

## **Minutes of the meeting of Mid Ulster Policing and Community Safety Partnership held on Wednesday 14 October 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, Ciaran McElhone, Paul McErlean, Seán MacGoilla Cheara, Pearse McFlynn, Hayley Wilson Sharon Crooks (NIHE), Sinead Dolan (YJA), Michelle Grant (PBNI), Orla Murtagh (SH&SCT), Ryan McGee (EA), John Oprey (NIFRS), Chief Inspector Mervyn Seffen (PSNI), Sergeant Jeffrey Young (PSNI)

**Apologies:** Diane Spence (NH&SCT), Shauna McCloskey (PCSP Officer)  
**In Attendance:** Michael McCrory (PCSP Manager) Annette McGahan (PCSP Officer), Celene O'Neill (PCSP Officer), Martina McCullagh (PCSP Assistant)

The Meeting commenced at 2.33pm.

### **PCSP152/20 WELCOME**

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting and advised Members that Claire Linney, Head of Community Development is attended the meeting today to provide an update on PCSP Staffing. This item has been moved to the top of the agenda. The two PCSP Officers present left the meeting while discussions took place.

### **PCSP153/20 PCSP STAFFING**

Claire Linney. Head of Community Development advised that she attended the meeting today to provide PCSP Members with an update into proposed changes to resources within Community Development, including PCSP team to address resourcing issues within the Department.

It is proposed to transfer one PCSP officer that are not currently contained within the delivery of the PCSP Action Plan who are not funded. The resource reallocation is to support with the additional pressures that are presenting as part of the roll out of Mid Ulster Community Plan. The DoJ and NIPB allocate funding based on a submitted plan for delivery for a manager, 2 officers and an assistant. A third officer has been with the PCSP team since the amalgamation of the three Councils as a legacy arrangement and is funded by Mid Ulster District Council. It is proposed the third officer would transfer to the Council Community Development to support a number of pressures that are upcoming for delivery by Council of Mid Ulster Community Plan. These include a Mid Ulster Poverty Plan, Social Housing and Health and Wellbeing.

Claire Linney stated as PCSP is statutory body, independent of Council this will be respected. A review of support to the PCSP will continue to be

undertaken to ensure no impact to delivery. The officer would remain flexible to support the PCSP on an adhoc basis if required.

The Chair thanked Claire Linney for the update and asked Members if they had any questions or concerns in relation to the proposal.

Ryan McGee (EA) raised concerns about the detrimental effect that the reduction in the level of PCSP resources would have on the joint delivery of projects with Youth Services and the impact on links built up with young people, especially given the current increase in anti-social behaviour across the district.

In response, Claire Linney advised that it is anticipated that the officer would not move completely and would continue to engage in these types of projects which are additional within the Community Plan and partly delivered within PCSP Action Plan. Also there are community safety issues which are in the Community Plan and not yet linked into PCSP, which this officer will also be responsible for.

Ryan McGee (EA) stated that they have an excellent working relationship with PCSP officers and the continuity of partnership work with PCSP is a key component to the delivery of Youth Service projects and would not want to see this impacted negatively by this proposal.

Chief Inspector Seffen raised concern about the re-location of a PCSP Officer and the impact it will have on joint project working. He said PSNI highly value the work of the PCSP and this was reflected last year when Mid Ulster PCSP received the majority of Community Safety Awards presented by the Northern Ireland Policing Board.

Chief Inspector Seffen referred to tackling Anti-Social Behaviour and the need to divert young people away from these activities, particularly given the recent arrests around operation 'Arbacia'. He stated that Covid-19 has certainly restricted the number of events and activities that can take place, but as soon as restrictions are eased there is real drive to work with partner agencies with regards to Youth Engagement Programmes and Youth Schemes. He stated that the work carried out by Mid Ulster PCSP in relation to facilitating and management of these programmes is phenomenal and would be very concerned that a reduction in the level of staff would result in PCSP being unable to support them.

Chief Inspector Seffen said that he understands the importance of the role and projects of Community Planning. He expressed concern that any detriment to the performance of the PCSP in assisting PSNI would have a negative impact, particularly to children and the most vulnerable in our community.

In response, Claire Linney advised that this situation will be continually monitored and if any gaps in delivery of the PCSP Action Plan develop this will be addressed with resources being provided.

Councillor McPeake said that he understands the concerns that this proposal may have a negative impact on the delivery of the PCSP Action Plan, but stated that both Council and PCSP may have to adapt to changes given the current situation with Covid-19. He regrets that PCSP at present

due to Covid-19 is unable to deliver the normal level of public engagements and events which they do so very successfully.

Councillor McPeake also stated that the Community Plan is vital for the delivery of services across Mid Ulster district and is in agreement with the proposal with the caveat that the situation is monitored and can be reversed at any time if there is a detrimental impact on the delivery of the PCSP Action Plan.

The Chair referred to the increase in anti-social behaviour of 55% across the district since March, 2020 and welcomed the reassurance that this reallocation of resources will be regularly reviewed and reversed if need be.

Sean Kerr said the reallocation of resources should be a permanent item on the agenda to ensure a continual review of the situation in order to address any issues promptly.

Councillor McNamee welcomed the reassurance that the situation will be regularly reviewed and should any gaps in the delivery of the PCSP Action Plan appear this will be addressed.

The Chair thanked Claire Linney for attending the meeting and providing the update on the proposal to reallocate PCSP resources.

Claire Linney advised Members that she would be available when required to attend future meetings.

Claire Linney left the meeting at 2.53pm.

Members agreed with the proposal to transfer one PCSP Officer to support with the additional pressures in the roll out of Mid Ulster Community Plan with the understanding that the situation is continually monitored and if any negative impact or gaps in the delivery of the PCSP Action Plan develop this decision will be reversed.

**Proposed: Councillor Sean McPeake**

**Seconded: Councillor John McNamee**

The PCSP Manager advised that the technical issues experienced by a few Members joining today's meeting will be checked with the ICT Department.

#### **PCSP154/20 RESIGNATION OF PCSP INDEPENDENT MEMBER – Fiona Crawford**

The Chair informed Members that Fiona Crawford, PCSP Independent Member has resigned from Mid Ulster PCSP. The Chair advised that a letter of thanks will be sent to the outgoing Member for their many years of commitment and support to Mid Ulster PCSP.

Councillor Burton stated that Fiona Crawford was very passionate about her role as a PCSP Independent Member and will be greatly missed.

#### **PCSP155/20 DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

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

**PCSP156/20      MINUTES OF POLICING & COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP**  
**MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 1 JULY 2020**

The Minutes of Mid Ulster Policing and Community Safety Partnership meeting held on Wednesday 1 July 2020 were approved by Members.

**PCSP157/20      MATTERS ARISING**

**1. Anti-Social Behaviour**

Councillor Burton referred to several reports received of continual 'house parties' and asked if there is sufficient PSNI resources to deal with this issue. The business proprietors are adhering to Covid-19 rules and regulations, but individuals in their homes are not abiding by the rules. In response, Chief Inspector Seffen advised that a number of 'house parties' have been reported and the appropriate Code 1 and Code 2 enforcement notices have been issued to residents. PSNI have not received excessive numbers of reported 'house parties', which may mean they are not being reported and advised that resources are not an issue in relation to Covid-19. If reports are received, PSNI will take the appropriate course of action.

Councillor Burton also referred to anti-social behaviour issues on Main Street in Fivemiletown where lighter fuel was sprayed and set alight, McCreedy Mill in Aughnacloy where young people are congregating and Clogher, where some people are feeling vulnerable in their homes due to incidents with the traveller community and asked if these areas could be kept on the PSNI radar.

**Windmill Woods – Anti-Social Behaviour**

Councillor Graham referred to reports she received in relation to a number of young people congregating at an area known as the 'Stump' consuming alcohol, lighting fires and breaking bottles and asked if this area could have increased PSNI patrols around dusk.

Chief Inspector Seffen advised there are a number of areas in Dungannon highlighted as ASB hotspots, Windmill Woods being one of them. He advised that he would pass this information on to the Neighbourhood Sergeant to ensure this area is included in the routine PSNI patrols.

The Chair suggested the use of re-deployable cameras in this area.

The PCSP Manager advised, given the layout and the number of trees in Windmill Woods, re-deployable cameras would not be very effective but alternative options can be investigated.

**2. Anti-Social Behaviour in Cookstown**

Councillor McNamee referred to a number of anti-social behaviour incidents which have occurred in Cookstown recently and advised that he has been liaising with Sergeant Downey and Constable McGee. He asked for reassurance that there would be sufficient PSNI resources in Cookstown over the Halloween period to avoid a repeat of the serious incident which happened previously on Westland Road.

Councillor McNamee also requested an update on the situation in relation to traffic issues on Market Day in Cookstown.

Chief Inspector Seffen thanked Councillor McNamee and all the Councillors who have been working with the PSNI to curtail incidents over the Halloween period. He advised that the same level of resources will be in place again this year in the Cookstown area and also stated that a meeting is scheduled to take place on Friday 16 October, 2020 to discuss operations across Mid Ulster over the Halloween period.

In relation to traffic issues in Cookstown on Market day, Chief Inspector Seffen advised that if vehicles are causing an obstruction, PSNI will ask them to move on, but as far as he is aware the enforcement responsibility lies with the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) and the Charter holder Mr Orr.

The Chair suggested writing a letter to the relevant Minister advising of the traffic congestion problems in Cookstown on Market day and what action can be taken to alleviate this. The PCSP Manager to follow up on this.

**PCSP158/20**

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

The Chair referred to a letter received regarding policing of ongoing anti-social behaviour at Newbridge Picnic Area.

The PCSP Manager advised that the letter was sent to PCSP, it is not anonymous but the sender did request that their name and address is withheld for fear of any repercussions. The letter has been circulated to all Members and it relates to ongoing issues which started when members of the travelling community moved into this area.

Chief Inspector Seffen advised that this issue has been looked at extensively and can only be solved by finding suitable accommodation for the travelling community living at this site, the responsibility would lie with the NIHE, DFC and MUDC who partly own this land. The PSNI have limited powers in this area, they can action 'unlawful encampment' Act, but it would be up to the land owners to apply for an 'injunction' in this case.

The Chair stated there were further questions contained in the letter which required a response. Chief Inspector Seffen advised that he would look at the letter and respond accordingly.

**PCSP159/20**

### **VICE CHAIR ELECTION**

The PCSP Manager advised that in normal circumstances PCSP Independent Members would have had the opportunity to meet each other at meetings, but due to Covid-19 this has not been possible. He advised that the position of Vice Chair carries out the duties of the Chair in their absence. The position is held by an Independent Member and appointed by the Independent Members.

It is proposed to ask Independent Members who are interested in the position of Vice Chair to submit a brief outline of why they are interested in holding the position. The submissions received will then be circulated to all Independent Members and they can then cast their vote on-line for the Member they want to appoint to the position.

The Chair gave the Independent Members the opportunity to comment on the proposal and advised that the PCSP Manager would be in touch in due course to commence the process of appointing a Vice Chair.

#### **PCSP160/20 EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – BEAM CREATIVE NETWORK**

The Chair referred Members to the 'Expression of Interest' submitted by Beam Creative Network for Members approval.

The PCSP Manager advised Members that PCSP has worked with Beam Creative Network in previous years delivering this Project and excellent feedback has been received from both pupils and teachers through an evaluation process. This is an 'Internet Safety' Project aimed at Key Stage 2 pupils, P5 – P7 to help them to become more aware of the dangers and how to keep safe while on-line. Beam Creative Network will provide 15 workshops at a cost of £180 per workshop plus mileage costs. They will liaise with PCSP and the schools involved to decide on how best to deliver the workshops safely during Covid-19. Members agreed to proceed with the Project.

**Proposed: Councillor Dominic Molloy**  
**Seconded: Councillor Brian McGuigan**

#### **PCSP161/20 SIDs REPORT**

The PCSP Manager referred Members to the SIDs Report detailing where the Speed Indicator Devices are currently located, where they have been previously located and that they have proven to be a very successful method of reducing speed on our roads. There is currently 46 further locations on a waiting list for a Speed Indicator Device.

Councillor Burton advised that the SID which was positioned along the road close to Aughnacloy High School, the Playgroup and Primary school was very helpful while it was there, but that speeding at this location continues to be a problem. Councillor Burton reported that a 20mph sign is soon to be installed at this location, the issue was first highlighted at a PCSP meeting. Councillor Burton also referred to a section along the Monaghan / Aughnacloy Road which would benefit from the installation of a Speed Indicator Device and asked if there are plans to purchase further SIDs. The PCSP Manager advised that PCSP currently have 13 SIDs and the purchase of further devices can be undertaken if Members are in agreement.

Councillor Graham agreed with Councillor Burton and stated that any interventions in this area to reduce the speed of vehicles would be a great benefit.

Councillor McGuigan advised that he agrees entirely with the use of SIDs, they are extremely effective and he has received excellent feedback from areas where they have been installed.

Councillor Molloy stated that Speed Indicator Devices are invaluable and that he had encouraged community groups to avail of recent 'Road Management Improvement' grants to purchase a SID for their area, which they can then move to various locations as and when required.

The Chair agreed that Speed Indicator Devices are a proven method to reduce speed on our road and hoped that communities across the district would avail of any grants for this purpose.

#### **PCSP162/20 ACTION PLANNING UPDATE**

The PCSP Manager referred Members to the current Action Plan for 2020/21 and advised that a schedule of Acronyms is attached to the back of the document which was requested by a Member at a previous meeting. He advised Members that PCSP must now create an Action Plan for next year and referred to the 'PCSP Planning Guidance' document which was issued by the DoJ and NIPB on how to undertake the process of action planning. The PCSP Manager provided a brief overview that the Joint Committee require PCSP to review the current Action Plan and update it accordingly using the Outcome Based Accountability (OBA) method. The PCSP Manager proposed utilising the next PCSP meeting on 9 December 2020 to review and update next year's Action Plan which must be submitted in February 2021. He stated if the Action Plan could be compiled in December and reviewed in January in order to incorporate any amendments that the review of the Local Policing Plan may highlight. All relevant information will be circulated to Members well in advance of the meeting to allow time to review.

Members agreed that the next PCSP meeting on the 9 December 2020 will be used to review the Action Plan for 2021/22.

#### **PCSP163/20 DRAFT COMMUNITY CONSULTATION SURVEY**

The PCSP Manager referred to the Mid Ulster Policing and Community Safety Survey and advised that it will be promoted through Facebook and Partner agencies to garner local opinion and statistics and will be circulated electronically given Covid-19.

The Chair asked Members if they had any comments on the content or any additional questions which should be included in the survey.

Councillor Burton requested a question relating to 'rural crime' be included, the survey will be amended accordingly.

The Chair congratulated the PSNI on the recent drug seizures and arrests in Mid Ulster.

Chief Inspector Seffen advised that overall drug detections are slightly down which is due to Covid-19 restrictions, however, he referred to a very notable success recently against an organised crime gang (OCG), the PSNI are confident that the arrests have dismantled this gang.

Chief Inspector Seffen referred to a new project called 'Silent Guardian' which will be launched in the near future. He advised that the Neighbourhood Inspectors will be engaging with local elected members and community groups to raise the profile of this project. 'Silent Guardian' is a means of reporting information in relation to drugs and encouraging the use of the 'RAPID' bins installed across Mid Ulster by the PCSP.

The Chair commended the PSNI on the forthcoming launch of the 'Silent Guardian' Project which will help combat the scourge of drugs in our communities.

#### **Update on PCSP Project provided Celene O'Neill (PCSP Officer)**

Celene O'Neill, PCSP Officer referred Members to a section of ground located in Union Place, Dungannon which is surrounded by a number of businesses including St Vincent DePaul, Menarys and the Ulster Bank. There is an entrance leading down a very sheltered walkway where drug dealing, anti-social behaviour and damage to property is taking place. Clanmill Housing Association own the bottom section of this ground, which they have fenced off, the young people gather at the top section.

Dungannon Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) and the Crime Prevention Officer (CPO) have looked at this area and met with the businesses concerned and have suggested installing a gate across the entry, each of the businesses would hold a key. This would stop anyone gaining access to this area and end the anti-social behaviour which is taking place there. PCSP approval was sought for the procurement and fitting of the gate. If approved the businesses concerned will be asked if they are willing to make a contribution towards the cost.

The Chair asked Members for their comments on this proposal. Councillor Burton stated that she presumes that this would not set a precedent for PCSP, and if the businesses are on board and willing to contribute to the cost she was supportive of the project.

**Proposed: Councillor Frances Burton**

**Seconded: Councillor Meta Graham**

#### **Update on PCSP Project provided Annette McGahan (PCSP Officer)**

Annette McGahan, PCSP Officer updated on the following advertising Campaigns which are taking place during the month of October, appearing on 'adshels' at bus shelters and also on PCSP Facebook page.

- Domestic Violence 'Behind Closed Doors' campaign, which highlights the domestic violence helpline number.
- 'Where Is Your Child Tonight' campaign which encourages parents to be aware where their child is and who they are with, especially over the Halloween period.

#### **PCSP164/20 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business to discuss.



**PCSP165/20 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next PCSP meeting will take place on Wednesday 9 December 2020 which will be devoted to review of the PCSP Action Plan for 2021/2022.

The meeting ended at 3.50pm.