

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Policing and Community Safety Partnership
(Policing Committee) held in the Island Civic Centre, The Island, Lisburn, on
Tuesday 21 August 2018, at 5.30pm**

PRESENT: Councillor A McIntyre (Chairman)
Councillor S Carson
Councillor B Hanvey
Councillor John Palmer
Councillor B Mallon
Councillor A Ewing
Councillor T Mitchell
Councillor R Walker
Mr P Dean (Vice-Chairman)
Mr M Busch
Mrs Y Craig
Ms D Hancock
Mrs P Leeson
Ms C McCullough

IN ATTENDANCE: PCSP Manager
Member Services Officer

Chief Inspector J Wilson, Police Service of Northern Ireland
Sergeant F Lockhart, Police Service of Northern Ireland

The Chairman, Councillor A McIntyre, commenced the meeting at 5.30pm by welcoming everyone to the proceedings. He made particular reference to Councillor B Mallon who had recently replaced Councillor L Poots on the PCSP and to Chief Inspector J Wilson who would be presenting the PSNI report later in the meeting.

1. Apologies

It was agreed that apologies be recorded on behalf of Alderman G Rice, Alderman M Henderson and the Head of Service Support.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made.

3. Chairman's Introduction

The Chairman welcomed Chief Inspector J Wilson, (PSNI) to the meeting stating that he would be presenting the report summarising the policing of the district during the three month period to June 2018, a copy of which had been circulated to members of the PCSP Policing Committee in advance of the meeting.

He highlighted that there had been a 13% increase in crime from April to June when compared with the previous year and that outcomes had also reduced. Anti-social behaviour and burglary were both on the rise and he felt that the report painted a disappointing picture but looked forward to hearing the forthcoming presentation.

At this stage he invited the PCSP Manager to provide an update on Speed Indicator Devices.

Speed Indicator Devices – Update from PCSP Manager

The PCSP Manager reminded members that speed indicator devices had been placed in Annahilt and Maghaberry however since then issues had been raised by the Department for Infrastructure stating that they were considered unsuitable for the street furniture to which they were attached. Alternatives had been suggested in line with what was in place in the Republic of Ireland and feedback sought from the Department on other options available.

She advised that feedback had since been received from the Department late that day outlining a considerable number of risk factors to be taken on board. She advised the partnership of other options available but stated that she did not consider these suitable for various reasons. The signs themselves were not illegal but they could not be sited on street lamp furniture if additional poles were to be installed.

She went on to provide members with some of the data which had been captured by the devices to date and it was agreed by all present that this was valuable information. She also advised that she was aware that Nicola Mallon MLA had raised the issue prior to the NI Assembly being suspended.

Councillor B Hanvey said that he and Councillor B Mallon had recently met with Department for Infrastructure Officials in an effort to find solutions to traffic issues on the Saintfield Road, the speed indicator devices were discussed however no issues were raised by departmental officials at that time regarding their installation in the Lisburn/Castlereragh area. He voiced his concern at this, other members concurred and after further discussion it was proposed by Councillor B Hanvey, seconded by Councillor J Palmer and agreed that the Chairman of the PCSP, Councillor A McIntyre raise this matter at the forthcoming Council Meeting and request that the Council write to the Permanent Secretary within the Department for Infrastructure in this regard. It was agreed that the PCSP Manager seek a meeting with Department for Infrastructure Officials to discuss the list of risk factors highlighted in an effort to identify potential ways forward.

The PCSP Manager wished to make members aware that there may have been an element of misunderstanding involved in the initial period running up to the purchase of the devices however she felt that any meeting held should now focus on finding alternatives.

(Councillor T Mitchell left the meeting at 5.55 pm returning at 5.58 pm).

4. PSNI Three Monthly Report

Chief Inspector J Wilson advised that he was deputising for Chief Inspector L Dobson who was currently on annual leave.

He highlighted the salient points within the report which were:

- There had been a 13% increase in crime
- The biggest rise was in violence against the person with large increases during June and July. He emphasised that this was not due to night-time economy issues, these included incidents within private dwellings
- There had been a rise in harassment which may be partly due to a change in home office reporting methods
- There had been a rise in sexual offences which may be due to the fact that victims are more confident in coming forward
- Incidents of making off without payment have risen which may be partly due to new procedures for dealing with these which had been rolled out recently

(Mr P Dean left the meeting at 6.10 pm returning at 6.13 pm).

He then proceeded to present the report as circulated to members in advance of the meeting and as the presentation progressed the following questions were raised and responses made:

5. Questions

5.1 Mr M Busch
Outcomes

Mr M Busch said that even though crime has increased, outcomes have reduced and he asked why this might be.

Chief Inspector J Wilson said that this was probably due to the rise in crime and the fact that the use of Community Resolution Orders had reduced, he said that this was currently being monitored.

5.2 Councillor J Palmer
Crime Prevention

Councillor J Palmer stated that communities needed to be aware that they also needed to be vigilant and report suspicious activity to protect their own belongings.

Chief Inspector J Wilson agreed and outlined some of the crime prevention initiatives which had taken place.

5.3 Councillor S Carson
Anti-social Behaviour

Councillor S Carson referred to incidents of anti-social behaviour in the Drain's Farm area and asked whether the situation had improved.

Chief Inspector Wilson and Sergeant F Lockhart responded that there had not been so many reports recently. They went on to outline a specific incident involving motorcycles which had taken place close to Hydebank Wood.

5.4 Councillor B Hanvey
Follow-up by Police with Victims

Councillor B Hanvey referred to the Chief Inspector's comment during his presentation when he referred to 'the reluctance of people to pursue incidents'. He said that he was aware of such a scenario in his local area and asked what else police could do in such circumstances, he also wondered whether Anti-social Behaviour Orders could be used or if letting agents could become involved and asked whether the fact that police had been called out twice in one night was sufficient evidence to support action.

Chief Inspector J Wilson undertook to discuss this specific incident after the meeting but advised that, in general, a welfare call was made to provide follow up and re-assurance. Anti-social behaviour legislation was considered and alternatives explored as were warning letters, contracts and full Anti-social Behaviour Orders.

Councillor B Mallon said that he was aware that re-assurances had not been provided by police during the specific incident referred to by Councillor B Hanvey as he had also been involved.

Chief Inspector J Wilson said he would discuss this specific incident with those involved after the meeting.

5.5 Mrs P Leeson
Robbery, trafficking of drugs and weapons offences

Mrs P Leeson stated that in her opinion the report was favourable apart from the issues of robbery, trafficking of drugs and weapons offences and she felt that maybe more energy should be put into these areas.

Chief Inspector J Wilson responded that often, where drugs matters were concerned, local police were providing assistance to regional units.

5.6 Councillor A Ewing
PSNI Leaflet drop

Councillor A Ewing stated that he was aware that a leaflet issued by police regarding anti-social behaviour had been circulated and stated that residents were pleased to see that police had been active in this respect.

Chief Inspector J Wilson advised that this was low level activity and that leaflet drops also take place to alert the community to other crimes i.e. burglary.

5.7 Councillor A Ewing
Burglary

Councillor A Ewing referred to burglary stating that this was harrowing for victims and asked how difficult it was to catch perpetrators.

Chief Inspector J Wilson responded that this would depend very much on how forensically aware the perpetrators were and he went on to outline some recent successes.

5.8 Mrs P Leeson
Scammers

Mrs P Leeson commended the good work ongoing to make the community aware of incidents of scamming against older people and asked how these were recorded.

Chief Inspector J Wilson responded that these were all recorded, as were attempted scams. He said that the reporting of scamming incidents increases as people become more aware of the issue.

5.9 Councillor B Mallon
Thorndale Filling Station Carryduff

Councillor B Mallon referred to specific incidents in Carryduff at Thorndale Filling Station and police agreed to speak to him about this after the meeting.

5.10 Ms D Hancock
Cold Calling Zones

Mrs Hancock sought further information on cold calling zones which Chief Inspector J Wilson undertook to respond to her with as he did not have the information to hand.

Councillor B Harvey commended police on their cold calling initiative in Carryduff.

6. Any Other Business

7.1 Councillor S Carson
Grass outside Lisburn Police Station

Councillor S Carson referred to the grass outside Lisburn Police Station making the observation that it did not appear to be being maintained.

Chief Inspector J Wilson responded that it was his understanding that the grass was not the responsibility of the PSNI but undertook to investigate this.

7.2 Councillor S Carson
Kids Courts

Councillor S Carson stated that Kids Court events at Ballymacward Primary School and at St Joseph's Primary School would be beneficial and it was agreed that the PCSP staff liaise with PSNI to make arrangements.

Councillor J Palmer further added that it would be worthwhile looking at the speed limit in the vicinity of Ballymacward Primary School as well.

7.3 Councillor R Walker
Car Seat Safety at Schools

Councillor R Walker asked if there would be merit in focusing on car seat safety to and from schools as she observed that children were not always transported safely.

Chief Inspector J Wilson undertook to take this on board during the PSNI's ongoing work with schools.

Conclusion of the Meeting

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Chairman, Councillor A McIntyre, thanked those present for their attendance.

As this was his final meeting as Chairman of the Committee, Councillor A McIntyre wished to thank member of the Committee and staff for their support during his tenure as Chairman.

There being no further business, the meeting was terminated at 6.45 pm.

Chairman