

# 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 in public in The Grange Omagh, on Tuesday 17 December 2019 at 6.14 pm

### **Present:**

#### **Councillors**

Thomas O'Reilly (Chairperson), Paul Blake, Josephine Deehan, Stephen Donnelly, Keith Elliott, Barry McElduff, Donal O'Cofaigh and Allan Rainey.

#### **Independents**

Monica Coyle (Vice Chairperson), Norman Kirkpatrick, Vida Lake, Eithne McAnespy, Pauline Treacy and Simon Wiggins.

#### **Designated**

Superintendent Clive Beatty (PSNI), Brian Hetherington (NIFRS), Oonagh McAvinney (NIHE) and Allan Fleming (EA).

### **Apologies:**

Paul Devlin (PBNI), Sinead Dolan (YJA) and Ryan McGee (EA).

### **In attendance:**

Carol Follis (Partnership Manager) and Monica Barrett (Committee Clerk).

### **PCSP 25/19 Welcome and Apologies**

The Chairperson welcomed the Members and members of the public to the meeting. Apologies were accepted.

### **PCSP 26/19 Declaration of Interests**

No declarations of interest were declared.

### **PCSP 27/19 Notification of AOB**

No items of AOB were notified.

### **PCSP 28/19 Minutes**

The minutes of the Partnership meeting held in public on Tuesday 24 September 2019 were approved. Proposed by Councillor Keith Elliott and seconded by Monica Coyle.

### **PCSP 29/19 Matters Arising**

#### PCSP 16/19 Quay Lane North Car Park

The PCSP Manager provided the Partnership with an update on actions to address ongoing anti-social behaviour issues in Quay Lane North car park. The Department for Infrastructure (DfI) Roads has carried out a traffic calming assessment and is now proposing to introduce traffic calming measures. The proposals are subject to a public consultation which will run until 25 December 2019. With the approval of the Chairperson the PCSP has submitted a consultation response to the DfI. Councillor Keith Elliott encouraged the Members to consider submitting a response in their individual capacity.

#### Independent Member Recruitment

The PCSP Manager updated the meeting on progress to appoint Independent Members to the PCSP. The process managed by the Northern Ireland Policing Board Interviews has moved to stage 3 and it is envisaged that appointments will be made before the end of March 2020.

**Recommended:**

That the PCSP Manager updates the Partnership on the appointment of Independent Members when available.

PCSP 22/19 Disability Action Plan

This is an agenda item.

PCSP 23/19 PCSP Action Plan

This is an agenda item.

PCSP 30/19 **Members of the Public Questions**

No questions were submitted.

PCSP 31/19 **Update from Designated Members**

Verbal updates were received from the Housing Executive regarding Community Cash, the PSNI regarding Neighbourhood Policing Teams, ongoing investigation into allegations of historical sexual abuse in Fermanagh and information on a recent series of domestic burglaries. The NIFRS informed the meeting about checks at businesses premises in the lead up to Christmas and its Winter Fire Safety Campaign. The Education Authority reported on their 2020-2023 Delivery Plan and the appointment of two youth workers in Erne East and Erne North. The Members were also informed of the public consultation on the Education Authority 3-year Youth Development Plan to which Members are invited to attend a public consultation event in early January 2020.

A Member raised a query regarding crowd safety and anti-social behaviour at entertainment venues over the Christmas period. The initial query and subsequent follow on questions were addressed by the PSNI.

Councillor Barry McElduff raised concerns over delays in the Department of Infrastructure (DfI) undertaking repairs to broken street lighting. Following discussion, it was agreed that the PCSP write to the DfI expressing concerns over delays in repairs to street lighting. Proposed by Councillor Barry McElduff and seconded by Councillor Keith Elliott.

**Recommended:**

That a letter is sent to DfI expressing Partnership concerns in delays to repairs to street lighting.

Councillor Paul Blake entered the meeting at 6.20 pm, Pauline Treacy at 6.30 pm and Councillor Josephine Deehan at 6.55 pm. Councillor Barry McElduff left the meeting at 6.58 pm and returned at 7.00 pm.

PCSP 32/19 **PCSP Activity Reporting 2019-2020**

The PCSP Manager provided the Members with an activity report for the period October 2019 – December 2019. The Members highlighted several events such as the Technology Facilitated Domestic Abuse Seminar, the Social Alarm Scheme and the Road Traffic Demonstration at Enniskillen Royal Grammar School as was in which the PCSP is positively impacting on community safety.

**Recommended:**

That the Partnership notes the report.

**PCSP 33/19 PCSP Action Plan 2020-2021**

The PCSP Manager provided the Members the PCSP Action Plan 2020-2021 drafted with Member input at the two planning workshops. The Action Plan was approved by the Members to be submitted to the Joint Committee. Proposed by Councillor Keith Elliott and seconded by Councillor Paul Blake.

**Recommended:**

That the Partnership approves the PCSP Action Plan 2020-2021 to be submitted to the Joint Committee.

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

The PCSP Manager provided the Members with the PCSP Disability Action Plan 2019-2024. The Disability Action Plan was approved by the Members to be submitted to the Equality Commission. Proposed by Vida Lake and seconded by Norman Kirkpatrick.

**Recommended:**

That the Partnership approves the PCSP Disability Action Plan 2019-2024 to be submitted to the Equality Commission.

**PCSP 37/19 Neighbourhood Watch Scheme Accreditations and Re-accreditations.**

The Members considered the applications for the re-accreditation of the following schemes:

- Ardtonagh, Bellanaleck
- Belcoo
- Castle Street, Irvinestown
- Coleshill, Enniskillen
- Drumully, Newrownbutler
- Fairview, Enniskillen
- Faugher Road, Enniskillen
- Glen East, Garrison
- Gortnacully, Florencecourt
- Meelmore drive, Omagh
- Oakgrove, Omagh
- Railway Park, Derrylin

Proposed by Councillor Keith Elliott and seconded by Councillor Paul Blake.

**Recommended:**

That the applications for accreditation and re-accreditations as detailed be endorsed.

**PCSP 38/19 AOB**

Councillor Allan Rainey informed the meeting that he had been approached, in his capacity as Councillor, by a business owner concerning traffic volumes and speed at Curr Road, Omagh. At his request an engineer from the Department of Infrastructure (DfI) had carried out a site visit and reported that an engineering solution to install a right-hand turning lane would cost in the region of £250,000 and is not feasible within current budget constraints. On discussion the Members suggested that the Partnership write to the DfI highlighting this as a community safety issue and the need to implement a solution in a timely manner. A Member queried that if in doing so the Partnership could be found to favour a commercial enterprise and how this may be perceived by other businesses experiencing similar issues. On discussion the Members requested that the PCSP write to the DfI highlighting the current layout at Curr Road as a community safety issue. Proposed by Councillor Allan Rainey and seconded by Councillor Keith Elliott.

**Recommended:**

That a letter is sent to the DfI highlighting the current layout at Curr Road as a community safety issue.

Pauline Treacy left the meeting at 7.36 pm.

**PCSP 39/19 Member's Questions**

The response from Superintendent Beatty Member's questions submitted prior to the Policing Committee meeting on 26 November 2019 was emailed to the Members on Tuesday 17 December 2019.

The Members discussed the response to the question submitted by Councillor Donal O'Cofaigh prior to the meeting relating to a recent case of a person who was convicted and sentenced for repeated sexualised offending and whose identity is unknown due to court reporting restrictions. Superintendent Beatty informed the Members that a specialised multi-agency panel is responsible for all aspects of ancillary orders regarding such offenses and that it may be advisable for Members to learn more about its role. The Members agreed that it would be beneficial to receive such a presentation at a future meeting.

**Recommended:**

That the PCSP Manager arrange a presentation on offender management at a future PCSP or Policing Committee meeting.

Councillor Donal O'Cofaigh expressed concern that the Members do not have the opportunity to ask questions at PCSP meetings. The Members agreed that this is easily addressed through the inclusion of a separate agenda item for Member's questions.

**Recommended:**

That Member's Questions be an agenda item at all PCSP and Policing Committee meetings.

The Members queried the meeting schedule for the remainder of the 2019/2020 year and there was consensus that an additional PCSP meeting be included in February 2020.

**Recommended:**

1. That a PCSP meeting be held at 6 pm in advance of the Policing Committee meeting scheduled for Tuesday 25 February 2020.
2. That the PCSP Manager circulate meeting dates up to 31 March 2020.

**RISING:**

The Committee rose at 7.55 pm.

All the Members were present at the beginning of the meeting except for the following who arrived at the stated times: Councillor Paul Blake at 6.20 pm, Pauline Treacy at 6.30 pm and Councillor Josephine Deehan at 6.55 pm.

All the Members remained present for the duration of the meeting except for the following who left at the stated time: Pauline Treacy at 7.36 pm.

**PSNI response to questions submitted by Cllr O’Cofaigh at Policing Committee Meeting Tuesday 26 November 2019**

**Q1. Are there currently live munitions being kept onsite by Galantas Gold Corporation at Cavanacaw? If so, who is responsible for their security? What assurances, if any, has the PSNI received from Galantas regarding security at the temporarily unmanned site?**

Responsibility for the security of all munitions rests with Galantas as per their licence.

Arrangements for storage are governed by strict Health and Safety regulations, overseen by the Department of Justice.

PSNI are satisfied that these conditions of storage are being met.

**Q2. Galantas recently announced they were withdrawing as a result of difficulties with security on site - are there any outstanding security bills regarding PSNI operations at the site? If so, can you elaborate to the Policing Board on those figures? How much has Galantas paid for PSNI security work in recent years? Given that an outstanding invoice from Dalradian for close to half a million pounds (for less than one year's work in 2015/16) remains unpaid - is local policing being impacted because of unpaid invoices to the PSNI from mining companies?**

There are many competing demands for PSNI resources and those demands must be prioritised in a way that maximises the safety of the public and our officers, and works to counter threats, mitigate risk and alleviate harm.

Working with others to support their efforts for the development of enterprise and the economy is important to PSNI, however, it is reasonable to expect a commercial venture to contribute all or part of the policing costs where it is legitimate and proportionate to do so, which would otherwise result in a reduction of local policing resources.

Discussions with the Corporation and other statutory agencies are ongoing, therefore, it would be inappropriate to comment any further at this time.

**Q3. Does the Chief Inspector consider that security and funding issues relating to Galantas are impacting community confidence in policing?**

As above

**Q4. Given the recent horrendous attack on a household in Lisnaskea which led to a child being cut allegedly with a machete, what are the police doing to limit the ability of individuals or groups to carry such weapons in public and away from an agricultural context?**

Police are doing everything in their power to protect people and prevent harm. There has been significant investment in cross border and joint agency task forces, in addition to proactive and reactive operations to target serious and organised crime across Northern Ireland and the island of Ireland. Three suspects have been arrested, interviewed and remain on strict bail conditions pending their trial in relation to this incident.

**Q5. Can the PSNI offer any information on their response to the recent spate of robberies around the county? What can the public do to reduce the risk and to help to secure convictions?**

In the run up to Christmas, police in Fermanagh and Omagh are encouraging people to be more aware of opportunistic criminals while shopping for gifts.

The key message, 'while you're out shopping, so are they!' is a reminder to everyone about the importance of locking all doors and windows when you are not at home. For convenience, a majority of people will also be shopping online and it is equally important to protect yourself from online scams and fraud during this period.

Unfortunately, this time of year in particular provides opportunities for criminals to take advantage of the good will of others. That makes it even more important for all of us to be aware of what we can do to protect ourselves and our families from becoming victims of crime.

Local Policing Teams will be out and about raising awareness amongst shoppers on how to keep safe during the festive season. Simple things like not leaving presents on display will help to reduce your chance of becoming a victim of burglary. This is also something to remember when you are out shopping.

Many people will also be going online to order gifts for family and friends and it is vital that you are aware of the types and dangers of cybercrime when internet shopping.

We want you all to stay safe this Christmas and protect your property whether you are out and about or staying at home.

There are simple steps you can take like locking your windows and doors, removing your valuables from sight – both at home and in your vehicle – and, most importantly of all, remaining vigilant to suspicious activity and reporting it to us straight away on 101.

I would also ask you to keep an eye on the more vulnerable in your community and ensure that they also have a safe and happy Christmas.

**Christmas Crime prevention advice**

*Protect your home*

- Don't tempt thieves by leaving presents on display in your home or car.
- Be cautious about storing expensive gifts in your home.
- Don't keep large amounts of cash in your home to buy presents.
- Make sure your home is secure and keep doors and windows locked.
- Mark valuable items with your postcode and house number, don't forget to take photographs too.

*Protect Your Keys, Protect Your Car*

- Improvements in car security mean that the easiest way for a thief to steal a car is to break into your house and steal the keys (a creeper burglary).
- When you're at home keep car keys where they will not be easily found.
- Take particular care at night to ensure they are out of sight.
- Never leave car keys visible from outside your home or work.
- For high value vehicles, consider a stolen vehicle recovery system such as a GPS tracker.
- Don't leave your vehicle unattended and running to warm it up or defrost the windows.

- Remove keys and lock your vehicle even if you are just leaving it for a short time such as when paying for fuel.

**Q6. The recent deaths of 39 Vietnamese migrants on a refrigerated unit enroute to Northern Ireland shone a light on the prevalence of the illegal trafficking of migrants - many of whom end up being subject to slave or indentured labour conditions on farms and industrial units. What is the assessment of the PSNI on whether such forms of exploitation exist in this district?**

For more than the last decade, there has been a marked increase in immigration to the UK. Aside from legal immigration, economic migration by covert entry or in the guise of asylum seeking has produced a confused picture. People who are in the UK illegally are likely to need the assistance of illicit networks to find work and shelter. They are vulnerable to exploitation. Living outside the law may also make entry into criminal activity more likely and there may be a reluctance to report crime. An association between crime and specific national or ethnic groups risks undermining a tolerant society. In short, the concentration of illegal immigration is likely to shield criminal enterprise, and it is a police priority to prevent its development. Because of the illegal nature of this activity, it is difficult to fully assess the forms and extent to which this affects Fermanagh and Omagh.

**Q7. The recent barbaric attack on a director of QIH has drawn attention to the seven-year long campaign of sabotage and intimidation surrounding this company. Does the Superintendent acknowledge that the PSNI failed to act on intelligence gathered in relation to this campaign in the past? Why did the police make absolutely no efforts to remove threatening signage which was erected for long periods outside places of work? Is it a case of one law for the rich and another law for the poor?**

As discussed at the PCSP meeting, I do not accept that we have failed to act on intelligence.

Posters were removed in recent times, likewise across the border. Each case must be assessed on its own merits and against Threat, Harm and Risk to all involved.

**Q8. What update can the Superintendent provide on the investigation into the dozens of allegations of the historic sexual abuse of children? Has anyone been questioned or subjected to arrest around the allegations? Does the inspector consider that secretive institutions, from both sides of the community, have engaged in a cover-up of such activities by their members as has been suggested by victims? What support is being offered by the police to journalists who are covering these events and who are subject to threats and harassment? What is being done about the perpetrators of such threats and harassment?**

Our inquiries into the allegations of historical sexual abuse in County Fermanagh are actively ongoing and therefore to protect the integrity of each of these individual investigations, we remain limited in the information we can provide at this time.

We can confirm that a number of individuals have been arrested and interviewed during the course of our inquiries. We are not in a position to elaborate on these or share further information about those individuals at present as these are very much live and ongoing investigations, however I want to give reassurance to the both victims and the local community that we are actively working on the reports made to us in recent months.

Public Protection detectives continue to thoroughly investigate all of the reports made to us



and are focused on gathering all relevant evidence. It is welcomed that victims have felt confident to come forward over recent months and speak to us about their experiences. Their wellbeing is first and foremost our priority and our working relationships with partner agencies, including both local and regional support services, have been essential in ensuring that victims receive the help and support that they need.

We are very aware of recent media coverage and ongoing commentary and speculation in the Fermanagh area and we would continue to reach out to victims, as we have done in all our previous appeals, to encourage anyone with information that may not have been disclosed to police already, to please make that information available to us. We treat every allegation of sexual abuse seriously and we remain absolutely dedicated to ensuring that our investigations are thorough, gathering all relevant information, and that victims are treated with the utmost sensitivity. We would urge anyone with any information about historical sexual abuse to come forward and contact police and seek professional support through our specialist detectives or through one of the dedicated support services specially trained to support victims.

Victims can contact police via 101 or through a dedicated email address at [historicalabuse@psni.pnn.police.uk](mailto:historicalabuse@psni.pnn.police.uk). You do not have to come to a police station to make a report, detectives can arrange to meet you at a time and place that best suits you.

If you are victim of historical child sexual abuse, support is available through:

The 24 Hour Domestic & Sexual Abuse Helpline - 0808 802 1414  
Nexus NI – Belfast 02890 326803 / Enniskillen 02866 320046 <http://nexusni.org/>  
The Rowan Centre free phone helpline - 0800 389 4424 / [www.therowan.net](http://www.therowan.net)  
Victim Support NI – Belfast 02890 243133 / Foyle 02871 370086  
Men’s Advisory Project – 02890 241929 / Foyle 02871 160001  
Other local support services are as follows:  
The Arc Living Centre – 02868 628741  
The Aisling Centre – 02886 325811  
The Oak Healthy Living Centre – 02867 723843



**PSNI response to question submitted by Cllr O’Cofaigh prior to the PCSP Meeting  
Tuesday 17 December 2019**

**Q1. As the public are prevented from knowing the identity of a male living in the Enniskillen area who was convicted and sentenced for repeated sexualised offending last week, and in absence of what would have been assumed mandatory ancillary orders such as sex offender registration, can PSNI provide reassurance risk can be managed as the public are unable to take their own precautions as no-one knows who the individual is?**

We have a multi-agency risk management process which operates under Articles 49-51 Criminal Justice (NI) Order 2008. Qualifying offenders under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 and Violent Offenders who meet the threshold are managed within the Public Protection Arrangements. Further details can be found at <http://www.publicprotectionni.com> including the PPANI Manual of practice.

Sexual Offences Prevention Orders, Violent Offences Prevention Orders, Risk of Sexual Harm Orders and Foreign travel Orders can be granted by the courts. Each of these orders can assist the Police and Partners to manage risk of harm. SOPOs and VOPOs can be granted upon conviction or by standalone application for qualifying offenders. Most orders will be granted for a finite period, after which they expire. Each application for an order is considered on its own merits and whilst most applications are granted, some prohibitions may be rejected by the court or the application denied altogether.

Police proactively seek orders where they are appropriate, justified, proportionate and necessary to manage risk to the public, both in Northern Ireland and in other jurisdictions.