

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 21 April 2026 at 6.34 pm

PRESENT: Councillor A Martin (Chairperson)
Councillor A Givan
Councillor B Higginson
Councillor J Lavery
Councillor S Lowry
Councillor M McKeever
Mr N Anderson
Mr D Cairns
Mr B Corr
Mrs Y Craig
Mr G McClory

PRESENT IN A REMOTE LOCATION: Councillor P Catney
Councillor C Kemp
Councillor T Mitchell
Mr D Drysdale
Mrs A Playford
Mr G Walker

IN ATTENDANCE: Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

PCSP Officer (JB)
Head of Communities and Wellbeing (VJ)
PCSP Assistant (AB)
Member Services Officers (EW and HB)

Designated Organisations

Chief Inspector M Rocks, PSNI
Mr J Crymble (EA)
Ms C Cullen (YJA) via Zoom
Mr P Beck (PBNI) via Zoom

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Ms J Davidson, Partnership Development Officer, DOJ
Gareth McCausland, Age Friendly Co-ordinator, LCCC
Nicole Johnston, South Eastern Connections Team
Fern Maxwell (Hollie Guard) via Zoom

Commencement of the Meeting

The Chairperson, Councillor A Martin, welcomed everyone to the private meeting of the PCSP. He also extended a warm welcome to Ms J Davidson, Partnership Development Officer from the Department of Justice.

1. Apologies

Apologies were accepted on behalf of Mr C Stitt, NIHE, and the Vice-Chairperson, Ms G McDonald.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes

Councillor C Kemp advised that in the minutes of the Private Meeting held on 20 January 2026 at 7.1 that the word 'teenagers' should be replaced by 'parents'.

It was proposed by Mrs Y Craig, seconded by Councillor S Lowry, and agreed that the minutes of the Private Meeting held on 20 January 2026, the minutes of the Private Policing Committee Meeting held on 17 February 2026, and the minutes of the Public Meeting held on 19 March 2026, be adopted.

4. Presentations

4.1 Rapid Drug Bins

Mr D Drysdale and Councillor D Lynch joined the meeting via zoom during this item of business (6.45 pm and 7.00 pm respectively).

Nicole Johnston introduced herself and advised that she works for South-Eastern Drug and Alcohol Connections Team through ASCERT and delivered this presentation.

Nicole advised that Rapid Drugs Bins were used for the removal of all prescription and illegal drugs and is a community led safety focus initiative and regional across Northern Ireland. It is a multi-agency partnership involving the PSNI who lead on the risk assessment and safety of the initiative, the PCSP who finance the bins and play a lead role in community consultation, the South-Eastern Drugs and Alcohol Connections Team who play a role in all the processes and hold a quarterly meeting for all the partners and the Public Health Agency who fund the scheme and are a partner also.

The Connections role is as follows:

- Coordination within the partnerships.
- Community engagement/awareness.
- Information and signposting.
- Education support.
- Identifying emerging trends and needs.

Nicole went on to advise what is expected to find in Rapid Drug Bins which would be illegal drugs, prescription drugs and unknown tablets.

There are currently five bins in the Lisburn and Castlereagh area, and there are plans for two more. The Connections and the police go out together to empty

4.1 Rapid Drug Bins Cont'd)

the bins every four to six weeks and the contents taken to the police station, and once bagged up taken to the designated pharmacy which is then documented and put onto a database and shared with the Public Health Agency.

The most common substances taken from the bins are Gabapentin used for nerve pain and epilepsy, Amitriptyline which is an antidepressant, Simvastatin which is cholesterol medication, prescription Codeine and Chlorpromazine which is an anti-psychotic medication.

In response to questions from Members around the security of the bin, criteria involved to get a bin, presentations at high school level, safeguarding, access to bins, problems with needles being dumped, and increased figures, Nicole advised:

- The bins are designed by Safeguard Solutions, are made of metal and cannot be broken into.
- Anyone can apply and express an interest in getting a bin so that the process can move forward.
- Awareness sessions are delivered to schools, colleges and universities.
- PSNI accompany and assess risk.
- On the website there is a link to find the nearest bins and directions to same, also a QR code.
- Recommend that needles and sharps are not put into bins and advise of where to dispose.
- In the last year contents from bins were up by 60%.

In response to a query about the bin situated in Dundonald, Nicole advised that there were still deposits being put into the bin, and the PCSP Officer advised that at a future meeting he would provide a breakdown of the contents in each bin.

4.2 Dementia Safe-Guarding Scheme

Councillor D Lynch left the meeting during this item of business (7.15 pm).

Gareth McCausland, Age Friendly Co-ordinator, LCCC, introduced himself and advised that he would present the Dementia Safeguarding Scheme, which the PCSP funded. There is an Age Friendly Action Plan which is renewed every three years. Dementia sits under Strategic Priority 4 under Staying Involved which is about participating in leisure, social, cultural and volunteering activities in the community, that allows an ageing population to continue to exercise their independence, feel safe and to ensure they live with dignity and respect.

Supporting Outcomes:

Develop Dementia Friendly Lisburn and Castlereagh through the Dementia Friendly Partnership, which is made up of the Council, the Trust, Alzheimer's Society Dementia NI. Enhance visibility and raise awareness through Dementia Awareness Week each year in the local community and within local businesses.

4.2 Dementia Safe-Guarding Scheme (Cont'd)

Lisburn and Castlereagh is a Dementia Friendly council area where people living with dementia are visible and stigma around dementia is reduced. There are currently over 22,000 people living with dementia in Northern Ireland.

The Dementia Safeguarding Scheme provides wristbands and hand tags, which provide vital emergency details and ensure safety and peace of mind. The Safeguarding Scheme builds on the success of the Herbert Protocol which the PSNI roll out, which is designed to help and safely return people with dementia. With the combination of the Herbert Protocol and the Dementia Safeguarding Scheme it offers a wraparound support to people living with dementia.

Gareth then presented a video on the Dementia Safeguarding Scheme to the Partnership.

In response to questions from Members about what is being done to promote the wristbands, how many Herbert Protocols within the district are recorded, data collection point, safety of data collection, and Power of Attorney, Gareth and Chief Inspector M Rocks advised:

- In terms of promoting the Scheme it has gone out citywide, a social media campaign, talks in community groups and public events.
- Would find out how many Herbert Protocols operate in the area.
- Details of all carers who have registered for a band or wearable device can be contacted every six to 12 months to find out if the band has been used in order to collect data.
- The information on the tags holds the contact details of the nominated family member or carer, and does not hold any personal information.
- It is an opt-in service relying on family members to have the best interests of their loved ones.
- Would look into Power of Attorney to find out more.

4.3 Hollie Guard App

Fern Maxwell introduced herself and advised that she was from a company called Hollie Guard and worked in partnership with the Hollie Gazzard Trust and would deliver this presentation via Zoom.

The Hollie Guard app was built off the back of the very unfortunate murder of Hollie Gazzard in 2014. Her father created the charity Hollie Gazzard Trust and then spoke with Hollie Guard to create an app to help support victims of domestic violence.

Fern then shared her screen with the Partnership via Zoom and advised the following about the Hollie Guard app:

- The main purpose of the app is to allow the victim to raise an alert as easily and discreetly as possible.
- A couple of ways to raise an alert are by holding down the panic button or shaking the phone, which works even if the phone is locked.

4.3 Hollie Guard App (Cont'd)

- Accident detection where upon impact an alert is raised.
- When an alert is raised the app will access the camera and microphone and essentially starts recording.
- The alert is sent directly to trusted family or friends who then receive a text to say an alarm has been raised and can click on a link to capture footage in real time.
- The most important thing is that all of the footage and the victim's location is immediately sent to a 24/7 monitoring centre and if police intervention is required this can be sent through to police.
- There are other features on the app which include Journey and a Meeting Timer.
- Hollie Guard is not just a response app; it is there for the victim's peace of mind.
- There is a mask mode which can be either a calculator or weather app.
- There was a case in Humberside where a user was in a domestic violence relationship and used the app to raise an alert on Hollie Guard which captured all the footage of the entire altercation. The monitoring centre received the alert and immediately patched it through to Humberside Police. The victim was safeguarded and the evidence recorded on Hollie Guard was a sole piece of evidence used in Grimsby Crown Court which led to a 22-month prosecution for the perpetrator.

In response to questions from Members around what plans are in place to roll out the app, how long before real results are seen, victims asked to put together app, evidence allowed in court, option through the app to record, internet connection, data tracking and hacking, and IOS phones, Fern advised the following:

- Have to be careful how the app is advertised, but happy to facilitate at meetings.
- Data is collected and can pinpoint where Hollie Guard alerts were most prominent.
- The app was created by Nick Gazzard, the father of Hollie Gazzard, who was unfortunately murdered in 2014.
- Any victim feedback is incorporated back into the app.
- There is a stopwatch feature called timer and if the phone runs out of battery or loses signal the alert will still be raised when the timer reaches zero.
- All evidence exported through the app is in the correct format to be used in court.
- There is a '+' icon on the app which allows the victim to record incidents.
- Internet connection is required, but if the timer feature is activated it will raise an alert if signal is lost.
- In order to log into the app you need to use biometrics or a four-digit pin.
- Widgets were introduced to enable alerts to be raised on IOS phones.

5. 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:

5.1 PSNI Update

Chief Inspector Megan Rocks advised the Partnership that Superintendent Kelly Moore had been temporarily promoted to Chief Superintendent of the North area.

She then provided an update on the following:

- The difference between the free and paid for version of the Hollie Guard app is that the paid for user gets 24/7 access to the contact centre and the free app which is available to any member of the public of any age has all the other features.
- The full paid for version is £79.99 per year, the PCSP have funded 30 paid for versions with PSNI managing the allocation of the apps and the data in relation to the usage.
- Overall, a 4% crime reduction rate in Lisburn and Castlereagh, but an 8% increase in anti-social behaviour.
- A decrease in reported domestic abuse and hate crime.
- An increase in sexual crime, primarily teenagers.
- A number of arrests were made for small business and residential burglaries.
- Two arrests made in Lisburn by organised crime department in relation to wide scale illegal money lending.
- Continue to have a high number of drink/drug driving arrests.
- Two fatalities this year, one female pedestrian and a male driver, and a number of serious injury collisions.
- Managed fuel protests around Sprucefield.
- Planning for a number of events in May, Lord Mayor's Parade on 9th, Balmoral Show 13th-16th, and also a number of parades

Questions to the PSNI

In response to queries from Members regarding the Hollie Guard app, drink driving, and sexual crime increase, Chief Inspector Megan Rocks advised the following:

- The Hollie Guard app has a mask mode, either a calculator or a weather app and also a duress pin. The cost is £79.99 per annum, therefore averaging a couple per month being allocated to victims of medium risk, stalking and femicide.
- On average there would be between 15 and 20 drink/drug related driving offences.
- The increase in sexual crime is mainly online facilitated by Smart phones, social media or gaming.

Questions to the PSNI (Cont'd)

Councillor M McKeever commented on the recent PCSP Public Meeting held in Glenavy, and asked that thanks from the Partnership be passed on to Inspector Sam Davidson for his presentation on the night.

Councillor P Catney commented on the recent break-ins and burglaries, and wished to convey his thanks to the PSNI team on a job well done.

5.2 Update from the Education Authority – Johnny Crymble

Ballybeen Young Men's Project

10 young males aged 16-17 have taken part in a weekly programme in Ballybeen, exploring toxic masculinity, young men and social media and making a positive contribution to the community. The group are almost completed a graffiti mural on a wall within Ballybeen estate and will finish their programme with a trip to airsoft this month.

Laurelhill Junior Youth Club

A new Junior Youth Club programme has started on Thursday evenings in Laurelhill Youth Centre with mostly p6 and p7 young people attending from surrounding primary schools. A small group of p7s have been working on a transitions programme as part of this session, helping to prepare them for the move to secondary school in September.

Lisburn and Castlereagh Youth Council

Young people on the programme have been exploring the UNCRC and exploring issues for young people across the borough as they prepare to move onto the next part of their programme, identifying themes for their campaigns and hosting elections for officer bearer roles within the group. The young people also attended a 'Meet the Councillors' event in Lisburn, giving the group the opportunity to ask elected members questions about their role and share their views on key issues for young people.

Coming up in the next few months:

Lisburn and Castlereagh Horizons – Social Enterprise

Young people from both Horizons groups will be joining young people on the programme from right across Northern Ireland at a 'Young Changemakers' Event in May, promoting and selling products to members of the public in Grand Central Station in Belfast. The groups will be selling products like mugs, tote bags and fidget toys which they have designed over the past few weeks. The money raised from the Lisburn group will be donated to Aware NI and the money from the Castlereagh group will be donated to Simon Community.

Divisional Interclub Programme

Young people from Lisburn Area Project, Castlereagh Area Project and Brooklands YC will be joining their peers from other projects across the Ards and North Down area on a summer interclub camp in August. 10 young people aged 11-14 from each project will be attending as

Education Authority Update (Cont'd)

campers, with a separate group of 12 older young people from right across the division acting as peer leaders and providing support to staff. Young people from each project will take part in a preparatory programme to get them ready to fully engage in the camp experience.

Mr J Crymble advised the Partnership that he was moving to the Mid and East Antrim area for the next three months, and that Chris Mason who is a Team Leader would be acting up to his role in his absence.

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

Councillor T Mitchell left the meeting during this item of business (8.15 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.
- Workload, CS numbers are down.

Community Services

- Always looking for more projects to be involved in and welcome ideas/suggestions – alleyway tidy-ups, painting etc.
- Helping Lisburn and Castlereagh Council, helping with bio-diversity scheme, bird box and bat boxes. Lisburn towpath. 120 bird boxes to complete for Mayor's Day, early May. The theme is "the city that sees everyone" akin to what community service is trying to achieve, rehabilitation.
- Continuing with biodiversity theme and educating our service users, work in Hillsborough Castle continues.
- Maghaberry Community Centre, gardens, litter picking locally. Hoping to cook meals for pensioners upcoming dances.
- Some local churches are coming on board soon for general maintenance work.

Key Themes

- Trauma informed practice- PBNI have set up a trauma implementation group which is focused on how we apply trauma informed practice both with our staff, towards others and those we work with. Since this group has been set up there have been several developments including policy revisions being steeped on trauma informed practice and an interview room being reviewed to become more visually trauma informed e.g. paint colour etc.
- Service user involvement Groups.
- There is now a strong and growing evidence base both internationally and locally, demonstrating that involving service users in the design and

PBNI Update (Cont'd)

delivery of probation services leads to better engagement, stronger rehabilitation outcomes, and increased desistance from offending.

- Service User Involvement Strategy 2025-2030.
- CONNECT Service Newsletter released quarterly.
- Production company Double Band - Carl Frampton is narrating a documentary on probation, which will be televised on BBC towards the end of May and in the last week of May there will be a probation documentary with probation officers and community services staff from the Lisburn office taking part.

5.5 Update from Youth Justice Agency – Catriona Cullen

In terms of update all business operations are proceeding as normal. We had an Art project running with young people from the Eastern area in February and March. The use of art offered an alternative medium to foster engagement and participation. This was facilitated by a local artist Susanna Banks and Youth Justice practitioner Nicola Thompson. The artwork designed comprised of individual pieces looking at the theme of identity and sense of place/home. The overall artwork is placed on Irish Linen produced in Northern Ireland. A local unveiling took place with young people on 31st March at the Eastern area office. The artwork in addition to pieces from the Belfast area will be displayed 21st May to 30th June Monday-Friday 9-4pm at PRONI 2 Titanic Boulevard, Belfast. We welcome attendance. A couple of young people have completed the CSI card funded by the Agency as part of their intervention. There has been an increase in referrals for inappropriate images from young people sharing via mobile phone. The Youth Diversion Officers have a scheme called Sexting where concerns can be raised.

5.6 Update from Mr C Stitt, NIHE

Mr C Stitt couldn't attend the meeting, but he provided an update via email, which the Chair, Councillor A Martin, verbally updated the Partnership with, as follows:

ASB

- Three new cases in the past month.
- 46 ASB cases recorded from 1st April 2025 until 31st March 2026.
- Strong belief that ASB is under-reported.
- Recent incidents
 - Beechland
 - Remains under review.
 - Become more settled recently.
 - Currently actively progressing existing ASB cases with our Legal Team.
 - Seymour Hill
 - Isolated incidents – youths causing ASB in the area.
 - Concerns over management of Bonfire this year.
 - Glenmore Flats
 - Patch manager currently investigating some reported incidents.

NIHE Update (Cont'd)

- 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/good communication channels.

Bonfires

- First Bonfire Inter-Agency Meeting was held on Tuesday 14th April.
- We have our Estate Warden staff regularly visiting each of the Bonfire sites positioned on NIHE land within Lisburn and Castlereagh area.
- 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.
- Beacon
 - Two areas have declared their preference to have a Beacon this year.
 - Milltown and Killynure.
 - Working closely with both groups to assist with the completion of their applications.

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(Change of Tenancy)
 - 300 COT's completed during 2025/26.
- Planned Maintenance (Schemes)
 - Healthy Programme – feedback re: scheme delivery, performance etc. extremely good.
- Tower Blocks – Seymour Hill
 - Demolition progressing well.
 - No issues to report.

6. Report of the PCSP Officer

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

6.1 Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG)

In response to comments from Mr N Anderson regarding how the framing of boys was presented, the PCSP Officer advised that there was an array of initiatives

6.1 Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG) (Cont'd)

and projects running to include both male and female participants and they were proving to be very successful.

The Partnership noted the presentation on the Hollie Guard App and the various initiatives supporting the EVAWG framework.

6.2 Road Safety Update

Mr G Walker and Mr D Drysdale left the meeting during this item of business (8.40 pm and 8.50 pm respectively).

Following a lengthy discussion around speeding at Crossnacreevy, Councillor J Lavery requested that a breakdown of speeding operations in the recent past and in the immediate future of the Road Safety Partnership vehicle be established. It was proposed by Councillor Lowry, seconded by Mr G McClory, and agreed to approve the recommendations of the Road Safety Sub-group, and also to note the speed indicator device results and the draft consultation response to DfI Speed Limits Consultation.

6.3 Participatory Budgeting (Grand Choice) Update

The PCSP Officer updated the Partnership on the Lisburn South Grand Choice event and results, and advised that the next Grand Choice would be held in the Lisburn North area.

Following comments from Councillor J Lavery regarding the number of groups applying for funding, the PCSP Officer advised that 17 groups had applied which, he agreed, was a smaller number than usual. Unfortunately two groups had to withdraw at the last minute, but he anticipated a larger number of groups applying in the Lisburn North DEA and was hopeful for a good turnout of voters.

The Partnership noted this information.

6.4 Project Support Programme 2026-2027 – Proposed Time Scales

The PCSP Officer advised the Partnership of the proposed time scales for delivery of the Project Support Programme 2026-2027 which are as follows:

Wednesday 22 April 2026	Launch of Project Support Programme
Friday 29 May 2026	Closing date for applications
Wednesday 3 June 2026	Assessment meeting – panel to comprise Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson plus 2 PCSP Members (one Elected and one Independent) and PSNI

Tuesday 16 June 2026	PCSP to approve recommendations of the Assessment Panel
Monday 22 June 2026	Notification to applicants
Friday 26 February 2027	Completion of projects and monitoring/evaluation details submitted to PCSP

It was proposed by Mrs Y Craig, seconded by Councillor A Givan, and agreed to approve the proposed timeline for delivery of the Project Support Programme 2026-2027.

It was proposed by Mrs Y Craig, seconded by Councillor A Givan, and agreed that, Councillor P Catney and Mr N Anderson would sit on the assessment panel alongside the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson.

6.5 The 2026 Community Panning Survey is now open!

The PCSP Officer advised that the 2026 Community Policing Survey is now open and will run until Sunday 24 May 2026 and can be accessed by visiting consultations.nidirect.gov.uk/dojnipb-community-policing-2026/

The Partnership noted this information.

6.6 Applications for Funding Over £500

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

Group	Project	Amount Requested	Appendix
PSNI & Women's Aid	To provide One Stop Shops April – June 2026	£850.00	Appendix 6
Downshire Primary School, Hillsborough	Internet Safety Workshops – April 2026	£1,350.00	Appendix 7

It was proposed by Councillor J Laverty, seconded by Mr G McClory, and agreed to approve these applications.

6.7 Applications for Funding Under £500

The PCSP Officer advised the Partnership that the following funding application for a project under £500 had been received:

Organisation	Project	Amount Requested
PSNI & Lisburn South	Project – “Who let the Dads out” initiative to support dads and their children with	£350.00

Community Church	overcoming major issues in the local community	
-------------------------	--	--

6.7 Applications for Funding Under £500 (Cont'd)

It was proposed by Mrs Y Craig, seconded by Councillor A Givan, and agreed to approve the application.

6.8 Balmoral Show

The PCSP Officer advised the Partnership that the PCSP will participate in the Community Safety Marquee at the Balmoral Show (13-16 May 2026), alongside other PCSPs (Fermanagh & Omagh, Antrim & Newtownabbey), PSNI, Women's Aid, DOJ's Serious and Organised Crime Unit, and the Northern Ireland Policing Board.

The Partnership noted this information.

6.9 Problem Solving in Partnership Awards 2026 – Update

The PCSP Officer advised the Partnership that an application which had been submitted to the PSNI Problem Solving awards on behalf of the PSNI and the PCSP was highly commended in supporting the Chinese and Asian Communities, resulting in achieving third place.

The Partnership noted this information.

6.10 Forthcoming Events

The PCSP Officer advised the Partnership of the following forthcoming events:

Date	Event	Location
19 May 2026	PCSP Private Meeting	LVI
13-16 May 2026	Community Safety Marquee	Balmoral Show
16 June 2026	PCSP Policing Committee 12 Month Meeting in Public	Castlereagh

The Partnership noted this information.

6.11 PCSP Schedule of Meetings 226-2027

The PCSP Officer advised the Partnership of the schedule of PCSP meetings for the 2026/2027 year.

The Partnership noted this information.

7. Any Other Business

7.1 Addiction in Northern Ireland
Mr N Anderson

Mr N Anderson commented that he had spoken with a couple of groups who dealt with addiction, namely Stauros and Team Challenge, and suggested that

7.1 Addiction in Northern Ireland (Cont'd)

it may be a good idea if they present to the Partnership. The PCSP Officer noted this.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 9.24 pm.

Chairperson