

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

Private Meeting of the Policing and Community Safety Partnership held in the Council Chamber, Lagan Valley Island, Lisburn on Tuesday, 16th April, 2024 at 6.00 pm

PRESENT: Councillor A Givan (Chairman)
Councillor J Gallen
Councillor B Higginson
Councillor C Kemp
Councillor J Lavery
Councillor S Lowry
Councillor A Martin
Mr D McBurney
Councillor M McKeever
Mrs Y Craig
Ms Aisling Playford

PRESENT IN A REMOTE LOCATION: Councillor P Burke
Councillor T Mitchell
Mrs G Conroy
Mr J Bentley
Ms F McKibben (PBNI)
Mrs P Yellamaty (Vice Chairperson)

IN ATTENDANCE: Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
Acting PCSP Manager
PCSP Officer (JB)
Member Services Officers (BS and EW)

Designated Organisations
Mr D Marley, NIHE
Acting Chief Inspector Katrina McMullan, PSNI
Mr Johnny Crymble, Education Authority
Ms F McKibben, Probation Board NI

Commencement of the Meeting

The Chairman, Councillor A Givan, welcomed everyone to the private meeting of the PCSP.

1. Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of Mr P Dean (Independent Member), Superintendent K Moore (PSNI) and Mr C Weir (NIFRS).

2. Declarations of Interest

During the course of the meeting the Acting Chief Inspector, K McMullan, declared an interest in item 3 of the Acting PCSP Manager's report, Applications for Funding Under £500, in view of the PSNI having been successful in its application for funding towards a work experience initiative which was taking place from 18-20 June 2024.

3. Minutes

It was proposed by Councillor J Lavery, seconded by Mr D McBurney, and agreed that the minutes of the undernoted meetings be adopted:

- Private Meeting held on 16th January 2024
- Special Private Meeting held on 20 February 2024
- Policing Committee held on 20 February 2024
- Public Themed Meeting held on 19 March 2024

3.1 Matters Arising

Private Meeting held on 16 January 2024
Item 3.1 Bike Marking Event – Carryduff Area

Councillor B Higginson referred to the forthcoming bike marking event and reminded of the need for the relevant Neighbourhood Policing team to be made aware of the date and time for this event.

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 Update from PSNI

In the absence of Superintendent K Moore, the Acting Chief Inspector, K McMullan, presented the update for the PSNI.

At the outset CI McMullan thanked the Partnership for their support at the PSNI's recent Retail Crime meeting which was aimed at business owners in helping to prevent crime and fear of crime. These events also provided an opportunity for business owners to sign up to the Business Watch scheme. To date 89 businesses had signed up to this scheme.

During her update, Chief Inspector McMullan highlight the following in regard to the Lisburn and Castlereagh area:

4.1 Update from PSNI (Cont'd)

- low levels of retail crime/burglaries currently
- one incident of a creeper burglary in February
- home safety initiatives continue to be promoted by the PSNI along with the PCSP
- plans for the public launch of the new Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in Hillsborough
- a number of events on scams and home security have been progressed by the PSNI's Crime Prevention Officer along with the PCSP
- difficulty in detecting drugs possession and supply due to changing trends. One successful case in March, with the assistance of Border Force Officers, was the uncovering of 12 kg of cannabis and E-tablets. The PSNI had donated proceeds of the Court order arising from this prosecution to Ascertainment NI.
- an incident of knife crime the previous weekend had involved young adults known to each other and which had resulted in a charge of attempted murder. A number of sessions had been delivered to local school children in terms of educating young people on this type of crime.
- road safety focus during April included drink/drug driving, excess speed, failing to wear seatbelt and using mobile phone whilst driving
- a recent engagement event by the PSNI with young people focused on the themes of 'stop and search' and anti-social behaviour
- plans were underway for the Community Safety stand at Balmoral Show in partnership with PCSP's, Policing Board and DOJ (Serious & Organised Crime). There would be a wide range of themes covered during each of the four days including reducing on the themes of violence against women and girls and also wildlife
- update on the local Policing Plan

At the conclusion of Chief Inspector McMullan's update the following issues were raised by members of the Partnership:

- Mrs P Yellamaty enquired if the apprehensions for driving under the influence of drugs were in relation to prescription drugs or illegal drugs, and if such cases were increasing across the Council area. During her response Chief Inspector McMullan advised that the PSNI had been engaging with schools on the issue of drugs.
- the Chairperson, Councillor A Givan, enquired about any impact for the Council area as a result of the reported closure of PSNI front desks and also the movement of PSNI personnel to other locations
- Councillor M McKeever put on record the appreciation of Fourwinds Community group in connection with the Dundonald Neighbourhood Team support at a recent community event
- Councillor M McKeever referred to a recent incident when a mother and young child had been taken upstairs during a burglary and enquired if such incidents were common in the LCCC area.
- Councillor B Higginson, on behalf of the local residents, asked that thanks and appreciation be conveyed to the Castlereagh Neighbourhood Policing team for their efforts recently in regard to the speed cameras in place at Beechill Road/Purdysburn Road area.

4.2 Update from Mr J Crymble, Education Authority

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

- the success of the recent Youth Council conference attended by 60 young people at Ards & North Down Council, and also the Youth Council's residential trip to Dublin
- the visit from a youth group from Dublin to Brooklands Youth Centre in Ballybeen
- the young person from Brooklands Youth Centre who won the Youth Impact Award at the Council's Mayor's Community Awards event recently
- the Education Authority's summer schemes had no confirmed budget yet, however a basic programme of activities would be put in place

4.3 Update from Ms F McKibben, Probation Board NI

Ms F McKibben discussed the role of the Probation Board NI which had a central role in the criminal justice system the aim of which was to prevent offenders from coming back into the criminal justice system and thus making communities safer. Ms McKibben advised that a high proportion of users have drug and alcohol behaviour issues which leads to criminal activity; and that the Board was managing an increasing complexity of cases.

Ms McKibben also advised that staff retention and pay were significant issues for the Board currently.

Ms McKibben responded to questions from the Partnership as follows:

- Ms Y Craig enquired about the percentage of offenders that re-offend and the percentage of offenders who do not re-offend. Ms McKibben advised that she did not have exact figures on percentage of re-offenders to hand. She explained that the tendency to re-offend often depended on type of offence in question. Ms McKibben undertook to obtain such figures for the Partnership.

Ms Y Craig indicated that she would wish to see the outcomes of each of the programmes being delivered by PBNI, and was hopeful that the percentage of re-offending was reduced due to engaging with the likes of Ascertain.

- The Chairperson enquired as to how many clients PBNI managed in the Lisburn & Castlereagh Council area. Ms McKibben advised that there was approximately a total of 4,000 clients in their system currently, the majority being adult males. She undertook to obtain the number of clients for the LCCC area.

4.4 Update from Mr D Marley, NIHE

Mr Marley highlighted a number of issues including:

- there were four reported cases of antisocial behaviour during February bringing the total to 56 for the current financial year. He indicated that this did not reflect the actual picture and that he believed a number of incidents were

4.4 Update from Mr D Marley, NIHE (Cont'd)

not being reported. He also advised that 90% of cases had been responded to within 3 days of being registered.

- one incident of a house fire in March which was not as serious as the house fire that had been reported on previously. Mr Marley expressed thanks the team from the Fire & Rescue Service for their prompt actions on the evening.
- two reported tree falls in the Dundonald area which has caused extensive damage to some vehicles and minor damage to nearby properties.

Mr Marley responded to a question from Councillor J Laverty in relation to the issue raised at the previous meeting of the Partnership in connection with the NIHE's assessment appraisal criteria. Mr Marley advised that he had no further update and that the issue was with their Fundamental Review Allocation team currently, and that DfC also were keen to have a fundamental review on the assessment criteria. Mr Marley undertook to relay the Partnerships disappointment on this matter to NIHE's Policy Unit.

At the conclusion of the updates from the Statutory Partners, the Chairman, Councillor A Givan, thanked all the statutory agency representatives present for their contributions.

5.0 Report of the Acting PCSP Manager

5.1 Participatory Budgeting (Grand Choice) Update- Castlereagh East Update

The Acting PCSP Manager reported that the community showcase event for the Grand Choice participatory budgeting initiative for Castlereagh East had been held on Saturday 9 March 2024 at St Mary's Parish Church, Ballybeen, Dundonald. Twenty six applicants had competed on the day showcasing their projects.

The Partnership had been furnished with a list of the applicants and projects who competed for funding.

The Acting PCSP Manager advised that the event had included wider engagement opportunities for the community including the presence of the Neighbourhood Police Officers, Choice Housing representatives together with LCCC Community Services Officers who supported the event. It was noted that there had been 755 votes cast which resulted in 16 groups across the DEA being awarded a total of £15,412.30. The voting results and amounts awarded to each of the 16 successful groups were also detailed in the appended document.

It was noted that social media coverage from the event could be viewed on the PCSP Facebook page.

Councillor J Laverty having expressed thanks and congratulations to all involved in this event made a number of comments, including:

5.1 Participatory Budgeting (Grand Choice) Update- Castlereagh East Update
(Cont'd)

- a) the need to review the voting process in view of, for example, schools having more than one application which can result in significant support from families etc., and the disadvantage for other groups competing who cannot avail of this level of support.
- b) the need to review the actual voting process to make it easier for the admin teams following the event, perhaps with the use of mobile phones on the day, and
- c) the need for a bigger venue for this event.

Councillor S Lowry concurred with the comments raised by Councillor Laverty and stated that she too was aware of some unsuccessful groups being disappointed.

Mrs P Yellamaty, Vice Chairperson, having also commended the organisation of this event enquired in relation to the advertising of this initiative as she had spoken with an elderly couple on the day who had suggested that it would be beneficial to have the event promoted in the likes of shops and community halls, etc.. Mrs Yellamaty asked that the Partnership give this matter consideration.

Councillor McKeever referred to the success of the sensory room project and welcomed this type of project.

The Chairperson, Councillor A Givan, suggested that as this was the end of the current cycle of Grand Choice events, this would be a good time for a review of the Grand Choice criteria to be undertaken to ensure a more fair and equitable process. The Chairperson suggested that members of the Partnership forward any ideas they may have on a review of the criteria for the next round of Grand Choice events to the Acting PCSP Manager or the PCSP Officer (JB) in the first instance.

In response to comments by Councillor J Laverty, the Acting PCSP Manager advised that there were governance issues relating to the upper limit of £1,000 awarded through the Grand Choice initiative and that there were other funding initiatives that would allow for more flexible funding awards under the community safety theme. The Acting PCSP Manager undertook to look into the issues raised.

The Acting PCSP Manager, along with the PCSP Officer (JB) undertook to give the matter of a review of the criteria for the Grand Choice initiative consideration, taking account of the comments raised by members of the Partnership at the meeting that evening and also at previous meetings with a view to a report coming forward in due course.

Following comments from Mr D Marley, NIHE, the Chairperson suggested that the PCSP Officer liaise with Mr Marley in connection with issue of 'age profile' being taken into account when undertaking any review of criteria.

The PCSP Officer (JB) responded to a comment from Councillor M McKeever in connection with the next cycle of Grand Choice events.

5.1 Participatory Budgeting (Grand Choice) Update- Castlereagh East Update (Cont'd)

It was agreed that the report on the Castlereagh East Participatory Budgeting (Grand Choice) event be noted.

5.2 Project Support Programme 2024/2025 – Proposed Time Scales

The Acting PCSP Manager’s report outlined the key issues in connection with the Project Support Programme that had been agreed as part of the PCSP’s Action Plan for 2024/25. The scheme invited applications from constituted community groups, neighbourhood watch schemes and Community Police Liaison Committees for funding ranging from £500 up to a maximum of £5000, with all projects to be completed before 28 February 2025.

The report highlighted the themes that submissions to this Programme must adhere as well as the timeline for the programme.

It was agreed that:

- a) the timeline for the Project Support Programme, as outlined, be agreed and
- b) Councillor S Lowry and Mr D McBurney be nominated to sit on the Project Support Programme assessment panel along with the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Partnership and a PSNI representative. It was further agreed that Mrs A Playford be nominated as a reserve panel member.

5.3 Application for Funding Under £500

It was proposed by Mrs Y Craig, seconded by Councillor T Mitchell, and agreed that the Partnership approve the following funding applications for projects under £500, and that retrospective approval be granted in connection with the first two awards, namely; Derriaghy LOL and Lisburn Young Defenders Flute Band.

Group	Project	Amount Requested
1. Derriaghy LOL	Marshalling training for Lodge members to assist at large scale public events	£500
2. Lisburn Young Defenders Flute Band	Engagement event with PSNI Lisburn City Neighbourhood Team – 23 March 2024	£495
3. PSNI	Work Experience – 18-20 June 2024	£500

5.3 Application for Funding Under £500 (Cont'd)

The PCSP Officer (JB) elaborated on the PSNI Work Experience initiative which would take place from 18-20 June 2024, it being noted that the PCSP had been requested to set aside a short period of time to highlight the work of the Partnership to the work experience students.

The PCSP Officer responded to a question from the Chairperson in regard to the delivery of marshalling training.

5.5 Balmoral Show

The Acting PCSP Manager reported that the PCSP would be an integral part of the Community Safety marquee at the Balmoral Show for the 4 days from the 15 – 18 May 2024, it being noted that Fermanagh & Omagh and Antrim & Newtownabbey PCSPs would also have a presence on the stand alongside the PSNI, Serious & Organised Crime (DOJ) and the Northern Ireland Policing Board.

It was agreed to recommend that the report on the 2024 Balmoral Show be noted.

5.6 Community Policing Survey 2024

The Acting PCSP Manager reported that the 2024 Community Policing Survey had been launched on Monday 8 April and would remain open until 30 June, it being noted that the PCSP team had been actively sharing the link with stakeholders to encourage them complete the survey. The link to the survey had been included in the report circulated.

It was agreed to recommend that the Partnership encourages the completion of this survey and that the link to the survey be included on the PCSP Facebook page.

6. Any Other Business

6.1 Ladies Road Safety Night
Acting PCSP Manager

The Acting PCSP Manager informed the Partnership that she had been contacted by Alderman Hazel Legge recently in regard to a road safety event for ladies organised by Antrim & Newtownabbey District Council and that she, together with the PCSP Officer (JB) were currently working on an itinerary for a similar type of event in mid-June.

6.2 Traffic Lights at Prince William Road
Chairperson, Councillor A Givan

Chief Inspector K McMullan responded to concerns raised by the Chairperson in regard to the operation of the new traffic lights at the junction of the Prince William Road and Ballymacash Road. It was noted that these concerns had been raised also on social media. The Chairperson reported that there had been a number of 'near misses' due to the scheduling of the lights and enquired if new signage could be erected to draw motorists attention to the new system of lights.

Mrs A Playford referred to this matter having been raised by local MLAs and undertook to forward to the Partnership a copy of the letter that had been issued to DfI Roads Service from a local MLA.

6.3 Speed Indicator Device (SID) on Saintfield Road, Carryduff
Councillor B Higginson

Councillor B Higginson, on behalf of the residents of Killynure, conveyed thanks to the PCSP Officer (JB) for his efforts in progressing the repair to the SID on the Ballynahinch Road, Carryduff.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 7.46 pm.

Chairperson