

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 22 November 2022 at 7.11 pm in The Townhall, Enniskillen.

Present: **Councillors**
Paul Blake (Chairperson), John McClaughry, Thomas O'Reilly, Allan Rainey and Paul Stevenson.

Independent Members
Sarah McQuaid (Vice Chair), Monica Coyle, Noeleen Hayes, Norman Kirkpatrick, Vida Lake, Bernie McCrory Margaret McCrory, Maria Thompson and Pauline Treacy.

Designated Members
Insp. Will Brown (PSNI), Jacqueline Doherty (WHSCT), Colum Duffy (PBNI), Sinead Dolan (YJA) and Ryan McGee (EANI).

Apologies: Cllr Josephine Deehan, Helen Hicks (NIHE) and Superintendent Mervyn Seffen (PSNI).

In attendance: Carol Follis (PCSP Manager) and Greg McMullan (PCSP Team Leader).

PCSP 45/22 **Welcome and Apologies**
The Chairperson welcomed the PCSP Members to the meeting and invited those attending to introduce themselves. PCSP Vice Chair Sarah McQuaid expressed condolences to Cllr Blake on the death of his mother and Chief Inspector Hoy on the death of his mother. Apologies were accepted.

PCSP 46/22 **Declarations of Interest**
No declarations of interest were declared.

PCSP 47/22 **Discussion with the Commissioner Designate for Victims of Crime**
Geraldine Hanna, Victims Commissioner spoke on the role of the Commissioner and outlined the remit of her role to advocate for best practice and monitor compliance with the Victims Charter which details the minimum standards of how victims of crime should be treated. The CIJINI inspection in 2020 found that the Charter has yet to be embedded across all agencies and that there is a sense of apathy and disconnect between criminal justice practitioners and the rights enshrined in the Charter. She clarified that the Commissioner does not have the powers to intervene in individual cases but that the role is to capture the themes and understand recurring issues and their impact on the victim.
The forthcoming strategy for the office of the Commissioner has a vision for a society in which victims feel protected, supported and have redress.

In her work to date the Commissioner identified three core issues:
Delays – exacerbated by the pandemic delays in bringing cases to court are unprecedented. It is estimated that without additional resources the backlog of cases will not be processed until 2028. Work is needed to view the criminal justice journey through the victims' lens and encourage criminal justice agencies to work together.

Data – there are ten plus case management systems across the various agencies. These systems are not designed to ‘talk’ to each other making it difficult to gather and disaggregate data e.g. age/gender. There is a need to map existing data and identify the gaps. An annual victims survey will enable data to be tracked.

Disclosure – greater scrutiny is need relating to the disclosure of victims information. What types of information and how specific this should be requires tighter restrictions around what can be exposed. In doing this the balance between Article 6 the Rights of the Accused and Article 8 the Rights of the Victim need to considered.

The Members were encouraged to keep up to date on the work of the Commissioner’s Office and to look out for the new website to be active in the next few weeks.

The Chair thanked the Commissioner for the very frank and open discussion and wished her well in her role.

Recommended:

- That the PSCP Manager circulate contact details of the Commissioner’s Office to Members.

PCSP 48/22

Notification of AOB

PCSP 49/22

Minutes

The minutes of the PCSP meeting held on Tuesday 28 September 2022 were considered and approved. Proposed by Cllr Paul Stevenson and seconded by Sarah McQuaid.

PCSP 50/22

Questions from Members of the Public

The PCSP Manager informed Members that the meeting has been advertised as a public meeting of the PCSP and members of the public invited to register their attendance. The opportunity to submit questions was also shared and at the deadline no registrations or questions were submitted.

PCSP 51/22

Matters Arising

PCSP 29/22 An article on Neighbourhood Watch article was shared on the FODC Staff Hub at the end of June to inform all Council staff of NHW Schemes. A press release has been issued following the conference on 5 November. Further publicity opportunities to be explored when 100th scheme is accredited. The Members agreed that this item to be removed from the action sheet.

PCSP 52/22

PCSP 40/22 Information on the Herbert Protocol circulated to Members.

Members’ Questions

No questions were received.

PCSP 53/22

Update from Designated Members

WHSC

Jacqueline Doherty introduced herself as the new WHSCT representative sitting on the PCSP. She explained her role in the Trust with particular

reference to emergency planning and issues of anti-social behaviour at Tyrone and Fermanagh Hospital Complex.

PCSP 54/22

PCSP Action Plan 2023-2024

The PCSP Manager gave an update on the PCSP Action Plan 2023-2024. The Action Plan was drawn up in line with Joint Committee guidelines and reflects Member input and community consultation. The PCSP Manager asked that the Members approve the Action Plan for it to be submitted to the Joint Committee early next year. The approval of the Action Plan proposed by Cllr John McClaughry and seconded by Margaret McCrory. During the discussion reference was made to financial management of the PCSP budget. The PCSP Manager offered to present a report on PCSP finances at the next meeting.

Recommended:

1. That the PCSP Action Plan 2023-2024 be submitted to the Joint Committee.
2. That the PCSP Manager provides a report on the financial management of the PCSP budget at the next PCSP meeting.

PCSP 55/22

PCSP Activity Report October - November 2022

The PCSP Team Leader gave a presentation on PCSP activity for the period October - November 2022. Highlights include the Neighbourhood Watch Conference, Bee Safe, parking initiatives at schools and attending events around the district for Positive Ageing month in October.

The Members also received an overview of the findings from the annual Neighbourhood Watch Survey.

PCSP 56/22

Neighbourhood Watch Scheme Accreditation

The following scheme was presented for accreditation: Moylagh Meadows, Beragh. Proposed by Monica Coyle and seconded by Cllr Allan Rainey.

PCSP 57/22

Any Other Business

Margaret McCrory queried if the PSNI Facebook live sessions are to recommence. Insp Will Brown to action this.

Cllr Allan Rainey commented on the PSNI raid on brothels operating across Northern Ireland. He added his concern and regret that men and women often in very vulnerable circumstances are subjected to modern slavery and human trafficking.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the PCSP is scheduled to take place on Monday 12 December 2022 at 7.00 pm venue to be confirmed. The PCSP Manager requested permission from the Members to cancel this meeting should there be diary pressures on Elected Members. Permission was duly granted and the PCSP Manager will liaise with Council colleagues to review diary bookings.

RISING:

The Committee rose at 8.48pm. All Members were present from the start of the meeting and with the exception of Pauline Treacy who arrived at 7.11pm.