

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 15 April 2025 at 6.33 pm

PRESENT: Councillor S Lowry (Chairperson)
Councillor J Gallen
Councillor A Givan
Councillor B Higginson
Councillor C Kemp
Councillor J Lavery BEM
Councillor M McKeever
Councillor A Martin
Councillor T Mitchell
Mr D Cairns
Mr B Corr
Mrs Y Craig
Mr D Drysdale
Mr G McClory
Ms G McDonald

PRESENT IN A REMOTE LOCATION: Councillor D Lynch
Mr N Anderson
Mr G Walker

IN ATTENDANCE: Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

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

Designated Organisations

Chief Inspector M Rocks, PSNI
Inspector B Moore, PSNI
Mr J Crymble, EA
Mr D Marley, NIHE
Mr Ciaran Stitt, NIHE

Commencement of the Meeting

The Chairperson, Councillor S Lowry, welcomed everyone to the private meeting of the PCSP, and requested anyone attending remotely to turn their video on for the benefit of those in the chamber.

1. Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of Superintendent K Moore (PSNI) and Ms C Cullen (Youth Justice Agency).

2. Declarations of Interest

The following interests were declared:

- Mrs Y Craig, in respect of item 5.3 'Participatory Budgeting (Grand Choice) Update', as she is a member of the Road Safe NI Committee.
- Mr G Walker in respect of item 5.5 'Applications for Funding Over £500 – Lagan Valley Apprentice Boys of Derry Cultural Society' as he is a member of the organising committee.
- Chief Inspector M Rocks and Inspector B Moore, in respect of item 5.6, 'Applications for Funding under £500', in view of the PSNI post primary school work experience funding request.

Ms G McDonald entered the meeting during this item of business (6.34 pm).

3. Minutes

It was proposed by Councillor B Higginson, seconded by Mr G McClory, and agreed that the minutes of the undernoted meetings be adopted:

- Minutes of the Private Meeting held on 21 January 2025,
- Minutes of the Policing Committee held on 18 February 2025,
- Minutes of the Public Meeting held on 18 March 2025.

4. 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:

4.1 PSNI Update

Councillor J Gallen entered the meeting during this item of business (6.46 pm).

During her update, Chief Inspector M Rocks highlighted the following in regard to the Lisburn and Castlereagh area:

- there had been a 10.1% reduction in crime, compared to the previous rolling 365 figures,
- increase in sexual offences with 6 additional reports in comparison to the same period the previous year,

4.1 PSNI Update (Cont'd)

- shoplifting increased 1.4% (increase of ten offences),
- 4 incidents of possession of weapons offences,
- burglaries were down by 23.8%, residential burglaries down by 26.5%, business and commercial burglaries down 20%, persistent issue of boiler theft from new build developments across Lisburn and Castlereagh area,
- antisocial behaviour was down by 13.9%, issues in respect of bonfire related antisocial behaviour, particularly in the Castlereagh area, which had involved youths breaking into businesses, stealing pallets, throwing items at road workers and police officers,
- domestic abuse and violence against women and girls- number of events in the last month, continue to see a decrease in domestic crimes and incidents, however cautious as there may be underreporting,
- consistently seeing sexual related blackmails online in which predominantly young men are victims across all social media platforms, this issue remains on the agenda for school engagement visits,
- drugs offences reduced, drug seizure during March 2.2kg of suspected cocaine with an estimated street value of £704,000,
- 16 drink/drug driving arrests in Lisburn/Castlereagh during March,
- 16 April – operation lifesaver day of action, which would include speed operations across the province,
- upcoming events – Apprentice Boys Parade, Mayors Parade and Balmoral show,
- preparing for seasonal risks in respect of antisocial behaviour, cold callers/holiday scams.

Responding to questions from the Partnership Members, Chief Inspector M Rocks clarified several matters, in respect of weapons offences, boiler thefts from new builds, antisocial behaviour in Carryduff, serious antisocial behaviour in Dundonald, decrease in burglaries, underreporting of violence against women and girls' incidents, and information on the new PSNI reporting portal due to be implemented.

In response to a query from Councillor J Gallen regarding boiler thefts at sites in Carryduff, Chief Inspector M Rocks requested that Councillor Gallen supply the names of the affected sites, assuring that she would look into the matter.

In response to a query raised by Councillor J Gallen regarding antisocial behaviour (ASB) in Carryduff, Inspector B Moore emphasised the importance of reporting all incidents of ASB to the PSNI, either via 101/online or 999 in emergencies. Inspector Moore noted that the meeting held the previous day had highlighted underreporting of ASB in Carryduff. He also confirmed that the new PCSP Project Support Funding Programme was set to launch on 16 March to assist projects addressing crime within the Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council area, encouraging relevant groups in Carryduff to apply.

Councillor B Higginson expressed his appreciation to Inspector B Moore and the team for participating in a very proactive meeting with the Carryduff Regeneration Forum the previous day. The meeting centred on addressing antisocial behaviour

4.1 PSNI Update (Cont'd)

in the Carryduff area. Councillor Higginson also informed attendees that relevant groups would be applying for the aforementioned funding to help tackle the issue.

Regarding an article published by Belfast Live concerning antisocial behaviour in Killynure Green, Councillor B Higginson expressed that the article was highly misleading, noting that the images featured were taken two years ago. Councillor Higginson further reported that several residents from the Killynure estate had reached out to him to express their confidence in the PSNI and commend the actions taken to address the antisocial behaviour issue. Councillor B Higginson also informed the meeting that a residents' meeting was scheduled to take place on Friday, 18 April. The gathering would provide an opportunity for residents to engage with Choice Housing and the Neighbourhood Policing Team to discuss the ongoing issue of antisocial behaviour.

Councillor J Lavery, addressing the issue of antisocial behaviour at ASDA in Dundonald, confirmed that his persistent communications had initially led to ASDA reopening their pedestrian gate. This had successfully mitigated the problem of youths climbing over residents' walls. However, he noted that the gate had since been closed again, causing the issue to resurface. Councillor Lavery informed the meeting that the Crime Prevention Team was working to arrange a meeting with ASDA and himself in an effort to have the gate reopened.

Councillor J Lavery formally expressed his gratitude to the Dundonald Neighbourhood Policing Team. He noted that he had reached out to them on multiple occasions for assistance and praised the team for their exceptional professionalism. The Chair, Councillor S Lowry echoed these sentiments.

In response to a request from Councillor M McKeever regarding an event to address the underreporting of hate-related crimes and incidents, Chief Inspector M. Rocks shared that a very positive reference, engagement, and listening event was held last year. She added that plans to organise a similar event in the future would be considered.

In response to a question raised by Mr D Cairns regarding the functionality of a new portal designed to provide updates to victims, Chief Inspector M Rocks committed to gathering further details on how to access the system. She assured Mr Cairns that she would follow up directly with an update.

4.2 Mr J Crymble, Education Authority

Mr B Corr left the meeting during this item of business (7.20 pm).

Mr Crymble provided an update in relation to recent community initiatives by the Education Authority, including:

- work ongoing on local assessment of need (plan for next 3 years),
- positive uptake in youth provision in Carryduff Primary School, the junior section had 30/35 attending on a weekly basis, engagement with senior youths more challenging and youth-based staff had been engaging in street-

4.2 Mr J Crymble, Education Authority (Cont'd)

based work at weekends to connect with teenagers, researching new suitable youth venue for the area,

- Horizon Programme (18 Month leadership programme), this summer just under 300 young people going to France for a weeklong camp, young people planning a social enterprise day on 3 May at Grand Central Station, 3d printing impossible pyramids and a challenge family card game for purchase,
- Youth Council – getting ready to launch their campaigns, planning conference/road shows in local schools.

Mr Crymble informed the Partnership about an upcoming coffee morning at Brooklands Youth Centre, scheduled for Sunday, 27 April, from 12 noon to 3 pm. The event, organised by a group of young women, was aiming to collect donated gifts to create care packages for Women's Aid. He encouraged everyone to attend and contribute items for the care packages.

Mr Crymble responded to several questions in relation to the mental health of young people and regional assessment of need which was currently out for public assessment, difficulties of social media for youth, and conversations with young people following the powerful drama series 'Adolescence'.

In response to questions from the Vice-Chairperson, Mr B Corr, Mr Crymble agreed to share details of both upcoming events with the Partnership for promotion on social media. He also committed to providing a list of suitable items for donation to the Women's Aid care packages.

Mr G Walker shared information about an inspiring young woman, Ugne Gircaite, who had successfully designed her own mental health program and self-help guides. In response to Mr Walker's request to invite Ugne to a Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP) meeting to present her work, the Chairperson, Councillor S Lowry, requested that Mr Walker forward Ugne's contact details to the PCSP Manager for arrangement.

Councillor J Lavery put on record his gratitude and acknowledged the valuable contributions of all Education Authority youth workers for their dedicated efforts.

In response to a request from Councillor J Lavery regarding engagement with young people, the Chairperson, Councillor S Lowry, agreed that a public themed meeting of PCSP focused on youth related issues would be considered.

4.3 Mr Des Marley, NIHE

At the outset, Mr Marley announced his upcoming retirement in the coming months and introduced Mr Ciaran Stitt as the newly appointed Area Manager for Lisburn and Castlereagh. The Partnership noted that Mr Stitt had previously served as Assistant Manager for the same area, bringing extensive experience and expertise to the role. He added that Mr Stitt would be working alongside him over the next few months to ensure a smooth transition.

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

4.3 Mr Des Marley, NIHE (Cont'd)

- the Chief Executive and Members would be notified in writing in respect of key personnel changes on completion of the recruitment process for the Assistant Area Manager for Lisburn and Castlereagh,
- graffiti at Seymour hill,
- incoming tenant drug related issues,
- antisocial behaviour at the vacant tower blocks in Seymour Hill,
- in respect of antisocial behaviour cases - there had been 3 reported incidents in March bringing the year end figure to 51 incidents. 96% of cases reported were dealt with within the KPI target dates,
- fundamental review of allocation of housing points – intimidation points discontinued on 31 March 2025,
- social housing development programme - 433 units under construction across the Lisburn and Castlereagh area,
- meeting 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, updates on outcomes would be provided when available.

Mr Marley responded to a question in relation to the demolition timeframe for Rathmoyn House.

Councillor J Lavery formally expressed the Partnership's appreciation to Mr Marley for his work in respect of the review of housing points allocation and his support over the last few years. He further requested that his gratitude be extended to the Customer Service Team, noting their professionalism and commendable efforts in addressing and resolving the concerns raised by constituents. These comments were echoed by Councillor T Mitchell.

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

5. Report of the Acting PCSP Manager

5.1 PCSP Strategic Assessment 2025-2028 and Annual Action Plan

Members noted an update on the PCSP Strategic Assessment 2023–2028 and the Annual Action Plan 2025–2026, both of which had received approval from the Joint Committee. Copies of these documents were distributed to the Partnership for information.

5.2 Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG)

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

1. Momentum Funding - The Acting PCSP Manager provided information on a funding package which opened for applications from 17-31 January 2025.

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

It was reported that a total of £20,000 was allocated for 6 projects to be completed by the end of March 2025, with grant awards ranging from £1,000 to £5,000. A summary of the funded projects, totalling £17,147.30 were circulated to the Partnership for information.

2. Ending Violence Against Women and Girls Change Fund - It was reported that the fund opened for applications from 24 February – 24 March 2025. It was noted that 10 applications had been received and 5 had been successful at assessment stage. It was further reported that, as the total funding allocation was not exhausted, a second call for applications would be issued in early summer 2025.
3. Engagement Events – It was noted that between February and March 11 engagement events were delivered to raise awareness of EVAWG, including:
 - a PCSP Public Themed Meeting in Dundonald High School,
 - information sessions with local sporting organisations,
 - PSNI Family Fun Days in Lisburn and Dundonald,
 - a “Spring Safe” women’s running event in Carryduff,
 - positive Ageing events in Lisburn and Dundonald,
 - information stand at the Grand Choice Market Place event in Hillsborough.

It was proposed by Councillor T Mitchell, seconded by Councillor B Higginson, and agreed that the assessment panel’s recommendations be approved, as outlined in appendices 3 and 4 of the report.

Responding to a request made by Councillor T Mitchell in respect of the public themed meeting focused on tackling violence against women and girls, the Acting PCSP Manager agreed to consider an event for the Lisburn area in the coming year, similar to the recent event that had taken place in Dundonald.

5.3 Participatory Budgeting (Grand Choice) Update

Members noted that the Grand Choice Marketplace event for Downshire West took place on Saturday 29 March 2025 at Hillsborough Presbyterian Church Hall. It was reported that 22 groups participated, with nearly 900 attendees and 864 votes cast. The Partnership noted that the top 15 projects received £1,000 each. A copy of the full results was circulated for Members information.

It was further report that the next round of Grand Choice for Downshire East would launch in late August 2025, with applications closing on 28 September 2025. The Marketplace event would be scheduled for October 2025.

5.4 Project Support Programme 2025-2026 – Proposed Time Scales

The Acting PCSP Managers report provided an overview of the Project Support Programme which was set to launch on Wednesday 16 April 2025. It was reported that eligible applicants included constituted community groups,

5.4 Project Support Programme 2025-2026 – Proposed Time Scales
(Cont'd)

neighbourhood watch schemes and community police liaison committees. Information was provided on the funding criteria/themes, and the proposed funding timeline was circulated and agreed by the Partnership.

The partnership nominated the following members to sit on the assessment panel alongside the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson:

- Independent Members – Mr D Cairns, Mr G McClory and Ms G McDonald,
- Elected Member – Councillor B Higginson.

5.5 Applications for Funding over £500

It was noted that due to the timing of the event, the Chairperson reviewed and approved the application on behalf of the Partnership.

It was proposed by Councillor B Higginson and seconded by Councillor C Kemp and agreed that the award of £1,900 to the Apprentice boys of Derry, Lagan Valley Branch to support community safety arrangements during their Easter Monday parade, be formally approved.

5.6 Applications for Funding under £500

It was proposed by Councillor J Laverty, seconded by Councillor C Kemp, and agreed that the award of £500 to the PSNI for a three-day work experience programme for post primary schools across the LCCC area in June 2025 be approved.

5.7 Balmoral Show

The Partnership noted that the Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP) would be participating in the Community Safety Marquee at the Balmoral Show from 14 and 17 May 2025, alongside other PCSPs (Fermanagh & Omagh, Mid & East Antrim, Antrim & Newtownabbey), the PSNI, Women's Aid, the Department of Justice's Serious and Organised Crime Unit, and the Northern Ireland Policing Board.

5.8 PCSP Schedule of Meetings 2025-2026

The Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP) schedule of meetings for 2025-2026 was circulated and noted by the Partnership.

6. Any Other Business

6.1 'Making It Programme'
Mr D Drysdale

Mr D Drysdale referred to a successful programme which took place pre pandemic which was sponsored by the PSNI and Housing Executive and centred

6.1 'Making It Programme'
Mr D Drysdale (Cont'd)

on how to connect with hard-to-reach young people. Mr Drysdale agreed to forward details of the programme to Mr Crymble.

6.2 Multi Agency Meetings – Glenavy
Councillor C Kemp

Councillor C Kemp highlighted the appearance of recent racist graffiti in Glenavy and requested that multi-agency meetings be reconvened to adopt a proactive approach ahead of the Easter and Summer holidays. Chief Inspector M Rocks asked Councillor C Kemp to forward the crime number associated with the racist graffiti incident.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 7.50 pm.

Chairperson