

# **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 23 February 2021 at 6 pm via MS Teams.

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

**Independent Members**  
Monica Coyle, Noeleen Hayes, Norman Kirkpatrick, Vida Lake, Bernie McCrory, Margaret McCrory, and Sarah McQuaid.

**Designated Members**  
Superintendent Alywin Barton (PSNI), Paul Devlin (PBNI), Sinead Dolan (YJA), Oonagh McAvinney (NIHE) and Ryan McGee (EANI).

**Apologies:**            Maria Thompson

**In attendance:**    Chief Inspector Rory Hoy (PSNI), Chief Inspector Robert McGowan (PSNI), Carol Follis (PCSP Manager) and Maggie McManus (Committee Clerk). Fergal O'Donnell (Insight Solutions) and Wendy Salt (Insight Solutions).

PCSP 28/20           **Welcome and Apologies**  
The Chairperson welcomed the PCSP Members to the meeting. Apologies were accepted

PCSP 29/20           **Workshop re Public Space CCTV Provision in Enniskillen and Omagh**  
Fergal O'Donnell, Insight Solutions, gave a presentation on the consultation to examine the effectiveness and impact of public space CCTV in Enniskillen and Omagh.

### **Question 1**

Norman Kirkpatrick: How is the footage used and what is the success rate for positive outcomes?

### **Response**

The PSNI may use the footage as one component of evidence in preparing a file for PPS.

### **Question 2**

Josephine Deehan: Is the Department of Justice no longer funding CCTV provision?

### **Response**

The PCSP Manager is engaging with the DoJ regarding funding and any formal response will be included in the consultation report.

### **Question 3**

Margaret McCrory: Why there are only 37 hours live monitoring in Omagh and is this why the PSNI is always looking for witnesses?

**Response**

The PCSP Manager responded that the number of hours of live monitoring in Omagh is the responsibility of Omagh Safer Streets Limited and is dictated by cost. Superintendent Barton added the PSNI will always appeal for witnesses to come forward and that where the camera is in a static position footage will only be available from a fixed point.

**Question 4**

Councillor Elliott: Are CCTV activity reports still generated and available?

**Response**

Fergal responded that the monthly reports are still produced by the monitoring company.

**Question 5**

Sarah McQuaid: Is there any correlation between the Purple Flag accreditation and public space CCTV provision?

**Response**

Fergal responded that in his opinion public space CCTV is a factor in assessing Purple Flag status. The PCSP Manager added that Purple Flag looks at the wider picture of community safety but does not know what the impact of not having CCTV may have on a future application.

**Question 6**

Councillor Blake: Is monitoring an important part of the CCTV provision?

**Response**

Superintendent Barton responded that the quality of the image is more valuable to the PSNI than monitoring, however it is helpful with a live incident as information can be passed to officers in real time.

**Question 7**

Norman Kirkpatrick: How many of the 8 cameras in Enniskillen are static or how many are moveable by those monitoring them?

**Response**

Fergal said that all 8 cameras are PTZ and are monitored 65 hrs per week. are fully tilt and zoom cameras.

**Question 8**

Ryan McGee: Would it be beneficial to get the views of young people for the review?

**Response**

Fergal welcomed this suggestion and will liaise with Ryan about this.

**Question 9**

Paul Devlin: Has there been any displacement of criminal behaviour?

**Response**

Superintendent Barton answered that opening after lockdown would determine this. It may be of benefit to realign some cameras to areas experiencing anti-social behaviour.

**Recommended:**

- That the PCSP Manager forward the CCTV Survey to all members, who are asked to forward it to distribute it to their contacts.

6:59 pm Fergal O'Donnell and Wendy Salt left the meeting

PCSP 30/20      **Declarations of Interest**  
No declarations of interest were declared.

PCSP 31/20      **Notification of AOB**

Letter of Support request – PCSP Manager  
DSV Training – Noeleen Hayes  
Issues on A5 – Cllr Allan Rainey

The Chair agreed that item of AOB raised by Cllr Rainey requiring a response from Superintendent Barton would be discussed at this juncture as he was due to leave the meeting early.

**A5 Issues**

Cllr Rainey raised concerns where following an accident traffic including HGVs is diverted to side roads that are not suitable for large volumes of heavy traffic.

**Response**

Superintendent Barton answered that options for redirecting traffic off the A5 are limited and following a serious incident the road needs to be closed for a substantial period for investigation purposes. He added that drivers often use their own initiative or use sat nav and end up on unsuitable roads.

Cllr Rainey asked that Superintendent Barton use his best influence with DfI Roads to grit side roads being used, when such incidents happen during poor weather.

**Response**

Superintendent Barton agreed that he would do so.

PCSP 32/20      **Minutes**  
The minutes of the PCSP meeting held via MS Teams on Tuesday 22 November 2020 were considered and approved. Proposed by Councillor Deehan and seconded by Councillor O'Reilly.

PCSP 33/20      **Matters Arising**  
PCSP 15/20 – Presentation from Life After  
The PCSP Manager informed that the launch in January 2021 had been put on hold due to further lockdown restrictions. She added that the PCSP was continuing to engage with Life After regarding the launch and future activity.

PCSP 22/20 – Activity Reporting September-November 2020

The PCSP Manager informed the Members that information on the number and type of drugs disposed in Rapid Bins would be available in the PCSP Activity Report presented at each PCSP meeting.

### PCSP 25/20 - PCSP 2021-2022 Action Plan

Following Member approval, the Action Plan was submitted to the Joint Committee.

### PCSP 26/20 – Neighbourhood Watch Schemes

The NHW Presentation by Alan Crooks and Chief Inspector Rory Hoy took place at the Policing Committee meeting in December.

PCSP 34/20

#### **Members' Questions**

No members questions were received prior to the meeting.

PCSP 35/20

#### **Update from Designated Members**

Written updates were received from Oonagh McAvinney (NIHE) and Mickey Curran (NIFRS).

Proposed by Councillor Elliott and seconded by Councillor O'Reilly.

#### **PSNI Restructuring update**

Superintendent Barton informed the meeting of restructuring within the local PSNI. Chief Inspector Graham Dodds has moved on to another role and Chief Inspector Roy Robinson is due to retire in March. Newly appointed Chief Inspectors Robert McGowan and Rory Hoy have taken up these roles.

#### **Recommended:**

That the Partnership notes the report.

PCSP 36/20

#### **PCSP Activity Reporting December 2020 – February 2021**

The PCSP Manager presented the Activity Report for the period December 2020 to mid-February 2021. In the report the Manager advised Members that even with Covid-19 restrictions, there had been significant PCSP activity. She thanked Mullanaska Primary School for assisting with the filming of the Fire Safety video.

#### **Question 1**

Councillor O'Reilly: Is the quantity reported is asked if the quantity of drugs seized is for individual tablets.

#### **Response**

The PCSP Manager informed that this is the case.

Councillor Deehan expressed disappointment that the list of drugs items deposited did not include drugs of addition/dependency.

Cllr O'Reilly led Member thanks to the PCSP staff team for its continued work commenting on the volume and variety of activity delivered during lockdown.

#### **Recommended:**

1. That the Partnership notes the report.
2. That the PCSP Manager forward Activity Report to Members.

PCSP 37/20

### **PCSP Meeting Schedule 2021-2022**

The PCSP Manager presented the draft of the meeting schedule for 2021-2022 and asked Members to consider meeting venues/platform, how we encourage the public to attend meeting and the time of meetings.

Councillor O'Reilly agreed that a mix of face-to-face and virtual meetings should be considered. The PCSP Manager added that while restrictions are in place all meetings will be held virtually. She added that she is mindful of the concerns of some Members who do not enjoy virtual meetings but added that this is outside of the control of the PCSP. Councillor Erskine commented that there was a potential clash with a Council event for said 14 December this will necessitate the PCSP to select another date. Councillor O'Reilly asked that the meeting schedule be uploaded to Councillors diary for convenience.

Proposed by Councillor O'Reilly and seconded by Margaret McCrory.

#### **Recommended:**

1. That the Partnership notes the report.
2. That Members agree the date/time as stated in the schedule.
3. That the PCSP Manager select another date for the December 2021 meeting.
4. That the PCSP Manager liaise with Demographic Services regarding adding meetings to Councillors' diary.

PCSP 38/20

### **Task & Finish Groups 2021-2022**

The PCSP Manager presented a report to the Members to seek nominations to Task & Finish Groups 2021-2022 for Community Cash and ASB Programmes.

Community Cash – Councillor McClaughry, Monica Coyle, Councillor O'Reilly, Norman Kirkpatrick and Sarah McQuaid

ASB Programmes - Councillor McClaughry, Monica Coyle, Councillor O'Reilly, Norman Kirkpatrick, Noleen Hayes and Sinead Dolan.

The PCSP Manager invited any other Member to contact her if they are interested in either group. The meeting also gave the groups the mandate for decision making on the roll out of the two groups. Updates will be brought to the PCSP meetings as appropriate.

Proposed by Councillor McElduff and seconded by Councillor Deehan

#### **Recommended:**

- That the Partnership notes the report.

PCSP 39/20

### **Knife Surrender Bins**

The PCSP Manager presented a report on the use of and implications for implementation of knife surrender bins in the district. Some of the key

issues for consideration are insurance, location and item disposal. The report provided three options for consideration.

Superintendent Barton stated that data shows a 12% reduction in knife crime for the period April-December 2020, on the same period last year. He stated that normally knife crime revolves around domestic incidents with some knife induced thefts and is unsure as most of the knife crime is domestic related how knife surrender bins would have a positive impact.

Councillor O'Reilly commented that he is in favour of the PCSP adopting a proactive approach to knife crime by providing the bins in a location in Omagh and Enniskillen adding that the cost is not prohibitive.

### **Question 1**

Councillor Donnelly: Were the knives involved in the most recent local incidents were illegal or domestic knives?

#### **Response**

Superintendent Barton responded that he did not have this information and would provide this at a future PCSP meeting.

### **Question 2**

Sarah McQuaid: Would placing knife bins in town would give the illusion that it is a major issue, which could make the issue escalate?

#### **Response**

Superintendent Barton commented that it is difficult to comment but it may create the wrong impression.

### **Question 3**

Councillor Elliott: Where should the bins be located to achieve maximum impact?

#### **Response**

The PCSP Manager said this is an unknown. She is aware from other PCSPs who had knife bins previously were located at recycling centres and found that the knives surrendered were more likely to be old kitchen knives rather than illegal knives.

Ryan McGee said that he is aware of the use of knife surrender bins in Derry City & Strabane and Belfast Council areas and that they have been useful in reducing knife crime. It was added that in both Council areas recycling centres are pedestrian friendly but that is not the case in FODC area.

#### **Recommended:**

1. That the Partnership notes that no decision was made.
2. That the PCSP Manager present a further report at a future PCSP meeting providing detail on knife surrender bins located at recycling centres in other Council areas and feedback from FODC regarding placing knife bins at recycling centres.
3. That Superintendent Barton provide the Members with an update on the type of knives/weapons seized.

Superintendent Barton left the meeting at 7.31 pm.

PCSP 40/20

## **Neighbourhood Watch Schemes**

The PCSP Manager presented the Neighbourhood Watch report. The following schemes were presented for reaccreditation:

### **Fermanagh**

Ballagh X

Derrychara

Glenasheever

### **Omagh**

Bankmore Road  
St Julian's House

Claragh Road, Drumquin  
Thornlea

Coolnagard Hollow  
Castleroddy

### **Recommended:**

That the Partnership notes the report.

PCSP 41/20

## **AOB**

### **DSV Training**

Noeleen Hayes: What plans are there for the roll out of training for the Ask for ANI scheme and expanding the DSV training to other settings, e.g. community centres, sports coaches, takeaways.

### **Response**

The PCSP Manager said the PCSP is working with Fermanagh Women's Aid, Omagh Women's Aid and the PSNI to deliver awareness raising sessions to target groups of beauticians, hairdressers and pharmacies. Two sessions were delivered between January and February and a third scheduled for March. She added that there is provision in the 2021/2022 Action Plan for further awareness raising and training sessions with a specific focus on sports clubs.

Proposed by Noeleen Hayes and seconded by Councillor O'Reilly.

### **Letter of Support request**

The PCSP Manager reported that the PCSP had been asked to provide a Letter of Support for a project called New Community New Beginnings, on behalf of Omagh Community House. The project will engage with the Syrian community and giving them a voice to enable them to participate more fully in community life. The PCSP Manager added that this is a follow on from the Basin Project funded by the PCSP through Community Cash.

In supporting the request Councillor Maguire queried if information on supports available to the Syrian community could be brought to a future PCSP meeting.

Proposed by Councillor Maguire and seconded by Councillor Erskine.

### **Recommended:**

1. That the PCSP Manager investigate the potential to deliver dsv awareness training for takeaway staff.

2. That the PCSP Manager issue a Letter of Support to Omagh Community House.
3. That the PCSP Manager arrange for a presentation on supports for the Syrian community living in the Council area at a future PCSP meeting.

**Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the PCSP will take place on Tuesday 27 April 2021 at 7.30 pm via MS Teams.

**RISING:**

The Committee rose at 8:35 pm.