

# Minutes of the Belfast Policing and Community Safety Partnership

## Private Meeting

Lavery Room, City Hall  
Tuesday, 12th August, 2014

### Political Members

Councillor Colin Keenan (Chair)  
Councillor Janice Austin  
Councillor Mary Ellen Campbell  
Councillor Matt Garrett  
Councillor Mervyn Jones  
Councillor John Hussey  
Alderman Frank McCoubrey  
Alderman Jim Rodgers

### Independent Members

Frank Mulhern (Vice Chair)  
Valerie Allen  
Claire Canavan  
Liz Groves  
Harry Maguire  
John MacVicar  
Carmel McKinney  
Mark Vinton

### Designated Organisations

Chief Superintendent Nigel Grimshaw, PSNI  
Chief Superintendent Alan McCrum, PSNI  
Superintendent Paula Hilman, PSNI  
Ian McCrickard, NIHE

Eithne McIlroy, PBNI  
Patricia Muldoon, YJA  
Cecil Worthington, H&SCT

### Staff Present

Alison Allen, Safer City Manager  
Lorna Somers, Safer City Assistant Manager  
Katharine McCrum, Partnership Support Officer

### Apologies

Councillor Kate Mullan  
John Topping  
Alan Hamill, NIFRS

#### 1. Welcome and Apologies

- i. The Chair welcomed Members to the meeting and noted the apologies provided.

#### 2. Declarations of Interest

- i. No declarations of interest were recorded.

#### 3. Minutes

- i. The minutes of the Belfast PCSP meeting held on 9th June, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct.

#### 4. Matters Arising and Chairs Business

- i. With regards to the previous meeting's actions, the Safer City Assistant Manager advised Members that:
  - Information on the 'Drug Dealers Don't Care' Campaign had been forwarded to the North Belfast DPCSP Chair
  - The first PCSP Youth Awards 2014 Working Group was held on 30th June

- A letter had been sent to the Justice Minister regarding PCSP Members' expenses and an acknowledgement had been received.

## **5. PCSP Action Plan Progress Report**

- i. The Safer City Manager advised Members that a progress report on the 2014/2015 Action Plan had been provided within Members' papers.
- ii. Members approved the progress made to date.

## **6. PCSP Small Grants**

- i. The Safer City Manager advised Members that 3 applications had been received for Tranche 2 of PCSP Small Grants. Members were further advised that a quorum of 5 Members was required to ratify the scores at a verification panel on 29th August at 11am.
- ii. The Chair, Councillor Keenan, Alderman Rodgers, John MacVicar, Harry Maguire and Carmel McKinney volunteered to sit on the panel.
- iii. Members agreed to provide delegated authority to this group in order to authorise funding to the successful applicants on behalf of the Partnership up to a maximum of £5,040..

## **7. PCSP Communications Strategy**

- i. The Safer City Manager advised Members that LK Communications had completed the first draft of the PCSP Communications Strategy and that this had been presented to Members at a Joint Briefing on 5th August.
- ii. Members were asked to note the attached Strategy and agree the establishment of a Communications Working Group to consider the implementation of the strategy in detail.
- iii. The Safer City Manager advised that the group would be made up of Communications Officers from each of the statutory partners plus representatives from each of the DPCSPs.
- iv. Members agreed to the establishment of this group and were advised that the first meeting of the group would be held during September, 2014.

## **8. Human Trafficking Awareness**

- i. The Safer City Manager asked Members to consider and approve the development of training videos as part of the delivery of Human Trafficking awareness raising campaign.
- ii. Members were also advised that the EU Coordinator for Human Trafficking would be visiting Belfast on 7th October, further details of which would be forwarded to Members once available.

- iii. Members noted the contents of the report and approved delegated authority to officers to develop the educational training videos and associated materials up to a budget of £3,800 whilst continuing ongoing awareness raising work.

## **9. Flood Wardens**

- i. The Safer City Manager advised Members that as part of the further development of Neighbourhood Watch, it was proposed that the scheme was aligned with a new Flood Warden Initiative in order to provide a further opportunity for new members to join who traditionally would not have been interested in participating in a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.
- ii. Members were asked to approve funding towards high visibility vests which would be issued to existing Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators and flood relief volunteers.
- iii. A Member queried the areas listed noting that, while discussions were ongoing regarding establishing a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in the Riverdale area, it did not currently exist therefore there would be no coordinators to take on the role. Another Member questioned whether existing coordinators had been consulted regarding these additional duties.
- iv. Some Members voiced concerns that the topic was not closely related to the work of the PCSP and should be an issue for the Health and Environmental Committee within Council. A Member also questioned how the request fitted with the current Action Plan.
- v. The Safer City Manager advised Members that the PCSP Action Plan referred to the development of Neighbourhood Watch and that this report offered the opportunity to build relationships with local residents which may in turn lead to the establishment of new schemes. She added that the paper was for consideration and that there was no presumption of approval. It was also noted that setting up a new scheme was often viewed as an administrative burden however this approach would allow the PCSP to build on the base of existing relationships with both Flood Wardens and Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators with the possibility of establishing new schemes.
- vi. The Safer City Assistant Manager added that there was no presumption that the existing Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators would take up both roles, instead this would be on a voluntary basis.
- vii. In response to the comment that the issue had not yet been brought before the Severe Weather Working Group, the Safer City Assistant Manager agreed to consult with the Officer who had liaised with the Emergency Planning Unit for further information.
- viii. The Chair noted that the development of Neighbourhood Watch was within the PCSP Action Plan and that this appeared to be an indirect way of achieving this. He welcomed the comments and scrutiny of the proposal but cautioned against the micro-management of projects brought before the Partnership.
- ix. Members agreed to defer the issue until further information on the strategic merits of the scheme were available.

## **10. Independent Expert-Led Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation**

- i. The Chair asked Members to consider a letter from the Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority regarding an Independent Expert-Led Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation and to provide any relevant information to the inquiry directly.
- ii. Mr Cecil Worthington, Belfast Health and Social Services Trust, advised that the Trust had already met with the PSNI and others regarding this, and suggested that the PCSP forward to the Inquiry a copy of the Action Plan which details the Partnership's link with Human Trafficking awareness raising.
- iii. Members agreed to this course of action.

## **11. Local Government Reform Update**

- i. The Safer City Manager advised Members that a lot of work was underway within Council with regards to Local Government Reform, which would influence the PCSP and DPCSPs going forward. She advised Members that the recruitment of Independent Members would begin during October, 2014 with an information evening taking place on 20th October in City Hall.
- ii. Members were further advised that the new Council areas would be involved in the consultation work during the current financial year in order to have a full picture going forward.
- iii. Members agreed that it would be useful to have a stakeholder map in order to understand more about the new groups joining the Belfast Council area.

## **12. Hate Crime Multi-Agency Group Update**

- i. The Safer City Manager advised Members that relevant stakeholders had met twice with Assistant Chief Constable Kerr and Belfast City Council's Chief Executive Suzanne Wylie over the summer months and as a result a number of work streams had been identified; Support Services, Communication and Messaging, and Community Activity.
- ii. Members were advised that the groups had identified the need for Northern Ireland focussed research to challenge the myths and misconceptions surrounding the hate crime incidents and that the Council's Good Relations Unit were contributing £1,500 towards this.
- iii. Members noted the contents of the progress report and agreed that the PCSP should also contribute up to £1,500 towards this research using savings from the Consultation budget.

## **13. Disability Action Plan**

- i. Members approved the contents of the Belfast PCSP Disability Action Plan and its submission to the Equality Commission.

#### **14. Annual Equality Scheme Progress Report**

- i. Members approved the contents of the Belfast PCSP's Annual Progress Report on Section 75 of the NI Act 1998 and Section 49a of the Disability Discrimination Order (DDO) 2016 and its submission to the Equality Commission.

#### **15. PCSP Annual Report**

- i. Members approved the contents of the Belfast PCSP Annual Report for 2013-2014 and its publication on the Council website and circulation to the Joint Committee.

#### **16. Strategic Issues**

##### Hate Crime

- i. A Member requested that the budget allocated to the 'Strategic and coordinated approach to the management of ASB' be reconsidered given its size and the limited powers that the PCSP has to tackle the issue. It was suggested that some of the budget should be redirected towards front line services, in particular the victims of hate crime given the current climate, and that a change control request should be submitted to the Joint Committee detailing this suggestion.
- ii. The Safer City Manager advised Members that the multi-agency stakeholder hate crime group, mentioned earlier in the meeting, had accepted that lack of funding was not an issue but that coordination was key. She added that the project to look at an approved service standard in relation to ASB was currently being scoped and would be available to Members in September however a change control could be submitted if it was the Members will.
- iii. Members commented on the good practice visits which had already taken place and suggested that the consideration of Northern Ireland based good practice would be more useful to the Partnership given the different legal and administrative structures.
- iv. The Safer City Manager advised that the budget had been allocated to an entire project, not just site visits, and that work had begun on this as the PCSP staff had not been aware that Members wanted this change before the meeting. She also suggested that the issue could be revisited in September once the Hate Crime Working Groups had met again so as to avoid duplication of effort.
- v. Several Members agreed that the PCSP should be seen to be tackling the recent spate of hate crime incidents, but also agreed that tackling ASB was important and suggested that both measures could be taken forward.
- vi. Following further discussion, it was agreed that a detailed proposal on the ASB project would be brought before the Members at their September meeting to allow an informed decision to be reached.
- vii. It was also agreed that a letter would be sent to the Joint Committee informing them of the discussions and the possible reallocation of funds towards front line services to see if they would be agreeable to the change.

- viii. The Safer City Manager agreed with the resolution and advised that following the meeting in September, and Members approval at this time, a formal change control request could then be submitted.

#### ARCS Funding

- ix. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised Members that the Cage and accompanying trailer had been delivered and that the car crash simulator had been ordered. She advised that both were aimed at young people and so it was suggested that a recognisable brand or character was developed to accompany both items.
- x. Members agreed to delegate authority to the PCSP Officers to develop this branding which could be used for future youth focussed activities. £2,000 was allocated to this activity.

#### **17. Date of Next Meeting**

- i. The Chair advised Members that due to an increasing number of Council Meetings, committee rooms were becoming harder to secure and so he wished to take the PCSP meetings into the community.
- ii. Members were advised that the October meeting would be hosted by the PSNI and asked for other suggestions to be forwarded to the PCSP Officers.