

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

Private Meeting of the Policing and Community Safety Partnership held at Lagan Valley Island, in the Council Chamber and via Zoom, on Tuesday 19 May 2026 at 6.31 pm

PRESENT: Ms G McDonald (Vice-Chairperson)
Councillor B Higginson
Councillor C Kemp
Councillor S Lowry
Councillor M McKeever
Councillor T Mitchell
Mr N Anderson
Mr B Corr
Mrs Y Craig
Mr G McClory

PRESENT IN A REMOTE LOCATION: Councillor J Lavery
Councillor D Lynch
Mr D Drysdale
Mrs A Playford
Mr G Walker

IN ATTENDANCE: Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

PCSP Officer (JB)
PCSP Assistant (AB)
Member Services Officers (EW and FA)

Designated Organisations

Chief Inspector M Rocks, PSNI
Inspector Danielle Burke, Lisburn City & Rural
Neighbourhood
Ms C Cullen (YJA)
Mr C Stitt (NIHE)
Mr P Beck (PBNI) via Zoom
Mr C Mason (EA) via Zoom
Mr A McVeigh (NIFRS) via Zoom

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Ms Joanne Davison (DoJ)
Ms Jennifer Clarke (DoJ)

Commencement of the Meeting

In the absence of the Chairperson, Councillor A Martin, the Vice-Chairperson, Ms G McDonald welcomed everyone to the private meeting of the PCSP. She also extended a warm welcome to Ms Joanne Davidson and Ms Jennifer Clarke, both from DoJ.

1. Apologies

Apologies were accepted on behalf of the Chairperson, Councillor A Martin, Councillor P Catney, Councillor A Givan and David Cairns.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes

It was proposed by Councillor S Lowry, seconded by Councillor T Mitchell, and agreed that the minutes of the Private Meeting held on 21 April 2026 be adopted.

4. Update from Statutory Partners

The following representatives from the statutory organisations provided updates on the work of their respective organisations with regards to their community safety priorities:

4.1 PSNI Update

Chief Inspector Megan Rocks provided an update as follows:

- A very busy month operationally following the attacks at both Lurgan and Dunmurry PSNI Stations.
- Organisational response which has included heightened police security presence, both at PSNI sites, as well as other significant locations and enhanced operational activities, such as vehicle checkpoints and searches.
- The investigation by the Terrorist Investigation Unit resulted in the arrest and charge of one male for attempted murder in relation to the Dunmurry attack and the arrest of a second male for attempted murder in relation to the Lurgan incident, as well as one woman for obstructing the course of justice.
- Thank the Chair, Councillor A Martin for his message in expressing support to our workforce which was conveyed and appreciated.
- Busy with events: the Mayor's Carnival Parade, Balmoral Show, Pride of Knockmore Band Competition and the royal visit.
- Positive engagement with those visiting the Balmoral Show.
- Overall reduction in recorded crime from previous year of 2.1%.
- Increase in reported domestic abuse incidents and crimes, a further 103 reported domestic incidents and a further 14 reported domestic crimes.
- Continue to have one of the lowest recorded rates of domestic incidents and crimes in the entire province.
- Continue to assess safeguarding, such as the Hollie Guard app and hold monthly domestic one stop shops with partners.
- On 8th June hosting Professor Jane Monckton-Smith who will present at LVI on the homicide timeline.
- Increase in ASB of 5.1%, however remains to be one of the lowest in the province.

PSNI Update (Cont'd)

- Increase in drug seizures of 69 compared with the same period last year.
- Road safety focus continues to be the fatal five, with particular focus on excess speed.
- Working with partners around bonfire sites in the district and planning for forthcoming parades and other events.

Questions to the PSNI

In response to a query from Councillor B Higginson regarding the arson in Killynure Green in Carryduff, Chief Inspector Rocks advised that the injured party would receive an update on the investigation and that it wouldn't be appropriate to update anyone else ahead of them.

In response to comments from Councillor B Higginson regarding tensions running high in the Killynure area with residents feeling that the police are not being proactive, Chief Inspector Rocks advised that the police have created a problem-solving folder where particular issues in an area are collated for response and would be communicated as soon as possible.

Councillor C Kemp enquired about an update on recruitment for neighbourhood teams. Chief Inspector Rocks commented that it had reached the final stage of the application process and an uplift for neighbourhood teams had been requested.

In response to a request from Mr B Corr regarding a breakdown on drug seizures, Chief Inspector Rocks advised that this would be provided at the next meeting.

Mr N Anderson commented on graffiti outside Carrick Primary School and enquired if there were any leads as to who was responsible. Chief Inspector Rocks advised that unfortunately there had been no line of enquiry to identify a suspect.

In response to a comment from Councillor B Higginson regarding a threat issued using a spray can on a wall at Barons Grange, and subsequently a complaint which may be sent to the Police Ombudsman, Chief Inspector Rocks advised that she was not aware of the incident, but would request and provide an update in due course.

4.2 Update from Mr A McVeigh, NIFRS

Mr McVeigh provided an update as follows:

- Irish Waste fire that happened recently is still under investigation.
- Through the Strategic Community Planning Partnership undertook training for fire safety awareness in homes to try and improve the health and welfare for people living in the area.
- 106 bonfire sites across Lisburn and Belfast.
- Lisburn is an on-call station and is fully resourced at present.

NIFRS Update (Cont'd)

- Aware of arson in Killynure and will engage re fire safety in the home.
- Can provide stats if requested.

Questions to the NIFRS

Councillor M McKeever commented that he had written to the Chair and the PCSP Officer prior to the meeting, requesting that a letter of thanks be sent from the Partnership to the NIFRS regarding the recent fire in Carryduff, for their response and curtailing the fire quickly, which was very much appreciated from everyone in the area. He said he thought it appropriate to put the Partnership's gratitude and thanks on record.

Councillor B Higginson reiterated Councillor M McKeever's comments. He commented that the Fire Commander and team were very good at relaying relevant information on the evening of the fire. Councillor B Higginson also wanted to thank the NIFRS for their swift action, and also the PSNI for their response.

4.3 Update from Mr C Mason, Education Authority

Mr G McClory left the meeting during this item of business (7.30 pm).

Mr C Mason provided an update as follows:

- Young Men's Project in Ballybeen - 10 young males aged 16-17 took part in a programme looking at toxic masculinity and exploring positive use of social media.
- Graffiti mural completed in estate and considering ways to launch it.
- Programme to continue over the summer with an outdoor learning service programme.
- Junior Youth Club in Laurelhill continues mostly focusing on P6-P7 young people before their transition to high school.
- Lisburn and Castlereagh Youth Council are continuing their work to identify the issues they would like to see taken forward in their campaigns for September.
- Planning a study visit for October.
- Two groups from the area in the Horizons Programme took part in a Change Makers event, which was a huge success with over £6,500 raised for charity overall.
- The group from Castlereagh won the award for Best Social Enterprise of the Year.
- Both groups are now working towards their international experience to Assas in France in July.

Questions to the EA

Councillor S Lowry commented on the Young Men's Project and requested that if it were to be launched that the six DEA Members were notified so that they could help to promote it.

Questions to the EA (Cont'd)

In response to a query from Councillor C Kemp regarding an update on rural provision for youth services, Mr C Mason advised that, unfortunately, the Education Authority had been unable to fill the post, but it would be advertised again shortly.

4.4 Update from the Probation Board NI (PBNI) – Mr P Beck

Councillor D Lynch left the meeting during this item of business (7.35 pm).

Mr P Beck provided an update on Staffing, Community Service and Key Themes as follows:

Staffing

- Lisburn remains fully staffed with six social work qualified probation officers.
- This month we say goodbye to our student social worker.
- Workload, CS numbers are still down.
- Crown Court backlog still ongoing.

Community Services

- Always looking for more projects to be involved in and welcome ideas/suggestions – alleyway tidy-ups, painting etc.
- Mayor's Parade – built and sanded 120 bird boxes for the parade.
- PBNI completed a joint litter pick along the towpath with Lagan Valley Regional Park and Councillor Tim Mitchell as part of the Keep NI Beautiful Big Spring Clean.
- Work in Hillsborough Castle and Maghaberry Community Centre continues.

Key Themes

- Trauma Resilience Programme for staff.
The work we do can be incredibly rewarding, but it can also be emotionally demanding and over time, this can take its toll. Feeling the impact of our work is a human response, not a personal failing. It's normal to be affected by what we hear, and see when we're working alongside others. Recognising this is part of working in a trauma informed way. With this reality in mind, the Police Rehabilitation and Retraining Trust (PRRT) will be delivering resilience training to our organisation to offer a supportive space to pause, reflect on the impact of our roles and strengthen the skills that help to sustain our wellbeing. This isn't about being 'stronger' or coping alone. It's about understanding how stress and trauma can affect us, recognising the signs early, and building on everyday skills that protect our wellbeing.
- We are delighted to let you know that the BBC has released the date of the 6-part documentary Carl Frampton: On Probation. All episodes released on BBC i-Player on 18 May, or BBC One NI at 10.40pm.

4.5 Update from Ms C Cullen, YJA

Mrs A Playford left the meeting during this item of business (7.40 pm).

Ms C Cullen provided an update as follows:

- Business as normal and continuing to provide support to young people and families, through Youth Conference statutory work and Early-Stage Diversion through CRNs (Community Resolution Notices) and Sexting voluntary referral scheme.
- The next CDF (Children's Diversion Forum) is scheduled for Thursday 28 May 2026. This is for early-stage diversion for young people in the area who have come under police attention or have some vulnerabilities. Social Services, the police, education and welfare and partner agencies all sit on the Forum, and adapt a work plan with young people and their families for help and support.
- New staff commenced through Agency, which should relieve some pressure, although remain two staff members down.
- Reminder that Wednesday 20 May 2026 is the launch of the Art Exhibition at Titanic Centre which will be open to everyone for the next few weeks.

4.6 Update from Mr C Stitt, NIHE

Mr C Stitt provided an update as follows:

ASB

- Seven new cases recorded in April 2026.
- 46 ASB cases recorded from 1st April 2025 until 31st March 2026, a reduction from 51 last year.
- Strong belief that ASB is under-reported.
- Recent incidents
 - Beechland:
 - Remains under review.
 - We have a number of open ASB cases against some residents in the area. We are working closely with our Community Safety team to progress each case to the next stage of the legal process.
 - Gregg House:
 - ASB within the block continues.
 - Area office staff closely monitoring behaviours of residents and visitors to the block.
 - The building security is being reviewed for progression which will involve new CCTV cameras being installed.
 - Temporary caretaker onsite to try and reduce ASB.
 - Area office staff are on-call for any out of hours incidents.
 - Housing Clinic has recommenced fortnightly.
 - Hillview Avenue:
 - Hoax bomb device left at a property in Hillview Avenue on 6th May 2026.
 - 25 households had to be evacuated from their homes.

NIHE Update (Cont'd)

- Device was detonated with residents safe to return to their home later that night.
- Many thanks to LCCC for providing comfort and assistance to all residents in the area.
- We have been working closely with the PSNI in relation to this incident and we have also been in regular contact with the resident involved as we seek to resolve this matter to the satisfaction of all parties.
- Bonfires
 - We have 11 bonfire sites on Housing Executive land, seven in the Greater Lisburn area and four in the Dundonald area.
 - We carry out weekly visits to each of the bonfire sites on NIHE land.
 - A spreadsheet is maintained and updated each week providing photos of each site etc.
 - Good working relationships with the local community and PSNI to resolve any matters that may arise.
 - No major incidents to report at this stage apart from some illegal dumping that has recently occurred at a site in Dundonald and also a site in Lisburn.
 - We are liaising with local reps in order to resolve these matters.
 - Milltown CA are replacing their bonfire with a beacon this year. Killynure CA as per previous years will also be provided with a beacon this year.
 - We actively encourage other areas to consider the option of a beacon.
 - We continue to participate in the Bonfire Inter-Agency meetings involving a number of statutory agencies.
- I would like to thank the PSNI for all of their support with every ASB case that we investigate.
- I would like to thank Lisburn SAFE for their assistance also.

Stakeholder Engagement

- Continue to work closely with PSNI and Lisburn SAFE to address ASB issues.
- Regular PSNI liaison meetings in Lisburn Office and Dundonald Office – strong working relationship with good communication channels in place.

Business Update

- Response Maintenance
 - Significant backlogs still exist – reducing slowly – Remedial Improvement Plan in place.
 - We would expect the backlogs to reduce at a quicker pace in the coming months following a change in the weather and climate.
- COT's (Change of Tenancy)

NIHE Update (Cont'd)

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- 300 COT's completed during 2025/2026.
- Increase from 264 the previous year.
- Planned Maintenance (Schemes)
 - Healthy Programme in 2025/2026 – feedback re scheme delivery, performance etc has been excellent.
- Tower Blocks – Seymour Hill
 - Demolition progressing well.
 - Currently ahead of schedule, however possible short delay ahead as we wait on NIE moving an existing sub-station.
- Staffing
 - No current staffing pressures to report.
 - Stephen Sibald had been off ill for the past 16 months, and pleased to report that he has now returned to work.

The Vice-Chairperson, Ms G McDonald, wished to pass on the Partnership's regards to Stephen, and was glad to hear he was doing well.

Questions to the Housing Executive

In response to queries from Members regarding ASB, tenancy changeover, policy change and Gregg House, Mr C Stitt advised that:

- When ASB is reported the case will remain open until resolved. ASB cases are evidence dependant, so residents are asked to complete incident diaries.
- Liaise with PSNI on ASB reported cases.
- Community Safety team in place to progress ASB cases.
- Some residents fearful of reporting ASB or providing evidence.
- Housing Executive investigate reports of ASB and gather evidence which will be passed to the PSNI if it is a criminal matter.
- Lot of new builds in the Greater Lisburn area.
- Intimidation points have been removed from applications.
- A caretaker has been allocated to the site at Gregg House.
- High spec CCTV and a door entry system to be installed at Gregg House.
- Contact Lisburn SAFE to enquire about possible support.

5. Report of the PCSP Officer

The PCSP Officer delivered this report which the Partnership had already been furnished with.

5.1 Lisburn SAFE

It was proposed by Councillor T Mitchell, seconded by Councillor B Higginson, and agreed to approve funding to Lisburn SAFE, as agreed in the PCSP Action Plan for 2026/2027.

5.2 Applications for Funding Under £500

The PCSP Officer advised the Partnership that the following funding applications for projects under £500 had been received:

Report of the PCSP Officer Cont'd

Group	Project	Amount Requested
Knockmore PS	Summer Fair (Community Safety) with PCSP, PSNI & NIFRS	£500.00
PSNI	Engagement Crime Prevention Event with Ballymacash Community Craft Group	£487.50
Glenavy Community Partnership	Engagement with PSNI (Hurling Club)	£500.00

It was proposed by Councillor M McKeever, seconded by Councillor T Mithcell, and agreed to approve funding for these applications.

5.3 Cyber & Internet Safety Workshops for Parents

Councillor C Kemp thanked the PCSP Officer and the PCSP Assistant for bringing this initiative forward and commented that in terms of the older people's workshops the interest had been phenomenal.

In response to a query from Councillor S Lowry around targeting younger kids to raise awareness through the schools, the PCSP Officer advised that workshops had been held in Downshire Primary School covering P1 – P4 and P5 – P7.

Chief Inspector Megan Rocks advised that the PSNI deliver online safety input, particularly in post primary, and also held a Fair Game Project with lots of teenagers involved, in conjunction with IFA, which proved positive.

It was proposed by Councillor C Kemp, seconded by Mr N Anderson, and agreed to approve funding for Cyber & Internet Safety Workshops for Parents.

5.4 Draft Department of Justice Equality Action Plan & Disability Action Plan for 2025-2030

Mr N Anderson commented that on the equality piece, churches and faith communities could play a key part with issues relating to addiction, family breakdown and loneliness mentoring which could be included. Secondly, boys and young men, there is a lot of talk around sextortion, online expectation, social luxation and issues around fatherlessness which also could be added.

Mr N Anderson requested that his comments were put on record.

It was agreed that the Partnership would consider the draft document, and that any feedback would be submitted to PCSP Officers by 1 June 2026, in order that the deadline of 8 June 2026 would be met.

6. Any Other Business

6.1 Outgoing Chairman
PCSP Officer

The PCSP Officer advised that, unfortunately, the Chairman, Councillor A Martin couldn't attend the meeting, which would have been his last as Chair, but wanted to put on record that the Chair had passed on his best regards to the Partnership.

6.2 Outgoing Chairman
Councillor B Higginson

Councillor B Higginson wished to pass on his best wishes and thanks for chairing the PCSP to Councillor A Martin.

6.3 Balmoral Show
Mr N Anderson

Mr N Anderson wanted to put on record his thanks to Councillor A Martin, and also to the officers for the PCSP stall at Balmoral Show and to all the agencies involved.

6.4 Outgoing Chairman
Councillor T Mitchell

Councillor T Mitchell wished to pass on his thanks to Councillor A Martin and the PCSP officers for their work during the past year, and also his thanks to the Vice-Chair, Ms G McDonald for chairing the meeting.

6.5 Thanks and ASB in Lough Moss Community Garden
Councillor B Higginson

Councillor B Higginson wished to pass on his thanks to the PCSP officers for their work throughout the year and also to all the associated partners within the groups for delivering their reports. He also commented on recent ASB in Lough Moss Community Garden and that Carryduff Regeneration Forum were very thankful for signs being erected with reference to the ASB and the quick and efficient work of the PCSP.

6.6 Outgoing Chairman and Road Safety NI
Mrs Y Craig

Mrs Y Craig wished to pass on her thanks to Councillor A Martin for chairing the PCSP meetings throughout the year, and also to Ms G McDonald for chairing

tonight's meeting. She also wanted to pass on her thanks, on behalf of the Road Safety NI, for allowing them to be part of the Safer Communities Tent.

6.7 Thanks and Car Parking at Billy Neill
Councillor S Lowry

Councillor S Lowry wished to pass on her thanks to Councillor A Martin for his chairmanship, and also to the PCSP Officer and his team. She also thanked the PSNI for acting swiftly on actions agreed on site at Billy Neill regarding car parking issues.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 7.50 pm.

Acting Chairperson