areas showing an increase in drug arrests, with DCS having the highest number.
- Sanctioned outcomes for Trafficking of Drugs for period of April 2024-February 2025 show a figure of 12.6% which is an increase from April-August 2024 which was -17.2%.
- We have a robust Pro Charge policy which has brought outcome rates to an improved position.; it is hoped this will improve further despite the challenging resourcing and fiscal position that PSNI in DCS area are currently subject to.
- Outcomes for possession of drugs show a figure of 2.4% covering period of period of April 2024-February 2025, this is positive when viewed alongside the 50 arrests for Drug offences. Despite the challenges proactive work is still being conducted across the area.
- Cannabis remains the most commonly seized drug followed by Cocaine and Pregabalin.
- Police in DCS area have seen no increase in intravenous drug use.
- Due to community concerns re drug related deaths the focus is on tackling the drugs causing the most harm, and those involved in their supply.

Response

- PSNI have implemented a Drugs Strategy to focus on drugs causing most harm and to focus on those involved in supply.
- Legislation on misuse of vapes which is a cause for concern.
- Proactive Operations targeting drug supply and related harm.
- All suspects are considered for safeguarding and support referrals, via SS or Health Trusts.
- Juveniles referred to Youth Justice Substance Misuse Awareness courses if criteria met for Non-Court Disposals (CRN).
- Regular meetings arranged with Organised Crime Branch to discuss trends and foster clear working links.
- Close working relationships continue with District Support Team and Postal Providers to recover and detect drugs importation in Derry City and Strabane area.
- DCS Area DST Officers now trained in use of Preliminary drug testing – ‘Drug Testing Wipes’. Of those tested over 60% were charged. It is hoped 5 substances could be detected.
- Critical schools education work continues highlighting consequences of drug misuse.
- Officers in DCS Area have the most up to date training to proactively investigate drug offences. A bespoke DCS Area package is being prepared with focus on support networks for those caught in the cycle of substance misuse (not involved in drug supply). This includes the ARC Fitness programme.

- DCS Area have went live from 19/06/24 with EDIT drug testing process. This allows swifter outcomes and charges for drug possession offences. Evidential testing of substances can also take place. PSNI currently have 85 officers trained in this area.
- As of April 2025, DCS area have 10 officers trained in specialist surveillance training. This has been used in the area leading to drug seizure, an arrest and charge related to the investigation which is proceeding through the Courts. Those involved in drug supply are being considered for more dedicated enforcement.

Assessment

- Drug misuse and supply remains a dedicated priority within DCS.
- Drug supply and related harm is a societal issue. An enforcement strategy alone will not work; all need to work in partnership.
- Engagement work continues through NPTs involving partners and agencies, such as DePaul Ireland, Northlands Centre, ARC Fitness, and HURT.
- Drug trends within DCS area are in line with all other areas of Northern Ireland.
- Police continue to seek forfeiture and confiscation orders re proceeds of Crime assets following convictions at Court. This is delivered back into the community to benefit charities and groups working to tackle harm by drug misuse and supply.

Case Studies

CI Cathal Pearce referred members to the case studies within the report.

OUTCOME 3 – We have Engaged and Supported Communities

Theme 3 – Violent Extremism

CI Cathal Pearce took members through the Security Situation Statistics in Northern Ireland, by Police District which are in a healthy place compared to previous.

Analysis

- Shooting incidents decreased by 5
- Bombing incidents increased by 1
- Casualties as result of PSA's increased by 1
- Casualties as result of PSA shootings decreased by 2
- Firearms found decreased by 4
- Rounds of ammunition found decreased by 51
- Explosives found (kgs) decreased by 2.83kgs
- Persons arrested under Sect 41 decreased by 26
- Persons charged under Sect 41 decreased by 8

Response

- DST proactively using Justice and Security powers to stop and disrupt activities.
- District training rolling out schools of instruction around JSA powers to enhance knowledge of officers in DC&S.
- DST working closely with internal departments to ensure focus is properly directed.
- As per NISRA stats, in DC&S there have been 707 stops carried out under Section 24, JSA powers (January 2024-December 2024).

Assessment

- The disruptive work carried out by DST is having an impact on those intent on causing harm to both Police and Community.
- Work carried out by Terrorist Investigations Unit (TIU) is having major impact on those involved in violent extremism due to the Criminal Justice Strategy which is in place.

Easter Monday

- Progressing investigation into suspected offences detected at Parade on Easter Monday. There were numerous masked men wearing paramilitary style uniforms which have now been seized. There was disorder in Nailor's Row where young people used petrol bombs and police had to intervene to maintain order. Successful arrests have been made and prosecutions will follow.

The Chair thanked PSNI for the presentation of the report and invited members to put forward questions.

PCPM 15/25

Questions from PCSP Members & Response from PSNI

Domestic Violence and Training – Cllr Fergal Leonard thanked Police for their report and work in this area. Domestic violence is high and he said he was pleased to hear of the importance of this with teams out on the district. He queried whether there were plans to extend training to operational officers.

Victim Focussed – Cllr Leonard asked what this looked like and asked for examples. He queried if information was shared with An Gardaí Siochana (AGS) for perpetrators in the South that have offended in the North and vice versa.

RESPONSE FROM PSNI

Collaboration with (AGS) - CI Luke Moyne stated PSNI work with AGS. He gave an example of a live-time incident when a high-risk offender was travelling from England. PSNI worked closely with AGS to get that male stopped in Belfast.

Impact Team for Domestic Abuse and EVAWG - CI Moyne confirmed this was the only district in PSNI to have an Impact Team to deal with domestic abuse and EVAWG. It is the only district to have an internal Working Group to deal with every aspect of abuse from a call, right through to arrest, and outcome. This was alluded to earlier in the meeting. The Team consists of 2 officers who have the flexibility to go to every part of the district. They would like the Team to be bigger, but this cannot happen due to resources at present, however a Business Case has been submitted to get to get 2 additional officers to deal with EVAWG. PSNI are taking the lead on this.

Projects - Great work is ongoing and there are projects coming up, eg, in producing the comic PSNI became innovative in their approach. Everything is victim focussed where the victim is supported from initial phone call through to outcome.

Training in EVAWG - Insp Katie Slater confirmed that LPT officers in Strabane and Strand Road had received training and they were the first responders in EVAWG. All officers availed of the training and PSNI hope this training will happen annually.

Victim Focussed - Supt W Calderwood said PSNI were victim focussed to get the correct outcome and this is reinforced at every morning meeting. Issues would continue to be raised in relation to resources and challenges.

Cllr Leonard thanked PSNI for the response and stated it was important to share information with AGS. In relation to incidents being victim focussed it takes so long for perpetrators to get to court that victims could get fed up; they need to be reassured that they are doing the right thing by reporting, and they need to be kept updated on the progress.

PSNI Engagement/Collaboration - Alison Wallace referred to the Impact Team and queried what this engagement would look like in the community and across the district. She agreed that PSNI and communities need to continue working together rather than working in isolation and hoped that this team could make a large impact within the community.

CI Luke Moyne said the Impact Team had been in existence for about a month. It was clear from the Public Meeting that there was a gap with regards to women's groups, how many exist and where there are none, ie, rural areas and Strabane. Two officers mapped out all women's groups to ensure there was a voice through policing. The next phase is to try and engage through women's groups and communities and PSNI are aware that there are a lot of women and girls who are coercively controlled.

We want to break barriers and increase confidence, therefore we have a weekly clinic in the Justice Centre where victims can speak to officers directly and make statements, rather than having to attend the police station. PSNI are working closely with Women's Aid and that other events/engagements with organisations are being organised and it will take time for them to filter down to all community groups.

Alison Wallace suggested that officers get in contact with each Local Growth Partnership, as they have been allocated funding and are dealing with a lot in relation to EVAWG. It would be good to have a discussion on how to make the greatest impact across each DEA.

Cllr Sandra Duffy welcomed the focus on EVAWG and stated that normally the decrease in figures would be welcomed, although it does not reflect what is on the ground. People still do not feel comfortable reporting. Collaboration is required with AGS as perpetrators can move between jurisdictions.

Night-time Economy and Illegal Taxis - Cllr Duffy referred to the night-time economy, the issue of nights out, and people feeling vulnerable. Trying to get home is very difficult. At Halloween there was plain clothed officers out to identify perpetrators in venues. She said she was aware of work with DCSDC and taxi associations to train more taxi drivers. There are bandits travelling around lifting girls who are very vulnerable and there is a fear on the outcome of this. She asked the status of this and hoped the initiative with DCSDC and the taxi academy would help.

Supt Calderwood said that focus was required on night-time economy within the city centre and how it would be policed to increase visibility. Taxis are an issue but not just locally as many taxi drivers took up other employment during Covid. Taxis are one of the safest ways of transport as they are recorded and tracked. Operations have taken place to look at illegal taxis, and security around doors of bars, eg, 'Ask for Angela' scheme is in place throughout the city.

CI Luke Moyne stated a lot of work was ongoing re night-time economy with the focus on city centre; a lot of it comes down to resourcing and how we continue to work in partnership with CCI, CSW, licenced premises through the Licensing Officer. 'Ask for Angela Campaign' is in place throughout the city centre. It is hoped to make the city centre safer with high visibility on Friday and Saturday nights; this is to be rolled out over the next month or so. The reality is that policing the night-time economy can be risky and PSNI are looking at transportation such as people carriers for the protection of officers rather than land rovers.

With regards to illegal taxis, PSNI do operations with DVA and another one has been arranged in the next few weeks. CI Luke Moyne stated he was positive in the use of plain clothed police officers but Women's groups were angry and linked it to the murder of Sarah Everard in London. They were reassured that some of the officers would be female and they were specially trained officers who would be brought in at various times. Extensive work being carried out with regards to the improvement of night-time economy.

Cllr Duffy said that plain clothed officers was something to reflect on.

Cllr Darren Guy referred to illegal taxis and the successful operations carried out by DVA against illegal taxis. He felt DVA were part of the problem as they policed taxi drivers at weekends; one taxi driver with an 8-seater van was stopped on way to get a door fixed, which had been pulled off the runner by a customer. DVA put him off the road. It would be worth DVA not doing as many checks at weekends as it puts drivers under pressure, especially when there is a lack of legal taxis.

Patrick McGonagle said Strabane was rife with illegal taxis at weekends. This is an ongoing issue and PSNI should end this.

Marches/Protests – Mr McGonagle referred to marches and incidents at Easter. He referred to social media where a 72-year-old woman was arrested. He asked that PSNI would not go to this extreme as the lady was peacefully protesting. PSNI need to ensure that this does not happen.

Supt Calderwood stated he did not know what happened in that instance. PSNI are reported for being proportionate in parades/protests throughout the city. He stated he did not know any Police Officer would put on a uniform and want to arrest a 72-year-old woman or a child and said if there was an officer with that attitude that anyone within the room would deal with it. Everybody has a right to express themselves but it does not give anyone the right to commit criminal activities/offences. If they overstep the line PSNI must take action.

PCSP have been involved with protests throughout the city and PSNI are always proportionate and plan for protests they think will happen. He said he cannot comment on specific incidents but that there is commitment from PSNI that the public in Derry and Strabane will be treated fairly.

Mr Patrick McGonagle said it was great that PSNI will ensure that this does not happen as the 10min video looked bad and does not send a good message.

Sanction Outcomes - Ald Keith Kerrigan referred to figures on Page 4 on Sanction Outcomes. He asked for clarification on what was classified as a sanctioned outcome; does it refer to court or PSNI dealing with outcome?

Supt Calderwood said the figures were 365 rolling figures and that sanction outcomes could range from a CRM for lower offences, eg, speeding ticket, right through to court outcome as opposed to going through court for speeding offence.

Intravenous Drug Use - Karl Duncan referred to drugs re intravenous drug use and why was this not a big issue. He queried if there were figures for the number referred to YJA Youth Programme. He referred to page 5 analysis on the robust pro-charge policy for drug crime, i.e. what does this mean and how does it contrast to previous policy in the area.

Supt Calderwood said there were possibly bigger issues in relation to drugs. Triage takes place which takes a long time and PSNI focus on what we have and on the best

possible outcome. Phones are examined over a longer period of time so PSNI must focus on what information they currently have. PSNI have a robust approach to drugs.

CI Cathal Pearce confirmed that in relation to intravenous drug use that he was the Area Lead for drugs. A group meeting is held every 2 months where updates are shared on drug use and organised crime. Recently, a stop and search provided a positive result in Rockmills. Drug issue is still concerning although it has not increased, in my opinion, in Derry and Strabane. There has been an increase in smoking cocaine which is happening a lot.

YJA Youth Referrals – CI Pearce confirmed that referrals to this programme are on-going and advised that he will get figures and forward this to the PCSP Manager for onward circulation to members.

PSNI

Charge Policy - In relation to Charge Policy PSNI have to get perpetrators to court or on bail as quickly as possible to reduce the risk of re-offending.

The Chair thanked PSNI for the report. He referred to Ballyarnett NPT where an issue had been dealt with which had a bigger impact and resulted in drug seizures. The impact of NPTs on the ground has been noted by PCSP Members.

PCPM 16/25

Any Other Business

Northlands Centre – Karl Duncan referred to the previous meeting where funding of the Northlands Centre had been discussed and it was agreed that a letter would be sent to the Health Minister.

The PCSP Manager confirmed that there had been no response yet, but this would be circulated when received.

PCSP Manager

PCPM 17/25

Date of Next Meeting

The next **PCSP Meeting** has been arranged for Tuesday 24 June 2025 in the Council Chamber, Strabane at 10am.

The meeting ended at approximately 11.30 am.

ACTIONS

PCPM 15/25 Page 10	YJA Youth Referrals Figures to be sought and forwarded to PCSP Members	PSNI
PCPM 16/25 Page 11	Letter to Health Minister re funding of Northlands Centre Letter was sent but no response as yet. Response to be circulated to PCSP Members once received.	PCSP Manager