

**LISBURN AND CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL**

**Public Themed Meeting of the Policing and Community Safety Partnership,  
held in St Aidan's Church Hall, Glenavy on Thursday 19 March 2026 at 7.00 pm**

**PRESENT:**

Councillor A Martin (Chairperson)  
Mr D Cairns  
Councillor P Catney  
Mr B Corr  
Ms G McDonald (Vice-Chairperson)  
Councillor A Givan  
Councillor M McKeever  
Mr G Walker

**OTHER MEMBERS IN  
ATTENDANCE:**

Councillor G McCleave

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

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

**Designated Organisations**

Superintendent K Moore, PSNI  
Chief Inspector M Rocks, PSNI  
Inspector Danielle Burke  
Inspector S Davidson, PSNI  
C Stitt, NIHE

**Commencement of the Meeting**

The Chairperson, Councillor A Martin, welcomed those present to the Public Themed Meeting on 'Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG)' which was launched by the Executive Office in September 2024 and designed to bring together a whole society and government response to address this issue which impacts the lives of far too many women and girls across our society. The main focus of the strategy is prevention and to support those organisations working to prevent and challenge the attitudes, behaviours and culture that can lead to violence against women and girls. Councillor A Martin continued by saying there would be presentations by the PSNI, Women's Aid, the Irish Football Association and Lisburn YMCA. He also stated that there were a number of information stalls around the room represented by Rape Crisis NI, Women's Aid, Victim Support NI, Atlas Women's Centre, South Eastern Connections, Assist NI, IFA, PSNI and PCSP. He then welcomed Superintendent K Moore, District Commander for Lisburn and Castlereagh.

Superintendent K Moore introduced herself and said that the PSNI Officers accompanying her were Chief Inspector M Rocks, Inspector S Davidson and the Lisburn Rural Neighbourhood Team – Inspector D Burke, Sergeant P Marsh and

Constables R Wilson and F Connelly. She then went on to advise that this was the first year of the EVAWG Action Plan, and the main focus was on four Ps:

- Pursuing – Relentless commitment to tackle abuse.
- Preventing – The need to change attitudes.
- Protecting – Supporting individuals of domestic abuse.
- Preparing – Making sure of the right culture and skills.

It was noted that apologies had been received from Councillors C Kemp, S Lowry and D Lynch, Mr D Drysdale, Mr G McClory and Mr J Crymble (EA).

The following PowerPoint presentations were received:

**Inspector Sam Davidson, PSNI:**

**Violence Against Women and Girls or Domestic Abuse?**

- Related, but not the same.
- Domestic Abuse requires familial or intimate relationship and can be perpetrated against male victims.
- The term 'violence against women and girls' refers to acts of violence or abuse that we know disproportionately affect women and girls. Crimes and behaviour covered by this term include rape and other sexual offences, domestic abuse, stalking, 'honour-based abuse (including female genital mutilation, forced marriage, and 'honour' killings), as well as many others, including offences committed online'.

**Local Policing Plan 2026-2027**

**Performance Indicator** – Effectiveness in tackling Violence Against Women and Girls.

**Performance Measures:**

- Number of reported incidents of violence against women and girls in Lisburn and Castlereagh
- Arrest and outcome rates for offences related to violence against women and girls.
- Work in respect to VAWG including bespoke event during 2026-2027.
- Repeat offender rates relevant to VAWG.

**Stalking and Abusive Behaviour**

- Protection from Stalking Act (NI) 2022

**FOUR – Fixated, Obsessive, Unwanted, Repeated**

- Examples – Following, contacting, monitoring online activity, spyware and surveillance, loitering, leaving unwanted gifts, staking family/friends, making vexatious complaints, threatening suicide or self-harm.

**Non-Fatal Strangulation and Asphyxiation**

- Section 28, Justice (Sexual Offences and Trafficking Victims) Act (NI) 2022.
- Applying pressure on or to the throat or neck of another person; or
- Doing something to the victim amounting to battery; and
- Committing the act with the intention or recklessness to affect the victim's ability to breathe or the blood flow to the victim's brain.
- Examples – Manual strangulation, chokehold or headlock, hanging, smothering, drowning.

**New Domestic Abuse Offence**

**Section 1, Domestic Abuse and Civil Proceedings Act (NI) 2021**

**What constitutes abusive behaviour?**

Under Section 2 of the Act, a non-exhaustive list of abusive behaviours includes:

- Behaviour that is violent (this includes physical and sexual violence).

- Behaviour that is threatening or intimidating.

### **PSNI (Cont'd)**

- Behaviour that is directed at the victim, a child (a person under 18 years of age) of the victim or any other person that has as its purpose one or more of the relevant effects:
  - Making the victim feel dependent or subordinate to the offender.
  - Isolating the victim from friends/relatives/sources of social interaction and support.
  - Controlling, regulating or monitoring the victim's day to day activities.
  - Depriving the victim of or restricting their freedom of action.
  - Making the victim feel frightened, humiliated, punished or intimidated.

### Coercive Control

- Domestic Abuse - Physical, verbal, as a parent, technological, sexual, financial.

### Safeguarding and Support

- DASH Form (Domestic Abuse Stalking and Harassment and Honour-Based Violence).
- Partner Referrals.
- Support Hub.
- Op Encompass.
- DVADS – Domestic Violence and Abuse Disclosure Scheme.

### Partnership Working

- Multi-agency approach – statutory and non-statutory partners.
- Safe Place – February 2011.
- Signposting.
- Social Services Men's Advisory Project, Rainbow, Victim Support, Nexus, The Rowan, NSPCC, Northern Ireland Prison Service, PBNI, NIHE, HSC Trusts, other Police Services, PPS, Education Authority, PCSP, DOJ, NICTS etc.

### Operation Encompass

- In every force. In every school. For every child.

### Local Initiatives

- Refreshed training for all frontline officers from Women's Aid.
- Improved processes for referrals to Women's Aid.
- Literature Library funded by PCSP.
- HollieGuard App.
- One Stop Shops.
- EVAWG through an LGBTQIA + Lens training from HEReNI.
- Womn's Walks.
- Professor Jane Monckton-Smith – Homicide Timeline.

### **Ms Siobhan Graham, Women's Aid**

#### Women's Aid Federation NI definition:

- "Domestic Violence is the intentional and persistent physical or emotional abuse of a woman or a woman and her children in a way that causes pain, distress or injury."

#### Women and Domestic Violence in NI Women's Aid (2024-2025)

- 524 women stayed in refuges through NI.
- 264 children were living in refuge with their mothers.

- Six babies were born while their mothers were in refuge.
- 304 women received support while pregnant.

### Women's Aid (Cont'd)

- 8,393 referrals were made to Women's Aid services.
- 5,810 women received support while living in their homes.
- 5,354 children had their mothers support in Women's Aid services.

### Myths and Reality of Domestic Violence:

- Alcohol
- Mental health/illness
- Working class problem
- Embarrassing but not really dangerous
- Weakness/anger management

### Why does this happen?

- Power and control
- Dominance and ownership
- Belief in rights of sexual entitlement

### Types of Domestic Abuse:

- Physical, Emotional, Financial Sexual, As a mother, Technology-facilitated abuse.

### Why Doesn't She Just Leave?

- Violence and intimidation.
- Threats and blackmail.
- Lack of support.
- Stigma/shame.
- Not being believed.
- Not being able to cope.
- Fear of losing children and family life.
- Status.
- Home.
- Financial dependency,
- Love.
- Children don't want to leave.
- Religion/faith/culture.

### Women's Aid Services:

- Refuge – 24-hour crisis accommodation.
- Outreach/Floating Support.
- One to one support.
- Group work.
- Court Support.
- One Stop Shop.
- Children and Young People's support.
- Prevention Programmes in schools/youth groups.
- Support Workers within the PSNI.
- Younger Women's Project.
- Volunteering.
- Training and Awareness.

### Art Therapy as an Additional Tool for Survivors:

- We know that trauma can leave women with memories that are unspeakable.

- We also know that traumatic memories are stored visually rather than verbally.

### **Women's Aid** (Cont'd)

- Recovery from abuse often depends on verbal recall of events that can retraumatise the women we work with.
- Art therapy offers us a safe, non-verbal way for survivors of domestic violence to express emotions, rebuild confidence and process trauma.

#### Helps Emotional Regulation:

- Creative expression helps reduce anxiety, increase emotional regulation and provide grounding techniques during recovery.

#### Helps Rebuilding Identity:

- Art activities support survivors in reclaiming self-identity, strengthening self-esteem and fostering empowerment after abuse.

In response to a question from a member of the public, regarding whether art therapy was delivered as a group or as an individual, Lydia Burnell (Art Therapy, Women's Aid) commented that this could be both, and that it was a massive step to put colour and marks on a page which provided a breakthrough to an unconscious mind and enabled the team to pick up what a conversation may have missed.

### **Mark Dennison and Nadine Murphy, Irish Football Association**

#### Fair Game – Promoting Respect, Equality and Healthy Relationships to End Violence Against Women and Girls

##### Fair Game Delivery:

- Young men 16+
- Ballymacash Rangers U16
- Ballymacash Rangers U18

##### Fair Game Content:

- Values – Who really are you?
- Healthy Relationships.
- Coercive Control.
- Empowering Social Bystanders.
- Feeling Safe.
- The Power to Change – PSNI.

##### Impact and Challenges:

- OBA (Outcomes Based Accountability).
- WANI (Women's Aid NI) Evaluation.
- Club buy-in.
- Parental Support.

### **Ms Jenny Magee, Lisburn YMCA**

#### Disrespect Programme

##### How it started ...

##### Idea:

- Clear issues nationally around misogyny and disrespectful behaviour in school age young people.
- Schools we are already engaged with struggling with severe behaviour issues related to these topics.

- Epidemic of chronic low self-worth, especially in girls, but also in boys that is both made worse by ad escalating this behaviour.

**Lisburn YMCA** (Cont'd)

Needs Assessment:

- Consultation process with staff and young people in school and community groups to see if the issues reflected our assumptions:
- Schools and community groups both responded that if anything the issues were worse than those assumptions and this type of project would be welcomed.

Application:

- Given level of need and our experience writing and facilitating programmes with difficult subject matter and strong relationships with hosts we opted for Tier 3 in both LCCC an ANDC and were successful with both.

Then:

- Additional funds became available in LCCC, and we applied for Tier 2 to fill a gap in our original provision.

Making it happen:

- Programme development:
  - Key themes.
  - Content.
  - Co-production.
- Onboarding host groups:
  - Whole school year groups.
  - Community groups.
  - SERC and training organisations.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 8.37 pm and the Chair, Councillor A Martin, advised that everyone in attendance could avail of some light refreshments and visit the various stalls around the room.

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Chairperson