

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 January 2025 at 6.30 pm

PRESENT:

Councillor S Lowry (Chairperson)
Councillor A Givan
Councillor B Higginson
Councillor J Lavery BEM
Councillor M McKeever
Councillor A Martin
Mr N Anderson
Mr D Cairns
Mrs Y Craig
Mr D Drysdale
Mr G McClory
Ms G McDonald
Mr G Walker

**PRESENT IN A
REMOTE LOCATION:**

Councillors J Gallen, C Kemp, D Lynch

IN ATTENDANCE:

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

Acting PCSP/Member Services Manager (CA)
PCSP Support Officers (JB, SA)
Member Services Officers (CH and EW)

Designated Organisations

Superintendent K Moore, PSNI
Mr D Marley, NIHE

Commencement of the Meeting

The Chairperson, Councillor S Lowry, welcomed everyone to the private meeting of the PCSP, in particular to Lynsey Harris from ONUS who would be delivering a presentation at item 4.

1. Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of Mr B Corr (Vice-Chairperson), Councillor T Mitchell, Mr J Crymble (Education Authority), Ms C Cullan (Youth Justice Agency) and Chief Inspector K McMullan (PSNI).

2. Declarations of Interest

During the meeting, Councillor A Martin and Mr G Walker declared an interest in item 6.7 'Applications for Funding Under £500' as they were members of Lisburn District LOL No 6.

3. Minutes

It was proposed by Mrs Y Craig, seconded by Councillor J Lavery, and agreed that the minutes of the private meeting held on 16 December 2024 be adopted.

4. Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness Training – Presentation by ONUS

Ms Lynsey Harris made a presentation in respect of the work carried out by ONUS - a social enterprise which offers specialist training and consultancy services on domestic violence and abuse, which aimed to ensure when someone tried to access support, that they would be met with the right response and directed to the targeted services available. Ms Harris provided information on the strategies/new legislation in place to end violence against women and girls and outlined current statistics on domestic violence and abuse.

During the presentation, a number of Members' queries were addressed by Ms Harris and Superintendent K Moore, in respect of:

- myths around domestic violence/sexual abuse and how it should be handled by witnesses/active bystanders;
- the importance of partnership/multi-agency working to address domestic violence and abuse;
- barriers faced in addressing the issue of domestic violence, including different cultural backgrounds, language barriers, under reporting and victim reluctance to provide statements/make a complaint;
- Members noted information provided by Superintendent K Moore in relation to successful prosecutions in the absence of a complaint made by the victim, as a result of evidence collected from body worn videos;
- Superintendent K Moore reported that year on year reports of domestic violence/abuse were decreasing with 2,300 less reports across the service in the last year, and outcomes rate reduced by 3% also;
- the damage caused by coercive control;
- location of Safe Places within the Council area;
- domestic abuse helpline;
- training/working with organisations/schools in the community; and

In response to a request made by Mr Anderson, Ms Harris agreed to circulate statistics in respect of the impact of addiction on domestic violence/abuse, and the percentage of people from a BAME background facing domestic violence/abuse.

The Chairperson, Councillor S Lowry, thanked Ms Harris for her very informative presentation.

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 Update from PSNI

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

- operation season greetings update (25 Nov to 2 Jan) – 108 patrols took place in targeted areas with focus on retail crime, 28 arrests for drink/drug related driving offences, issued 34 fixed penalty notices, 13 check point operations, 98 reports relating to violence against women and girls with 27 reported in public spaces, 63 reports of shoplifting with a 12.5% outcomes rate recorded;
- there had been a 9.4% decrease in crime, with 579 fewer crimes;
- increase in robbery of business property with an increase of 2 with positive results in both cases;
- theft had seen an overall reduction, but shoplifting was up by 6.6%;
- burglaries were down by 6.2%, 12 less than the previous year overall, residential burglaries down by 11%, but commercial burglaries were up by just over 20%;
- antisocial behaviour was down by 16.4%;
- Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy – planning future events for the year ahead;
- Be Safe Road Safety Campaign took place to encourage awareness particularly for pedestrians/cyclists;
- work ongoing with Women's Aid on trauma informed approach and training internally; and
- 2025/26 Local Policing Plan – community policing survey took place in 2024 with results from the survey informing part of the Local Policing Plan. The key issues identified from the survey for the district were traffic/road safety issues, burglary, drugs, theft, fraud, scams, vandalism, theft, anti-social behaviour, sectarianism, hate crime and domestic/sexual abuse and violence against women and girls. Members noted that Superintendent K Moore would be circulating the draft Local Policing Plan for feedback from Partnership and would be presented for approval at the next meeting on the 18 February.

Councillor B Higginson left the Chamber at 7.39 pm and returned (7.42 pm).

Responding to questions from the Partnership Members, Superintendent K Moore clarified several matters, in respect of staffing levels; the recruitment exercise for both Police Officers and Staff; road safety awareness campaigns for cyclists and pedestrians; shoplifting and vehicle coverage for the Lisburn Castlereagh area.

Superintendent Moore concluded by putting on record her thanks to the Partnership for the additional funding provided for hi-vis jackets for pedestrians, which enhanced the Be Safe Campaign.

5.2 Update from Mr Des Marley, NIHE

Mr Marley provided an update on a number of matters including:

- in respect of antisocial behaviour cases, there had been 5 in November, and 1 in December bringing the yearly total to 43 cases. In 95% of all antisocial behaviour cases, those involved had been interviewed within the 5-day target, under reporting still remained an issue;
- meeting organised by LCCC Chief Executive had taken place recently between NIHE and Housing Associations, in respect of concerns raised by Housing Associations on lack of access to information to identify support needs of tenants. Information sharing protocol that NIHE have in place with PSNI could not currently be shared with Housing Associations. It was reported that Housing Associations collectively contributed to 30% of the entire social housing provision within the Lisburn and Castlereagh area; and
- responding to a question by a Member of the Partnership in respect of the awaited report on the allocation of housing points; Mr Marley advised that he circulate information as soon as it was made available to him.

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

6. Report of the Acting PCSP Manager

6.1 Presentation by ONUS

It was noted that the presentation had been dealt with under item 4.

6.2 PCSP Strategic Assessment 2025-2028

Members noted an update in respect of the PCSP Strategic Assessment document which was currently under development. The final draft which had been intended to be presented at the January meeting of the PCSP, had been deferred to the February meeting of the PCSP due to competing priorities. It was reported that the document was scheduled for submission to the Joint Committee by 14 February 2025; and that a draft would be submitted by the deadline, subject to subsequent Partnership approval.

6.3 Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG)

Members noted an update in respect of two Ending Violence Against Women and Girls funding activities:

1. Momentum Funding Package - The Acting PCSP Manager provided information on a funding package which launched on Friday 17 January 2025.

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

It was explained that the grants ranging from £1,500 to £5,000 would support community, voluntary, sporting and faith organisations within the Council area, for projects that would raise awareness of the Ending Violence Against Women and Girls work, build capacity within communities, and promote the key prevention outcomes of the strategic framework. Members noted that projects must be completed by 31 March 2025.

2. Ending Violence Against Women and Girls Change Fund - It was reported that the fund would launch on Friday 24 January 2025, focusing on prevention, raising awareness, and fostering understanding of positive behaviours. The three funding tiers were outlined as follows:

- Tier 1: £1,000 - £5,000
- Tier 2: £5,000 - £15,000
- Tier 3: £15,001-£25,000

It was further noted the application deadline was Friday 21 February 2025, and that an assessment report would be presented to the Partnership upon completion of the evaluation process.

6.4 Road Safety Subgroup Update

The Acting PCSP Manager set out in her report, information regarding the Road Safety Subgroup which met on 17 December 2024, to evaluate the performance of existing Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) and to consider new applications. Members noted the below overview of road safety events held during 2024-25 which were also reviewed at the Road Safety Subgroup Meeting:

- Cool FM Road Safe Road Show – the Partnership had previously agreed to host this event every second year. This would ensure students aged 16 years and upwards would have the opportunity to attend a show. Three showings were provided on 19 November 2024, during Road Safety Awareness Week attended by 840 students and over 100 adults.
- Bike Safe Events – two events held in May and September 2024. Another two sessions planned for June and September 2025.
- Ladies Basic Car Maintenance Events – two sessions held in June and November 2024. Further events are planned for 2025-26 to target young drivers.
- Hi-Viz safety items issued to schools, walking and running clubs.
- LCCC Road Safety Partnership – Established in August 2024 with monthly meetings held. Yvonne Craig, PCSP Independent Member was appointed as the PCSP's representative on this group.

6.4 Road Safety Subgroup Update (Cont'd)

- Safe running event for females held in Leisureplex, Lisburn on 10 December 2024 with over 80 runners/joggers in attendance, and a further similar event planned in February/March 2025 for the Castlereagh South DEA

It was proposed by Mr N Anderson, seconded by Mrs Y Craig and agreed that the subgroups recommendations as detailed in appendix 1, be approved.

6.5 Participatory Budgeting (Grand Choice) Downshire West

Members noted that the Grand Choice initiative for Downshire West launched on 20 January 2025, with the application process open until 23 February 2025. It was reported that the Market Place event was scheduled to take place on Saturday 29 March 2025, at Hillsborough Presbyterian Church Hall. Members were encouraged to mark the date in their diaries and to attend and provide support on the day.

6.6 Applications for Funding over £500

It was proposed by Councillor J Lavery and seconded by Councillor B Higginson, that the award of £2,000 to Lisburn Street Pastors to operate across Lisburn City, be approved. The project aligned with Strategic Priority 2 of the PCSP Action Plan (anti-social behaviour).

An amendment was proposed by Ms G McDonald and seconded by Mr G McClory, that the application be deferred to allow Lisburn Street Pastors to revise and resubmit their application.

There was lengthy discussion in relation to the concerns raised by Ms G McDonald on the lack of statistical evidence provided in the application form by Lisburn Street Pastors. Officers responded to a number of questions raised by the partnership, and clarification was also provided to the partnership in respect of the claim process.

The amended proposal was put to the meeting. The amended proposal fell with the voting being 2 in favour, 15 against and 1 abstention.

The proposal in the name of Councillor J Lavery and seconded by Councillor B Higginson became the Substantive Motion i.e. that the award of £2,000 to Lisburn Street Pastors to operate across Lisburn City be approved.

The proposal was put to the meeting and was declared carried, with 15 voting in favour, 2 against and 1 abstention.

6.7 Applications for Funding under £500

It was proposed by Mr G McClory, seconded by Councillor B Higginson, and agreed that the award of £500 to Lisburn District LOL No 6 for marshalling and stewarding at parades/events, including main district parade in Lisburn City be approved. The project aligned with Strategic Priority 2 of the PCSP Action Plan (anti-social behaviour).

6.8 Forthcoming Events

Members noted the following forthcoming events:

- 18 February 2025: Policing Committee 9 Month Monitoring Meeting in Private Lagan Valley Island
- 24 February 2025: NIPB Policing Committee Training
Venue TBC
- 18 March 2025: PCSP Themed Public Meeting on Violence Against Women & Girls – Ladies Wellbeing Event Dundonald Elim Church Hall, Comber Road, Dundonald
- 29 March 2025: Grand Choice Market Place Event, Downshire West Hillsborough Presbyterian Church Hall, Lisburn Street

7. Any Other Business

7.1 Retirement of PCSP Officer

Councillors J Gallen and D Lynch left the meeting remotely (8.20 pm).

The Chairperson, Councillor S Lowry referred to the forthcoming retirement of PCSP Officer, Mr S Addley, and wished him well for the future and thanked him for his hard work and devotion to the PCSP over the last 17 years. A number of other Members and Statutory Body Representatives reiterated the comments made by the Chair, passing on their thanks and well wishes to Mr Addley for his retirement.

In response, Mr Addley conveyed his thanks to the Partnership and spoke fondly of his career in public service which he commenced at the age of 18 years old. He put on record his appreciation to his colleagues, Mrs C Adamson, Mr J Bingham, Ms E White and the wider team for their support throughout his time working for the Policing and Community Safety Partnership.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 8.41 pm.

Chairperson