Northern Ireland Policing Board

POLICING MATTERS



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Issue Sixty Five: December 2016

Focusing on the Board's work and policing issues across Northern Ireland



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POLICING MATTERS Northern Ireland Policing Board





The Board is an independent body made up of 19 Members to ensure for all the people of Northern Ireland the delivery of an effective, efficient, accountable and impartial police service which will secure the confidence of the whole community by reducing crime and the fear of crime. Click here to see the Board membership.

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Christmas Thanks

2016 has been another busy year for the Board and the PSNI. It was also a significant year as each organisation reached the 15th anniversary of their establishment.

To mark this milestone we jointly held a Seminar and Conference which provided an opportunity to both reflect on the progress made and refocus on how best to deliver on new and emerging issues into the future. Much has been achieved over the lifetime of the PSNI and I would like to express my thanks to the Chief Constable for all the work of his officers and staff to keep communities safe from harm.

The Anniversary also provided an opportunity to say thank you to all the people who have helped and contributed to the reform programme. We are grateful to all those whose work continues to contribute to building confidence in policing and to making our communities safer. To all the Custody Visitor volunteers for their dedication in ensuring that detainees are well looked after; to the Independent Community Observers who observe the recruitment of

PSNI Officers; and to the Policing and Community Safety Partnership Members.

Collaborative working is a key theme in the new Programme for Government, and provides new opportunities to think and do things differently. With reducing resources, not just within policing but across the public sector, this approach is now a necessity in how services are provided. As a Board, we look forward to developing and supporting relationships with partners in the next year, and to identify how best the policing service plays its part in making a difference to communities across Northern Ireland.

As we look ahead and plan for the future much can be achieved when we work together. We also know that dialogue is important in finding solutions to problems or issues of contention.

FRONT COVER CAPTION

Pictured at the Reflecting & Refocusing seminar are (l-r): Junior Minister Alastair Ross MLA, Prof Richard English, QUB, Facilitator Brian Rowan, Minister for Infrastructure Chris Hazzard MLA, Board Chair Anne Connolly, Dr Aogán Mulcahy, UCD, Justice Minister Claire Sugden MLA, Chief Constable George Hamilton and Prof David Jones, QUB.

The last 15 years has brought policing through an important change journey. There is much to be proud of, but there is much more to be done to meet the changing needs of our community and the many new demands on policing. As a Board we look forward to continuing this important journey and work.

On behalf of Board Members and staff, I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and peaceful and safe New Year.

Anne Connolly
Board Chair





Continued..

REFLECTING & REFOCUSING 15 YEARS ON

To mark the 15th anniversary of the establishment of the Policing Board and Police Service of Northern Ireland both organisations jointly held an evening seminar followed by a one day conference at Riddel Hall, Queen's University Belfast in early November.

The seminar was an opportunity to reflect on the achievements and challenges of police reform while the conference focused on the future challenges for policing, for the Policing Board and how to best serve the community and provide an effective service to the community into the future. During the events an exhibition was also on display outlining the policing journey over the last 15 years.





Charting the policing journey

To illustrate the 15 year policing journey an exhibition was set up during the seminar and conference at Riddel Hall. Exhibition Boards on display included the basis for the policing change programme and a detailed timeline of some key moments in policing history since the establishment of the Board and PSNI.

The meaning of the new PSNI emblem, agreed by the Board on 12 December 2001, was displayed as well as the progression to a rights-based policing service and the establishment of District Policing Partnerships followed by PCSPs in the community.

The change to the Policing Architecture with the devolution of policing and justice was also catalogued and the exhibition finished with an account of how the PSNI deliver a service to the public and policing going forward.



Pictured in the exhibition area during the seminar are Prof Desmond Rea (far right) and Brian Rea, both former Board Chairs with current Chair Anne Connolly.





REFLECTING & REFOCUSING: 15 YEARS ON

Continued...

THE SEMINAR



Board Chair responding to a question from the floor alongside panel members Justice Minister Claire Sugden and Chief Constable George Hamilton

Facilitated by Brian Rowan, the seminar was an opportunity to reflect on the evolution of policing and the contribution new oversight arrangements have made to building political and community confidence in policing and the wider justice structures. It also examined some of the unforeseen challenges in the delivery of the policing reform programme and considered the future issues relevant to sustaining the progress made.

Delegates were welcomed to Riddel Hall by Professor David Jones, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, QUB followed by opening addresses from both Board Chair Anne Connolly and Chief Constable George Hamilton.

Setting the scene for a panel discussion Dr Aogán Mulcahy, UCD and Professor Richard English, QUB delivered a session titled 'Academic Reflections' which focused on policing in Northern Ireland and the reform programme over the last 15 years.

It was a privilege to have three of the Executive Ministers, Justice Minister Claire Sugden, Minister for Infrastructure Chris Hazzard and Junior Minister Alastair Ross attend the seminar and input into the panel discussion alongside the Board Chair, Chief Constable, Dr Mulcahy and Professor English.

Issues raised during discussions included the need to focus on wider public services outside the police, implementing policing with the community, the importance of political leadership in unresolved issues, dealing with legacy issues and the needs of victims and support provided to police officers.



to read the Chief Constable's opening address



to read the Board Chair's opening address

Online activity during the seminar

The seminar was livestreamed on YouTube and there was plenty of commentary on twitter during the evening.

@NIPolicingBoard: Chair – people have made the policing change programme, without them we would not be where we are today #NIPB_PSNIat15

@drjohntopping: Progress in policing by @PoliceServiceNI still both linked and dependent on political issues according to @ChiefConPSNI #NIPB_PSNIat15

@ACCMartinPSNI: Professor Richard English says that #PSNI is probably the most human rights conscious police service on the planet #NIPB_PSNIat15

@conorhdfm: We are at a crossroads in terms of dealing with legacy issues **@ChrisHazardSF @NIPolicingBoard @JBrokenshire**

@PoliceFedforNI: PFNI is praised for #WeAreYou campaign and £1m Psychological Illness Fund at seminar to mark 15 yrs of @PoliceServiceNI @NIPolicingBoard



Chris Hazzard, Minister for Infrastructure answering a question during the seminar panel discussion.



to view photos from the seminar



to view footage from the seminar





REFLECTING & REFOCUSING: 15 YEARS ON

Continued...



Facilitated by Jane Gordon, the conference was jointly opened by Board Chair Anne Connolly and Chief Constable George Hamilton.

Drawing on a range of expert opinions and practitioner experiences, the conference explored how the PSNI can effect real change and reduce harm in the community by working with other public sector organisations; the internal and external factors that support confidence building and effectiveness; and how community outcomes are measured within policing and other agencies.



for the Board Chair's opening remarks



for the Chief Constable's opening remarks



Police Models of Accountability panel members: (I-r) Sir Keir Starmer, Chief Constable George Hamilton. C/Supt Aidan Glacken, An Garda Síochána, Board Chair Anne Connolly, Police and Crime Commissioner West Midlands David Jamieson, Chief Constable West Midlands Dave Thompson and Policing Authority Chair Josephine Feehily.

SESSION 1:

Police Models of Accountability: Perspectives and views on what works

Sir Keir Starmer MP, the first
Human Rights Advisor to the Board,
opened the session and emphasised
that "diversity in holding the police
to account is key". Speaking about
organisational accountability he also
posed the question "Do they do the
minimum or willingly do the maximum?"

His contribution set the scene perfectly for the panel discussion that followed. This gave panel members Board Chair Anne Connolly; Chief Constable George Hamilton; Policing Authority Chair, Josephine Feehily; C/Supt Aidan Glacken, An Garda Síochána; Chief Constable West Midlands Dave Thompson; and Police and Crime Commissioner West Midlands David Jamieson an opportunity to discuss models of police accountability in their jurisdiction and provide perspectives and views on the challenges in delivery.



for footage of Sir Keir Starmer's address



for footage of the panel discussion

Some Tweets from the session

@RoisinB2 - @ChiefCon PSNI answering Qs on #accountability of 'PoliceServiceNI. 'One of the most accountable police services in the world' #NIPB PSNIat15

@WestMidsPCC outlines to the conference the importance of oversight bodies recognising the policing needs of the community **#NIPB_PSNIat15**

@gardinfo C/S Glacken 'partnerships & collaboration with @PoliceServiceNI & other agencies are central to service delivery

@rickmuir1: Dave Thompson reflects that the police authority model was more about retrospective scrutiny and PCCs more directional **#NIPB_PSNIat15**





REFLECTING & REFOCUSING: 15 YEARS ON

Continued..

SESSION 2:

Collaborative Working: More than just a policing problem - the potential to improve public services.

The second session of the conference focused on how better collaboration with public sector agencies can improve the service delivered to the public, particularly those who are vulnerable.

Will Linden from the Scottish Violence
Reduction Unit opened the session. Sharing
his experiences on the work of the Unit, a
national centre of expertise on violence, he
also explored how a collaborative approach
between agencies began to tackle issues and
how the police and other agencies worked
together in responding to and safeguarding
vulnerable groups. In explaining this he made
a salient point - "The three most important
things in effecting change are resilience,
resilience, resilience".

A video was then shown which illustrated the demands now placed on policing in dealing with vulnerable people, both victims and perpetrators, and explored how collaborative working could help in dealing effectively with the vulnerability challenges now being faced.



The Collaborative Working panel: (I-r) Peter McBride, NIAMH; Chris Matthews, Department of Health; Yvonne Cooke, PSNI; Board Vice Debbie Watters; and Will Linden, Violence Reduction Unit.

A discussion followed which included input from panel members Board Vice Debbie Watters; Yvonne Cooke, Head of Reducing Offending and Safer Custody, PSNI; Chris Matthews, Director of Mental Health, Disability and Older People, Department of Health; and Peter McBride, Chief Executive NIAMH.



for footage of Will Linden's presentation



for footage of the panel discussion

Tweets from the session

@debbie_watters: challenge is how bodies work together to serve vulnerable people so that onus not just on police

@ryanjfeeney: Prof. Peter McBride tells **#NIPB_PSNIat15** conference that the suicide rate in NI has increased by 100% over the last 10 years, terrifying

@PatersonVilma: Can't salami slice organisations anymore, need to support those to do what they do best for good outcomes @willinden tells **#NIPB_PSNIat15**

@ACCMartinPSNI: Yvonne Cooke, #PSNI's Head of Safer Custody, says 318 people died by suicide in NI last year. A critical problem for us all. **#NIPB_PSNIat15**



REFLECTING & REFOCUSING: 15 YEARS ON

Continued...

SESSION 3:

Community expectations of Policing. Measuring success: How do we know the police are effective?

This session began with video footage of two Independent PCSP Members giving their views on policing and community safety issues affecting their area and the community expectations of the police in dealing with them. Contributions from Dr Rick Muir, The Police Foundation and Professor Peter Shirlow, Institute of Irish Studies, University of Liverpool followed

Dr Muir in his presentation told delegates that while people want visible policing, it is hard to maintain confidence if there is a shift from this. He also emphasised that public expectations are out of kilter with shifting demands. These demands include the rise of more complex crime such as cybercrime and the need to effectively police the internet.

In his input Professor Peter Shirlow outlined the impact of research on 'Growing up on an Interface: Findings and Implications for the Social Needs, Mental Health and Lifetime Opportunities of Belfast Youth' which was commissioned by the Office of the First and Deputy First Minister. He also highlighted the need for a greater focus on the 'post part of post-conflict'.



Dr Rick Muir responding to a question from the floor alongside Prof Peter Shirlow.

Both presenters then took part in a Q & A session and issues raised included what the priorities for police oversight bodies are, where resources should be focused and how policing can adapt to meet a changing crime landscape and significant new demands. Input from the floor included a contribution from the Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Michael McBride who emphasised that "the root causes of pressures on health, policing and community can only be addressed across departments". The NI Children's Commissioner Koulla Yiasouma also commented that "it is not possible to sort out policing in isolation - social issues are key." While Vilma Paterson, Probation Board NI Chair asked what could be done to engage the public to build confidence in outcomes that actually work.



for footage of Dr Rick Muir's presentation



for footage of Prof Peter Shirlow's presentation

SESSION 4:

Future Opportunities and Challenges

The last session of the day was a contribution from Justice Minister Claire Sugden on the future opportunities and challenges for policing and justice. In her address the Minister took the opportunity to pay tribute to the work of PSNI Officers in keeping people safe.

Concerned about the number of vulnerable young people who end up in the criminal justice system, she emphasised the need to intervene at an early stage to try and prevent this from happening. She also highlighted the importance of taking a problem-solving approach to justice reform and the need to really understand what causes offending.

While legacy issues are a huge challenge the Minister told delegates that she was confident that the Assembly would reach an agreement to deal with the past. She also committed to cross border working and cooperation and to build new ways of working across the island of Ireland.



for footage of the panel discussion



for footage of the Justice Minister's address







REFLECTING & REFOCUSING: 15 YEARS ON

CLOSING COMMENTS

In closing the conference the Board Chair and Chief Constable thanked all the contributors and speakers for taking time to consider issues for the time ahead within th new framework for Government and the changing demand being placed on policing, the wider criminal justice systen and other public services. They also assured delegates the the learning over the two days would not be lost and the debate and discussion would contribute to the Board and Board Chair Anne Connolly, Police Ombudsman Michael Maguire, Justice PSNI thinking in developing plans.



Minister Claire Sugden and Chief Constable George Hamilton pictured at the

"It is clear that we will require different ways of thinking and working. We may also require a different way of using and sharing resources. There is so much more to do here and now is the time to make it happen."

Board Chair Anne Connolly



to view photos from the conference

"We actually need mature, collaborative dialogue, patience and all of that for me is 'resilience'. The collaboration piece also highlighted the capacity that can be released through community to help us deliver our public services."

Chief Constable George Hamilton



to view all the footage from the conference



Pictured at the Ulster University conference are: (I-r) DCC Drew Harris, Justice Minister Claire Sugden, Board Chair Anne Connolly and Deputy Vice Chancellor Ulster University Prof Alasdair Adair

The 15th Anniversary was also marked the following week with a further conference at the University of Ulster. Sessions during the day included: Reflecting on 15 years of policing and criminal justice issues; lessons from oversight; and the policing challenges. Board Chair Anne Connolly delivered the concluding remarks focusing on looking forward. She said:

"If we are to reduce the complex demands now coming to policing we do need greater connectivity - so we really need to get the partnerships approach right - and share the responsibility across our agencies. Police do have a job to do but it shouldn't be the job of the police to pick up the pieces."





Board Meeting News

Opening what was the last Meeting in Public for 2016 Board Chair Anne welcomed new Board Member Daniel McCrossan. She also welcomed the families of those who lost their lives or were injured in the McGurks bar bombing. Acknowledging the 45th anniversary of the atrocity, Anne Connolly thanked the group for the respectful representations they have made regarding the case.

Having recently marked the 15th Anniversary of both the Board and PSNI through a conference and seminar the Board Chair emphasised the need, through the new Programme for Government, to ensure greater connectivity and respond better to some of the demands being placed on policing moving forward.

Anne Connolly also voiced the Board's support for the '16 Days of Action' campaign to tackle Domestic Violence and Abuse.

In his report to Board Members the Chief Constable described the 15th Anniversary conference and seminar as an opportunity to "reflect on where we have come from and what we have learned; before turning our attention to the challenges and opportunities ahead". He also highlighted finances, changing police demand and the Programme for Government as the three factors that will influence the changes needed, not just in policing, but across public service delivery.



While progress has been made over the last 15 years the Chief Constable acknowledged that the PSNI still faces challenges in achieving a Service that is truly representative of the community. Committed to addressing this he referenced research commissioned to get a better understanding of the barriers to recruitment and told Members of his aim to have a diverse, representative and agile workforce that can meet current and future policing challenges.



to view the Chief Constable report

McGurk's Bar Massacre

To coincide with the 45th Anniversary of the McGurk Bar atrocity, prior to the Board Meeting some of the relatives of the victims handed over letters and a redacted log sheet to the Board Chair and Chief Constable.

Questioned by Members on the McGurk Bar probe during the meeting the Chief Constable was asked if he accepted the findings of the Police Ombudsman's report in 2011 which found that there had been 'investigative bias' on the part of the RUC during the initial probe. Clarifying the PSNI position George Hamilton confirmed that, having reviewed the case, he had publicly stated in September 2015 that he fully accepted all the findings of the report, including that of 'investigative bias'. The Chief Constable also offered his sympathies to the family and assured them he would examine the log sheet received and also assess a request to gain sight of redacted information about the bombing. While there had been no new lines of enquiry to date he made an appeal for any information relating to the atrocity.

Continued...





Board Meeting News continued

Questions to the Chief Constable

During the meeting the Chief Constable was asked to comment on recent media reports about UDA members in South East Antrim being blocked from leaving the illegal organisation. In responding ACC Martin confirmed that while the PSNI had received no formal complaint regarding the report they were currently looking into the identity of a person who was the subject of the media report.

He also highlighted his deep concern about a bitter loyalist dispute in the Castlemara Estate in Carrickfergus involving the South East Antrim UDA and a local family. He reported that since May this year 17 people have been arrested in relation to criminal activity, 28 searches have been carried out, 2 fully loaded handguns seized along with 2oz of cocaine and a significant amount of cash.* ACC Martin also confirmed that since July 2016 the dispute has cost £1.6m to police.* He also made an appeal to civic and political representatives to intervene in trying to resolve this very serious issue but reaffirmed that the police would continue to meets its legislative duty to police the area.

In the run up to Christmas the Chief Constable was asked what plans the police have in place in relation to road safety. In responding ACC Martin confirmed that the police have recently been given powers to set up vehicle check points and randomly breathalyse drivers. This has proved effective to date and has seen the police arrest 72 people in the first week, which compares with 49 for the same period last year, and randomly breathalysed over 400 drivers in two Districts over a three-day period.*



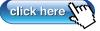
Board Members questioning the Chief Constable at the December meeting.

Post-Brexit the Chief Constable was questioned on the risks and implications for cross-border policing and in replying he told Members that there has been liaison with the NIO, DOJ and central government to identity the implications for law enforcement following Brexit. He also confirmed that the PSNI has recently made a written submission to the 'House of Lords EU Committee inquiry into Brexit: UK-Irish relations'.



to view the submission

Other questions raised during the meeting included public confidence in policing within districts, issues around officers stopping people in possession of a hurl and representativeness within the police service.



to view footage of the meeting

*figures correct at 1 December 2016

Police College Review Update

Following a series of Board meetings to examine the Police College Review Members of the Board have agreed that student officer intakes to the PSNI can recommence.

Members are satisfied that sufficient changes have now been made in the implementation of the findings and recommendations from the review to allow student officer intakes to restart.

However, some of the improvements made need to be tested and the Board will continue to closely monitor progress with the Chief Constable and review plans on the longer term issues from the Report.



for the Board's statement.

Written Questions to Chief Constable

This month the Board asked for written answers to a variety of questions including PSNI attendance at Children's Homes; Gun Licensing; issues around Police Vauxhall Insignia Vehicles; Gender and Community Background within PSNI; and the training regime in Garnerville.



to view the written responses





Planning ahead for the Police Estate

The Board has approved the 2016 PSNI Estate Strategy which outlines PSNI plans for major and minor works, custody provision and proposed station disposals up until 2019.

The current police Estate, which is owned by the Board, is worth £445m and over the next 3 years, the PSNI will spend an estimated £90m on estate related works. Working within the current financial climate priority projects have been identified for progression. The Strategy also identifies 12 stations which are already closed which the Board has approved for disposal. This process of disposal will result in around £1.5m capital sales receipts and around £600,000 savings per annum in running costs for the 12 stations.

Speaking about the importance of the Police Estate, Board Chair Anne Connolly said:

Whilst policing is not about bricks and mortar, an effective police service must have the necessary range of buildings to support its work. Part of our role is to ensure that the PSNI operate efficiently so we need to be satisfied that the plans for the current estate and future investment in it meet policing need and demand.

As the legal owner of the Police Estate, the Board has carefully examined the Plan prior to approval and welcomes the capital investment in new stations planned for Armagh, Cookstown and Ballymena, the redevelopment of facilities at the Police College in Garnerville and a new Custody provision in Craigavon and Waterside.

The disposal of 12 station sites which are currently sitting closed delivers welcome returns of about £1.5 million back into the pocket of the PSNI with a significant saving each year on running costs.



to view the Strategy



Board Chair Anne Connolly is pictured with Justice Minister Claire Sugden, fellow MLA's and guests who supported the launch of the Northern Ireland **Executive advertising** campaign which is part of the Fresh Start Agreement and the Executive action plan on tackling paramilitary activity. The campaign will include TV, radio, press, outdoor and social media advertising using the hashtag #EndTheHarmNI

Consulting on priorities for the Board Corporate Plan 2017-2020

The Board has been taking forward the development of its next Corporate Plan, which will cover the period 2017-2020. In doing so, a range of factors have been considered in informing areas of priority for the time ahead.

As part of this process the Board has developed draft priorities and we now want to consult with the public and key stakeholders on these priorities and are particularly interested in hearing views about how the Board might contribute to the draft Programme for Government.

This consultation on the Corporate Plan provides an opportunity for the community and our stakeholders to shape our priorities for the next 3 years. We welcome views and would ask

for submissions to be returned by **Friday 3 February 2017.**



for more information on the consultation





Board supports range of initiatives

RADAR officially opened



The Award winning RADAR, (Risk Avoidance and Danger Awareness Resource) Northern Ireland's first fully interactive 'safety' educational centre which tackles the main risks and dangers facing children and young people has been officially opened. Sir Matt Baggott (pictured far right) who introduced the concept of safety centres to Northern Ireland, returned to officially open the facility in the Belfast Harbour Estate. He was accompanied by (I-r) Chris Hazzard, Minister for Infrastructure, Board Chair Anne Connolly, Chief Constable George Hamilton and Justice Minister, Claire Sugden.



click here (m) for more information on RADAR



Pictured at the launch of the rollout are Board Chair Anne Connolly and C/Supt Chris Noble.

Board Supports

As part of Road Safety Week Board

Member Catherine Pollock, Vice Chair

of the Partnership Committee recently

A number of pupils from local schools

PCSP was also able to support Foyle &

The calendar features drawings by local

primary school pupils on the theme of

staying safe on our roads.

District Road Safety Committee to launch

attended the public meeting and the

their Road Safety Calendar for 2017.

on 'staying safe on our roads'.

participated in a public meeting organised

by Derry & Strabane PCSP which focused

Road Safety Week

Body Worn Video cameras introduced in Belfast

Officers across Belfast City Policing District are now using Body Worn Video cameras when they are on duty.

Body Worn Video technology was introduced formally to the police service in June 2016 commencing with Derry City and Strabane District, with Belfast becoming the second District to introduce the technology.



Pictured launching the calendar with the primary school pupils are: Catherine Pollock, Board Member, Albert Smallwoods and David **Jackson**, Foyle and District Road Safety Committee, ACC Alan Todd, **PSNI** and Cllr Gus Hastings, Chair Derry & Strabane PCSP.



Be Scamwise

Board Chair Anne Connolly is pictured speaking at the recent launch of a new initiative to help people get wise to scams. The Scamwise NI campaign 'if you can spot a scam, you can stop a scam' has been developed by the PSNI in partnership with the Board, Department of Justice, Commissioner for Older Persons, the Consumer Council, Trading Standards and Age Sector Platform.



for more information





Visits to the Board



A Delegation from the Jammu and Kashmir area recently visited the Board as part of a Fellowship programme supported by the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the UK. They met with Vice Chair Debbie Watters who gave an overview on the roles and responsibilities of the Board. The group were particularly interested in the Board's role in monitoring PSNI compliance with human rights legislation and how the Board consults with the community about their expectations of the police service.



A part of a study visit to Northern Ireland a delegation from Kosovo recently visited the Board. The group are pictured with Board Vice Chair Debbie Watters who gave an overview of the roles and responsibilities of the Board with a focus on building confidence in policing across communities.



Judge Brian Barker CBE QC pictured with Board Chair Anne Connolly and Independent Members Paul Nolan and Ryan Feeney during a recent visit to discuss his work as the Independent Reviewer of National Security Arrangements in Northern Ireland and issues relevant to the Board's oversight of PSNI.



Pictured briefing Members at a recent Performance Committee meeting on their work in Northern Ireland are David Anderson QC, UK Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation, and David Seymour, Independent Reviewer of the Justice and Security (NI) Act 2007.

Diary Date

The Board, in partnership with Belfast PCSP, is holding a public meeting focusing on Anti-social Behaviour in Belfast City Hall on Monday 23 January from 7pm. More details will follow on the Board's website and both Belfast PCSP and the Board's Social Media sites.