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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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Board Chair Anne Connolly speaking to business crime victims at the meeting in East Belfast alongside T/ACC Chris Noble, PSNI.

Board Chair meets business crime victims

Board Chair Anne Connolly recently met with business owners in East Belfast who have been hit by business crime. The meeting, part of a series of meetings with business owners, allowed traders to give their input into how police deal with business crime.

Speaking about the meeting, Mrs Connolly said:

Recent figures show that crime against businesses increased 5.1% from last year. Business crime is changing and, aside from robberies, there are many other scams and tactics that criminals use.

The Board is well aware of the impact business crime can have, not just on businesses, but the community surrounding those businesses. These are difficult times financially and the added burden of a robbery or scam can sometimes be too much for a business to sustain.

FRONT COVER
CAPTION

The newly constituted Board at its first Board Meeting in Public.

Mrs Connolly added:

We are currently developing the Policing Plan for the next 3 – 5 years and it is important that we have input from people across the community as we set out the strategic policing priorities and objectives for the period ahead, ensuring that they are achievable and effective.

The meeting was chaired by Mandy Patrick, Managing Director of the Park Avenue Hotel. She said:

It is extremely important that traders work closely with the police on this issue. This was a very positive meeting with a number of crime prevention steps agreed that will assist businesses and also improve communications between the police and traders in the area.

New PCSP Members in place



Pictured at one of the PCSP induction evenings are (l-r) Chief Constable George Hamilton, Board Vice Chair Debbie Watters, Board Chair Anne Connolly and Justice Minister David Ford

The Board has confirmed the final line up for the new look Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (PCSPs).

From solicitors and students to youth and community workers, the Board has appointed 118 people from a range of jobs, ages and backgrounds to take forward the work of the PCSPs.

Welcoming the new members onto the PCSPs, Policing Board Chair Anne Connolly said:

“The new members bring a wide range of skills and experience to this important element of policing accountability and community safety. All those appointed have demonstrated the ability to engage effectively and have shown a commitment

to ensuring that the voice of their community is heard.

The new look Councils and streamlined structure for PCSPs bring fresh challenges and opportunities for the partnerships. Members will work together with elected colleagues, the community and representatives of the statutory and voluntary sector to provide oversight of police locally and deliver initiatives to help improve community safety. I look forward to working with the partnerships and their members in the time ahead. ”

Speaking about the appointments, Justice Minister David Ford MLA said:

“The completion of the PCSPs reconstitution allows the continuation of a statutory framework aimed at delivering community safety. With a make-up of political, independent and

designated membership, PCSPs are representative of the local areas they serve. The Northern Ireland Policing Board has worked to deliver an open and transparent process resulting in the appointment of people with various skills and experience, community background, gender and age.

Each PCSP will have its own challenges but with the roll out of community planning in co-ordinating and delivering local services we have an opportunity to enhance overall performance and ensure that **PCSPs make a real difference to local policing and community safety issues.** ”

[click here](#) 

to view the list of new Members

Board consults with the LGB and Transgender Community

As part of a consultation to develop the Policing Plan, Board Chair Anne Connolly met with members of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual (LGB) and Transgender community to identify their policing priorities.

During the meeting the Board's Human Rights Advisor, Alyson Kilpatrick also had the opportunity to highlight work conducted in the Board's LGB and Transgender Thematic Update Reports which were recently published.

During discussions it was acknowledged that more LGB and Transgender people who are victims of crime are being encouraged to reach out to the police and report crimes, however problems with how some call handlers and station enquiry assistants are dealing with these reports have been identified.

Concern about the outcome rates for all hate crimes, particularly in relation to transphobia cases, was also raised and

it was agreed the reasons for this need to be explored further.

Whilst this community feel safe in certain public spaces, there remain many unsafe spaces and more work needs to be done to change this. Domestic and Sexual Abuse is a big issue for LGB and Transgender people and this was also highlighted during the meeting.

Issues raised at the event will be considered by the Board in their discussions with PSNI in developing the Policing Plan. A number of issues identified in the Thematic Update Reports will continue to be monitored by the Performance Committee.



The Board Human Rights Advisor provides an overview of the Thematic Update Reports at the meeting.

[click here](#) 

for latest Hate Crime statistics which include homophobic and transgender hate crime

[click here](#) 

for the LGB Thematic Update Report

[click here](#) 

for the Transgender Thematic Update Report



The Board recently set up a stand at the Belfast Mela event. Pictured at the stand are Board officials Moya Kelly and Linda Price.

Board Meeting News



Board Members question the Chief Constable and his team at September Board Meeting in Public.

Opening the September Meeting in Public, re-elected Chair Anne Connolly welcomed the newly appointed Independent Members and the new Vice Chair Debbie Watters.

Emphasising the significant programme of work to progress in the coming months, Mrs Connolly also outlined the new responsibilities to be undertaken by the Board in terms of oversight of the National Crime Agency operations and commencing preparations for oversight of the Historical Investigations Unit.

Whilst the parading season was reasonably peaceful the Board Chair expressed concern at some incidents

of public disorder and sent thoughts to the officers who were injured, some quite seriously.

In his report to Board Members Chief Constable George Hamilton confirmed that 45 officers had been injured whilst policing parades and protests over the summer months. He paid tribute to all the officers and staff who worked over this period, doing their jobs with 'professionalism and courage'.

Reporting that 41 people have been arrested (as of 1 September) the Chief Constable stated that further arrests are planned. Reference was also made to the challenges faced in dealing with issues around flags and bonfires in the absence of legal regulations.

Questioned on the recent murder of Kevin McGuigan Sr. the Chief Constable reiterated his operational responsibility in the matter and said

Continued...

Board Meeting News continued

that whilst progress has been made in the 'live and dynamic' investigation his recent assessment remained unchanged and that the PSNI would go where the evidence took them. Mr Hamilton added that it was not the job of the police to monitor the activity of paramilitary groups, however the police would support any move to set up a body to monitor such organisations.

During the meeting the Chief Constable also firmly rejected recent media comment that the police had 'struck a deal' in respect of the investigation into the murder of Robert McCartney.

The Chief Constable was also asked to clarify the role of the police in relation to missing persons at the public session and that in August the PSNI dealt with 1052 new reports involving 756 individuals. In responding T/ACC Chris Noble reported that this is a growing issue with 9225 reports of missing persons in the last financial year which, with diminishing resources,

is a challenge. He assured Board Members that the police would continue to deal with these incidents but that a wider debate was needed with other departments and agencies about the police role and the scope for more partnership working.

In light of the recent road deaths the Chief Constable was questioned on how the police are responding. In answering T/ACC Alan Todd confirmed that this year to date 46* people have been killed on our roads, which is a reduction of 7 over the same time period last year. He assured Board Members that a programme of work was in place and the PSNI's Road Traffic Collision Unit was working to reduce death and serious injury on our roads. He also acknowledged the benefits of a cross-departmental approach to really tackle this serious issue.

During discussions on resourcing levels the Chief Constable confirmed that the PSNI would be launching a

[click here](#) 

to view some of the new Independent Members speaking about their appointment to the role

3rd recruitment campaign and was questioned on the plans in place to widen the pool of applicants to ensure community representation. T/ACC Chris Noble, in responding, explained that in this latest campaign the PSNI would be encouraging applications, in particular, from Catholics, young people and those living in the Fermanagh/Omagh area. He also outlined the plans in place which include 3 familiarisation sessions in the North and South areas and in Belfast. The Chief Constable will also be in contact with other organisations who lead in the community, such as Sports Associations and Churches, to raise awareness about the campaign. T/ACC Noble also emphasised the importance of community support for policing, not just during the recruitment phase, but on an ongoing basis.

Board's latest Equality Progress Report published

The Board has published its Equality and Good Relations Duties Annual Progress Report 2014-15. The report presents progress in fulfilling statutory equality and good relations duties, and implementing Equality Scheme commitments and Disability Action Plans.

[click here](#) 

to view the report.

[click here](#) 

to view footage of the September Meeting in Public.

[click here](#) 

to view written answers to Chief Constable Questions.

[click here](#) 

to view the Chief Constable's report to Board Members.

*Figures at 3/9/15

Police Districts Phase-in

Board Chair Anne Connolly has welcomed the phase in of the new PSNI Local Policing Teams in Districts. She said:

“It is welcome that the Chief Constable’s new local policing teams are now being introduced into the 11 PSNI Districts. As a Board we fully supported plans to align the Service with the new Council areas and remodel available policing resources to focus on the particular needs of the community in each area.

The commitment by the police to build their knowledge of issues in geographical areas and better understand the issues affecting the community is very positive. Looking forward, there are great opportunities for the police to work much more collaboratively with others to improve and respond to issues of community concern. As a Board we believe the PCSPs have a key role to play in that and we look forward to developing plans on this in the time ahead.”

[click here](#) for more detail on the new PSNI Districts

Board Supports Term Time Road Safety Appeal

As the new school and college terms have begun, Police are urging parents and road users to plan ahead due to busier rush-hours and heavier traffic.

Assistant Chief Constable Alan Todd explains:

“Over the summer months, many of us have benefitted from lower levels of traffic and shorter journey times. It is essential that all road users remain focused on their driving, plan their journey and leave plenty of time as there will be delays. Most importantly, drivers should keep an eye out for children and young people on bicycles or on foot, particularly when close to schools, junctions and at bus stops.”

Police are paying special attention close to schools in these first few weeks of term and where offences are noted, whether for speeding, inappropriate parking around schools or allowing children to travel unrestrained, will be issuing advice, guidance, warning and when appropriate, fixed penalty tickets which carry three penalty points.

Endorsing the road safety appeal Policing Board Chair Anne Connolly said:

“As the new school year begins it is vital to heed police advice on how to keep safe on our roads. Too many people are being killed and seriously injured through road traffic collisions and we need to be much more aware of what we can all do to prevent these tragedies from happening.

We fully support the police and other agencies in tackling this serious issue and welcome the PSNI’s planned enforcement activity on the roads around school areas in the coming weeks.”

[click here](#)

for more information on keeping safe on our roads

New US Consulate visits Board

The new US Consulate General Daniel Lawton recently met with Policing Board Chair Anne Connolly and Vice Chair Debbie Watters to discuss the role and work of the Board.

Welcoming the meeting Mrs Connolly said:

“ The US Consulate in Belfast has been very supportive to the work of the Board and policing. This was a very positive discussion and we look forward to developing new relationships and partnership opportunities in the time ahead. ”



Pictured with the new US Consulate, Daniel Lawton, are Board Chair Anne Connolly (right) and Board Vice Chair Debbie Watters (left).

Speaking after the meeting Mr Lawton said:

“ I very much appreciate members of the Northern Ireland Policing Board taking time to brief me on the Board's ongoing

important work. I would like to foster continued cooperation with the Board in support of the policing services that enhance public safety, as well as reflect and represent the people of Northern Ireland. ”



Board Chair Anne Connolly (left) pictured with Chief Constable George Hamilton and Cathy Gormley-Heenan at the PSNI graduation ceremony where 20 students passed out.



Pictured participating in a panel discussion on policing and community safety at the New Lodge Community Festival is Board Vice Chair Debbie Watters.