

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

Policing Committee Meeting in Public

Minutes of the Fermanagh and Omagh Policing and Community Safety Partnership Policing Committee meeting held in public in The Grange, Omagh on Tuesday 24 September 2019 at 8.05 pm.

Present:

Councillors

Thomas O'Reilly (Chairperson), Josephine Deehan, Stephen Donnelly, Keith Elliott, Tommy Maguire, John McClaghry, Barry McElduff, Donal O'Cofaigh and Allan Rainey.

Independent Members

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

Designated Members

Superintendent Clive Beatty (PSNI), Inspector Graham Dodds (PSNI), Brian Hetherington (NIFRS).

Apologies:

Councillor Paul Blake, Michael Curran (NIFRS), Paul Devlin (PBNI), Sinead Dolan (YJA), Oonagh McAvinney (NIHE) and Patricia McKeever (NIPB).

In attendance:

Carol Follis (PCSP Manager), Monica Barrett (Committee Clerk) and Crea McManus (Committee Clerk)

PC 13/19

Welcome and Apologies

The Chairperson welcomed Members of the Policing Committee and members of the public to the meeting and apologies were accepted.

PC 14/19

Declaration of Interest

Councillor John McClaghry declared an interest in respect of any discussion relating to the investigation into allegations of historical sexual abuse in Co. Fermanagh.

PC 15/19

Minutes

The minutes of the Policing Committee meeting held in public on Tuesday 25 June 2019 were considered and approved. Proposed by Monica Coyle and seconded by Norman Kirkpatrick.

PC 16/19

Matters Arising

PC 09/19 Welcome and Apologies

The PCSP Manager advised the Members that the Policing Committee agenda had been amended to include items as agreed at the previous meeting.

Councillor Barry McElduff entered the meeting at 8.06 pm.

An update was provided on the process of Independent Member Recruitment at the PCSP meeting held prior to the Policing Committee meeting.

PC 11/19 Matters Arising – PC 08/19 The Domestic Violence and Abuse Disclosure Scheme (DVADS)

Domestic and Sexual Violence

The PCSP Manager advised that details of local support organisations had been emailed to Members.

It was reported that a statement from the PCSP encouraging reporting of historic sexual abuse with signposting information for local support organisations had been issued.

Councillor Stephen Donnelly entered the meeting at 8.08 pm.

PC 12/19 The Support Hub

The PCSP Manager reported that a letter and subsequent clarification had been issued to the Western Health and Social Care Trust requesting prioritisation of referrals from the Support Hub. It was noted that a response had yet to be received.

Pauline Treacy entered the meeting at 8.10 pm.

PC 17/19

6 Month Update on the delivery of the Local Policing Plan 2019-2020

Superintendent Clive Beatty presented a report on the 6-month update on the implementation of the Local Policing Plan providing a brief summary on the key reporting measures. The report illustrated that as of 6 September 2019, a total of 2,125 crimes were recorded, an increase of 235 on the previous year. Categories experiencing an increase include anti-social behaviour, domestic abuse and cyber motivated crime. He commented on the increase theft from shops and the prevalence of thefts from vehicles in beauty spots. Key observations from the report noted at the meeting included:

1. Community Engagement: An increase in the Neighbourhood Policing Teams from two to seven.
2. Hate Crime: While there was a slight increase in hate crime Fermanagh and Omagh remains the District with the lowest recorded incidents in Northern Ireland.
3. Anti-Social Behaviour: 1,361 incidents of ASB recorded between 01 April and 6 September 2019. Traditional ASB on the decrease with Digital ASB (texting, social media) on the increase.
4. Domestic Abuse: Domestic related crimes sit at 411 between 01 April and 6 September 2019. An increase of 84 crimes from the same time last year.
5. Road Safety: Two fatalities on roads.
6. Drugs: 134 seizures related to drug offences.
7. Cybercrime: On the rise 78 cyber motivated crimes, an increase of 32 from the previous year.

The Members asked questions relating to the report which were answered accordingly.

Councillor Barry McElduff left the meeting at 8.26 pm and returned at 8.29 pm.

Recommended:

That the Partnership notes the report.

PC 18/19

Research on The Effectiveness of Policing Committees

The PCSP Manager provided the Members with the report, commissioned by the Northern Ireland Policing Board, on The Effectiveness of Policing Committees. The Members discussed some of the recommendations and how they could be implemented. The PCSP Manager advised that while most of the recommendations were the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Policing Board the Policing Committee will consider how it can make meetings more structured and focused.

During discussion in relation to stacking PCSP and Policing Committee meetings it was agreed that separating the two meetings would be preferable. A Member suggested that each meeting could have a theme and it was agreed that suggestions for themed meetings should be forwarded to the PCSP Manager.

Recommended:

That the Partnership notes the above report

PC 19/19

Members Questions

Superintendent Beatty provided detailed responses to Members questions which had been submitted prior to the meeting in relation to the discovery of a viable device at Wattlebridge, anti-social behaviour at Johnston's Bridge, Enniskillen and the refurbishment works at Enniskillen PSNI Station Custody Suite.

Superintendent Beatty provided responses to questions put forward by the Members at the meeting in relation to a recent kidnap, historical sex abuse, gambling laws, vehicle overloading, illegal waste, the 'Next Door' App and PSNI assistance to Doctors/Northern Ireland Ambulance Service transporting patients. Councillor John McClaghry left the meeting for the duration of the discussion on historical sexual abuse in Co. Fermanagh.

Superintendent Beatty reminded the Members that questions requiring informed responses should be submitted in writing at least 5 days in advance of the meeting.

RISING:

The Committee rose at 9.19 pm.

All Members were present at the beginning of the meeting except for the following who arrived at the stated time: Councillor Barry McElduff at 8.06 pm, Councillor Stephen Donnelly at 8.08 pm, and Pauline Treacy at 8.10 pm.