

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 20 January 2026 at 6.31 pm

PRESENT: Councillor T Mitchell (Acting Chairperson)
Councillor P Catney
Councillor B Higginson
Councillor M McKeever
Mr D Cairns
Mr B Corr
Mrs Y Craig
Mr D Drysdale
Mr G McClory
Mrs A Playford

PRESENT IN A REMOTE LOCATION: Councillor C Kemp
Councillor J Laverty
Councillor S Lowry
Councillor D Lynch
Mr N Anderson

IN ATTENDANCE: Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

PCSP Officer (JB)
Community Planning Manager (PT)
PCSP Assistant (AB)
Member Services Officers (EW and FA)

Designated Organisations

Chief Inspector M Rocks, PSNI
Inspector Sam Davidson
Mr F Dubois, NIFRS
Mr C Stitt (NIHE)
Mr P Beck (PBNI) via Zoom

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Chief Inspector Celeste Simpson, PSNI Road Policing
Deputy Principal Phillip Mawhinney, NI Road Safety Partnership

Commencement of the Meeting

The Acting Chairperson, Councillor T Mitchell, welcomed everyone to the private meeting of the PCSP. He also extended a warm welcome to Chief Inspector Celeste Simpson from PSNI Road Policing and Deputy Principal Phillip Mawhinney from NI Road Safety Partnership.

The Acting Chairperson advised Members that Councillor J Gallen was stepping down from the Partnership and that Councillor P Catney was taking his place with immediate effect.

1. Apologies

Apologies were accepted on behalf of the Chairperson, Councillor A Martin, Councillor A Givan, Gareth Walker, Vice-Chairperson Gina McDonald, Superintendent Kelly Moore, PSNI and Catriona Cullen, Youth Justice Agency. The Acting Chairperson, Councillor T Mitchell, advised that Mr G McClory was running slightly late but would be joining the meeting later.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes

It was proposed by Mrs Yvonne Craig, seconded by Councillor M McKeever, and agreed that the minutes of the Private Meeting held on 15 December 2025 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:

The following Members joined the meeting in the Chamber and via Zoom during this item of business: Mr B Corr (6.35 pm), Councillors C Kemp and D Lynch (Zoom) (6.36 pm), Mr N Anderson (Zoom) (6.42 pm), Mr G McClory (6.47 pm).

4.1 PSNI Update

Chief Inspector Megan Rocks provided an update on 'Op Season's Greetings' with the focus being on safer roads, safer shopping and safer socialising and Ending Violence Against Women and Girls with officers being supported by colleagues in other departments to help keep the public safe on our roads, in shopping and socialising areas, their homes and in some extreme weather conditions.

Chief Inspector Rocks then went on to report that there had been 108 additional patrols assigned, there were 24 drink/drug driving offences detected and 18 enforceable fixed penalty notices issued for road traffic offences. There were also 45 shoplifting outcomes, other criminal justice disposal of 69 shoplifting offences at the close of the operation with an outcome rate of 65% which is extremely high.

During her update, Chief Inspector Rocks, stated that the road safety focus during January remains on drink/drug driving with numerous detections resulting in charges and disqualifications with the courts acting swiftly. In addition to road

4.1 PSNI Update (Cont'd))

safety other priorities continue to be Ending Violence Against Women and Girls and hate crime.

A number of schemes have been supported, including the council's Dementia Safeguarding and information was circulated to all officers so that they can share it with people in the community who it would apply to and also their families. A number of recruitment campaigns have been launched. Chief Inspector Rocks requested that Members review the current Local Policing Plan which will be reviewed shortly and asked for feedback on this and any changes that Members would like to see.

Questions to the PSNI

In response to queries from Members regarding speeding, the new reporting app, shoplifting, domestic and sexual violence over the Christmas period, Chief Inspector Megan Rocks advised the following:

- Although work was continuing to combat speeding and drunk/drug driving it remains a major concern.
- People can now report from their own homes and have face to face engagement.
- If there were a safeguarding issue people would be referred to a foodbank or the Support Hub.
- There was an average of 100 calls per day service-wide relating to domestic violence over the two-week Christmas holiday period.

In response to a query from Mr D Cairns regarding roadside drug testing, Chief Inspector Celeste Simpson, advised that legislative change will be required, however a roadside drug pilot was being carried out, and discussions were taking place with DFI to see how to assess and progress further.

4.2 Update from Mr F Dubois, NIFRS

Mr Dubois provided an update as follows:

- Over the past month there was 170 incidents in the council area, with the vast majority being false alarms.
- There were no fatal fires or road traffic collisions in the council area.
- Presence and activity were quite busy this month
- Crews are finishing Primary 5 fire safety talks
- The Winter Campaign for fire safety is continuing
- The People at Risk Partnership Agreement with the council has increased cooperation between the fire service and the council in holding fire safety checks for the most vulnerable.
- On January 26 the BeeSafe Campaign is starting and targeting Primary 7 schoolchildren for transition to high school. The council is involved regarding home safety, PSNI with internet safety, Translink with bus and

4.2 NIFRS Update (Cont'd)

road safety, fire service with fire safety and mid and Lisburn District Committee First Responders with first aid.

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

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

Staffing

- Lisburn remains fully staffed with seven social work qualified probation officers.
- Workload, update on current case volumes.
- Strike impact.

Community Services

- Always looking for more projects to be involved in and welcome ideas/suggestions – alleyway tidy-ups, painting etc.
- Lagan towpath remains a regular task for the CS squad.
- Maintained a recent placement with Maghaberry Community Centre.

Key Themes

- High Sheriff Awards – Following an initial request from the Lady Chief Justice to explore the potential for an arrangement between PBNI and the High Street Sheriff Association for Northern Ireland, over the last number of months we have been working with the High Sheriff Association in relation to issuing awards to PBNI service users. This Awards process has been in place for some time in HMPPS and receives positive feedback from both staff and service users. One such winner was from the Lisburn area.
- Women's Strategy 2025-2029
 - In 2008, PBNI established the Inspire Women's Project, initially funded as a pilot, to deliver gender informed community supervision and interventions to women subject to Probation supervision. 'Inspire' comprised a separate Belfast Probation premises, with a dedicated Belfast based team of female Probation Officers, supported by PBNI (and other) funded services from the Community and Voluntary sector.
 - In 2021 the Inspire building was closed, for budgetary reasons, and a dedicated, geographically distributed Inspire team of Probation Officers continued, with a dispersal model adopted under the line management of a dedicated Area Manager.
 - The model is supported by a dedicated Women's Champion, at Area Manager grade, whose role is to support quality practice, consistent operational delivery and staff well-being through the Inspire staff forums. The role based within Hydebank Wood College also provides oversight and consistency of transition of women service users from custody to community.

4.3 PBNI Update (Cont'd)

- Transition of young women from YJA to PBNI – this guidance has been developed in collaboration between PBNI and the Youth Justice 4.3 PBNI Update (Cont'd)
- Agency (YJA). The purpose is to provide effective working protocols between PBNI and YJA for young women who transition from youth to adult criminal justice supervision. This will ensure tailored support and pathways which are gender responsive and trauma informed, recognising the importance of building an effective working relationship with the PS/PSO.
- Prevalence – Trends over the past five years show that the numbers of female service users supervised by PBNI have remained relatively consistent: 2024, 10.9% of PBNI's caseload were female (464).

4.4 Update from Mr C Stitt, NIHE

Mr C Stitt provided an update as follows:

ASB

- One new case in the past month.
- 30 ASB cases reported from 1st April 2025.
- Strong belief that ASB is under-reported.
- Beechland – recent incidents – reported in the media.
 - Two households causing problems following the Christmas period.
 - NIHE staff and PSNI are fully aware of the residents involved.
 - Meet with the PSNI on a regular basis to discuss issues of concern.
 - Met earlier to specifically talk about this matter – collaborative working to address the ASB issues.
 - We intend to act on the evidence we have obtained.
 - Thank the PSNI for their assistance.
 - Weekly peaceful protests involving local residents are continuing (PSNI no longer present – Lisburn SAFE are in attendance).

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/good communication channels.

Christmas Period

- Relatively quiet period – no major incidents to report.
- Homeless/Rough Sleepers
 - Please can you advise NIHE if you become aware of any rough sleepers in the area.
 - Pleased to say that no reported Rough sleepers in Lisburn City Centre over the Christmas period.
 - We continue to keep a register to ensure that each individual is being provided with the necessary support during the winter period.

4.4 NIHE Update (Cont'd)

Business Update

- Response Maintenance
 - Significant backlogs still exist – reducing slowly.
 - Challenging environment – lack of skilled operatives in the sector. Increasing cost of materials.
- COT's – December reports 220 relets this financial year (only 20 in December due to reduction in working days and some tenants' reluctance to move in close to Christmas).
 - Expect to see a much-improved number this month – already exceeded last month's total.
- Planned Maintenance (Schemes)
 - Healthy Programme – feedback re scheme delivery, performance etc extremely good.
- Tower Blocks – Seymour Hill
 - Demolition Contractor appointed.
 - Pre-start meeting completed.
 - Contractor to begin works on 26th January 2026
 - Estimate time of completion – 60 to 78 weeks.
 - Community Group consulted and were invited on site to be informed of the plans/schedule of works.
 - Plan to keep the community involved of the programme progress throughout each stage of the process.

Housing Liaison Forum:

- Attended the second meeting of the Forum
 - Welcomed the meeting being re-instated in the calendar under the Chairship of our Lord Mayor who is passionate about housing.
 - Look forward to further participation with the Forum.

Questions to the Housing Executive

In response to queries from Members regarding contractor not advising tenants, anti-social behaviour in the Beechland area, re-housing and demolition in Tower Block, Seymour Hill, Mr C Stitt advised that:

- It is important that it is brought to the attention of the NIHE when contractors are not advising tenants or not turning up so that the NIHE can bring this forward to a meeting with the contractor.
- Unfortunately, there was no timeframe as to when the ASB problem in the Beechland area would be resolved, and that the NIHE were working closely with the PSNI, and were confident that significant evidence was being gathered to enable progress towards a resolution as quickly as possible.
- Some residents had moved out of the Tower Block and were in alternative accommodation.
- A site meeting was held to which the community had been invited where they were given an update on the demolition process and a timeframe for the work to be completed.

Councillors D Lynch and S Lowry left the meeting during this item of business (7.11 pm and 8.02 pm respectively)

5. Presentations on Road Safety

5.1 Deputy Principal Philip Mawhinney, NI Road Safety Partnership

During his presentation, Deputy Principal Philip Mawhinney, reported the following:

- Throughout Northern Ireland there are over 100 permanent sites for speed vans and 300 community concern sites where members of the public, local councillors or local police raise a concern regarding speeding motorists.
- In 2024 there were 86,000 people caught speeding and this increased during 2025.
- There is an option to undertake a speed awareness course, go to court or pay a fine and receive penalty points.
- DFI are currently reviewing the cost of fines.
- The NI Road Safety Partnership provide funding for advertising regarding speed and also for Road Safe Roadshows.
- There are 20 sites in Lisburn with a potential for more.
- During 2024 in Lisburn and Castlereagh speed vans were deployed 562 times on 21 sites and 6,572 motorists were caught speeding.
- From January – October 2025, speed vans were deployed 585 times on 20 sites and 5,500 people were caught speeding.

Following questions from the Partnership regarding black boxes, positioning of speed vans, speed indicator devices, changes to drink driving limit, 20mph zones, driver behaviour, tv adverts and operational hours, Deputy Principal Philip Mawhinney and Chief Inspector Celest Simpson, PSNI Road Policing, responded as follows:

- A full review of deployment strategy and how to deploy in the future is being carried out.
- The NI Road Safety Partnership, DOJ, Policing Board and the PCSP are holding meetings to discuss the deployment of SIDs.
- The PSNI would be supportive of the drink driving limit being lowered.
- Overall, the 20mph zones have been successful.
- A lot of media platforms are used to relay road safety messages.
- All statistical information is available on the website and is broken down into age categories.
- PSNI Traffic Management Officers work closely with DFI in all aspects of road safety.
- Speed indicator devices can pick up speed within a half mile radius.

Mrs A Playford wanted to put on record that, in her experience, drivers do not pay enough attention to pedestrians.

5. Presentations on Road Safety (Cont'd)

In response to a query from Mr D Cairns regarding the DFI consultation on road safety, the PCSP Officer advised that the PCSP would be taking part in the consultation, and when received it would be forwarded to the Partnership.

Mr D Drysdale left the meeting during this item of business (8.11 pm).

5.2 Chief Inspector Celeste Simpson, PSNI Road Policing

During her presentation, Chief Inspector Celeste Simpson, advised that everything that the Roads Policing Unit do is in conjunction with the fatal five campaign. A strategic road safety forum has been set up and in relation to that a data group including the fire service, ambulance service and other key stakeholders, who share information to maximise what to look at, along with analysts, to ensure the right place at the right time and the right location. In April there will be an 'Operation Spotlight' which will emphasise on seatbelts with a campaign to ensure everyone is wearing a seatbelt and to educate people on the importance of this. Prior to Christmas a 'Safe Vehicle Safe Journey' campaign was carried out, to inform and educate motorists that they have a responsibility to make sure they are safe on the road. Before the end of the financial year a kids' court will be held in each district to help combat speeding at schools.

Mr F Dubois, Chief Inspector C Simpson and Deputy Principal P Mawhinney left the meeting during this item of business (8.17 pm), as did Mr N Anderson (8.34 pm).

6. Report of the PCSP Officer

6.1 Delegated Authority for Low-Value PCSP Grants (Under £500)

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

Following comments from Members, the PCSP Officer agreed that any Member of the Partnership could gain access to any application for funding under £500.

It was proposed by Mr D Cairns, seconded by Mr G McClory, and agreed to approve the existing model whereby low-value funding requests, up to a maximum of £500, can be approved through delegated authority from the Chair and/or Vice-Chair in consultation with the PCSP Officer.

6.2 Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG)

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

It was agreed that the Partnership note this item of the report.

6.3 PSNI Local Policing Plan 2026-27

The PCSP Officer advised that Lisburn & Castlereagh PSNI have commenced their consultation process and are keen to obtain the views of the Partnership.

The Partnership agreed to note this item and to provide feedback to the District Commander.

6.4 Problem Solving in Partnership Awards 2025

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

It was agreed that the Partnership note this item of the report.

6.5 Applications for Funding under £500

The PCSP Officer outlined the detail of the undernoted project. It was proposed by Mrs Y Craig, seconded by Mrs A Playford, and agreed to approve the funding.

Group	Project	Amount Requested
PSNI and Women's Aid	To provide a Domestic Abuse Literature Library within Lisburn PSNI Station for use by PSNI Officers/staff/Women's Aid Domestic Liaison Officer	£500.00

6.6 Forthcoming Events

Members noted the following forthcoming events and were asked to attend where possible:

Date and Time	Event	Venue
22 January 2026 9.30am	PCSP Road Safety Sub-Group	Lagan Valley Island, Lisburn
17 February 2026 6.30pm	PCSP Private Policing Committee Meeting	Lagan Valley Island, Lisburn
6 March 2026 2pm – Post Primary School 8pm – Public Showing	'Wasted' – Two plays highlighting issues of EVAWG	Arts Studio, Lagan Valley Island, Lisburn
19 March 2026 7pm	PCSP Public Themed Meeting (EVAWG)	St Aiden's COI Hall, Belfast Road, Glenavy
20 March 2026 10-30am – 1.00pm	Women's Health and Wellbeing Event	Grove Activity Centre, Knockmore, Lisburn
21 March 2026 11am – 3pm	Grand Choice for Lisburn South	Elmwood Presbyterian Church Hall, Ballymacash, Lisburn

It was proposed by Councillor B Higginson, seconded by Mrs Y Craig, and agreed to accept the PCSP Officer's report.

7. Any Other Business

7.1 Rollout of Online Safety Events for Parents
Councillor C Kemp

In response to comments from Councillor C Kemp regarding the possibility of the rollout of online safety events for parents, the PCSP Officer advised that he would research suitable workshops to deliver this.

7.2 Laurelhill School – Tackling Trends
Mr D Cairns

In response to comments from Mr D Cairns regarding tackling trends at Laurelhill School, Chief Inspector Rocks advised that as part of BeeSafe there would be an online element delivered by the PSNI and that the police had been invited to Laurelhill School and would provide input where possible.

7.3 Social Supermarket Event
Councillor B Higginson

Councillor Higginson highlighted a Social Supermarket Event which will take place on Tuesday 27 January 2026 at 10.30am at Carryduff Community Church. Chief Inspector M Rocks requested that information regarding this event be sent to her.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 8.47 pm.

Acting Chairperson