

**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 Monday 16 December 2024 at 6.30 pm**

**PRESENT:** Councillor S Lowry (Chairperson)  
Councillor A Givan  
Councillor C Kemp  
Councillor J Lavery BEM  
Councillor M McKeever  
Councillor A Martin  
Councillor T Mitchell  
Mr B Corr (Vice Chairperson)  
Mrs Y Craig  
Mr G McClory  
Ms G McDonald  
Mrs A Playford  
Mr G Walker

**PRESENT IN A REMOTE LOCATION:** Mr N Anderson

**NON PCSP MEMBERS:** Councillor S Burns (present remotely)  
Councillor U Mackin

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council  
  
Acting PCSP/Member Services Manager (CA)  
PCSP Support Officer (JB)  
Member Services Officers (CR and EW)

**Designated Organisations**

Superintendent K Moore, PSNI  
Detective Inspector D Hodge, PSNI  
Ms C Cullan, Youth Justice Agency  
Mr D Marley, NIHE  
Mr C Weir, NIFRS (present remotely)

**Commencement of the Meeting**

The Chairperson, Councillor S Lowry, welcomed everyone to the private meeting of the PCSP, in particular those non-PCSP Elected Members who had been invited to attend for item 3, and Detective Inspector D Hodge who would be delivering a presentation at item 4.

1. Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of Councillor B Higginson, Mr D Drysdale and Mr D Cairns.

2. Declarations of Interest

During the meeting, Mr G McClory declared an interest in item 7.8 'Applications for Funding Under £500' as he was Chairperson of the Lisburn Feile.

3. Community Risk Management Plan – Presentation by NIFRS

It was noted that all Members of Council had been invited to attend the meeting for this item of business.

Group Commander A McVeigh had been due to attend the meeting to deliver the presentation; however, due to operational demands, he was unable to do so. In his absence, Mr C Weir made the presentation, during which he provided the background to the establishment of the Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) and how it was developed. He highlighted the importance of this 5 year Plan and its key sections and outlined the key CRMP deliverables. Mr Weir addressed a number of queries raised by Members in respect of preventative measures currently being employed by the NIFRS and its protocol for dealing with electric vehicle fires.

The Chairperson, Councillor S Lowry, thanked the non-PCSP Members who had attended for this item and they left the meeting (6.55 pm).

4. Sexual and Violent Offenders – Management and Investigation Presentation by PSNI Public Protection Unit

Detective Inspector D Hodge, PSNI Public Protection Unit, made a presentation in respect of the Management and Investigation of Sexual and Violent Offenders. During his presentation, Detective Inspector Hodge provided information in relation to the Public Protection Arrangements for Northern Ireland (PPANI) and its primary purposes, Offender Investigation Units (OIUs), strategic objectives and operational delivery and accommodation suitability. Following the presentation, a number of Members' queries were addressed by Detective Inspector Hodge and Superintendent Moore in respect of:

- communication with schools/school principals regarding sexual offenders residing in close proximity;
- management of repeat offenders;
- use of Orders, such as SOPO, VOPO and NMO to deal with offenders;
- preventative measures, such as tackling spiking;

4. Sexual and Violent Offenders – Management and Investigation  
Presentation by PSNI Public Protection Unit (Contd)

- sharing of information and training for community volunteers.  
Superintendent Moore stated that there may be an opportunity to meet with community groups to provide reassurance that the PSNI was taking all steps possible in the background, which could not always be shared, to minimise the risk of offending;
- upward trend in offending since Covid 19;
- actions taken by PSNI when victims refused to pursue cases; and
- sexual offences in hospitals.

Mrs A Playford put on record her sadness at the murder of another female, Karen Cummings, the previous weekend in Banbridge.

The Chairperson, Councillor S Lowry, thanked Detective Inspector Hodge for his very informative presentation.

Councillor T Mitchell left the meeting during consideration of this item of business (7.54 pm).

5. Minutes

It was proposed by Councillor J Laverty, seconded by Mrs Y Craig and agreed that the minutes of the undernoted meetings be adopted:

- Minutes of the private meeting held on 17 September, 2024;
- Minutes of the public themed meeting held on 15 October, 2024; and
- Minutes of the Policing Committee meeting held on 19 November, 2024.

6. 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:

6.1 Update from PSNI

During her update, Superintendent K Moore highlighted the following in regard to the Lisburn and Castlereagh area:

- there had been a 9.2% decrease in crime, with 569 fewer crimes;
- theft had seen an overall reduction of 1.2%, but shoplifting was up by 7.5% - this was not unique to this district;
- residential burglaries were down slightly by 3.8%, but commercial burglaries were up by just over 8%;
- antisocial behaviour was down by 13% and incidents were generally related to neighbour disputes;
- Op Seasons Greetings was ongoing and would continue until early January 2025;

6.1 Update from PSNI (Contd)

- in respect of roads safety, police were trying to increase vehicle checkpoints and there had been some positive and proactive work in relation to DICs;
- work was ongoing on safer socialising and safer homes;
- consultation would be commencing in January regarding the Policing Plan and included in this would be the Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy;
- a recruitment exercise would be commenced in January for both Police Officers and Staff; and
- a lot of multiagency work had taken place, with the PSNI taking the lead, during Storm Darragh. Whilst there had been a significant number of fallen trees and issues with electricity, thankfully no-one had been seriously hurt.

Superintendent Moore ended by thanking those Members who had attended the recent PSNI Carol Service. On behalf of Officers and Staff across the Lisburn & Castlereagh City District, she also thanked the PCSP for its support throughout the year. This had been much appreciated and the Superintendent and her staff looked forward to continuing to work together in 2025.

Councillor M McKeever put on record his thanks to the PSNI Community Officers who had assisted with parking-related issues in the lead up to the opening of the new Lidl store in Carryduff. Their assistance had been much appreciated by the local community.

6.2 Update from Mr C Weir, NIFRS

Mr Weir highlighted a number of matters including:

- prevention work was continuing throughout the Council area. Crews went out on a daily basis to homes, schools, etc to provide fire safety advice. They were currently attending many Christmas events handing out fire safety information. The Winter Campaign had a focus on Christmas – how to prevent accidental fires in the home caused by Christmas tree lights, candles, etc;
- Road Safe Road Shows were ongoing and these had a great impact on younger people;
- over the last number of weeks, Lisburn station had responded to 133 incidents across the area. In the last 4 days, there had been 3 road traffic collisions in the area that had required the assistance of the NIFRS to cut and extricate people from vehicles; and
- training for crews was ongoing and a multiagency exercise was planned to take place in January 2025.

6.3 Update from Ms Catrina Cullen, Youth Justice Agency

Ms Cullen advised that the Youth Justice Agency continued to work with local Youth Diversion Officers and had a positive relationship with them. It was anticipated that YJA would be meeting with Neighbourhood Police in the New Year.

6.4 Update from Mr Des Marley, NIHE

Mr Marley began by thanking the Superintendent for the help she had afforded his team throughout the year. He highlighted a number of matters including:

- during Storm Darragh there had been a significant number of fallen trees, but thankfully not many properties had been damaged. Mr Marley thanked the other statutory agencies for the assistance they had provided in dealing with the storm;
- in respect of antisocial behaviour cases, there had been 6 in September, 5 in October and 5 in November. In 98% of all antisocial behaviour cases, those involved had been interviewed within the 5 day target; and
- in relation to Rathmoyne House and Coolmoyne House in Seymour Hill, relevant Elected Members had been briefed on progress in terms of plans to go the market for a demolition contract. There would be a lot of activity at this location in the coming months.

At the conclusion of the updates from the statutory partners, the Chairperson, Councillor S Lowry, thanked the statutory agency representatives present for their contributions.

7. Report of the Acting PCSP Manager

7.1 Presentations from PSNI and NIFRS

It was noted that these presentations had been dealt with under items 3 and 4.

Mr G McClory, having declared an interest in item 7.8, left the meeting at this point (8.29 pm).

7.2 Participatory Budgeting (Grand Choice) Update

Members noted an update in respect of the Killultagh DEA Grand Choice initiative that had taken place on 19 October. It was further noted that the next tranche of Grand Choice in the Downshire West DEA would be open for applications from 20 January – 23 February, 2025. The Market Place event would take place on 29 March at Hillsborough Presbyterian Church Hall.

Councillors C Kemp and J Lavery put on record their thanks to PCSP Officers for having organised such a successful Grand Choice event in Killultagh. Councillor Lavery also put on record his thanks to Councillor Kemp for her assistance on the day.

7.3 Drugs & Alcohol Awareness Plays for Post Primary Schools

The Acting PCSP Manager having set out in her report, details regarding a request for support for a series of educational drama productions in local schools, it was proposed by Councillor C Kemp, seconded by Mr B Orr and agreed that approval be given to providing financial support of £1,000 to support this drugs awareness project, which aligned with Strategic Priority 2 of the PCSP Action Plan 2024-25 (drugs and alcohol awareness raising).

7.4 Strategic Planning Workshop

Members noted an update in respect of the Strategic Planning Workshop that had been held on 6 December, 2024. The Chairperson, Councillor S Lowry, put on record her thanks to PCSP Officers for having organised the event.

7.5 Ending Violence Against Women and Girls Strategic Framework and Associated Funding

The Acting PCSP Manager set out in her report, information regarding the above funding and having answered a number of queries raised by Members, it was proposed by Mrs Y Craig, seconded by Ms G McDonald and agreed that:

- (a) the Partnership progress delivery of c£50k 'Momentum Support' in 2024/25;
- (b) the Partnership work with other Council Officers and TEO to deliver the 'Change Fund' in 2025/26; and
- (c) both programmes be delivered through the PCSP and a broader community planning based approach, with reporting of outcomes to the PCSP and Communities and Wellbeing Committee.

7.6 Consultation Response to PSNI Policing Plan 2025-2030

Members were provided with, and noted the contents of, a copy of a consultation response on the draft Policing Plan 2025-2030 that had been submitted on behalf of the PCSP.

7.7 Crime Prevention Event for Cash Only Businesses

Members were reminded that a crime prevention advice session for businesses that operated on a cash only basis was to have been progressed by PCSP Officers. Due to operational commitments, delivery of this initiative had been delayed until after the Christmas period. It was noted that, as soon as details for the event had been confirmed, Members would be notified.

7.8 Applications for Funding Under £500

It was proposed by Councillor C Kemp, seconded by Mrs A Playford and agreed that retrospective approval be given to the award of £500 to Lisburn Feile for an Inter-Generational Community Cohesion Winter Programme. This aligned with Strategic Priority 3 of the PCSP Action Plan (engagement of local community and police).

Mr G McClory returned to the meeting at this point (8.43 pm).

7.9 Forthcoming Events

Members noted the following forthcoming events:

- PCSP Road Safety Subgroup Meeting – 17 December, 2024 at Lagan Valley Island;
- PCSP Private Meeting – 21 January, 2025 at Lagan Valley Island;
- Private Policing Committee Meeting – 9 Month Report – 18 February, 2025 – Lagan Valley Island;
- Drugs & Alcohol Awareness Plays in Post Primary Schools – 24 February to 7 March, 2025 (dates to be confirmed) – Lagan College, Lisnagarvey High and Forthill College;
- PCSP Themed Public Meeting – Women’s Wellbeing Event – 18 March, 2025 – venue to be confirmed; and
- Grand Choice Market Place Event – 29 March, 2025 – Hillsborough Presbyterian Church Hall.

8. Any Other Business

8.1 Retirement of PCSP Officer  
Councillor J Lavery

Councillor J Lavery referred to the forthcoming retirement of PCSP Officer, Mr S Addley, and wished him well for the future. The Acting PCSP Manager confirmed that Mr Addley would be leaving the Council at the end of January 2025 and would be in attendance at the private meeting in January. In response to a query by Councillor Lavery, she stated that it was hoped that Mr Addley’s post would be filled following his departure.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 8.45 pm.

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Chairperson