

**Minutes of the meeting of Mid Ulster Policing and Community Safety Partnership
held on Wednesday 1 July 2020 at 2.30pm via Microsoft Teams**

Present: Councillor Christine McFlynn (Chair), Councillor Frances Burton, Councillor Anne Forde, Councillor Clement Cuthbertson, Councillor Meta Graham, Councillor Cathal Mallaghan, Councillor Brian McGuigan, Councillor John McNamee, Councillor Seán McPeake

Alexandra Black, Sue Chada, Fiona Crawford, Ciaran McElhone, Paul McErlean, Seán MacGoilla Cheara, Pearse McFlynn, Grace Meerbeck, Hayley Wilson, Superintendent Mike Baird (PSNI), Michael Dallat (NIHE), Sinead Dolan (YJA), Inspector Joanne Gibson (PSNI), Michelle Grant (PBNI), Sergeant Beverley Knipe (PSNI), Orla Murtagh (SH&SCT), Chief Inspector Mervyn Seffen (PSNI)

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

The Meeting commenced at 2.33pm.

PCSP143/20 WELCOME

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting, with a special welcome to Councillor Meta Graham, who replaced Councillor Derek McKinney, also congratulations to the 7 new Independent Members on their recent appointment and to the 2 existing Independent Members. Thanks were extended to the outgoing Partnership Members for all their hard work and dedication to the community over the previous 4 years. The Chair also thanked the PCSP Manager and team for all their work.

PCSP144/20 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

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

**PCSP145/20 MINUTES OF POLICING & COMMUNITY SAFETY
PARTNERSHIP MEETING HELD ON 28 JANUARY 2020**

The Minutes of Mid Ulster Policing and Community Safety Partnership meeting held on Tuesday 28 January 2020 were approved by Members.

PCSP146/20 PCSP139/20 - MATTERS ARISING

1. New Driver Safety Ambassador - Expression of Interest

The PCSP Manager advised Members that due to Covid19, the New Driver Safety Ambassador Community Interest Company decided not to submit a new Expression of Interest. They advised that the booklet would

be available at a cost, but due to the pandemic dealing with hard copies would not be recommended.

Additional Speed Impact Devices (SIDs) Procurement

The PCSP Manager advised Members that the new Speed Impact Devices have arrived, and it is hoped that Technical Services will be in apposition to install them by late July, firstly in residential areas and in the vicinity of schools by September. He proposed that further purchases of SIDs could be undertaken later in the year.

PCSP147/20 **MID ULSTER DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20**

The Chair referred Members to the Mid Ulster Draft Annual Report 2019/20. No issues were raised and Members approved the Annual Report 2019/20.

PCSP148/20 **ACTION PLAN 2020/21 FOR REVIEW**

The PCSP Manager referred Members to the Action Plan for 2020/21 which was approved in January 2020. Members were advised that some projects will require amendments, as direct engagement is not possible at present due to Covid19. The PCSP Manager asked Members to consider the following proposals with the understanding that further development may be required.

Strategic Priority 1 – *To form and successfully deliver the functions of Mid Ulster PCSP Meetings will be conducted in the most suitable format to ensure the safety of all.*

Strategic Priority 2 – *To improve community safety by tackling actual and perceived crime and anti-social behaviour.*

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Anti-Social Driving

Anti-Social Driving Awareness raising events

Due to Covid19, unable to participate in this Project, therefore, it is proposed to develop on-line delivery during Quarter 3 and Quarter 4.

Emergency Services Road Traffic Collision Reconstructions

The Emergency Services Road Traffic Collision Reconstruction was thankfully filmed prior to lockdown. It is proposed that the video be edited and utilised as a resource in schools, youth clubs and promoted on-line during Quarter 3 and Quarter 4.

Crash Car Simulator

The Crash Car Simulator provides the opportunity for four people at one time to experience a simulated car crash, and would under normal circumstances be delivered to schools throughout the District. This Project

will be greatly impacted upon by Covid19, and it may not be possible to roll-out during Quarter 3 or Quarter 4. It is proposed to review this in Quarter 4 with the hope of delivering this Project, circumstances permitting.

Youth Diversionary / Engagement Programmes (YEPs)

Youth Engagement Programmes (YEPs) are delivered by PSNI, EA Youth Service, and Youth Justice Agency to targeted areas across Mid Ulster. This project is aimed at young people who are on the cusp of the judicial system, and has proven very successful. This Project will prove difficult to deliver especially with social distancing restrictions. It is hope that we will be in a position to deliver a smaller scaled version of this Programme, commencing in September.

Ryan McGee, EA, advised Members that they are in a position to deliver this programme to a group of up to 10 in an outdoor space, this would include 2 staff members. This would include the delivery of diversionary activities and day trips. The day trips would be limited to 3 or 4 young people who are deemed 'highly at risk' and is limited to this size due to the transport available. The feedback received from EA Youth Service staff and the young people themselves is that they do not want to continue to engage through 'zoom'.

He added that an agreement has been developed with PSNI with necessary procedures and guidelines in place which will enable engagement with young people at risk, referrals will be provided by PSNI or EA Youth Service.

Ryan McGee, EA will link with PCSP Manager and PSNI across the district.

NIGHT-TIME ECONOMY

Alcohol Youth Engagement – Alcohol Awareness Programme

The PCSP Manager advised Members that the 'Alcohol Awareness Programme' which is run by the PSNI and 'Club Angels' in Cookstown is unlikely to commence prior to Quarter 3 or possibly Quarter 4 due to the need for social distancing. This Project will only commence under the guidelines provided by the PSNI.

Night-Time Economy Training

The PCSP Manager advised Members that a number of training courses are provided to bar staff, which include training in the use of a defibrillator, 'First Aid Training' and 'Responsible Alcohol Trading Programmes. It is hoped, circumstances permitting that these courses will be delivered as usual in Quarter 4.

Safe Night Out

The PCSP Manager advised Members that it is proposed to roll out the 'Fixed Penalty Notice' campaign as usual during Quarter 3 and Quarter 4.

Club Angels

The PCSP Manager advised Members that 'Club Angels', based in Cookstown is given support in the form of equipment and the provision of training to their volunteers. The excellent work carried out by 'Club Angels' is greatly appreciated and highly rated by PSNI. PCSP Officers will keep in touch with 'Club Angels' and support will be offered when they are in a position to re-commence their work, which will be dependent on volunteers and feasibility of working within Covid19 guidelines.

VULNERABLE PERSONS

Internet Safety

The PCSP Manager advised Members that the 'Teen Safe Programme' which was developed by EA Youth Service was to be rolled out across the district until to the on-set of Covid19. It is proposed to put this programme back to Quarter 4 with the hope that it can then commence. PCSP have a number of school based Internet programmes which have been impacted upon by the current situation, alternatives will be discussed later in the meeting.

Domestic Violence

The PCSP Manager referred Members to the Domestic Violence campaign 'Behind Closed Doors' which raises awareness of the 'Domestic and Sexual Abuse Helpline'. This campaign is usually rolled out over the Christmas period, as it is deemed to be the peak time for this type of crime. The campaign also highlights that male and female can be both offender and victim. Due to the current lockdown situation with the offender and victim often living in the same house, it was agreed to commence this campaign earlier.

Councillor Burton joined the meeting at 3.00pm.

Positive Relationships Domestic Violence Schools Programme

The PCSP Manager informed Members that the 'Positive Relationships Domestic Violence Schools Programme' is normally delivered to 16 Post Primary schools, approximately 1400 pupils. It teaches pupils about what a 'healthy relationship' should be and provides advice and information on support agencies. This programme won a Department of Justice & Northern Ireland Policing Board Community Safety Award last year. It may prove difficult to deliver given the current situation, but PCSP will proceed with implantation and will keep Members updated regarding progress.

High Risk Domestic Violence Victims Security Installations

The PCSP Manager advised Members that there is presently 32 Hi-Risk victims of domestic violence across the district. These individuals have been referred to Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC), which is a meeting where agencies talk about the risk of future harm to people experiencing domestic abuse and draw up an action plan to help manage that risk. Members were advised that PCSP arrange security installations to the victim's property, this work is carried out by Agewell's 'Handy Man'

service, but due to Covid19, no internal installations have been possible during Quarter 1. Only external or packaged equipment, such as door bars, have been provided to Hi-Risk victims. All referrals for this scheme come from the PSNI Crime Prevention Officer, hoping to be able to deliver this service during Quarter 3 and Quarter 4 depending on lockdown guidelines.

Vulnerable Persons Initiative

The PCSP Manager advised Members that under normal circumstances we would hold community safety awareness events for older people and people with disabilities, PCSP information stands in shopping centres, rural crime and hate crime events, but are presently unable to do. As an alternative the proposal is to highlight these issues through increased advertising and through social media as well as promoting with partner agencies.

It is hoped to hold closed virtual meetings with groups such as Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators hosting a question and answer session.

Alcohol and Drugs Schools Programme

The PCSP Manager advised Members that this programme involves working with schools, Start360 and the PSNI, it could possibly be delivered in Quarter 4, dependent on how schools are working and Covid19 restrictions at this time.

Ageing Well – Older Persons Security

The PCSP Manager advised that the installation of security equipment to help make older people feel safer in their homes will continue and hopefully increase in line with Covid19 restrictions. All installations are carried out by Agewell's 'Handy Man' service.

Strategic Priority 3 – *To support community confidence in policing*

Policing Committee Monitoring

The PCSP Manager advised Members that meetings will continue to be held virtually until such time that physical meetings can resume.

Community and Police Engagement

The PCSP Manager advised that specific Community and Police Engagements e.g. themed meetings, will have to be conducted via social media if an appropriate sized venue is not available, advertising mediums will also be utilised.

Policing Committee Communications – Fresh Start Initiatives

The PCSP Manager advised Members that we had previously concentrated on a Gambling, as this appeared to be a lead into organised crime for individuals in Mid Ulster. A Gambling Programme was developed in conjunction with PSNI and Cuan Mhuire Rehabilitation. This is now being developed into an on-line course to allow referrals to continue to receive

support from the various agencies, with the hope in Quarter 4 it may return to normal delivery.

Crime Prevention Awareness Raising

The PCSP Manager advised Members that some Awareness raising campaigns will have to be delivered virtually given the current situation. He stated that text alerts system can continue uninterrupted, the SaferU App is being re-developed to include Cyber Crime information. PCSP manager stated that he was meeting with other PCSP Managers regarding developing support resources for the BEE Safe Programme. Members will be updated in due course.

There will be the need for an increase in advertising due to the impact of restrictions on the delivery of programmes.

The Chair stated that it is a very extensive Action Plan and thanked the PCSP Manager and the team for their work to date. The Chair asked if Members had any questions or areas they wanted to discuss, Members made the following comments;

Responding to a question from Councillor McGuigan regarding the level of success in relation to Neighbourhood Watch Schemes, the PCSP Manager stated that each Neighbourhood Watch Scheme is different. At a local level each scheme has a Neighbourhood Policing Team Officer assigned to it, this Officer is main point of contact, which helps improve relationships between communities and PSNI.

The PCSP Manager advised that due to the current situation the Neighbourhood Watch event for Co-ordinators which is normally held will have to be reviewed and possibly held virtually. This event allows information to be shared in relation to scams/bogus callers, rural crime and gives Co-ordinators the platform to discuss issues they are experiencing in their area. It also provides them with the opportunity to meet their local Neighbourhood Policing Team Officers.

Councillor Frances Burton referred to the importance of the local community knowing their local Neighbourhood Policing Team Officers in order to build a rapport and asked if a list of all NPT's could be shared with PCSP Members. Chief Superintendent Baird advised Members that when Covid19 started all NPT were disbanded, the majority of them are up and running again, it is hoped that all teams will be back to full strength by the end of July 2020. He stated that 3 new Officers have just started in Clogher area and overall there will be 48 NPT Officers across the district. He also advised that details of the new staff will be highlighted on PSNI Facebook page as soon as all teams are re-established.

Chief Superintendent Baird said he was very keen to arrange a Neighbourhood Watch Event which had been discussed prior to Covid19, but is aware it will be more difficult to hold in light of the current situation.

The Chair thanked Chief Superintendent Baird for the update and agreed that it would be good to have details of the Local Neighbourhood Team Officers across the district.

Responding to a question from Grace Meerbeck in relation to Gambling businesses and the rules and regulations they have to adhere to, the PCSP Manager advised that they require a licence to operate their business. The rules and regulations governing this type of business to be sought and feedback provided to Members.

Sue Chada commented on the number of acronyms in the Action Plan document, which she is not familiar with, this may also be an issue for the other new Independent Members.

In response to a question from Sue Chada in relation to how statistics in the Action Plan document were gathered, the PCSP Manger advised that they are taken from both Community Audit Statistics and PSNI statistics. The PCSP Manager also advised that the statistics shown on page 11 under the heading Mid Ulster Area Profile as at 30 June 2017 are provided by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA), these are the most up to date confirmed statistics available.

Responding to a question from Sue Chada in relation to any training available to new Members, the PCSP Manager advised that the Department of Justice (DoJ) and the Northern Ireland Policing Board (NIPB) are arranging induction training which is open to all PCSP Members. A PCSP Members handbook is also available, this has been e-mailed to all Members.

The amendments to the Mid Ulster PCSP Action Plan for 2020/21 were approved by Members.

In response to a question from Sean Kerr in relation to problems being encountered by the visually impaired, such as repair work on footpaths and overgrown hedges, the PCSP Manager advised that this can be raised with the Disability Forum.

PCSP149/20 CORRESPONDENCE

E-mail from Bernadette McAliskey regarding Posters in Moygashel

The PCSP Manager referred Members to an e-mail received from Bernadette McAliskey regarding posters displayed in Moygashel, and was asked to raise this for discussion.

Chief Superintendent Baird advised that he has read the e-mail and wished to clarify the legal advice PSNI received, as detailed below. He also stated that this information has been communicated to Bernadette McAliskey in relation to this issue,

'There is nothing fundamentally unlawful about the posters, while it is very distasteful to sections of the community, they would still fall within freedom of expression, despite how unpalatable they are to some'

Councillor Cuthbertson said that individual posters should not be singled out for discussion, as there are posters displayed on Newell Road, Dungannon which sections of the community find offensive.

PCSP150/20 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor Cuthbertson referred to the alleged breach of lockdown guidelines by at least one political representative from South Tyrone area while attending a funeral yesterday in Belfast.

The Chair advised that PCSP is not the forum to discuss this issue and advised the Member to speak directly with the PSNI.

Superintendent Baird advised that there are a number of funerals which took place in Mid Ulster being looked at to determine possible breaches of social distancing restrictions.

Inspections of Licensed Premises

Councillor Cuthbertson asked if the PSNI would be conducting inspections of licenced premises to ensure they are not in breach of lockdown restrictions.

Superintendent Baird advised that they are responsible for licensed premises, the serving of food falls within the remit of Environmental Health. He said they are meeting with the Vintners Association to discuss these issues and that they will carry out inspections of licensed premises if breaches are reported and will encourage and education rather than simply enforce. The PSNI have requested guidance from The Executive Office in relation to extensions, opening hours and serving food, and hope to receive this as soon as possible.

Windmill Woods – Anti-Social Behaviour

Councillor Cuthbertson raised concern about ongoing anti-social behaviour in Windmill Woods, Dungannon. He expressed his appreciation for all the good work that has taken place to date in this area. He also advised that it has been brought to his attention that there are youths gathering and possibly using drugs around the old Drumglass Hospital site and would appreciate feedback from the PSNI.

Superintendent Baird advised that there has been an increase in anti-social behaviour since the end of lockdown and hotspots have been identified, these areas are being patrolled.

Inspector Gibson advised there has been extensive patrolling of Windmill Woods recently which included bike patrols. The presence of Park Officers for a period of time has made a positive difference. They are aware of issues in Drumglass and the usual problems along 'the lines' in Dungannon. There are operations planned for this weekend, but there will be no TSG support due to the lead up to the twelfth of July, therefore, resources will be limited to the Neighbourhood Team and dog section. It is planned to work with EA Youth Service to get a co-ordinated approach to working with the young people.

Protest on Newell Road, Dungannon

Councillor Cuthbertson referred to a Republican protest which took place recently along Newell Road in Dungannon.

In response Superintendent Baird advised that a small number of people took part, and a 'Freedom of Assembly' was completed to allow the protest take place and social distancing was observed.

Councillor McNamee said given the recent increase in anti-social behaviour, it is very important to link communities with their local Neighbourhood Team even if it is on a smaller scale at present. He advised that St Jean's area in Cookstown was raised at the Development Committee meeting last week. He also raised concern about the traffic congestion in Cookstown on market day every Saturday and asked if anything could be done to alleviate this problem.

In response Superintendent Baird advised that the Neighbourhood Teams should all be back in post by the end of July, 2020 and will make contact with local representatives.

With regards to traffic congestion in Cookstown, Superintendent Baird advised that the 'Red Coats' are now back enforcing and will be asked to make specific patrols of the area on market day.

Councillor McGuigan raised the following anti-social behaviour issues which have been happening in Maghera during lockdown restrictions. The consumption of alcohol around the area known as 'the old rec', the alleyway between Crawford's car park and Main Street and around the chapel area. He has received numerous complaints and given the public toilets have been closed during restrictions this has added to the problem. PSNI and Council have been made aware of these issues.

Councillor McGuigan also referred to ongoing drug dealing which is taking place in Maghera. He acknowledged that the PSNI have had some success in this regard, but it continues to blight the Maghera area.

Councillor McGuigan raised serious concerns about Walsh's Hotel apartments and a premises in Upperlands village being used as temporary emergency accommodation for people who are classified as 'homeless'. These individuals are suffering from drug and alcohol addiction come from across the Province. A number of these individuals have been consuming alcohol on the streets, begging on the streets, causing a nuisance and have stolen alcohol from off-licences. Councillor McGuigan advised that he has spoken with the local Neighbourhood Policing Team who are continuously dealing with problems within the accommodation building. He advised that he and Emma Sheerin, MLA have met with the proprietor of the accommodation and advised them that no support services are in place for the individuals living there. This emergency accommodation is used by Northern Ireland Housing Executive.

Councillor McGuigan wished to highlight what is happening in Maghera and stated that housing people suffering from drug and alcohol addiction and mental health issues in a small rural town without support services is not acceptable.

The PCSP Manager advised that he has been liaising with Councillor McGuigan and Sergeant Mark Robinson with regards to the issues surrounding this accommodation and Sgt Robinson had advised that young people from the Children's Home will no longer be referred there.

Superintendent Baird advised that he shares Councillor McGuigan's concerns and advised that a meeting is scheduled to take place next week to discuss a way forward. He said he can give re-assurance that there will be no new referrals to this accommodation and it is planned to re-house the present occupants and hopefully return the hotel back to normal. Michael Dallat, NIHE advised that this is his last PCSP meeting as he is due to retire shortly. He informed Members that his successor will be Sharon Crooks, currently the Area Manager in Antrim and Newtownabbey.

He agreed entirely with Councillor McGuigan in relation to the lack of support services provided to accommodation settings outside of the Belfast area. He stated that NIHE have been working very closely with Sergeant Mark Robinson and it is hoped with further discussions the situation in Maghera will be satisfactorily resolved in the near future.

He took the opportunity to say that he has enjoyed his time in Mid Ulster and wished the PCSP Members all the best for the future and continued success to the work being done by Mid Ulster Policing & Community Safety Partnership.

The Chair thanked Michael Dallat for his years of service, commitment and dedication to the work of the PCSP and wished him a happy and healthy retirement.

Councillor McPeake agreed with all that has been said in relation to the ongoing issues in Maghera and said that PCSP has been working hard in the Maghera area over the last few years and glad to hear that steps are being taken to resolve the situation.

Councillor McPeake expressed his thanks and those of his colleagues to Michael Dallat for his approachable manner and can-do attitude over the years. He wished him a very happy retirement. Councillor McPeake also expressed his sincere condolences on the recent passing of Michael's brother John Dallat.

The Chair also expressed her condolences on the passing of John Dallat, saying he will be sadly missed by his family and all who knew him.

Councillor Burton agreed entirely with previous speakers in relation to moving people into rural towns and villages, causing havoc for the local residents. Similar issues are happening in Augher and Fivemiletown, the local PSNI officers are being very helpful to residents. There are a number of individuals in the Aughnacloy area, begging on the streets and causing disruption.

Councillor Burton expressed her thanks to the PSNI officers who attended the Brantry Lough over the lockdown, resolving the anti-social behaviour issues and the re-assurance provided to the local community by the police patrols.

Councillor Burton also raised concern about Domestic Violence incidents over the lockdown period.

Councillor Burton took the opportunity to thank Michael Dallat and wished him a long and happy retirement.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending the meeting, advising that virtual meetings will have to continue for the foreseeable future.

The PCSP Manager advised that meetings will continue in accordance with the meeting schedule issued to Members, start time has been revised to 2.30pm.

The next meeting will be a Policing Committee Meeting which will take place on Wednesday 2 September 2020 at 2.30pm

The next PCSP meeting will take place on Wednesday 23 September 2020 at 2.30pm.
The meeting ended at 3.55pm.

All members were present for the duration of the meeting except Councillor Burton who joined the meeting at 3.00pm.