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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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40% increase in drink driving arrests

The number of people arrested for drink driving during the PSNI's winter drink drive operation rose by 40% with 396 people in total found to be over the limit. The oldest was 83 and the youngest just 16.

Speaking about the figures Board Chair Anne Connolly said:

 **Clearly some people are still not getting the message of the dangers and serious consequences of drinking and driving.**

Reducing the number of people killed or seriously injured in road traffic collisions, of which drink driving is a cause, is a key priority for the Board. This is reflected in the latest Policing Plan which proposes a multi - agency approach to tackling this serious issue. 

FRONT COVER CAPTION

The Board Chair and Vice Chair recently met with the Victim's Commissioner. Pictured during the visit are (l-r) Victim's Commissioner Judith Thompson, Board Chair Anne Connolly, Vice Chair Debbie Watters and Adrian McNamee, Commission for Victims and Survivors.

During the Winter drink drive operation

(27 Nov 2015 - 2 Jan 2016)

- 396 people were arrested
- Youngest - 16
- Oldest - 83
- Males - 325
- Females - 71

Mrs Connolly added that the Board will continue to work with the PCSPs, PSNI and other agencies to continue to raise awareness of the serious impact drink driving can have across communities.

Policing Board welcomes Custody Healthcare Update

The Board has welcomed the progress made on the PSNI's review of healthcare provided to people held in custody. The review came from a Board Human Rights Report recommendation on the health and wellbeing of those in custody and the PSNI were also instructed by the Board to report back on the work progressed to incorporate increased involvement from healthcare professionals in Custody Suites.

The recommendation was based on the understanding that people processed through the PSNI Custody Suites can often have very complex needs with regard to their mental and physical health and the way they are treated in custody can have a huge impact on their well-being and likelihood to re-offend.

Speaking about the briefing with senior PSNI Officers at Musgrave station, Vice Chair of the Board's Performance Committee Roisin McGlone said:



Pictured at Musgrave Custody Suite are (l-r): Board Members Brice Dickson, Paul Nolan, Roisin McGlone and Ryan Feeny with Ch/Insp Bobby Singleton.

“The Human Rights Report recommendation was designed to ensure greater involvement of healthcare professionals from a nursing and psychiatric background in police custody.


The Board welcomes the PSNI's recognition that custody healthcare should not focus solely on keeping people safe in custody but that they should have a framework in place which

will allow the police to identify and address complex needs. There is an understanding that early intervention from the right healthcare professionals could prevent the cycle of offending creating a safer environment for everyone.

We welcome the work the PSNI have brought forward so far to ensure that those in Custody are getting the treatment that they need and will continue to work

Date for your Diary

The Policing Plan 2016-17 along with the Strategic Outcomes for Policing 2016-2020 will be launched at the RADAR Centre on **Thursday 24 March 2016** from 5pm. This will be a public meeting giving people the opportunity to question Board Members and Senior Police Officers on both documents. Why not come along and have your say?

in partnership with other key stakeholders to ensure the most effective healthcare system is delivered. 

Board Members also took a tour of the Custody Suite where they were talked through the processes in place to deal with detainees.

For more information on the Human Rights Recommendations,

[click here](#) 

Down to business



Members of the Policing Board and the PSNI met with people from the business community to discuss business crime.

Members of the Board recently met with people in business as part of the consultation on the Board's Strategic Outcomes for Policing 2016-2020 and to discuss how the PSNI is tackling business crime.

Crimes against businesses are not victimless and can have a negative impact on business owners, employees and the community which depends on the services.

Speaking about the meeting, Board Chair Anne Connolly said:

“We wanted to from hear the views of the business community on how we can help build

police confidence across this sector and to highlight the initiatives being taken forward by the PSNI to tackle business crime.

The meeting was productive and while there is still work to be done to tackle this area of crime, the work currently being undertaken by the PSNI is having a positive impact on business crime.

We welcome the progress being made and will work with the PSNI and the business sector to ensure that this continues in the right direction.

Board discuss National Security Arrangements

The Policing Board has met with the Independent Reviewer of National Security Arrangements in Northern Ireland, Lord Carlile to discuss his work and issues relevant to the Board's oversight of PSNI.

During discussions, Lord Carlile summarised the overall picture in terms of the terrorist threat level and highlighted some of the challenges, in particular around legacy issues. He also recognised the importance of PSNI compliance with the Human Rights Act and that the monitoring role undertaken by the Board is a key component in this process.

To read the main findings of Lord Carlile's Report on the National Security Arrangements in Northern Ireland.

[click here](#)



Pictured with Lord Carlile (2nd left) are (l-r): Board Members Dolores Kelly MLA, Chair Anne Connolly, Roisin McGlone and David McIlveen MLA.

Board Meeting News



Board Members questioning the Chief Constable at the February Meeting in Public

Opening the first Board Meeting in Public of 2016 Board Chair Anne Connolly condemned the recent ‘menacing violence’ in Lurgan which caused serious disruption. She also praised the professionalism of the officers who delivered an excellent service to the people in the area despite being under attack themselves.

The Board Chair also welcomed the financial protection recently announced for the PSNI budget in the forthcoming financial year, however noted that the service is still being asked to make a cut of 2%.

In his monthly report to Board Members the Chief Constable also paid tribute to the officers who were on the receiving end of the violence that erupted in Lurgan, praising their resilience and professionalism in what were extremely challenging circumstances.

Reporting that there have been nine road deaths* since the start of the year, the Chief Constable urged all road users to take greater responsibility for their actions. Sadly six of the nine people who lost their lives were under 24 years of age which he described as “a tragic waste of so

many young lives”. While road safety will continue to be a police priority the Chief Constable also emphasised that many road collisions could be avoided if people slowed down, paying greater attention to their surroundings, always wearing a seatbelt and never driving after drinking or taking drugs.

Referring to media claims that the police had information which could have prevented the Shankill bombing, the Chief Constable told Members that he was absolutely convinced that the police had

no knowledge that could have prevented it from happening. He also assured Members that the police would fully cooperate with the Police Ombudsman’s Office, currently investigating the claims.

*figures at 4/2/16

[click here](#) 

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

Continued...

Board Meeting News continued

Questions

During the Board meeting the Chief Constable was questioned on the resource implications for PSNI in relation to calls from up to 150 ex- soldiers to investigate terrorist attacks on them during the conflict. In responding ACC Mark Hamilton explained that the investigation of cases could only be considered fully when the requests have been received and the nature of the complaints being made assessed. He also referred to the Case Sequencing Model currently in place for the investigation of legacy cases.

In respect of the issues that have emerged from the [HMIC Austerity Report](#) and in considering priority based budgeting and financing for the new Policing Plan the Chief Constable was asked what progress has been made in addressing these issues to date. In his answer T/ACC Todd acknowledged that as the research was undertaken in 2014 changes such as re-alignment of the Districts with the new Council areas have superseded some issues identified. He also explained that the

recommendation to deliver a co-ordinated assessment of the total demand from PSNI currently and in the future has proved difficult and, based on advice and guidance from HMIC, there is no one model that would easily transfer to the PSNI. He also acknowledged that gaps exist and PSNI will be working with the Board's Resources Committee to ensure work continues to deliver improvements which are aligned with outcomes identified in the Policing Plan.

The Chief Constable was also questioned on the lack of progress on the Policing Plan measure to establish a pilot study around Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) in areas of high crime / social disadvantage. Expressing his frustration at the lack of progress ACC Stephen Martin assured Members that ASB was indeed a priority for the PSNI and outlined initiatives being taken forward with a wide range of partners to tackle this. Referring to recent productive meetings with the Board on this issue, ACC Martin reported that work is being taken forward to conduct a study of current innovations and ways of working, focussed in areas of disadvantage, with a view to understanding 'what works' in tackling ASB.

Drug Successes

Detailing police successes in tackling drugs the Chief Constable also provided Members with figures from the latest phase of Operation Torus, the partnership campaign to tackle street-level drug dealing across Northern Ireland. Running from 7 September to 31 October 2015 the operation has resulted in £1.35m worth of drugs seized, 731 drug seizure incidents, 1,166 searches conducted and 532 arrests. The Chief Constable also confirmed that the operation will run again this year and details will be released later this month.

Other questions raised at the meeting included addressing underrepresentation in the PSNI in terms of gender and community background and the lack of prosecutions in relation to Human Trafficking offences.

[click here](#) 

to view footage of the February Meeting in Public.

Murders

During the Board Meeting in Public Board Chair Anne Connolly expressed her sadness that four murders were committed in January. The Chief Constable in acknowledging the heartbreak these murders have brought to individuals and families also confirmed that arrests have been made in all four investigations and charges have been brought in three cases.

Views sought on Policing Plan 2016-17

The Board is seeking views on the Draft Policing Plan 2016 - 17. Feedback should be submitted by **Friday 26 February 2016.**

[click here](#) 

for more information.

[click here](#) 

to view written answers to Chief Constable Questions.

[Continued...](#)

Board Meeting News continued

'Stakeknife' investigation discussed

At the February Board meeting Members discussed with the Chief Constable arrangements for the establishment of an investigation to progress a referral from the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) under Section 35(5) of the Justice (NI) Act 2002 to investigate a range of activities surrounding an individual known as 'Stakeknife'.

With the likely size, scale and complexity of the case the Chief Constable informed the Board that it was the view of the PSNI that the investigation team should be resourced by a team of external officers. With costs likely to extend to £35m over 5 years,

he also advised that discussions were ongoing with the Department of Justice and the Northern Ireland Office on how the costs of such an investigation can be underwritten. Members shared the view that the PSNI should not have to meet the costs in this case.

In terms of Board oversight responsibilities, Members agreed that the establishment and day to day running of the investigation was an operational matter for the Chief Constable but the Board should be kept fully apprised of progress through regular reports which allow Board statutory accountability responsibilities to be met. The Board also agreed that its Human Rights Advisor will have a role in monitoring compliance issues associated with the investigation.

TALK programme continues

The Board continues its work with the PSNI and the United States Consulate by delivering this year's TALK programme. Participants were recently briefed on the work of the PSNI's Crime Operations Department and will continue to engage with the Board and the PSNI locally.



Pictured with participants at a recent US Consulate reception are the Consul General, Board Vice Chair Debbie Watters and Independent Member Wendy Osborne.

Board Chair visits Bangor Academy



Board Chair Anne Connolly addressed students at the Bangor Academy School prize giving event recently. Pictured with Anne are Principal Mr Pitts and Head Girl and Boy Samantha and Josh. Photo courtesy of Spectator Newspapers.

Discussing policing reform

Board Vice Chair Debbie Watters recently met with representatives from the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF), the US research organisation that focuses on critical issues in policing. Following a number of fatal shootings by US police officers, PERF's Executive Director Chuck Wexler and Director Thomas J Wilson are examining the use of force by officers in UK policing services in

response situations and techniques used in what officers may perceive to be threatening situations.

They met with the Vice Chair to discuss the Board's work in respect of oversight of the use of force and the importance of accountability in building public confidence and developing police and community relations.

For more information on PERF,

[click here](#) 



Pictured (l-r) are Thomas J Wilson, Board Vice Chair Debbie Watters, Chuck Wexler and Rich Hered.



PCSP Chairs and Vice Chairs visit Board




Board Members pictured with PCSPs Chair and Vice Chairs.

Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSPs) Chairs and Vice Chairs recently met with the members of the Partnership Committee to discuss issues relating to the operation of PCSPs.

Committee Chair Dolores Kelly MLA said:

 **PCSPs have an important role and job to do in responding to policing and community safety issues at local level. Board Members were keen to hear about some of this ongoing work and how the Board with the Department of Justice can support that.** 

[click here](#)  to find out more about PCSPs.

Chair addresses QUB Winter School

Policing Board Chair Anne Connolly recently addressed the QUB Winter School which focused on 'Safety and Security after Violent Conflict'. Mrs Connolly gave participants a perspective on the importance of independent oversight and accountability of policing talking through the reasons why policing needed reform and the impacts and benefits of the changes to the policing structures.



Policing Board Chair Anne Connolly speaking at the event.

Speaking about the accountability mechanisms, she said:

“The architecture for accountability is strong and a strong Board is good for policing. But another essential element is having a Chief Constable who recognises the importance and value of accountability.”

The relationship between the Board and the PSNI requires a 'healthy tension' – the ability to do business – to deliver accountability but also to provide support and advocacy when needed. ”

Mrs Connolly discussed that, whilst there have been many unforeseen challenges for policing, the success of the policing change process has been the willingness of people to step forward

OBE for Anne



Policing Board Chair Anne Connolly.

Congratulations to our Board Chair Anne Connolly on being awarded an OBE in the New Year Honours list.

Congratulations are also extended to all Police Officers and Police Staff who also received awards in the Honours list.

from the community and get involved in the new policing structures.

She added:

“Policing does not stand still and neither does society – so there is a need to keep looking and learning. We need to find ways to work better, and the Board is very much up for that.” ”

Visitors to the Board



The Board's Chair and Vice Chair recently met with the NI Commissioner for Children and Young people (NICCY), Koulla Yiasouma to discuss a range of issues. In particular, discussions centred on the implications of the Alcohol Test Purchasing Scheme and how the police are implementing recommendations from the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation. Pictured at the Board are (l-r) Vice Chair Debbie Watters, NICCY Commissioner Koulla Yiasouma and Board Chair Anne Connolly.



Policing Board Member Brice Dickson (centre) recently met with staff and students from Oxford University to discuss policing reform and the role of the Policing Board.



Visitors from the Inspectorate General's Office met with Board Vice Chair Debbie Watters to find out about how the Board monitor police compliance with Human Rights legislation and the importance of building confidence in policing through outreach and engagement.