

Minutes of the meeting of Mid Ulster Policing and Community Safety Partnership held in Council Chamber, Dungannon on Wednesday 13 March 2019 at 6.00pm

Present: Councillor Denise Mullen (Chair), Councillor Frances Burton, Councillor Robert Colvin, Councillor Clement Cuthbertson, Councillor Phelim Gildernew, Councillor Derek McKinney

Liam Duggan (Vice-Chair), Ciaran McElhone, Martina Watson

Inspector Andy Archibald (PSNI), Michael Dallat (NIHE), Sinead Dolan (YJA), Michelle Grant (PBNI), Sergeant Beverley Knipe (PSNI), DCI David McBurney (PPU), DI Gary McDonald (PPU), Chief Inspector Mervyn Seffen (PSNI), Inspector Danny Walsh (PSNI)

Apologies: Jacqueline Connolly (SH&SCT), Fiona Crawford, Ursula Marshall

In Attendance: Michael McCrory (PSCP Manager), Celene O'Neill (PCSP Officer), Annette McGahan (PCSP Officer), Shauna McCloskey (PCSP Officer), Martina McCullagh (PCSP Assistant)

The Meeting started at 6.02pm.

PCSP118/19 WELCOME

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting, including DCI David McBurney and DI Gary McDonald from the Public Protection Unit who provided the following presentation on services provided by the 'Central Referral Unit'.

PCSP119/19 PUBLIC PROTECTION BRANCH PRESENTATION, CENTRAL REFERRAL UNIT – DCI McBURNEY & DI McDONALD

DCI McBurney informed Members, in 2015 the Public Protection Branch was formed as part of Crime Operations Department. The Public Protection Units, Rape Crime Unit and the Child Internet Protection Team were brought together into a single branch and now have overall responsibility for operational activity as well as policy and practice in relation to domestic abuse, child abuse, child sexual exploitation, sex and violent offender management, adult safeguarding, rape, child abuse imagery, e-safety and all associated control strategies.

The PPB are also responsible for education and safeguarding within these areas and work closely with several partner agencies, including Health Trusts, Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland, other statutory organisations and charities such as Women's Aid, Men's Advisory Project, Rainbow and NSPCC. The PPB works closely with these agencies, organisations and charities to support and protect the vulnerable and build confidence in policing. On an almost daily basis, there are media headlines about domestic and sexual abuse, internet safety and the risks posed by those accessing images of child abuse, and child sexual exploitation. Officers within Public Protection Branch are committed to ensure detection of those committing these crimes and bring them before the court.

Members raised the following questions.

Question 1

Councillor Burton questioned the level of support provided to a parent struggling to manage in very challenging circumstances, following allegations made against the other parent.

Response;

DCI McBurney said they work very closely with Family Intervention. The Central Referral Unit provides the evidence to get the case to court. He stressed the importance of family support at this time and the necessity of ensuring children are safeguarded. He also said they work closely with other agencies.

Question 2

Liam Duggan, Vice Chair asked what resources and ability does the Central Referral Unit have to work with other agencies in relation to care home settings including Muckamore Abbey and Dunmurray Manor. He also asked if the Joint Protocol is functioning.

Response;

DCI McBurney said they have spoken with the families involved in Muckamore Abbey & Dunmurray Manor and are proactively investigating and working with Social Services. He stated the Joint Protocol has now been working a number of years and they collaborate mostly with Social Services.

Question 3

Liam Duggan, Vice Chair requested details of resources available to the Central Referral Unit.

Response;

DCI McBurney advised there is approximately 300 staff within the Central Referral Unit covering 5 areas. The Central Referral Unit is co-terminus with the Health Trusts, i.e. Southern, Northern, Western, South Eastern and Belfast Trusts. The Central Referral Unit is based in Belfast and receives calls from across the Province, which means information can be easily shared with Social Services. He also stated Domestic Abuse cases are signposted to Women's Aid.

The Chair thanked DCI McBurney and DI McDonald for attending the meeting and providing the presentation.

PCSP120/19 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Members were reminded of their obligation in relation to declarations of interest.

Martina Watson – Mid Ulster Women's Aid

**PCSP121/19 MINUTES OF POLICING & COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP
MEETING HELD ON 12 DECEMBER 2018**

**Proposed: Councillor Derek McKinney
Seconded: Martina Watson**

**MINUTES OF POLICING & COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP
MEETING HELD ON 29 JANUARY 2019**

**Proposed: Councillor Derek McKinney
Seconded: Martina Watson**

PCSP122/19 MATTERS ARISING

No matters arising.

PCSP123/19 THEMATIC GROUP UPDATES

The PCSP Manager referred to the present layout of the thematic group update report and advised Members that it is presently being reviewed and a more reader friendly version will be in use for the Vulnerable Persons' meeting on the 20 March 2019.

Anti-Social Behaviour Forum Update

The PCSP Officer provided the following update;

- 'Where Is Your Child' advertising campaign to commence 17 March 2019.
- Dungannon Youth Engagement Programme (YEP) is ongoing, a Courtroom Scenario took place on 12 February 2019. The Crown Court Judge, Justice Fowler, and Barrister Michael McAleer, were exceptionally supportive of the entire project. The trial of the young driver was attended by 60 young people from our YEP project, other youth groups and schools. The prosecution and defence cross-examined witnesses and the young driver, and following summing-up, the jury, comprised of their peers, was discharged to deliberate. They returned a guilty verdict on the charges of causing death by dangerous driving and drink-driving and the diver was sentenced to five years in custody.
- Recon ongoing, the Dog Track in Dungannon has been bought for re-development.
- Preparation for Halloween period is underway.
- Members were invited to 'Gambling Awareness Conference' taking place on Monday 25 March 2019 in Ranfurly House Arts and Visitor Centre at 1.00pm.

Night-Time Economy Sub Group Update

The PCSP Officer provided the following update;

- Youth Alcohol Awareness Programme: Courses were held on 12 January 2019 and 20 February 2019. 7 young people attended the course in January and 5 young people attended in February. A parent attended with each young person and remained for the duration of the

course. The next course is scheduled to take place on the 20 March 2019.

- Cookstown Club Angels have continued to be present at the teenage discos in Lanyon Hall on Friday nights and outside Time Bar and Venue on Saturday nights. They are presently recruiting new volunteers.
- A group has also expressed an interest in setting up an 'Angels' type group in Moy, assistance is currently being provided.
- Bar staff in Cookstown and Magherafelt will undertake 'Counter Measures' training course before the end of March 2019.

Councillor Colvin praised the work of the 'Club Angels' and asked how an individual can become a volunteer?

Celene O'Neill, as a volunteer with 'Club Angels', advised that anyone can become a volunteer by completing an Access NI check and First Aid training both of which are arranged by 'Club Angels'.

In response to a question from Councillor Burton regarding volunteers being subject to attack, Celene O'Neill advised that this is a very rare occurrence as there is always a door staff member and a PSNI Officer present.

Inspector Walsh stated the work carried out by 'Club Angels' is crucial and is of great assistance to PSNI. He advised that a meeting could be arranged for Members to meet 'Club Angels' volunteers.

Responding to a question from Martina Watson regarding attendance at the Youth Alcohol Awareness Course, Inspector Walsh reported that 850 participants have been through the programme with a 1.5% re-offending rate. A parent or guardian must attend the course with the participant.

Sinead Dolan praised the work of the Youth Alcohol Awareness Course and would advocate the rollout of the programme across Northern Ireland. She also congratulated everyone involved in the Youth Engagement Programme, in particular the Court Room scenario and asked if it had been filmed. The PCSP Officer advised video recording is not permitted within the courtroom.

Vulnerable Persons' Sub Group Update

The PCSP Officer provided the following update;

- Promotion and awareness raising of RAPID Bins continues across Mid Ulster.
- Neighbourhood Watch Event to be held on Tuesday 26 March in 'The Junction' at 7.00pm. Information on RAPID bins, Drugs & Alcohol, Agewell services and Crime Prevention will be provided. The Agenda for the event to be circulated to Members.
- Meeting with CASE Officers, O2 Gurus and Women's Aid to review schools programmes.
- Analysing Outcome Based Accountability (OBA) forms for all 2018/2019 projects.
- Internet Safety, Positive Relationships and Drugs & Alcohol schools programmes continuing to be delivered until the end of March 2019.

PCSP124/19 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Statistics on Wild Fires

Simon Green (NIFRS) informed Members wildfire incidents are an increasing problem. He said a wildfire is a generic term used to describe any uncontrolled fire in various types of vegetation, which include grass, crops, bracken, heather, trees and gorse. There has been a total of 411 wildfires incidents across Mid Ulster Council area during the last 5 years (2013-2018) ranking Mid Ulster 10th out of the 11 Council areas in terms of the amount of Wildfire incidents during this period.

Responding to a question from Councillor Colvin regarding the breakdown of the wildfire incidents, Simon Green clarified that this statistic includes all incidents in Mid Ulster area from the largest to the smallest wildfire.

Burglaries in Aughnacloy & Ballygawley areas and ATM Thefts

Councillor Burton raised concerns about the spate of recent burglaries in Aughnacloy and Ballygawley, which have undoubtedly led to increased fear of crime in these areas and questioned resource levels on the ground. She also referred to the province wide ATM thefts, which are affecting jobs and local communities.

Chief Inspector Seffen said he understands the public's concern at the number of ATM raids and gave reassurance that the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) detectives continue to do everything they can to stop these attacks and catch those responsible.

Appointment of Independent Members

The PCSP Manager referred to the current recruitment process for the appointment of Independent Members to the PCSP. An information leaflet was circulated to Members.

Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs)

The PCSP Manager informed Members that the Northern Ireland Policing Board have provided additional funding for the purchase of 4 Speed Indicator Devices. These are portable devices and used in an area where speeding can be a problem. SIDs remind drivers of the speed limit by standing out from the normal signs. They could help to break the habit of drivers who consistently use excessive speed.

PCSP Community Safety Awards 2019

The PCSP Manager informed Members that PCSPs have been asked to nominate a maximum of 1 project/initiative per PCSP, per category. The categories are as follows;

- Award for innovation
- Award for excellence in communication
- Award for confidence in policing
- Award for outstanding impact in tackling ASB
- Award for contribution to embedding & culture of lawfulness
- Award for excellence in community engagement
- Award for excellence in collaboration

The closing date for submission of nominations is Friday 29 March 2019. The Awards Ceremony will take place on Wednesday 29 May 2019 in Belfast.

Participatory Budget

Due to the small number of 'Participatory Budget' applications received, the PCSP Manager sought approval to extend the geographical area to cover a larger participation area in Clogher Valley. Members agreed.

Crash Car Video

The PCSP Manager informed Members the joint Mid Ulster PCSP & Fermanagh & Omagh PCSP 'Crash Car Simulator' video is currently in production locally.

PCSP125/19 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next PCSP meeting will be held on Wednesday 18 September 2019 in Council Chamber, Dungannon at 6.00pm.

The meeting ended at 7.25pm.

All members were present for the duration of the meeting except Ciaran McElhone who arrived at 6.03pm, Councillor Frances Burton who arrived at 6.09pm.