

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Policing and Community Safety Partnership
(Policing Committee) held remotely via Zoom on 16 February 2021 at 5.35pm**

PRESENT: Councillor A Swan (Chairman)
Ms A Twomey (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor N Anderson
Councillor R Carlin
Councillor A Ewing
Councillor A Gowan
Councillor M Guy
Councillor J McCarthy
Councillor A McIntyre
Councillor T Mitchell
Councillor S Skillen
Mr J Bentley
Mrs G Conroy
Mrs Y Craig
Mr G Doran
Ms A Landa
Mrs P Leeson
Mr D McBurney
Mrs P Yellamaty
PSNI
Superintendent J Mullan

IN ATTENDANCE: Acting PCSP/Member Services Manager
PCSP Officers
Member Services Officer

The Chairman, Councillor A Swan, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. **Apologies**

No apologies were recorded. It was noted that Councillor A Gowan would be joining the meeting late.

2. **Declaration of Conflicts of Interest**

The Chairman, Councillor A Swan outlined the procedure in respect of Declarations of Interest and invited members of the Partnership to declare any conflicts of interest they might have on Agenda items. No declarations were made.

3. **Nine Monthly Report from the PSNI in respect of the policing of the district**

The Chairman, Councillor A Swan invited Superintendent J Mullan to present her report regarding B District's Performance against the Local Policing Plan during the three month period of October 2020 to December 2020. This report was provided in advance of the meeting for consideration by the Partnership.

Superintendent J Mullan spoke to her report and in addition to the information contained within it, she provided the Partnership with the following update:

- Burglary within the area was significantly lower compared to the same period in 2019.
- Incidents of domestic abuse had increased. Typically, incidents of domestic abuse increase over the Christmas period however there had been a further increase as a result of the lockdown restrictions. Superintendent J Mullan advised that there were a number of initiatives including the 'Ask for Annie' scheme being developed. The PSNI have been working with the DoJ to secure advocates in each police station who can offer additional support to victims of domestic abuse.
- Increased drug seizures. Superintendent J Mullan advised of her intention to provide more information in the future regarding the type of drugs seized, the value of the drugs and number of seizures.
- Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) incidents have increased significantly this year as a result of the Covid-19 restrictions and explained that breaches of these regulations fall into the ASB figures. Superintendent J Mullan confirmed that the PSNI have undertaken targeted neighbourhood patrols with additional wardens from the Council being welcomed by the PSNI. She stated that the community and partnership approach was the most effective way to prevent incidents of ASB.
- Highlighted a number of the District's Roads campaigns, particularly in relation to preventing drink drinking during the Christmas period.
- The Multi-Agency Support Hub and provided case studies to the Partnership to show the work being carried out.

She worked through the report clarifying queries from those present and undertook to provide additional information where necessary, as outlined below:

- Initiatives undertaken to prevent telephone scams - Superintendent J Mullan undertook to explore the possibility of receiving data regarding the breakdown of telephone scams (i.e. to mobile phone or landlines).
- Support and training provided to PSNI staff when the new legislation regarding domestic abuse comes into effect - Superintendent J Mullan to request colleagues from the Public Protection unit provide the Partnership with an update on the impact of this legislation at a later date.
- Engagement periods - Superintendent J Mullan advised that whilst initial engagement with victims had been good, there had been a delay in following up with the victim and that she wanted this addressed in order to improve community confidence in policing.
- Statistics regarding drivers using mobile phones since introduction of new regulations – Superintendent J Mullan stated it was too early for this data to be available but would provide this information at another date.
- Forward Planning being undertaken by the B District – Superintendent J Mullan responded to a query raised by the Vice Chairman, Ms Aisling Twomey regarding how the B District plan to engage with the community during the ongoing restrictions and the Superintendent stated that online engagement had continued particularly within DEAs alongside leaflet drops.

The Chairman, Councillor A Swan thanked Superintendent J Mullan for her report and commended her team for noticeable improvement in clearance rates.

During the discussion of this item Mrs P Yellamaty, Councillor R Carlin and Ms A Landa joined the meeting at 5.40pm, 5.41pm and 5.53pm respectively.

4. Presentation of Local Policing Plan 2021/22

The Chairman, Councillor A Swan asked Superintendent J Mullan to present the Local Policing Plan 2021/22. During her presentation she stated that the priorities previously agreed 18 months ago were still relevant within B District and she did not have any amendments to recommend to the Partnership but welcomed any comments or amendments.

During the discussion of this item the following concerns were raised with Superintendent J Mullan:

Child Abuse Incidents
Councillor S Skillen

Councillor S Skillen asked if as a result of the lockdown imposed due to Covid-19 restrictions the Partnership could prioritise preventing child abuse, however she acknowledged that this may not be the most appropriate forum. Superintendent J Mullan agreed that this was more relevant for her colleagues in the Public Prevention team, who she worked closely with and advised that she regularly engaged with children's homes within the area to identify and prevent incidents were possible.

Councillor R Carlin
Flags in Castlereagh South DEA

Councillor R Carlin thanked the Superintendent and her team for all the work undertaken across the district and commended the community policing units. He then referred to flagging issues that have been ongoing for a number of years within the Castlereagh South DEA and most recently to UVF flags being erected around social housing at Killynure Green. He advised that many in the community had requested the removal of these flags as it was a generally settled and integrated area, however this issue has been going around in circles for some time and he sought clarification regarding what support can be offered by the PSNI to deal with concerns of intimidation. Superintendent J Mullan stated that it was not a policing issue as the flags were on Dfl property but was happy to speak to Councillor R Carlin outside of the meeting to discuss further.

Councillor M Guy
Flags in Castlereagh South DEA

Councillor M Guy echoed the concerns raised by Councillor R Carlin and asked if any statistics were captured by the PSNI regarding complaints about illegal flags. She further stated that Dfl have indicated that they will not remove flags without the PSNI providing assurances of support for its teams, however Councillor M Guy had been advised that these reassurances have been given previously. She asked if there could be better collaboration between the PSNI and Dfl on this

issue so that it can be effectively dealt with. Superintendent J Mullan advised that these figures were not captured but agreed to look at this issue and advise Councillor M Guy accordingly.

Councillor A Ewing
Traffic Light Reporting

Councillor A Ewing asked if the report could incorporate the red, amber and green reporting structure in future as it makes it easier to understand. Superintendent J Mullan agreed to take this into consideration going forward.

It was agreed that the priorities for the B District Local Policing Plan 2021/22 would remain unchanged.

5. Lisburn SAFE Project

5.1 Report from the Acting PCSP Manager – Action Plan 2021/22

The Acting PCSP Manager referred to the private meeting held on 19th January 2021 and the discussion surrounding the proposed reduction in funding provided by the PCSP to Lisburn SAFE from £20,000 to £15,000. It had been agreed by the Chairman, Councillor A Swan that Lisburn SAFE be invited to present how previous funding has been utilised. The Acting PCSP Manager advised that following the presentation, the Partnership should then decide on the level of funding it wishes to provide Lisburn SAFE for the incoming Financial Year.

During the course of this item Councillor A McIntyre joined the meeting remotely at 6.18pm.

5.2 Presentation from Lisburn SAFE

The Chairman, Councillor A Swan welcomed Mr Adrian Bird and Mr Philip Dean to the meeting and invited them to present to the Partnership. Members had been provided with a copy of the presentation in advance of the meeting.

Mr A Bird thanked the Chairman for this opportunity to present to the Partnership and continued to outline:

- The structure of Lisburn SAFE;
- Its role and impact within the council area;
- Key objectives;
- Emerging Issues for 2021-2022;
- Its financial plan; and
- Its audit/monitoring processes.

In particular, Mr A Bird referred to the large number of community volunteers trained and managed by Lisburn SAFE and the significant role these volunteers have undertaken in responding to the current pandemic. He further highlighted that the funding provided by PCSP was used to offset one staffing post within Lisburn SAFE and without this funding, it would be extremely difficult to retain this employee whose responsibility it is to manage the volunteers. He reiterated that

5.2 Presentation from Lisburn SAFE (cont.)

this would have a significant negative impact for those in the community who benefit from Lisburn SAFE.

Following this presentation, a number of the members thanked Mr A Bird for the work that was undertaken by Lisburn SAFE and asked a number of questions which were addressed by the two representatives. Members of the Partnership made reference to an additional £2,000 that had been attributed to Lisburn PSP and contributed to overheads acquired by Lisburn SAFE which appeared on the presentation but not in the document issued to Members. Mr A Bird apologised for this mistake and advised that this was oversight and once it had been spotted, a revised paper had been sent to the Acting PCSP Manager but that the hard copy papers had already been issued to members of the Partnership.

The Chairman, Councillor A Swan thanked Mr A Bird and Mr P Dean for attending the meeting and their presentation, following which the two representatives left the meeting remotely at 6.58pm. The Chairman then reminded members of the report of the Acting PCSP Manager and asked the Partnership to agree what funding should be provided to Lisburn SAFE.

During the discussion of the issue, members sought clarification regarding where the additional funding would come from and the Acting PCSP Manager stated that funding could be identified for Lisburn SAFE and to purchase additional Speed Indicator Devices (as previously agreed by the Partnership) by reducing funding to other projects, such as:

- Project Support;
- 4 Tier;
- Participatory Budgeting;
- Drugs and Alcohol Violence;
- Retail Crime; and
- Crime Prevention.

The Acting PCSP Manager advised that the Policing Board required allocations to be provided against each budget line for the full year but as previously agreed by the Partnership a review would take place in June and if any alterations were required to these budget allocations this could be done at that time.

A number of the members (namely Councillor N Anderson, Mrs Y Craig, Councillors A Ewing, A Gowan, T Mitchell and S Skillen) who were aware of the work undertaken by Lisburn SAFE stated their support for Lisburn SAFE to receive £20,000 funding for the next financial year. Superintendent J Mullan advised that her team had a positive relationship with the organisation and she was happy to endorse Lisburn SAFE and was supportive of its work.

Mr J Bentley sought clarification regarding the financial plan outlined by the representatives of Lisburn SAFE, particularly he sought a more detailed breakdown regarding the different expenditure listed. Mr J Bingham (PCSP officer) advised that he was the Partnership's representative on the management structure and was able to provide some additional information e.g. equipment

5.2 Presentation from Lisburn SAFE

required by volunteers etc. and advised of the rigorous audit processes that Lisburn SAFE must satisfy.

The Vice Chairman, Ms Aisling Twoney, welcomed the presentation as she was unaware of the organisation and its work. She requested that going forward additional information could be sought from Lisburn SAFE including a detailed breakdown of its financial plan, its staffing costs, the work it does specifically to reduce community tensions in relation to BREXIT as well as clarification regarding what groups Lisburn SAFE work with and how this work could be expanded to include a wider area than what was currently being serviced by Lisburn SAFE. She further commented that the organisation was very dependent on funding from PCSP and it should try to develop other funding streams to prevent service failure if funding was not available in future years.

It was proposed by Councillor A Ewing and seconded by Councillor T Mitchell that the PCSP provide funding of £20,000 for Lisburn SAFE for the 2021-2022 financial year.

At the request of Councillor A Ewing, a recorded vote was taken for this matter. The proposal was declared 'carried' with the voting as follows:

In Favour: Councillor A Swan, Ms A Twomey, Councillor N Anderson, Councillor R Carlin, Councillor A Ewing, Councillor A Gowan, Councillor M Guy, Councillor J McCarthy, Councillor A McIntyre, Councillor T Mitchell, Councillor S Skillen, Mrs G Conroy, Mr G Doran, Ms A Landa, Mrs P Leeson, Mr D McBurney, Mrs P Yellamaty and Superintendent J Mullan.

Against: None

Abstain: Mr J Bentley

During the course of this item Mrs Y Craig left the meeting remotely at 7.08pm and Councillor A Gowan joined the meeting remotely at 7.11pm.

6. Any Other Business

6.1 Placement of a Speed Indicator Device
Councillor S Skillen

Councillor S Skillen referred to a previous discussion she had regarding the placement of a Speed Indicator Device in Castlereagh East and asked that the Acting PCSP Manager update her its progress following the meeting.

6.2 Record of Thanks
Mr D McBurney

Mr D McBurney wished to place his thanks on record to the PCSP team and its secretariat for the work undertaken to service the Partnership's meetings.

There being no further business, the meeting was terminated at 7.25pm.

Chairman