Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the Policing and Community Safety Partnership meeting to be held on Tuesday, 28th May 2024 at 6:00 pm in Microsoft Teams & Downshire Civic Centre.

Agenda

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8.0 Date of next meeting

6pm on 30 July 2024 in the Council Chamber, Downshire Civic Centre and online via Microsoft Teams

Invitees

POLICING COMMITTEE AND POLICING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

Minutes of the Newry, Mourne & Down Policing Committee and Policing & Community Safety Partnership Meeting held on Tuesday 26 March 2024 at 6.00pm in the Downshire Chamber, Downpatrick and remotely via MS Teams

In attendance in Chamber:

Councillor T Andrews, NMDDC Councillor C Galbraith, NMDDC Councillor O Hanlon, NMDDC (Chair) Councillor H Reilly, NMDDC Audrey Byrne, PCSP Independent Member Roisin Leckey, PBNI

In attendance via Teams:

Councillor D Murphy, NMDDC
Councillor D Taylor, NMDDC
Councillor J Truesdale, NMDDC
Superintendent Norman Haslett, PSNI
Chief Inspector Lynne Corbett, PSNI
Chief Inspector Peter Stevenson, PSNI
Inspector Adam Corner, PSNI
Inspector Kelly Gibson, PSNI
Sergeant Ryan Duffy, PSNI
Tara Campbell, PCSP Independent Member
Dan McEvoy, PCSP Independent Member
Michelle Osborne, PCSP Independent Member
Donna Weir, EANI
Michael Heaney, YJA

Officials in attendance in Chamber:

Alison Robb, Assistant Director Community Development
Martina Flynn, Safer Communities & Good Relations Manager
Shannon Creaney, PCSP Officer
Jacqueline Urey, PCSP Officer
Amy McKeown, Monitoring & Evaluation Officer, PCSP and Good Relations
Shane McGivern, Safer Communities & Good Relations Officer

1 Welcome, Chairperson's Remarks and Apologies

Councillor Hanlon welcomed Members to the Partnership meeting.

Apologies were received from Councillor Aidan Mathers, Councillor Killian Feehan and Councillor Roisin Howell.

Councillor Hanlon noted that it has been a busy time with a series of events taking place and expressed thanks to Members who had attended these.

Councillor Hanlon advised that the application process for PCSP Independent Members has now concluded. 16 candidates attended for interview in February with 12 shortlisted to the Merit List for appointment. The

Policing Board will meet this week to confirm the appointments and the reconstitution date for the PCSP is set for 1 June 2024.

Councillor Hanlon added that there is still no confirmation of the PCSP budget for 2024/2025.

Councillor Hanlon reminded Members that there will be a community engagement event on 24 April in the St. Patrick Centre, Downpatrick. Councillor Hanlon added that a similar event took place in Newry which was well attended and asked Members to encourage attendance at the Downpatrick event.

2 Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

3 Draft Minutes of PCSP & Policing Committee Meeting dated 30 January 2024

Read: Minutes of PCSP & Policing Committee Meeting held on 30 January 2024 (copy circulated).

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Galbraith, seconded by Councillor Truesdale, it was

agreed to approve the Minutes of the Policing Committee and PCSP Meeting held

on 30 January 2024 as a true and accurate record.

4 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5 District Commander's Report – Period 5

Read: District Commander's Report – Period 5 (copy circulated)

Superintendent Haslett reported that 99.9% of all victims of crime have been updated by Police within the ten-day target and there are currently no outstanding victim updates across the District.

Engagement

On 26 February, Newry NPT Officers attended the PCSP Community Safety and Wellbeing event at Newry Leisure Centre with the upgraded Mobile Engagement Unit. Newry NPT Officers also attended the promotional launch of the PCSP/PSNI children's activity booklet at St.Patrick's Primary School in Newry.

Officers from the South Down NPT attended a trailer marking event in Hilltown on 28 February.

Slieve Gullion NPT Officers held a meeting in February with representatives from An Garda Síochána in order to facilitate and increase effective cross border engagement, this was led by Chief Inspector Corbett.

In February the Slieve Gullion South NPT hosted a two-day work experience event in conjunction with the PCSP - 22 students from across the District attended. Feedback was excellent with some of the students now considering policing as a viable career option.

In terms of Social Media, there are currently over 73,000 followers on Facebook with a fortnightly post reach of almost 600,000. On Twitter, there are almost 9,000 followers and on Nextdoor almost 14,500 Members with 34 posts to date from PSNI during this year.

Hate Crime

During this reporting period there has been a 27.7% decrease in hate motivated crime compared to the previous rolling 365-day period. During the same period hate motivated incidents have recorded an 8.7% decrease. Sectarian hate crimes and incidents are currently the highest reported followed by racial and then sexual orientation.

ASB

Superintendent Haslett noted that he was pleased to report that there were no significant sites of ASB being reported during this period. However, there normally is a seasonal increase in ASB in the Summer months and this is something that the PSNI are aware of.

Domestic Abuse

Superintendent Haslett advised that domestic incidents have decreased by 151 incidents in the current rolling period. There has been a significant reduction in domestic offences with a reduction of 394 offences compared to this time last year. The outcome rate for victims has increased from 29.8% to 33.3% - an increase of 3.5% which means that victims are getting a better outcome as a result of the criminal justice process.

PSNI are convinced that there is a greater confidence in domestic abuse victims reporting incidents to the PSNI, Women's Aid, Men's Advisory Project, other charities and via third parties. Officers have also recently received training from Women's Aid which enhances Officers' ability to recognise and support victims of domestic abuse.

In the school year to 29 February, Police have also attended 481 domestic incidents where the Op Encompass criteria has been met and made onward referrals for 919 children.

Road Safety

Tragically, since the last report there have been three fatalities in three separate road traffic collisions in our District. On 2 February an 18-year-old male died when the vehicle he was driving collided with a wall on the Ballylough Road in Castlewellan. On 22 February a 36-year-old male died when a Translink bus and the HGV he was driving collided on the Rathfriland Road in Newry. In relation to that incident, the partner of the victim expressed her gratitude to the PSNI Family Liaison Officer for the kindness shown by all Officers who attended the scene of the collision. Most recently, on Saturday 23 March, a male was killed when he was knocked down by a car on the Forkhill Rd in Newry.

Superintendent Haslett extended his heartfelt condolences to the families of all those affected by the recent tragedies and noted that Road Safety continues to be a high priority for the PSNI across the District.

A number of Road Safety educational enforcement events also took place during this reporting period, including Operation Safer Steps and Operation Lifesaver on 25 January and presentations to local post-primary schools.

Data from the SIDs continues to be used regularly. Concerns were also raised recently about speeding near Saint Malachy's Primary School, Ballymoyer. Slieve Gullion North NPT Officers arranged for the road safety van to be deployed in the area on 22 February.

Repeat locations, where there have been three or more injury RTCs within the last four months, include the Crossgar Road in Saintfield and also the Armagh Road in Newry.

Throughout the reporting period, Officers from Newry, Mourne and Down have continued to focus on offences that place road users at most risk. PSNI have made 97 speeding detections, 47 detections for

careless and inconsiderate driving and a further 33 detections for drivers using their mobile phone and not wearing a seat belt. A further 101 vehicles were detected by Officers being driven with no insurance. PSNI anticipate heavier traffic in the months ahead with the caravan season opening up and the and the weather improving.

Drugs

Drugs remain a priority in Newry, Mourne and Down and PSNI continue to robustly investigate offences across the District. Notably 701 seizures were made locally in December 2023, the second highest for a District in Northern Ireland.

From 1 April 2023 to present, PSNI have conducted 99 inspections of 21 Rapid Bins with a total of 34,009 items recovered and subsequently safely disposed of.

Crime

Superintendent Haslett reported that crime across the District has fallen by 12% compared to this time last year.

The clearance rate has increased to 33.8% which is an increase of 3% on this time last year. Violence against the person offences have decreased by 21.3%. Criminal damage offences have decreased by 5.7%.

Theft, mainly shoplifting, has increased by 8.4%. However, the PSNI have had some significant successes in shoplifting in the reporting period. On 20 February, a vehicle stop on a car in Newry found £1,000 worth of designer clothing and £600 of designer aftershave and perfumes stolen from Belfast. epsilon1,300 and a BMW 5 Series were seized and two people were arrested. On 20 February, a search of a car at Bridge Street, Newry discovered £965 worth of designer clothing which had been stolen in Belfast. On 15 March, a vehicle was stopped on the A1 following a theft from the Buttercrane Shopping Centre, 3 arrests were made and £1,000 was found.

On burglaries, there have been two sites of burglary hotspots since the last meeting - Ballynahinch and the Newry/South Armagh area. PSNI believe that the Newry/South Armagh burglaries are being conducted by cross border organised crime groups and PSNI are presently conducting some pro-active operations in that respect. In respect of Ballynahinch, PSNI believe it was a number of local criminals who were responsible for those burglaries. A number of pro-active burglary operations have taken place in the area - three suspects were arrested, one of whom has been remanded with the other two currently on bail. That spate of burglaries has ceased since the arrests were made.

South Armagh Policing Review

Superintendent Haslett updated on the South Armagh Policing Review. Over 80% of the recommendations have now been completed. Unfortunately, work has yet to start any work on the estates piece and in particular exterior work at the Newtownhamilton Station.

General

Superintendent Haslett highlighted some examples of good police work. On 7 February, PSNI responded to a male with serious mental health issues in Newry and provided appropriate support to make him safe. On 5 March, a routine patrol on the Dundalk Road in Newtownhamilton area discovered a major fuel laundering plan. The plant was dismantled, a number of lorries were recovered and thousands of litres of fuel were seized.

Superintendent Haslett advised that on Thursday 21 March, Police responded to a concern for safety at an address in Kilkeel; Police entered the property and found Mr. Robert McKee deceased and his wife Mrs.

Yvonne McKee with serious head injuries. Colin McKee, the couple's son, was subsequently arrested and charged with murder and attempted murder. He was remanded in custody and is due to appear again in court on 17 April. Superintendent Haslett noted his own personal condolences to the family and commended the actions of the Police Officers who were first on the scene.

In the period from 1 February to 19 March a total of 30 Police Officers were assaulted in the District in 16 separate incidents. These assaults consisted of Officers receiving punches, kicks, bites, being spat on and also a ramming incident on 15 March where Officers were hospitalised. Since Superintendent Haslett's tenure in the District, PSNI have had a total of 25 such ramming incidents in the District.

Superintendent Haslett commented in respect of the previous PCSP meeting on 30 January and wanted to register for the minutes and for the record, his disappointment with regards to this.

Superintendent Haslett advised that a particularly strong report been submitted to the Partnership on how the PSNI have been delivering against the Local Policing Plan, in terms of crime going down and clearance rates going up. He had noted on 30 January that the PSNI had discovered a total of 118 kilos of cocaine at a value of £10 million in Jonesborough before Christmas, which was the largest significant seizure of cocaine in the history of PSNI. Unfortunately there was no acknowledgement of this from the Members at the meeting.

Superintendent Haslett added that that he did want any personal praise, but stated that it would be nice if occasionally he could go back to the Officers who perform their duties tirelessly in the District 24/7, often under the stressful and strenuous conditions described in this report, and report to them that the PCSP were happy and grateful for their efforts.

Superintendent Haslett extended an invitation to the Members of the Partnership to come out on patrol with the Officers across the District to see the difficulties and the challenges PSNI Officers deal with on a daily basis.

Councillor Hanlon thanked Superintendent Haslett for the comprehensive report and extended her sympathies and condolences to the families of the road traffic victims and added that it was nice that acknowledgement was made from the families as to how sensitively police have dealt with them.

Councillor Hanlon added that she has been contacted by residents in the Ballyalton area recently regarding speeding there and asked if the local PSNI team could pay attention to that area. Councillor Hanlon also noted reports of speeding at St. Colmcille's Secondary School, Crossgar.

Councillor Hanlon highlighted concerns around spiking of drinks in pubs, including incidents over the St. Patrick's weekend in local bars.

Inspector Gibson advised that there have been a number of reports of spiking. This continues to be difficult issue as there is no specific offence on spiking, it is linked to other offences such using a substance to commit a sexual offence. PSNI regularly engage with all licensed premises on this issue and have a number of safeguarding initiatives such as 'Ask for Angela'. PSNI have previously shared information on social media and the PSNI website on how to prevent spiking and how to recognise the signs of spiking. Around peak times such as Freshers Week, the PCSP and PSNI also attend events in local colleges.

Mrs Byrne thanked Superintendent Haslett for the comprehensive report and discussed the recent public meeting held in Newry. Mrs. Byrne encouraged people to attend the upcoming meeting in Downpatrick. Mrs. Byrne noted the recent shoplifting successes and added that it would be useful for police to talk to the new Chamber in Newcastle. Mrs. Byrne noted the recent deaths on the roads and stated that she feels that driving has become more challenging for some older residents.

Councillor Reilly thanked Superintendent Haslett for the comprehensive report and gave particular thanks to the PSNI for the work they carried out in Kilkeel following the recent murder there. Councillor Reilly

asked Superintendent Haslett to pass on the thanks of the entire community of Kilkeel to the Officers who were the first responders on the scene.

Councillor Reilly asked if those Police Officers who are first on the scene of traumatic events receive any counselling.

Councillor Reilly also discussed the issue of drugs and asked for clarification of what a Class C Drug is. Councillor Reilly would like to see the reported PSNI figures on drugs advertised in the public domain or local press to show that PSNI are being pro-active on this.

Superintendent Haslett thanked Councillor Reilly for his comments towards the Officers who attended the murder in Kilkeel and confirmed that the PSNI do have a robust peer support mechanism for Officers when serious incidents take place. All Officers involved in the recent incident in Kilkeel have been offered counselling services through peer support and also through PSNI occupational health and welfare services.

Inspector Corner advised that the main piece of legislation which Police use to combat drug supply and misuse is the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. Attached to the actual legislation there is a schedule which lists different classifications - Class A, Class B, Class C and then medicinal products. Generally speaking, Class A drugs are likely to cause the most harm in unregulated use, Class B moderate harm, and Class C lower harm, although they are all still iillegal to possess. Class C drugs generally tend to be drugs which can be prescribed by a healthcare practitioner. Superintendent Haslett added that anabolic steroids are an example of a Class C drug.

Councillor Taylor offered his condolences to the families affected by the recent tragedies on our roads and the recent murder in Kilkeel. Councillor Taylor was reassured to hear that the first responders are offered support to deal with those type of incidents and added that support for the health and wellbeing of police Officers is vital.

Councillor Taylor discussed the issue of the drugs and the work that has been carried out by Police in that regard, and while it was maybe not specifically acknowledged in the last meeting, Councillor Taylor noted that this would not have been deliberate on the part of any Members.

In recent weeks Councillor Taylor advised that he has publicly thanked the PSNI for the work that they have been doing in his own local area. Councillor Taylor also noted that he has observed an increase in policing activity in both Slieve Gullion and Newry and welcomed successes in terms of arrests and locating substantial quantities of drugs.

Councillor Taylor noted the role of local intelligence and added that it is important that the public and elected representatives play their part in passing on information which is received. Councillor Taylor stated that both himself and the other Members present here do really appreciate the work that is carried out by the PSNI and hopes that it will continue in the period ahead as we try to eradicate the problem of drugs.

Councillor Taylor concluded by offering his best wishes to the Officers injured in the recent ramming incident in Crossmaglen and asked is there a way to increase Police safety and improve the chances of Officers not being harmed by this type of incident.

Superintendent Haslett said that ramming of Police vehicles is much more prevalent around the border as those involved only have a short distance to go escape across the border to where PSNI cannot follow.

Superintendent Haslett thanked Councillor Taylor for his comments. In respect to ramming, this has caused great concern as it can have a detrimental effect on Officer health and to the service that Police are then able to provide to the public. Superintendent Haslett stated that he has gone on record in the media several times to highlight the fact that it would be considered unacceptable to assault members of other emergency services including hospital staff or NIFRS personnel. Attacks on Police Officers are unacceptable.

Officers in the Slieve Gullion area have received additional training as a result of the South Armagh Policing Review, and they also have additional equipment. The PSNI liaise with colleagues in An Garda Siochana on a daily basis and there have been a number of incidents recently whereby offences have occurred over the border, the PSNI have been able to apprehend the culprits in their jurisdiction and likewise the other way around.

Councillor Andrews thanked Superintendent Haslett for his report and extended his sympathies to the families of those who have lost their lives across the District. Councillor Andrews welcomed the fact that there is counselling available to Officers and highlighted the importance of this.

In relation to funding and budgets, Councillor Andrews added that now the Assembly is back up and running that the much-needed budgets and necessary finances will hopefully be made available. As stated in previous meetings Councillor Andrews believes that part time Officers would be a valuable resource and asked if this could be conveyed back to senior management in the PSNI.

Councillor Andrews concurred with Councillor Hanlon on the issue of speeding in Crossgar.

Superintendent Haslett advised that PSNI the budget deficit for next year is estimated to be £130m million. Recruitment is starting soon, but the process is slow. Superintendent Haslett added that he had noted Councillor Andrew's comments on part-time Officers.

Mr. McEvoy thanked Superintendent Haslett for his report. Mr. McEvoy noted the recent success of the St. Patrick's Day event in Downpatrick and complimented the PSNI for having a great presence during events there. He also raised concerns about the visibility of the Community Safety Wardens at the events.

Mr. McEvoy asked Superintendent Haslett for feedback on the on the Neighbourhood Policing Teams, how they are currently constituted and are they operational?

Superintendent Haslett thanked Mr. McEvoy for his comments on policing on St. Patrick's Day. In respect of the Neighbourhood Policing Teams, Superintendent Haslett noted that, as previously advised, the Neighbourhood Teams have been cut from eight teams to five. Abstraction, where Neighbourhood Officers are taken away from their core duties to do response policing or other duties, is significant in the District. However, the PSNI are delivering according to the Local Policing Plan as is evident from the report presented at this meeting.

Chief Inspector Corbett added that the resourcing issues being faced by PSNI and lack of recruitment has meant that Neighbourhood Officers are needed for PSNI to maintain their core function of 24/7 policing.

Councillor Truesdale thanked the Officers for their professionalism over the shocking incidents in Kilkeel and on the roads. Councillor Truesdale added that she is a qualified Counsellor and knows the importance and value of counselling.

Mrs. Leckey asked should all the PCSPs in Northern Ireland be lobbying the Judiciary for tougher sentences for assaults on police?

Superintendent Haslett that this would be a decision for the Partnership and added that every time a Police Officer is assaulted, there is a 9-point plan in place within the PSNI. One of the points is an impact statement presented by the Chief Constable to the court on the consequences of what has happened, not only the consequence to the Officer but the consequence to the community if that Officer is injured and not able to perform their duties for whatever period of time.

Superintendent Haslett commended Chief Inspector Corbett who was the Duty Officer for the South Area over the weekend and managed the response to the RTC on the Forkhill Road and also the response to the tragedy in the ABC District where four young people lost their lives. On the tragedy in the ABC District,

Superintendent Haslett also commended Chief Inspector Peter Stevenson who was the lead senior Officer in that instance.

Councillor Truesdale advised that at the Mournes DEA meeting she had asked if 'Ask for Angela' be promoted again in Newcastle. Councillor Truesdale believes there are three bars in Newcastle signed up to this initiative and would like to see an increase in the area.

6 PCSP Officer Report

Read: PCSP Officer Report (copy circulated)

Mrs Flynn advised that the Community Safety Wardens were in patrol in all four areas on the evening of St Patricks Day and having reviewed the reports is content that there was appropriate coverage across the District.

Mrs Flynn added that 'Ask for Angela' is a PSNI initiative so this is something that staff would need to link with PSNI on and will follow up on that basis.

Mrs Flynn advised that the PCSP Officer Report is for noting and highlighted the work of staff and the ongoing programme of activities. It has been an exceptionally busy period since the last PCSP meeting and noted the huge amount of work done by staff in that period which has involved events, planning and procurement. Procurement has now been completed for the three contracted services, Community Safety Wardens, Home Secure and Social Alarm Scheme. Over the past number of weeks, assessment has been completed on Financial Assistance applications across the two programmes which staff are responsible for. There were around 100 applications from across the District to the PCSP and Good Relations Financial Assistance calls.

Mrs Flynn updated on the SID in Milltown Street, Burren as it has emerged that the land where the Sign is located has been zoned for planning so the Sign will have to be moved. Discussions have taken place with a local building contractor working with NMDDC on behalf of the landowner and they are willing to cover all costs relocating the sign 10-20 yards down the street.

Councillor Hanlon thanked PCSP staff for their continued work.

Councillor Truesdale thanked Mrs Flynn and acknowledged the massive body of work done. Councillor Truesdale discussed a point from the recent ASB meeting in relation to the car meet on 9 February in remembrance of a young man who died and thanked the PSNI for their work and preparation for this.

Councillor Truesdale commented on the Community Safety Wardens and that the incidents in Newcastle seem to be higher than elsewhere, is there a reason why this is?

Mrs Flynn advised that reports for the Community Safety Wardens are submitted weekly and there is a tendency for the incidents in Newcastle to be focussed around Donard Park and very often involve young people consuming alcohol.

Councillor Andrews expressed his thanks to staff for the work carried out.

Mrs Byrne added noted the good work of the Community Safety Wardens and specifically the example of the young person who had consumed alcohol and the Wardens phoned their parents and waited until they arrived. Mrs Flynn advised that recently there has always been at least one example of this kind of incident in the Warden report and demonstrates the increasingly valuable role of the Wardens in protecting our residents.

Agreed: It was agreed the Committee:

Note the report

7 ASB Sub Group Report

Read: ASB Sub Group Report (copy circulated)

Mrs. Flynn advised that the Action Sheets for both ASB meetings are for approval. The ASB Sub Group 1 meeting took place on 22 February and the ASB Sub Group 2 meeting took place on 7 February.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Taylor, seconded by Councillor Galbraith it was agreed the Committee:

- Note the report
- Agree the attached Draft Action Sheets of ASB Sub Group 1 held on 22 February 2024 and ASB Sub Group 2 held on 7 February 2024.

8 Date of Next Meeting

The next PCSP & Policing Committee Meeting will be held Tuesday 28 May 2024 at 6pm, this will be held in the Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick with a hybrid option available.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 7.08pm.

Report to:	Policing & Community Safety Partnership
Date of Meeting:	28 May 2024
Subject:	PCSP Officer Report – May 2024
Reporting Officer	Martina Flynn, Safer Communities & Good Relations Manager
(Including Job Title):	
Contact Officer	Martina Flynn, Safer Communities & Good Relations Manager
(Including Job Title):	

Conf	irm how this Report should be treated by placing an x in either:-			
For	decision For noting only x			
1.0	Purpose and Background			
1.1	Purpose			
	 To note the report. To note the attached PCSP Officer Report. 			
1.2	Background			
	The attached report provides Members with an update on the progress of the PCSP Action Plan since the previous PCSP meeting on 26 March 2024.			
2.0	Key issues			
2.1	None.			
3.0	Recommendations			
3.1	That the Committee:-			
	Note the report.			
	Note the attached PCSP Officer Report.			
4.0	Resource implications			
4.1	Revenue			
	All actions are budgeted for in the PCSP 2024/25 Action Plan			
	Capital			
	N/A			
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)			

General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes		
It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations	\boxtimes	
Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or prac or sensitive or contentious decision	ctice and /	
Yes □ No ⊠		
If yes, please complete the following:		
The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened		
The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation		
Proposal initiating consultation		
Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves		
Consultation period will be 12 weeks		
Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided)		
Rationale:		
Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)		
Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service		
Yes □ No ⊠		
If yes, please complete the following:		
Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed		
Appendices		
Appendix I: PCSP Officer Report – May 2024		
Background Documents		
None.		
	equality and good relations outcomes It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practor sensitive or contentious decision Yes No If yes, please complete the following: The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation Proposal initiating consultation Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves Consultation period will be 12 weeks Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) Rationale: Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply) Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service Yes No Implementation Appendices Appendices Appendix I: PCSP Officer Report – May 2024 Background Documents	

Newry, Mourne and Down PCSP Officer Report – May 2024

The purpose of this Report is to provide an update on key activities and progress since the last PCSP meeting on 26 March 2024.

An update will also be provided on key areas which have been discussed by Members and where a more detailed update may be considered useful. During this reporting period Members should note progress in the specific areas below –

- **PCSP Reconstitution** Relevant checks on prospective new Independent Members are now complete and offers of appointment have been made to the nine appointees. Final appointments will be confirmed by the Policing Board shortly, the reconstitution date for PCSPs is 1 June 2024. A local induction evening for the new Independent Members has been organised for 18 June in the Canal Court Hotel, Newry.
- **PCSP Action Plan 2024/25** the PCSP Action Plan for 24/25 was submitted to Joint Committee in December 2023, there is no confirmation of budget for the incoming year. The current budget position is having an impact on all PCSPs and the capacity to plan programme delivery including Summer diversionary initiatives.

Overview of progress against PCSP Action Plan 2024/25

Strategic Priority 1: To ensure effective delivery in response to local need, and improve the visibility and recognition of the work of the PCSP through effective communication and engagement

Theme	Aims & description	Key Activities in this Period (April – May 2024)
PCSP Delivery	Organising the work of the PCSP through	PCSP Sub Groups (ASB & Bonfire Sub Groups) will need to be reconstituted following the reconstitution of the PCSP on 1 June 2024.
	appropriate structures and mechanisms	ASB Sub Group 2 met in Newcastle on 9 April 2024; ASB Sub Group 1 met in Newry on 21 May 2024. The PCSP Bonfire Sub Group will meet on 29 May 2024.

Raise awareness of PCSP	To evidence impact through increased awareness of the	Continued development of PCSP social media channels (including Facebook and Twitter). PCSP staff are now responsible for managing all social media channels. Social media continues to be key to communication with local communities and the general public.
	PCSP	PCSP staff have continued to work with cross-border partners and recently joined with Longford County Council and Drogheda Implementation Board to submit an application to the Department of Justice (Republic Of Ireland) Community Safety Innovation Fund − €30,000 has subsequently been awarded to establish an All Island Community Safety Network. This Network will create opportunities to share ideas, good practice and develop projects around community safety, community / police engagement and also provide networking opportunities across all bodies, North & South. Funding has been awarded to support a series of cross-border community safety events over the next two years.
		The next cross-border event is scheduled to take place in Mullingar on 1 / 2 October (details tbc). The event will focus on Road Safety and initial planning meetings have taken place with partners including the PSNI and An Garda Siochana. Further information will be issued to Members once available.

Strategic Priority 2: To improve community safety by addressing local community safety issues, tackling crime and antisocial behaviour

т	heme	Aims & description	Key Activities in this Period (April – May 2024)
A		Develop a range diversionary youth & community engagement projects	Both ASB Sub Groups continue to work to the Action Plans for their respective areas. The PCSP is working in partnership with the Respect Project (along with Arbour Housing and Radius Housing) on the provision of an 8-week diversionary programme in the Newry area (commenced April 2024). Over 200 young people are currently taking part in this programme on a fortnightly basis in Newry. An Awards Evening will take place in the Canal Court Hotel, Newry on 4 June 2024. We are also working with partner agencies on Summer provision across the Council District. Planned activities include pop-up youth events and Summer Festival Safety events in partnership with the Education Authority and Water Safety events in partnership with local DEA Fora.

	Provision of a District-wide Community Safety Warden Scheme	The Community Safety Warden Scheme remains operational across the District. Areas of focus for the CSWs continue to be Newry, Downpatrick, Newcastle and Warrenpoint. Service hours remain under ongoing review and further increased deployment will take place in other areas as required and in response to local need. 560 hours of Community Safety Warden patrols were provided from 8 March until 11 May 2024. A detailed report is included at Appendix 1.
PCSP Small Grants	Provision of a small grants programme to increase the capacity of the community to address community safety issues	The PCSP Small Grants Scheme for 2024/25 opened on 22 January 2024 and closed on 28 February 2024. 51 applications were received – 44 applications have been approved, with a total of £85,254 awarded. Letters of Offer have now been issued to all groups and pre-commencement workshops with groups have been organised for 5 June (Newcastle) and 6 June (Newry). Further information will be issued to Members about projects and activities supported by the Small Grants Scheme after the induction evenings.
Theme	Aims & description	Key Activities in this Period (April – May 2024)
Theme Drugs and Alcohol		Officer attendance at SEDACT and SDACT meetings in this Period. A Community Safety & Wellbeing event is being planned for Downpatrick Leisure Centre on 9 September 2024. Over 20 local organisations have now confirmed attendance. We are currently working with Davina's Ark on a media project focusing on the issue of increased cannabis use in our local communities (completion date – June 2024). A Vaping & Drugs Awareness event is taking place in the St. Patrick Centre, Downpatrick on 6 June at 7pm – this is partnership with the PSNI, Downpatrick DEA and the YMCA.

	initiative across the NMDDC area	
Domestic Crime / Abuse and Sexual Violence	To support the delivery of a range of programmes, and develop a range of awareness raising campaigns	Inter-agency work progressed in this period – Officer attendance at the Down Subgroup of the South Eastern Domestic & Sexual Violence Partnership and the Southern Area Domestic Violence Partnership. The PCSP is currently engaging with Women's Aid ArmaghDown to agree how the PCSP can effectively support local services in 2024/25 – a partnership approach with ABC PCSP is being explored to maximise our engagement and potential outcomes. A Women's Safety talk was recently delivered by the PSNI & PCSP to a group of vulnerable service users from Action Mental Health in Newry.
Community Safety & Vulnerability	To develop and implement a range of community safety initiatives for vulnerable persons	Continued attendance at local multi-agency partnership meetings including and Newry, Mourne & Down Intercultural Forum, Locality Planning Groups (Newry & South Armagh) and local Inter-Agency Forums. PCSP Officers are attending Newcomer Stakeholder Forum meetings in Newry and Newcastle. Personal safety / crime prevention talks were recently delivered to groups including Arbour Housing Association residents, Happy Days Older Persons Group in Newry and students in the Southern Regional College (SRC). Staff have also visited local Primary Schools with colleagues from the PSNI — including St. Moninna's PS Cloughoge, St. Brigid's PS Glassdrummond and St. Clare's Abbey PS Newry. We are also supporting and attending a bespoke 6-week programme in Rathore School with their Post 16 pupils — road safety, internet safety and personal safety are some of the topics being covered during the programme. Feedback from the teaching staff and students has been excellent so far. Continued attendance at DEA Fora to provide updates on PCSP work and linkages.
	Newry, Mourne & Down Community Support Partnership	The Community Support Partnership continues to engage with a number of vulnerable adults; the most recent meeting took place on 7 March 2024. Since its formation in late 2019 the Partnership has provided dedicated support to 34 individuals. This support has included help to access a range of services (including mental health, addiction and general health services), assistance with housing issues and return to education, employment and volunteering opportunities.

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Road Safety	To support and promote road safety initiatives	Continued support to Road Safe NI (Newry, Mourne and Down Committee). The Road Ahead Support Group continues to meet and offer support to families and individuals impacted by Road Traffic Collisions.
		28 SIDs are now installed across the District. Data has been downloaded from SIDs across the District and a detailed report prepared for Members (see Appendix 2). There has been a further decrease in speed and the number of speed limit violations in the vicinity of the Signs. We have now moved to a remote data monitoring model for 15 of the Signs – this has resulted in a much more efficient information management system and allow for savings in both staff time and travel costs.
		The SID on Milltown Street, Burren has now been relocated a short distance from its original installation point (as noted at the March Partnership meeting the Sign had to be relocated due to local land being zoned for planning permission).
		The Castlewellan SID has been removed as it has been damaged beyond economic repair - water ingress was possibly caused after an impact (stone maybe thrown up from the road or getting clipped by a wide vehicle passing). We have asked Joint Committee to advise if a replacement Sign can be considered an eligible cost within the PCSP budget (JC have previously advised that only maintenance costs are eligible, not the cost of new Signs). JC have not yet responded to our query.
		PCSP Staff supported and attended the PSNI BikeSafe Roadshow in Newry on 17 May 2024 – 20 motorcyclists took part in the event and feedback was excellent. We are working with colleagues in PSNI Roads Policing to bring the PSNI RoadSafe Roadshow to the District in Autumn 2024 (date and venue tbc).
		The PCSP also supported the Gullion Sportive cycling event organised by the Armagh Down Cycling Club on 28 April 2024 – over 200 cyclists took part in the event which started from Jack Mackin Park in Newry. The PSNI also attended the event and offered free bike marking to participants (over 20 bikes marked). This was an excellent awareness raising / engagement event for both the PSNI and PCSP.
Fear of	To support	The Home Secure Service remains open to referrals (57 referrals were received in March & April 2024); 100%
Crime, Burglary &	communities to protect	of beneficiaries report feeling safer as a result of the interventions.
Crime	themselves and	The Social Alarm Scheme also remains operational. We are continuing to liaise with the PSNI to identity further
Prevention	their property to	beneficiaries for the Scheme (this is a targeted Scheme, aimed at high-risk individuals referred by the PSNI).

reduce the fear of crime	Over 50 referrals have now been made to this Scheme and a number of arrests have been made at the homes of victims after alarms were triggered due to perpetrators arriving at the premises
To develop a range of crime prevention interventions (including rural crime)	A number of Crime Prevention events have taken place across the District in partnership with NPTs and the PSNI Crime Prevention Officer. These have included events in Newry, South Armagh and Downpatrick. A range of crime prevention & awareness raising events are planned for June & July 2024 across the District – the events schedule has been issued to Members and attendance is encouraged where possible.
To promote and develop the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme	There are currently 117 active and fully accredited NHW Schemes across the District, accounting for 138 NHW Co-Ordinators (some schemes are large and require 2 Co-Ordinators). PCSP Staff are currently working on the reaccreditation of all NHW Schemes (this happens every 4 years) – we expect to see the number of NHW Schemes reduce by over 50% across the District by the end of the reaccreditation process (revised estimated number of Schemes – 54). A NHW Network event has been organised for 12 June in the Whistledown Hotel, Warrenpoint.

Strategic Priority 3: To improve Confidence in Policing through collaborative problem solving with communities. Aims & Key Activities in this Period (April – May 2024) **Theme** description Advocate for A PCSP/PSNI Community Engagement meeting took place on 24 April 2024 in the St. Patrick Centre, Downpatrick. **Improve** policing and This was well attended, with presentations focused on Domestic Abuse and Ending Violence Against Women & community effectively Girls. confidence monitor local in policing We are aware of current challenges facing the PSNI (including budget / workforce) and the local impact on police performance availability of NPT Officers to support some events etc. and progress of the local Policing Plan

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Support the
engagement of
the local
community with
the PSNI

Community/police engagement is progressing well via planned events and other activities (as outlined above).

The PSNI/PCSP Mobile Unit remains very popular and plans are in place to ensure that it continues to be widely deployed across the District. We have recently resourced the cost of some upgrades to the Unit's software and game consoles and are confident that this will extend the use of the vehicle even further.

Appendix 1

Summary of Community Safety Wardens Reports: 8 March 2024 – 11 May 2024

	No. Incidents attended	No. Incidents reported to PSNI	Total Hours Patrolled
Downpatrick	29	0	140
Newcastle	39	0	140
Newry	33	0	140
Warrenpoint	32	0	140
Total	133	0	560

Notes:

This reporting period covers St. Patrick's Day Bank Holiday Weekend and the Easter Holidays.

Examples of Incidents Attended by Wardens:

Downpatrick 23.03.2024 – Wardens on the Ardglass Road see a group of young teenagers drinking alcohol. Wardens approach the group and ask them to dispose of the alcohol, which they did.

Downpatrick 13.04.2024 – Wardens patrolling the Flying Horse area see a group of teenagers drinking alcohol and vaping. Wardens ask the group to dispose of their alcohol and vapes, which they did.

Newry 30.03.2024 - Wardens passing the Bus Station see two older men drinking alcohol at the benches along the Canal. Wardens approach the men and remind them they cannot drink in this area before asking them to move on, which they did.

Newry 13.04.2024 – Wardens patrolling near the Leisure Centre, come across youths on bikes near to the road. Wardens ask the youths to be careful and mindful of any oncoming traffic.

Newry 10.05.2024 – Wardens patrolling near Barcroft Park see a large group of teenagers playing loud music. Wardens approach the group and ask them to turn the music down in respect of those living nearby, which they did.

Newcastle 15.03.2024 – Wardens patrolling Island Park see a large group of teenagers drinking alcohol at the Lake. Wardens approach the group and ask them to dispose of their alcohol and move on from the area, which they did.

Newcastle 13.04.2024 – Wardens at Donard Car Park see cars parked up revving their engines and playing loud music. Wardens approach the drivers and ask them to be mindful of their noise in respect of those living nearby.

Newcastle 04.05.2024 – Wardens walking around Island Park see a group of teenagers throwing stones at nearby campervans and swans. Wardens stop the teenagers and explain to them the dangers of doing this, before ensuring they move on from the area.

Warrenpoint 08.03.2024 – Wardens patrolling Clonallon Park see a group of teenagers carrying bags of alcohol. Wardens approach the teenagers and ask them to dispose of the alcohol inside, which they did.

Warrenpoint 04.05.2024 – Wardens patrolling Bridle Loanan see a group of teenagers drinking alcohol and playing loud music. Wardens ask the group to dispose of their alcohol and turn the music down, which they did.

Appendix 2

Table Showing Data collected from SIDs 14 March 2024 - 14 May 2024

Location of SID	85% of vehicles were travelling at this speed (MPH)	% Speed violations over 30mph (*40mph)	% Speed violations over 35mph (*45mph)	No. speed violations over 70mph	Average % reduction in speed caused by SID	Time of highest number of Speeding Offences (>30MPH*)
Annalong	36	60.0	19.2	0	4.37	06:00 AM
Ardglass	36	44.4	17.0	6	5.80	06:00 AM
Ballynahinch	33	26.3	6.0	0	7.30	05:00 AM
Burren	40	71.9	39.5	13	No Reduction	07:00 AM
Camlough	44	70.5	47.1	277	17.42	06:00 AM
Castlewellan	-	-	-	-	-	-
Clough	36	45.9	15.3	7	4.66	05:00 AM
Crossmaglen	41	59.9	35.9	1	7.74	05:00 AM
Culloville*	43	27.4	8.1	0	2.97	06:00 AM
Darragh Cross*	41	18.9	4.8	3	4.72	04:00 AM
Downpatrick*	41	17.4	4.5	34	6.66	05:00 AM
Dundrum	37	52.9	22.4	128	4.37	06:00 AM
Kilcoo	43	84.1	56.2	26	3.78	05:00 AM
Killeavy*	37	4.9	0.8	0	5.93	07:00 AM
Kilkeel	35	41.9	12.1	24	No Reduction	04:00 AM
Killough	34	39.9	6.9	0	4.13	19:00 PM
Killyleagh	38	63.2	29.0	10	5.62	22:00 PM
Leitrim	34	40.1	8.9	0	17.58	07:00 AM
Mayobridge	38	65.9	27.0	0	3.03	06:00 AM
Meigh	41	63.3	35.9	24	14.24	06:00 AM
Newcastle	32	23.0	6.6	5	5.18	05:00 AM

Newry (Camlough Road)	35	44.8	14.7	33	3.33	09:00 AM
Newry						
(Chancellors						
Road)*	39	9.6	2.3	1	0.32	11:00 AM
Newtownhamilton	42	73.4	42.8	10	6.0	11:00 AM
Rostrevor	42	59.0	34.8	116	6.96	05:00 AM
Saintfield	37	44.6	20.8	13	7.09	06:00 AM
Strangford	38	63.1	27.7	213	4.06	07:00 AM
Warrenpoint	36	50.7	17.0	8	1.33	06:00 AM

Notes:

Downpatrick, Newry (Chancellors Road), Darragh Cross, Killeavy and Culloville SID are placed in a 40mph zone and therefore the table has been amended to reflect speed trends for these areas by an Asterix.

Kilcoo SID is now placed in a 30MPH speed limit, therefore the table has been amended to reflect this.

Castlewellan SID is currently damaged and we are working with PWS Signs to organise repair or replacement as soon as possible.

Key trends from data

- The overall average percentile reduction in speed caused by SIDs was 5.72%
- On average 20.86% of vehicles going past the SIDs were traveling over 35mph (*45mph).
- The SID which caused the highest reduction in speed was Leitrim SID with an average of 17.58% reduction in speed caused by the SID.

Report to:	Policing & Community Safety Partnership	
Date of Meeting:	28 May 2024	
Subject:	ASB Sub Group Report	
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Martina Flynn, Safer Communities & Good Relations Manager	
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Martina Flynn, Safer Communities & Good Relations Manager	

C6	time have this Danast should be twented by plasting an extincition.						
Conf	Confirm how this Report should be treated by placing an x in either:-						
For	decision x For noting only						
1.0	Purpose and Background						
1.1	Purpose To consider and agree the Draft Action Sheet of the ASB Sub Group 2 meeting held on 9 April 2024.						
1.2	Background The attached Draft Action Sheet provides Members with an update on the work of the ASB Sub- Groups since the last PCSP Committee meeting on 26 March 2024.						
2.0	Key issues						
2.1	None.						
3.0	Recommendations						
3.1	 That the Committee:- Note the report. Agree the attached Draft Action Sheet of the ASB Sub Group 2 meeting held on 9 April 2024. 						
4.0	Resource implications						
4.1	Revenue All actions are budgeted for in the PCSP 2024/25 Action Plan Capital N/A						
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)						
5.1	General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes						

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	It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations	
5.2	Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or pract or sensitive or contentious decision	tice and /
	Yes No 🗵	
	If yes, please complete the following:	
	The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened	
	The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation	
5.3	Proposal initiating consultation	
	Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves	
	Consultation period will be 12 weeks	
	Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided)	
	Rationale:	
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)	
6.1	Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service	
	Yes □ No ⊠	
	If yes, please complete the following:	
	Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed	
7.0	Appendices	
7.1	Appendix I: Draft Action Sheet of ASB Sub Group 2 meeting held on 9 April 2024.	
8.0	Background Documents	
8.1	None.	

Newry, Mourne and Down Policing & Community Safety Partnership (PCSP)

Action Sheet of PCSP ASB Sub Group 2 Meeting held on 9 April 2024 at the Newcastle Centre, Newcastle at 7pm

Present:

Chairperson: Cllr Galbraith

Statutory Partners: Insp Hardy (PSNI), Donna Weir (EA), Chris Blayney (NIFRS)

Elected Members: Cllr Oonagh Hanlon, Cllr Conor Galbraith, Cllr Henry Reilly,

Cllr Jill Truesdale

Independent Members: Audrey Byrne, Dan McEvoy, Tara Campbell

Council Officials: Jacqueline Urey (NMDDC)

Apologies: Damien Brannigan (NMDDC), Bronagh Magorrian (NIHE),

Tara Campbell, Martina Flynn (NMDDC), Sgt Cochrane/Sgt Dunn (PSNI), Sgt Gracey (PSNI), Insp Sheila Loughran (PSNI),

Bernadette McDowell/Michaela Murray (YJA)

ITEM	SUBJECT	SUMI	MARY	ACTIONS FOR COMPLETION
ASB/001	Welcome and Apologies	Introd	ere welcomed to the meeting. luctions and apologies are ded above.	
ASB/002	Adoption of previous Action Sheet		n Sheet agreed. Proposed by Cllr and seconded by Cllr Hanlon.	
ASB/003	Sheet General Discussions 3.1 Ask Angela Campaign – encouraging local business to sign up 3.2 Knife Crime/Knife amnesty bin		Cllr Hanlon to advise on access to local business mailing list Insp Hardy to provide knife crime statistics PCSP / J Urey to follow up (completed 18/04/2024) Insp Hardy to discuss with Sgt Gracey Cllr Hanlon to action with PCSP Manager	

		3.6	Downpatrick – positive comments from Members regarding current work and the continued lower ASB incidents.	
		3.7	Underage drinking and illegal purchase of alcohol.	
		3.8	Selling of vapes to young people. Selling of the vapes is a Council issue. Illegal substances in vapes are a policing issue.	
		3.9	Thanks to PSNI for a professional approach to the recent Kilkeel murder.	
		3.10	Confirmation required of RAPID Bins location in Downpatrick.	PCSP / J Urey (completed 10/04/2024)
		3.11	Scams - general	
		3.12	Scambassador scheme – explore opportunity to rerun this initiative.	PCSP / J Urey (completed 18/04/2024)
		3.13	Heath & Wellbeing evening in Kilkeel on 2 May 2024 – talk about drugs and general wellbeing for young people aged 15 years +	
ASB/004	ASB Sub Group Action Plan		ers agreed on the Action Plan ed – there were no further ons.	
ASB/005	Updates from Agencies	memb (1) info ops. (2 raised provid	- Sgt Gracey updated pers via e-mail update to PCSP promation on planned driving 2) update on previous assault at last meeting – information ed to members. (3) ASB – no ular issues to be highlighted.	
		1	ers on current ASB stats. (1)	

	Rolling year ASB stats do not identify same period of previous year. Same period previous year stats show an ASB decrease across all Sub Group 2 areas. (2) Update on Fresh Start programme successes. (3) ASB likely to increase in summer months.	
	PCSP – (1) Update on recent meetings and conversations with partner agencies re Needle & Syringe Exchange Service in Newcastle. HSC Lead now picking up on the need for service provision in Newcastle. (2) Update on conversations with	3) Cllr Hanlon to action on Donard Car Park update and advise where this now sits within Council
	Simon Community – Low Threshold Service and work planned in Newcastle area. (3) Donard Car Park ASB – shared action update from meeting on December 2023.	(3) PCSP / J Urey to share with Donard Car Park notes with ASB Sub Group Members (completed 10/04/2024)
	EA – planned interventions to provide diversionary activities in Summer months. Trying to secure staffing positions to ensure ongoing service provision. Update on the recent YAFTAS. YJA – no update	
	NIFRS – No incidents / attacks on Fire Service to report. There may be a rise in incidents as weather improves.	
Other	Dan McEvoy requested it be recorded that he did not see the CSWs in Downpatrick on St Patrick's Day. Chairperson noted that this is the last ASB meeting for some Independent	
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		Members and thanked them for their commitment to the PCSP.	
		Chairperson extended thanks to Donna Weir (EA) for the many years of PCSP partnership working and all Members wished her a happy retirement.	
ASB/006	Date of Next Meeting	June 2024 or July 2024 meeting date to identified after Bonfire meeting/s are scheduled	Cllr Hanlon / PCSP to advise in due course PCSP / J Urey to send invites

The meeting concluded at: 8:40pm