

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

**Policing Committee Meeting**

Minutes of the Fermanagh and Omagh Policing and Community Safety Partnership Policing Committee meeting held on 24 March 2026, The Grange, Omagh.

**Present:**

**Councillors**

Thomas O'Reilly (Chairperson)  
Elaine Brough  
Aaron Elliott  
Tommy Maguire  
Stephen McCann  
Marty McColgan  
Allan Rainey

**Independent Members**

Miss Bernadette Lunney  
(Vice Chairperson)  
Mrs Siobhán Currie  
Mrs Bernadette McCollum  
Miss Margaret McCrory  
Mr Paul Stevenson  
Mr Simon Wiggins

**Designated Members**

Seamus Bradley (NIFRS)  
Superintendent Peter Cunningham (PSNI)  
Ms Sinead Dolan (YJA)  
Mr Colum Duffy (PBNI)  
Ms Helen Hicks (NIHE)

**Apologies:**

Alan Crooks (PCSP)  
Cllr Roy Crawford  
Cllr Adam Gannon  
Miss Louise Bleakley  
Mrs Pauline Treacy  
Chief Insp. Graham Dodds (PSNI)  
Ms Donna Keenan (WHSCCT)  
Chief Insp. Scott Fallis (PSNI)  
Nicola McCann (PCSP)

**In attendance:**

PCSP Team Leader Greg McMullan  
PCSP Project Assistant Leanne Burns  
PSNI Insp. Joni Beatty  
PSNI Insp. Melanie Hicks  
WHSCCT Carey McKee, attending on behalf of Jacqueline Doherty  
Ann Gormley (Member of the Public)

PC 14/25 **Welcome and Apologies**

The Chairperson welcomed Members to the meeting and noted apologies. The Chairperson extended a welcome to guests

PC 16/25 **Notification of AOB**

- 3 items.

PC 17/25 **Minutes**

The minutes of the Policing Committee meeting held on **Tuesday 25 November 2025** were considered and approved, subject to two minor amendments.

Proposed by Cllr Aaron Elliott and seconded by Bernie McCollum.

PC 18/25 **Matters Arising**

10/25 – **PC Meeting minutes 25 November 2025**

1. Typo amendment requested on page 1 by Cllr O'Reilly noted a name duplication in attendees.
2. Temporary Chief Insp. Peter Cunningham requested a typo amendment on page 3 to 'temporary Chief Insp. Peter Cunningham'.

PC19/25 **2026-2027 Draft Policing Plan**

Temporary Chief Insp. Cunningham began by passing on his sympathies to the families of Ellie Flanagan and Amy Doherty, two women who were recently murdered.

Temporary Chief Insp. Cunningham presented the Draft PSNI Policing Plan 2026–2027, structured around three key outcomes.

➤ **Outcome 1: We Are Victim Focused:**

In summary:

- Ending Violence Against Women and Girls and domestic abuse remain key priorities.
- Performance metrics include victim numbers, repeat victimisation, and justice outcomes.
- Ongoing work includes monitoring repeat victims, school programmes (healthy relationships) and youth and community/faith engagement

➤ **Outcome 2: We Have Safe and Engaged Communities with Confidence in Policing**

In summary:

Confidence & Engagement:

- Increased reporting is seen as a positive indicator of trust.
- Officers continue to communicate on policing activity via the Police Fermanagh & Omagh Facebook account.
- Early intervention is key for community safety in relation to Bonfires with a need for earlier engagement, provision of community initiatives with a multi-agency coordinated approach.

Crime Trends:

- Antisocial behaviour and Domestic burglary rates are decreasing. Commercial burglary (especially rural) is increasing
- Ongoing concerns: drug misuse (underreported)
- Police actions to date include arrests linked to organised crime. Focus on cross-border cooperation and increased rural patrols.
- Organised Crime remains a concern (though reduced) and will retain as monitoring priority.

Road Safety:

- Priority is a focus on young male drivers (aged 17–25)
- Emphasis on education and behaviour change is key.

Insp. Joni Beatty also informed Members of a forthcoming research project which will be commissioned on Rurality and its impact on communities. A steering group will be established in due course which may help steer funding into communities.

➤ **Outcome 3: We Have A Representative, Valued and Enabled Workforce.**

Insp. Hicks provided Members with an update on the recent PSNI recruitment campaign.

It was reported that over 182 applications had been received, with a broadly balanced gender and community background profile (approximately a 60/40 split), noting an increase in applications from individuals from ethnic minority backgrounds.

Ongoing engagement activity continues through Neighbourhood Police engagement and School work experience initiatives, alongside continued targeted engagement with underrepresented communities.

Following the presentation of the Local Policing Plan Members engaged in a discussion.

- PCSP Vice Chairperson Bernie Lunney expressed concern that the Policing Plan 2026–2027 focuses on indicators rather than actions and would like to see a Local Policing Plan with defined priorities for next 12 months with an expected delivery timeline.
- Cllr McCann voiced his concern over the high levels of Domestic Crimes in the district and asked that Fermanagh and Omagh Women’s Aid have an input into PCSP meetings going forward.
- Members thanked Insp. Hicks for the update and expressed an interest in receiving further information on conversion rates from application through to appointment.

**Recommended:**

1. PSNI & PCSP to Review the draft Local Policing Plan 2026 – 2027 with further detailed actions and priorities and present at the next Policing Committee meeting.
2. Invite Fermanagh & Omagh Women’s Aid to regular PCSP meetings.
3. PCSP to explore opportunities for earlier and more proactive engagement on bonfire-related issues inviting Fermanagh & Omagh District Council representative to a future meeting.
4. PSNI to provide detailed recruitment progression data at a future meeting.

PC 20/25

**Questions from Members of the Public**

No questions were received.

PC 21/25

**Members’ Questions**

No questions were received.

PC 22/25

**Neighbourhood Watch Report**

Members received an update on new Neighbourhood Watch schemes for initial accreditation and existing schemes for reaccreditation bringing the number of active schemes in the district to 92.

With agreement Members endorsed the accreditations  
Proposed by Tommy Maguire seconded by Cllr Marty McColgan.

With agreement Members endorsed the reaccreditations.  
Proposed by Cllr Marty McColgan seconded by Cllr Allan Rainey.

**A.O.B:**

**1. Small Grants Update:**

PCSP Team Leader Greg McMullan read out a PCSP Small Grants update to Members provided by PCSP Manager Nicola McCann who sent apologies for the meeting. In summary:

- 13 Letters of Offer issued, totalling £47,101.37.
- £19,929 paid across 5 claims.
- £6,732.73 (2 claims) currently being processed.
- 6 claims outstanding, approx. £16,390.
- Ongoing follow-up with groups ahead of 31 March deadline.
- £1,847.35 underspend identified to date, may be refiled where possible.
- Further underspend will be reviewed but flexibility is limited at year end.
- Funding is contractually committed via Letters of Offer and cannot be reallocated unless surrendered.
- Submission cannot be enforced, though support is ongoing.
- Some underspend risk is expected in grant programmes.
- Claims continue to be processed, with a final position to follow deadline.

**1. NI Fire and Rescue Service update:**

Seamus Bradley informed Members that Station Commander and designated PCSP Member, Peter Melarkey, is due to retire following 37 years of service with the Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service.

Mr Bradley advised that he hopes to assume the role and expressed his thanks to the PCSP for its recent support in the recent on-call Fire Fighter recruitment process, which resulted in a high volume of applications.

Members passed on their appreciation for Mr Melarkey's many years of dedicated service as a PCSP Member and extended their best wishes to him on his retirement.

## **2. The Sanctuary Project update:**

Insp. Hicks updated Members on the Sanctuary Project.

Rev. Steven Kennedy, Minister of Enniskillen Presbyterian Church through the Churches Forum, have secured funding via the Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG) initiative to establish a safe space within The Presbyterian Church, Enniskillen, located opposite Enniskillen Courthouse. The facility will provide a supportive environment for women attending court proceedings in relation to domestic incidents, with a companion available to assist individuals.

It is intended that this initiative will be expanded to other churches and faith groups across the district.

Members were asked to consider providing a letter of support from the PCSP to assist Victim Support in progressing this work.

### **Recommended:**

The PCSP to draft and issue a formal letter of support for the project.

Proposed by Cllr Stephen McCann Seconded by Simon Wiggins.

## **3. Police Stop and Search Powers**

Insp. Hicks advised that, on behalf of Chief Inspector Scott Fallis, Members were invited to raise any concerns regarding the use of stop and search powers within the district.

Insp. Hicks informed Members that Officers utilise body-worn video cameras, which are subject to supervisory dip sampling. Stop and search activity is intelligence-led and responsive to community concerns within specific localities. Further information and statistics are available via the PSNI website.

### **Recommended:**

Members to raise any concerns or feedback with PSNI in relation to stop and search powers, if applicable.

## **4. Correspondence – PSNI**

The Chair read out correspondence from PSNI temporary Chief Superintendent South Area Commander Ian Hasslett expressing appreciation to the PCSP for its support in facilitating the recent Police Inspectors' CPD Day at the Manor House Hotel, Co. Fermanagh. The correspondence highlighted the value of professional development, shared learning, and reflection, noting its immediate relevance in supporting operational policing, including the response to a serious incident in Enniskillen the following day.

Members noted the correspondence.

PC 24/25

**Rising**

Members were present for the duration of the meeting except for Paul Stevenson who arrived at 7.15pm and Cllr Stephen McCann who left the meeting at 9.05pm.

The meeting closed with Committee rising at 09.25pm.

**Next meeting Tuesday 30 June 2026, The Townhall, Enniskillen.**