

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Policing and Community Safety Partnership
held remotely by zoom on Tuesday 21 September 2021 at 5.30 pm**

PRESENT:

Councillor M Guy (Chairperson)
Councillor N Anderson
Councillor A Ewing
Councillor A Gowan
Councillor J McCarthy
Councillor A McIntyre
Councillor R McLernon
Councillor S Skillen
Mr J Bentley
Ms G Conroy
Mrs Y Craig
Mr G Doran
Ms A Landa
Mrs P Leeson
Mr D McBurney
Ms A Twomey (Vice Chairperson)
Mrs P Yellamaty

IN ATTENDANCE:

Acting PCSP/Member Services Manager
PCSP Officer (JB)
PCSP Officer (SA)
Member Services Officer (PS)

Designated Organisations

Superintendent J Mullan, Police Service of Northern Ireland
Chief Inspector J Wilson, Police Service of Northern Ireland
Mr D Marley, Northern Ireland Housing Executive
Ms E Millar, Education Authority
Mr G Clifton, Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service
Ms J Harkness, Youth Justice Agency

Commencement of the Meeting

The Chairperson, Councillor M Guy, welcomed everyone to the meeting, which was being held via zoom due to the current Covid-19 restrictions. She then went on to congratulate the Vice-Chairperson, Ms A Twomey on her recent engagement.

1. **Apologies**

It was agreed to accept an apology for non-attendance at the meeting on behalf of Councillor H Legge and Councillor R Carlin.

(Ms A Twomey arrived at 5.35 pm).

2. Minutes

It was proposed by Councillor N Anderson, seconded by Mrs Y Craig and agreed by the Partnership that the following Minutes be confirmed and signed.

- Minutes of the Private Meeting of the PCSP held on 17 August, 2021

It was proposed by Councillor A McIntyre, seconded by Councillor N Anderson and agreed by the Partnership that the following Minutes be confirmed and signed.

- Minutes of the Policing Committee Meeting held on 17 August 2021

3. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

- Councillor S Skillen highlighted her involvement with Ballybeen Improvement Group and asked that her interest be noted in light of any items relating to it on the Agenda.

4. Report of the Acting PCSP/Member Services Manager

It was agreed that the report and recommendations of the Acting PCSP/Member Services Manager be adopted, subject to any decisions recorded below, and other items noted.

4.1 Road Safety Sub Group

Members had been provided with Minutes and other relevant documentation pertaining to the inaugural meeting of the Road Safety Sub-group held on 9 September 2021 and it was proposed by Mrs Y Craig, seconded by Councillor J McCarthy and agreed that the recommendations contained therein be approved.

Councillor S Skillen highlighted that there was no representation on the group from the Castlereagh East area. The Chairperson, Councillor M Guy responded that this had been discussed and she went on to suggest that this matter could be considered at the six month review stage and reminded that between now and then any decisions taken by the group would be coming to the Partnership for approval and issues could be raised then.

4.2 Part time 20 mph speed limits at schools

Members were advised that the Department for Infrastructure had contacted the Partnership on 26 August 2021 to advise that they would be switching on their part-time 20 mph speed limits at a number of schools in Lisburn:

Meadowbridge School
Rowandale School
Anahilt School
Maghaberry School
St Aloysius/St Patrick's Academy

Councillor S Skillen suggested Moneyreagh Primary School as another potential location and asked that the Department be contacted in relation to this suggestion.

It was agreed that the information circulated be noted.

4.3 Balmoral Show – 22-25 September 2021

A verbal update was provided by the PCSP Officer (JB) on the proposed programme. Members were advised that the event would take place on the dates indicated and that Lisburn & Castlereagh PCSP Officers would be joined by four other PCSPs, PSNI Crime Prevention, DoJ, Rural and Business Crime Partnership, NIPB and National Farmers Union Mutual at a Community Safety Stand at the event. They were advised of the conditions for entry and it was agreed that the information be noted and that members of the Partnership be encouraged to attend.

4.4 No Cold Calling Zones

A verbal update was provided by the PCSP Officer (JB). Members were advised that cold calling and rogue trading were activities which focus on some of the most vulnerable in society and that the PSNI worked closely with Trading Standards during any investigations in particular whilst dealing with rogue traders. They were advised that there were currently 10 No Cold Calling Zones across the borough and that within each zone, householders received a crime prevention pack and signage was erected. They were provided with information on the 10 areas included and it was agreed that the information be noted.

Councillor S Skillen thanked PSNI and PCSP officers for their work on this initiative and encouraged them to identify areas in Castlereagh.

Councillor N Anderson and the Chairperson, Councillor M Guy concurred and Superintendent J Mullan responded that PSNI were keen to develop the project.

4.5 Discarded Needles in Public Places

A verbal update was provided by the PCSP Officer (JB). Members were advised that PCSP Officers had been working with local communities, statutory organisations and council colleagues in identifying the dangers of discarded needles in public areas across the Council area and that there had recently been incidents where members of the public had discovered drug paraphernalia in play parks, sports grounds and around litter bins.

They were advised of the risks involved and it was highlighted that in response to concerns and consistent with the PCSP Action Plan 2021-22, Sharps Awareness Training had been sourced from ASCERT and that it was proposed to offer this training to local community groups, the Lisburn Drugs and Alcohol Forum, Outreach Detached teams operating across the area and weekends and frontline Council staff employed in parks and open space. The cost of the training would be £350 per session for up to 40 participants with two sessions available for

£600. It was proposed by Mrs Y Craig, seconded by Councillor MN Anderson and agreed that approval be granted for the above training sessions as outlined within the Report.

4.6 Justice (Sexual Offences and Trafficking Victims) Bill – Consultation

Members were advised that the above Bill was introduced into the Assembly on 5 July 2021 and that the Committee Stage of the Bill was due to commence this month.

They were also advised that the Committee for Justice had written to the Council on 28 July 2021 seeking views/comments on the content of the Bill with the closing date for responses being 24 September 2021. They were advised of the link to access the consultation and it was requested that any comments members may wish to have incorporated, over and above what was within the draft document, should be provided to the PCSP Manager at the meeting.

No comments were made.

4.7 Applications for Funding under £500

It was proposed by Councillor S Skillen, seconded by Councillor N Anderson and agreed by the Partnership that the following funding applications under £500 be approved.

PSNI Bike Safe – 11 September 2021 £173.50
PSNI ROU-SERC Course (Co funded with social services) £500.00
Magheragall BB – September 2021 – Engagement with PSNI - £222.62
Lagan College – September 2021 – Engagement with PSNI - £500.00
PSNI on behalf of Hill Street Residents – September 2021 - £500.00
PSNI on behalf of Killynure & Carryduff – September 2021 - £500.00
PSNI on behalf of Seymour Hill & Conway CA – October 2021 - £260.00

4.8 Grand Choice – Downshire West

Members had been advised that it was planned to launch the Grand Choice participatory budgeting competition in the Downshire West DEA on Monday 27 September 2021 and were provided with information on the proposed timeline of events. The PCSP/Members Services Manager updated that since the circulation of the reports it had been agreed that the voting event should be held on-line, due to Covid-19 restrictions. She outlined the impact on the time-line which would now mean that the on-line voting would open on 18 November 2021 and close on 3 December 2021 with the results being announced on 9 December 2021. She reassured that PCSP staff would provide as much support as possible to groups.

Councillor S Skillen said that she was supportive of this change to arrangements and asked those present to encourage residents in Downshire West to take part.

Councillor A Ewing said that he also agreed with the change to arrangements and asked if it would affect the numbers applying. The Acting PCSP/Members Services Manager responded that it should not however as much support as possible would be provided to groups.

It was agreed that the Partnership notes the above arrangements as advised.

4.9 Update from Statutory Organisations

Representatives from Statutory Organisations were invited to provide updates on the work of their respective organisations with regards to community safety priorities, the following updates were provided:

Update from Chief Inspector J Wilson, PSNI

Chief Inspector J Wilson advised that the picture had not changed significantly since his last update, there had been a 10% rise in overall crime. The main offences on the increase were sexual offences, shop-lifting and domestic violence. Anti-social behaviour has seen a 20% reduction on last year and officers had found that youths causing annoyance had reduced though there were still some ongoing issues and work was continuing with partners.

He stated that Neighbourhood teams had engaged with various schemes which had provided opportunities for relationship building. He outlined some of the events which had taken place.

Regarding crime and drugs, he advised that agri-crime was the current focus and leafleting via QR codes had taken place. Scams were an on-going concern and he gave a recent example, he advised that neighbourhood teams were progressing action against tackling drugs.

Superintendent J Mullan referred to drugs and encouraged the sharing of she highlighted burglaries and the importance of no calling zones in an effort to address it.

Update from Esther Millar, Education Authority

Ms Millar advised that Youth Services had a very busy summer, there had been eight weeks of provision and she advised that some additional funding had been provided, the key focus had been on mental health and wellbeing. She advised that detached work continued and confirmed that the numbers of young people out and about was less than in previous years.

She went on to outline a forthcoming initiative with street pastors and also highlighted the ongoing recruitment campaign for Lisburn & Castlereagh Youth Council Members and encouraged support for this from those present.

Update from Julie Harkness, Youth Justice Agency

Ms Harkness advised that work was steadily progressing, referrals from courts were ongoing and meetings were ongoing with partners to see how best to progress these. She updated that early stage intervention work was also ongoing and work within schools would be re-commencing soon.

Update from Des Marley, NI Housing Executive

Mr Marley updated on figures which were primarily related to neighbourhood disputes. He said that the recent period had been fairly smooth and advised that a partial return to the workplace was being planned, NIHE continued to work with other agencies.

(During the above updates Councillor A Ewing arrived at 5.47pm and Councillor A Gowan arrived at 5.58 pm and Mr G Clifton left at 5.55 pm).

5. Any Other Business

5.1 J Bentley
Standing Orders

Mr Bentley said he had attended a very successful PCSP event in Armagh recently and he asked whether PCSP Standing Orders could be circulated to members of the Partnership and possibly reviewed. The Acting PCSP /Members Services Manager said she would circulate Standing Orders by e-mail.

At this stage the Chairperson, Councillor M Guy advised members that a survey document would soon be circulated to them regarding the operation of the PCSP and that would give them an opportunity to make any suggestions for changes to the Partnership's operation going forward.

5.2 Acting PCSP/Members Services Manager
PCSP Officer – Stephen Addley

The Acting PCSP /Members Services Manager advised members of the Partnership that the PCSP Officer, Mr Stephen Addley had been successful in an application for a secondment opportunity and would be leaving the PCSP to take up a position with the Department for Justice. She said that this was a good news story for Stephen but sadly not for the Partnership. She thanked Mr Addley for his work during his time with the Partnership and wished him well for the future.

Councillor N Anderson, Councillor S Skillen, Councillor A Ewing, Mr J Bentley and Mrs P Leeson all concurred and paid tribute to Mr Addley wishing him well for the future.

Mr S Addley expressed his thanks for the kind comments made and wished the Partnership well for the future.

5.3 The Chairperson, Councillor M Guy
Starting time of future meetings

The Chairperson, Councillor M Guy advised that it was her intention to move the starting time of meetings to a slightly later time of day, she asked that any comments on this be forwarded to the PCSP/Members Services Manager or included in the survey response referred to earlier in the meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was terminated at 6.20 pm.

Chairperson