

Fermanagh and Omagh District Council
Fermanagh and Omagh Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Minutes of the Fermanagh and Omagh Policing and Community Safety Partnership meeting held, on Tuesday 26 May 2020 at 6 pm via Teleconference.

Present: **Councillors**
Thomas O'Reilly (Chairperson), Paul Blake, Josephine Deehan, Stephen Donnelly, Keith Elliott, Tommy Maguire, John McClaughry, Barry McElduff, and Donal O'Cofaigh.

Independent Members
Monica Coyle (Vice- Chairperson), Norman Kirkpatrick, Vida Lake, Pauline Treacy and Simon Wiggins.

Designated Members
Superintendent Clive Beatty (PSNI), Paul Devlin (PBNI), Sinead Dolan (YJA) and Oonagh McAvinney (NIHE).

Apologies: Cllr Allan Rainey, Eithne McAnespy, Michael Brown (NIFRS) and Michael Curran (NIFRS).

In attendance: Carol Follis (PCSP Manager) and Maggie McManus (Committee Clerk).

PCSP 01/20 **Welcome and Apologies**
The Chairperson welcomed the PCSP Members to the meeting commenting that a meeting via teleconference was a new experience for the PCSP. Apologies were accepted. He thanked the PCSP staff team for its role in assisting with the Council Community Hub as part of the Council Covid-19 response.

The Chairperson asked that Members follow the teleconference etiquette to enable the meeting to run smoothly.

PCSP 02/20 **Declarations of Interest**
No declarations of interest were declared.

PCSP 03/20 **Notification of AOB**
Councillor Barry McElduff stated his satisfaction that the identified underspend from 2019/2020 had been reprofiled to provide financial assistance to 6 local foodbanks. The PCSP Manager confirmed that funding of £4,680 had been made available.

PCSP 04/20 **Minutes**
The minutes of the PCSP meeting held in public on Tuesday 25 February 2020 were considered and approved. Proposed by Councillor Paul Blake and seconded by Councillor Keith Elliott.

PCSP 05/20 **Matters Arising**
PCSP 33/19 - PCSP Action Plan 2020-2021
The PCSP Manager advised that the Fermanagh and Omagh PCSP Action Plan is a separate agenda item.

PCSP 34/19 - PCSP Disability Action Plan 2019-2024

The PCSP Manager informed the Members that no feedback had been received from the Equality Commission.

PCSP 09/20 - Stakeholder Analysis

The PCSP Manager advised that this is on hold for now.

PCSP 12/20 – (AOB) Procedure for submitting questions

The flow chart and template were circulated to Members.

PCSP 06/20

Members Questions

Question:

In light of the Irish News story and images of men dressed in paramilitary uniforms armed with handguns patrolling roads in the Wattlebridge area, can Clive provide an update on what actions the PSNI will be taking to 1) Combat these individuals, 2) Reassure the local community many of whom would naturally be frightened on seeing such images taken in their local area 3) Would a public meeting or engagement with local organisations be helpful to the PSNI in delivering upon point 2?

Answer from Superintendent Beatty

On 26th of May 2020 police in Fermanagh were made aware via an Irish News Article that Continuity IRA patrol roads in rural Fermanagh. Police had no prior knowledge of this article prior to its public publication as of 0100 hours on 21st May 2020.

Police have not received any other reports in respect of this activity; in particular, no shots have been reported to police as being fired in a cemetery over the weekend of 15th to 18th of May 2020. The article only mentions that 'masked men were pictured firing shots in a graveyard, but it does not state where or when.

Police continue to provide a visible presence across all areas of Fermanagh and Omagh, to protect people and prevent harm. Erne East NPT have a dedicated Neighbourhood Policing Team who patrol and engage on a constant basis in that area to ensure everyone is safe. This team have been tasked with engaging in the community to ascertain the veracity behind the photographs and article and will engage with anyone to provide reassurance and visible policing.

Police have launched an investigation in to the provenance of these pictures, and whilst we cannot categorically confirm or deny the date, time and location that these acts are alleged to have taken place, we are doing all we can to bring to justice anyone who is suspected of these sinister acts within our jurisdiction. I would appeal to anyone who has any information to bring this forward to the PSNI.

PCSP 07/20

Update from Designated Members

Written updates were received from Oonagh McAvinney (NIHE), Paul Devlin (PBNI), Michael Curran (NIFRS) and Superintendent Beatty (PSNI).

Councillor Josephine Deehan requested clarity on the arrangements for rehousing victims of domestic abuse. Oonagh McAvinney informed the meeting that Covid-19 has not impacted on service delivery but that it is not always possible to rehouse victims due to their family make up or mobility needs. She added that there is a 24 hr response service to assist those requiring emergency accommodation.

Responding to a query raised by Councillor Josephine Deehan Superintendent Beatty commented that there are 24 fewer incidents of domestic violence reported to the PSNI than in the same period last year. There is growing concern that victims are not able to make reports due to the lockdown restrictions. The newly established Virtual Vulnerability Support Team is in regular contact with victims providing advice and referrals to other supports.

Paul Devlin (PBNI) stated that staff are working remotely and continuing to deliver their services.

Councillor Barry McElduff raised an issue concerning a perception amongst some residents in the Mullaghmore area of Omagh that PSNI response times were slower that they should be and is there a reason for this. Responding Superintendent Beatty commented that he did not have details of response times available and is not aware of any issue that would require a delayed response but would investigate this further.

Recommended:

That the Partnership notes the report.

PCSP 08/20

PCSP Activity Reporting 2019-2020

The PCSP Manager provided a written an overview of the activity of the PCSP for March 2020. This was an unusually quiet month as Covid-19 had began to impact on activities, with Community Cash Celebration in Enniskillen and Stewarding Training taking place and other events cancelled.

The PCSP Manager informed that the Community Cash Celebration Enniskillen had been a very successful night, highlighting that so much can be done with a small amount of money. Also, it was an opportunity to gather feedback from participants to inform future planning. Oonagh McAvinney stated that it has been a very worthwhile networking opportunity, endorsed by Superintendent Beatty.

Recommended:

That the Partnership notes the report.

PCSP 09/20

PCSP Covid-19 Response

The PCSP Manager provided a report on the PCSP response to Covid-19. In addition to their regular duties, which are scaled back, staff are working on the Community Hub and planning for future activity delivery.

Recommended:

That the Partnership notes the report.

PCSP 10/20

PCSP Reconstitution

The PCSP Manager gave a brief overview of the reconstitution planned for Monday 15 June subject to Policing Board approval. Options were presented to the meeting for the appointment of the Vice Chair scheduled for Tuesday 23 June with Option 3 to defer the election until the PCSP meeting on 22 September being the preferred option. Proposed by Councillor John McClaughry and seconded by Norman Kirkpatrick. The Chairperson congratulated Monica Coyle and thanked her for her co-operation on this matter.

Recommended:

That the Partnership proceeds with Option 3.

PCSP 11/20

PCSP Action Plan 2020-2021

The PCSP Manager provided a report on the PCSP Action Plan for 2020-2021 and confirmed receipt of the Letter of Offer for funding. Revisions to the Action Plan were presented for approval.

Proposed Revisions

Proposed Revision 1

The PCSP Manager sought Member approval to increase the current budget of 4 awards of £1,000 in each of seven electoral areas (£28,000) to fund 8 awards of £1,000 for each of the seven electoral areas (£58,000). Proposed by Vida Lake and seconded by Councillor Tommy Maguire.

Proposed Revision 2

The PCSP Manager informed that due to Covid-19 the Handyperson Service, to be delivered by South West Age Partnership (SWAP) would not proceed this year and it was proposed to allocate this funding (£8,000) to purchase refurbished iPads for older people to stay connected.

One Member, Norman Kirkpatrick, commented on some potential drawbacks of the proposal namely how would training be delivered to older people, who would be responsible for internet charges and the appropriateness of use of PSNI time to assist with project delivery.

The PCSP Manager informed this was a work in progress and that the iPads would remain the property of SWAP, internet charges are the responsibility of the end user and the iPads would be issued to people with a working knowledge of using them. Proposed by Councillor Keith Elliott and

seconded by Councillor Josephine Deehan. Norman Kirkpatrick reiterated his objection to the proposal.

Recommended:

That the Partnership proceeds with the revisions.

Requests for PCSP Funding

The PCSP Manager informed the Members that, due to unprecedented applications for funding, FODC asked the PCSP to consider funding projects submitted to the FODC Covid-19 Response Fund. The PCSP Manager commented that such a request had not come to the PCSP before and would not be setting a precedent.

1. Men's Action Network – Isolation Helpline £4,095
Dedicated Counselling service for men aged 18+ to support issues of depression, anxiety and fear etc. The secure lines will be staffed by trained counsellors. Proposed by Councillor Tommy Maguire and seconded by Paul Devlin.

Recommended:

That the Partnership fund the project.

2. Addiction NI – Drink Wise Age Well £7,000
Additional support for existing and new clients requiring alcohol support. Proposed by Councillor Josephine Deehan and seconded by Monica Coyle.

Recommended:

That the Partnership fund the project.

3. Common Ground – Online Nature Based Therapy Group for Social Isolation, Anxiety and Depression £5,903.98
To provide 6 online session with 2 trained facilitators with extensive experience of working with people with mental health issues, to be offered to 10 people who will be referred by local social prescribers or GPs or self-referred. Proposed by Vida Lake and seconded by Councillor Tommy Maguire.

Recommended:

That the Partnership fund the project.

4. Extern – Providing support to young people and families during Covid-19 £2,800
To provide PPE and a deep clean for Youth Facility at Roscor, Co. Fermanagh to reopen to it to use for emergency respite. Proposed by Norman Kirkpatrick and seconded by Monica Coyle.

Recommended:

That the PCSP Manager to liaise with Extern to establish if there are other initiatives that the PCSP could support.

5. FUEL – Improving Mental Health through Music £496

FUEL work with young people to support young people. Proposed to host zoom eight guitar lessons with eight young people by a local music facilitator, putting on an online performance at the end of the sessions. Proposed by Vida Lake and seconded by Councillor Donal O’Cofaigh.

Recommended:

That the Partnership fund the project.

6. Hospital Road Community Association – Activity Packs for Children and Young People £940

To encourage parents, children and young people to get involved in arts and crafts activities by supplying activity packs. Proposed by Councillor Keith Elliott and seconded by Vida Lake.

Recommended:

That the Partnership fund the project.

PCSP 12/20

AOB

The Chairperson stated this was his last meeting as the Chair and thanked the PCSP staff team for their support during his tenure and the Members for their contribution. He commented on the work of the PCSP and his hopes for an increased awareness of the PCSP across the district.

Councillor Barry McElduff thanked the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson for their contribution in managing meetings making them any efficient means of getting business achieved. This is endorsed by other Members.

The Chairperson thanked everyone for their contribution to the meeting and urged everyone to stay safe.

PCSP 13/20

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the PCSP will be on Tuesday 22 September 2020.

RISING:

The Committee rose at 7.22 pm