

**Minutes of the meeting of Mid Ulster Policing and Community Safety Partnership held on Wednesday 9 December 2020 at 2.30pm via Microsoft Teams**

**Present:** Councillor Christine McFlynn (Chair), Councillor Frances Burton, Councillor Anne Forde, Councillor Clement Cuthbertson, Councillor Meta Graham, Councillor Cathal Mallaghan, Councillor Dominic Molloy, Councillor Brian McGuigan, Councillor John McNamee

Alexandra Black (Vice Chair), Ciaran McElhone, Seán MacGoilla Cheara, Julie McKeown

Inspector Andy Archibald (PSNI), Superintendent Mike Baird (PSNI), Sinead Dolan (YJA), Michelle Grant (PBNI), Orla Murtagh (SH&SCT), Sergeant Cara Suiter (PSNI)

**Apologies:** Sue Chada, Sharon Crooks (NIHE), Annette McGahan (PCSP Officer)

**In Attendance:** Michael McCrory (PCSP Manager) Celene O'Neill (PCSP Officer), Shauna McCloskey (PCSP Officer), Martina McCullagh (PCSP Assistant)

The Meeting commenced at 2.35pm.

**PCSP166/20 WELCOME**

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.

**PCSP167/20 DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Members were reminded of their obligation in relation to declarations of interest.

**PCSP168/20 MINUTES OF POLICING & COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14 OCTOBER 2020**

The Minutes of Mid Ulster Policing and Community Safety Partnership meeting held on Wednesday 14 October 2020 were approved by Members.

**PCSP169/20 MATTERS ARISING**

No matters arising.

**PCSP170/20 VICE CHAIR ELECTION**

The Chair informed Members that the election process to appoint a PCSP Vice Chair has now taken place, solely amongst the Independent Members, and congratulated Alexandra Black on her recent appointment.

The Vice Chair thanked the Chair and advised Members that she is looking forward to the day when we can all meet in person.

**PCSP171/20     NEW UNIFORM BRIEF FOR NIPB**

Superintendent Baird advised Members that PSNI are currently trialling a new uniform for their officers in a number of areas across Northern Ireland and is the first change in uniform to take place in 20 years. He referred Members to the presentation document containing photographs and costings and asked Members for comments.

Members did not comment.

**PCSP172/20     COOKSTOWN NORTH COMMUNITY GROUP – EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

The PCSP Manager referred Members to the 'Expression of Interest' submitted by Cookstown North Community Group who are seeking funding for the purchase of a 'Speed Indicator Device' which would be permanently based on Morgan's Hill Road, Cookstown.

Following a discussion, Members agreed that PCSP would be willing to provide funding for the purchase of a SID, with the proviso that the group are made aware and are happy that the SID would have to be moved to other areas in Cookstown for periods of time as and when a need arises. The PCSP Manager will arrange to meet with Cookstown North Community Group and clarify the conditions of funding and will report back to Members at the next meeting.

**PCSP173/20     UPDATE ON PCSP DRAFT ACTION PLAN FOR 2021/2022**

The PCSP Manager advised Members that a PCSP Action Plan was drawn up two years ago covering 2019/2022. This Action Plan is reviewed annually to ensure that the projects being delivered are still relevant and that all areas of concern are being targeted effectively. Under normal circumstances, PCSP would have had numerous engagement projects and events, which are a great source of identifying issues of concern raised by residents across the district, but due to Covid-19 this has not been possible. As an alternative an on-line 'Community Safety Survey' was conducted and Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators were consulted in order to obtain their views and collate statistics in relation to issues in their area.

The PCSP Manager provided information on the following sections of the PCSP Draft Action Plan for 2021/2022;

- Community Audit and Statistics
- Community Consultation Survey
- Turning the Curve

The Chair thanked the PCSP Manager for providing the update on the Draft Action Plan for 2021/2022, stating that it is an extensive piece of work and asked Members for their comments.

Superintendent Baird referred to the following areas

- Fear of Crime – Mid Ulster District has a higher level of ‘perception’ of crime and ‘fear of crime’ compared to other districts and given that Mid Ulster has the 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest level of crime across the service and the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest level in outcomes, it is difficult to know how this can be further addressed.
- Burglary – The level of burglaries have decreased this year, but the ‘perception’ and ‘fear of crime’ is evident.
- Crime overall is down by 7% and by 10% in Mid Ulster District.
- Domestic Violence which is recorded as Domestic Motivated Crime is the highest recorded, but it has reduced by 1 from 739 last year to 738 this year, the outcome rate has increased to 33%.
- Agricultural Crime – remains unchanged
- Hate Crime – the majority of these crimes are damage to bi-lingual signage, not harm against a person.

In response to a question from Councillor Burton whether all burglaries and crimes are reported to the PSNI, Superintendent Baird stated serious crimes are being reported and the vast majority of theft and burglaries are being reported but accepted that low level theft may not always be reported.

Members were in agreement with the Draft Action Plan for 2021/2022.

#### **PCSP174/20 INDUCTION TRAINING FOR PCSP INDEPENDENT MEMBERS**

The PCSP Manager stated that the Northern Ireland Policing Board (NIPB) had hoped to arrange Induction Training for the new Independent Members, but due to Covid-19 this has not been possible. In light of this, it is proposed to have a Microsoft Teams meeting chaired by Alexandra Black (Vice Chair) for the Independent Members, which will provide them with the opportunity to ask questions and become more familiar with the PCSP Action Plan and all the Projects. This meeting will be held in the New Year.

#### **PCSP175/20 SPEED INDICATOR DEVICES (SIDs)**

The PCSP Manager sought approval from Members to utilise the budget underspend to procure a further 10 Speed Indicator Devices, which will help alleviate the current waiting list across Mid Ulster. This underspend has arisen as a result of YEP Projects not happening due to Covid-19.

Members were in agreement with this proposal.

**Proposed: Councillor Brian McGuigan**  
**Seconded: Councillor John McNamee**

#### **PCSP176/20 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

##### **PROCUREMENT OF PCSP PROMOTIONAL ITEMS**

In response to a request from Councillor Burton regarding the procurement of PCSP Promotional items, the PCSP Manager advised that a list is currently

being drawn up and will include the purchase of 'Lip Balms' which promote the Domestic Violence helpline number and also 'Flashing Armbands' which are in great demand.

### **COVID-19 UPDATE**

In response to a question from Councillor Burton regarding the public's compliance with lockdown restrictions, Superintendent Baird advised that Mid Ulster Covid-19 figures were the highest, but are slightly down, but given the recent lifting of lockdown restrictions, the figures are on the rise again. There has not been a large number of 'house parties' reported across Mid Ulster, but funerals and wakes across the District have been a contributing factor to the increase in Covid-19 figures.

Superintendent Baird stated that compliance is reasonably good in the majority of cases, there has been some issues within Night Time Economy and restaurants, where 7 licensed premises were served with a 'Notice to Close'. As venues re-open over the weekend, there is a plan in place regarding enforcement and educating and following discussions with the Chief Executive, there is joint work planned with Council which will be rolled out next week. In light of Covid-19 figures rising again, it is probable that a further lockdown will have to happen in the new year.

### **BREXIT – 31 DECEMBER 2020**

Superintendent Baird advised Members that they are currently making preparations to deal with any possible 'Brexit' protests that may occur as the transition period comes to an end on the 31 December 2020 and asked Members to make them aware of any known protests being organised, especially around the border areas.

### **BOY / GIRL RACERS IN DRUM ROAD AREA OF COOKSTOWN**

Councillor Graham raised concerns about boy/girl racers on the Drum Road area of Cookstown especially on Saturday nights, the individuals appear to congregate around Drum Manor. She also highlighted the Upper Kildress Road, Glenarny Road and Orritor Road areas where anti-social driving is happening and asked if PSNI could increase patrols to discourage this activity.

In response, Superintendent Baird advised that their 'Christmas Drive Campaign' has already been launched and the information provided by the Member will be passed on to the local inspector to arrange increased patrols in these areas.

### **RE-LOCATION OF SPEED INDICATOR DEVICES (SIDs)**

In response to a query from Councillor McNamee regarding the re-location of a SID to the Main Cookstown/Omagh Road where the Drum Road meets the Black Hill Road, the PCSP Manager advised that a SID has now been installed on this stretch of road and apologised for not updating the Member earlier.

Councillor Burton referred to an area along the A5 leading out of Aughnacloy travelling towards Ballygawley, where St Mary's Chapel, a Nursing home, and a residential area is located and asked if a SID could be installed as there has been a number of recent accidents and vehicles tends to speed up

as they leave the town. She also asked if the PSNI could increase patrols in order to deter speeding in this area.

The PCSP Manager advised that this location will be added to the waiting list for a Speed Indicator Device to be installed.

**PCSP177/20 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next PCSP meeting will take place on Wednesday 10 March 2021 at 2.30pm.

The Chair thanked Members for attending the meeting and wished everyone a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

The meeting ended at 3.58pm.