

Minutes of the Belfast Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Private Meeting

Conor Room, City Hall
Monday, 15th September, 2014

Political Members

Councillor Mervyn Jones (Acting-Chair)
Councillor Mary Ellen Campbell
Councillor Matt Garrett
Alderman Frank McCoubrey
Councillor Kate Mullan
Alderman Jim Rodgers

Independent Members

Valerie Allen
Claire Canavan
Harry Maguire
Carmel McKinney
John Topping

Designated Organisations

Alan Hamill, NIFRS
Superintendent Paula Hilman, PSNI
Ian McCrickard, NIHE
Superintendent Mark McEwan, PSNI

Eithne McIlroy, PBNI
Patricia Muldoon, YJA
Trevor Murphy, BELB

Staff Present

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

Apologies

Councillor Colin Keenan (Chair)
Councillor Janice Austin
Frank Mulhern (Vice Chair)
Liz Groves
John MacVicar
Chief Superintendent Nigel Grimshaw, PSNI
Chief Superintendent Alan McCrum, PSNI
Cecil Worthington, H&SC Trust

1. Welcome and Apologies

- i. In the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair, Councillor Mervyn Jones, Chair of the East Belfast DPCSP, 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 12th August, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct.
- ii. In response to a query regarding the letter sent to the Justice Minister about Members' Expenses, the Safer City Manager advised that while the letter had been acknowledged, no further response had been received.

4. Matters Arising and Chairs Business

- iii. With regards to the actions from the previous meeting, the Safer City Assistant Manager advised that further reports on the Flood Wardens and Anti-Social Behaviour Project were contained within the papers, and that the PCSP Action Plan had been forwarded to the Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation.
- iv. Members were advised that the external venues suggested for hosting PCSP Meetings had been unsuitable however the Officers continued to look at other options. It was confirmed that the October meeting of the PCSP was unlikely to be held in City Hall but the venue could not yet be confirmed.

5. PCSP Action Plan Progress Report

- i. The Safer City Manager advised Members that progress reports on the 2014/2015 Action Plans for the PCSP and DPCSPs had been provided within Members' papers, stating that delivery was progressing well.
- ii. A Member commended the Officers on the work to date and commented upon the usefulness of such an update.
- iii. Members subsequently approved the progress made to date.

6. PCSP Small Grants

- i. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised that the Small Grants Member Panel had met prior to the PCSP Meeting and had approved funding of £5,000 to the Spanner in the Works Theatre Company.
- ii. A Member of the Panel added that while additional information had been requested, Members were pleased with the ethic of the application.
- iii. The Safer City Assistant Manager confirmed that additional clarity would be sought from the applicant before any funding was released. Members were also advised that the Small Grants Budget had now been fully utilised.
- iv. Members noted the information provided and endorsed the decision of the Member Panel.

7. Flood Wardens

- i. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised Members that a further paper on the Flood Wardens was being presented in order to provide clarity following its discussion at the previous PCSP Meeting.
- ii. Members were advised that the Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators had been consulted about the Flood Wardens Scheme at their meeting on 25th June, and had been supportive of its development. Those who had not been in attendance were then consulted by the PSNI Coordinator and no issues had arisen.
- iii. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised that at its meeting in April, the Emergency and Severe Weather Working Group had discussed multi-agency engagement and

had subsequently requested that contact was made with the PCSP to look at community plans and Neighbourhood Watch due to the linkages with Community Safety, in particular the link between vulnerable people and statutory agencies.

- iv. A Member confirmed that she had been cautious at the previous meeting as the links with Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators was not clear, however now that this had been clarified, she was happy to support the proposal.
- v. In response to a query about Flood Wardens in areas without Neighbourhood Watch Schemes, the Safer City Assistant Manager advised that the scheme would be piloted in the Sydenham area and then rolled out in consultation with elected representatives in under-represented areas. Members were also advised that the PCSP logo would be printed onto the hi-vis vests.
- vi. Another Member welcomed the clarify provided and supported the proposal while suggesting that the vests should be handed back after use to avoid them being discarded.
- vii. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised that a register would be kept to ensure that the vests were not misused.
- viii. Following this discussion, Members approved the purchase of 200 high visibility vests branded with the PCSP logo at cost of £770 in order to support the development of Neighbourhood Watch across the City.

8. Hate Crime Multi-Agency Group Update

- i. The Safer City Manager advised Members that the research part funded by the Belfast PCSP was nearing completion and asked Members to consider supporting a launch event in order to raise awareness of the report.
- ii. Members were also reminded that within the PCSP Action Plan, Members had agreed to deliver a regional conference on Hate Crime and that delegated authority had been granted to Officers to begin planning this in partnership with the DOJ and other relevant stakeholders.
- iii. The Safer City Manager advised that the Justice Minister was supportive and that an approach had been made by the Centre for Democracy and Peace Building to use the conference to show case local good practice in tackling hate crime, and also learn from international best practice, however this would mean pushing the date back to February, 2015.
- iv. A Member agreed with the approaches suggested as gaining publicity around the issue was key.
- v. A Member requested that the research be made available to Members and suggested that reports should be considered carefully to avoid language that inadvertently blames victims.
- vi. Members discussed the timing of the conference, with some suggesting that February may in fact be too soon, and others feeling that an event was needed in the short term given the current focus on race hate crime.

- vii. The Safer City Manager advised that the event was still at the concept stage due to the slight change in direction however the Officers would take the lead from Statutory Partners while providing a platform for local groups and best practice.
- viii. Members agreed to fund up to £1,500 for an event to launch the 'myth busting' research commissioned by the PCSP and Good Relations Unit.
- ix. Members also agreed to provide delegated authority to the Officers to work alongside the Centre for Democracy and Peace Building in order to develop an additional international element to the Hate Crime Conference, moving the date from November, 2014 to February, 2015, and providing an update report to Members at a future meeting.

9. EU Human Trafficking Visit

- i. The Safer City Assistant Manager reminded Members that at its meeting on 12th August, Members had agreed to fund the development of an educational toolkit as part of the delivery of the Human Trafficking awareness raising campaign.
- ii. Members were also advised that the European Anti-Trafficking Co-ordinator, Ms Myria Vassiliadou, would be visiting Belfast on 7th October by invitation of the DOJ and Law Society NI, in order to improve coordination and coherence in developing existing and new EU policies to addressing Human Trafficking.
- iii. Members were advised that Ms. Vassiliadou had been invited to meet all Members at City Hall and so given the media interest that this visit would attract, the PCSP were being asked to support the visit by providing a light supper for the guests, as part of the Partnership's ongoing awareness raising.
- iv. Members agreed to support the visit of the European Anti-Trafficking Coordinator by providing a light supper on the evening of 7th October. Members were advised that an invitation to attend the event would be circulated to all Members.

10. Performance Management/Evaluation

- i. The Safer City Manager advised Members that initial scoping of the market suggested that developing a performance management framework to measure the impact of the (D)PCSPs was likely to cost more than the allocated budget of £3,000 however Officers had been able to identify an additional £2,000 in contractual savings to support this piece of work.
- ii. Members noted the purpose and scope of the review and agreed to provide delegated authority to Officers to commission the work to a maximum budget of £5,000.

11. ASB Integrated Service Delivery

- i. The Safer City Manager presented Members with a plan and milestones for the Anti-Social Behaviour Integrated Service Delivery project and explained that while ASB was on a downwards trend its impact was high and the issue remained key in all consultation work with communities.

- ii. Members were advised that an economic appraisal of the current provisions was likely to cost between £10,000-£13,000, and that while such an upfront investment was unusual for the PCSP, it did represent value for money.
- iii. With regards to the initial budget of £20,000 and site visits to Council's in England and Scotland, the Safer City Manager advised that savings could be made and costs would be minimised.
- iv. Superintendent McEwan advised that the PSNI's initial response to the development of PCSP's envisioned this course of action. He added that the impact of such a project would be felt much further down the line however it represented a pragmatic approach to delivery and information sharing. With regards to the site visits, Superintendent McEwan advised that the PSNI saw these as worthwhile and suggested that the statutory agencies could pay their own way if they were to go ahead.
- v. A Member thanked Officers for the presentation, adding that there was a wealth of experience around the table who would welcome the information sharing and joint working. It was suggested that in a bid to minimise costs, Skype could be used to begin the conversations with other Council's.
- vi. In discussing the presentation, Members agreed that the project sat well with the strategic vision of the PCSP and that the site visits were an important part of this.
- vii. Members therefore provided delegated authority to Officers to commence planning the project using the plan provided, with further updates to be provided when available.

12. Strategic Issues

Youth Awards

- i. Members were advised that the application period for the PCSP Youth Awards would close on 3rd October and that the ceremony would be held on 7th November. Members were reminded that further detail on the development of the Awards was contained within Item 5: Action Plan Progress Reports.
- ii. Members noted the information provided.

Fire Safety Week

- iii. Alan Hamill, NIFRS, advised Members that Fire Safety Week would run from 6th October – 10th October with this year's focus on Supporting Vulnerable People. He advised that the Service were keen to promote home safety checks and that they had an informal link with the Good Morning Service.
- iv. Members were asked to be supportive of Fire Safety Week and to promote the home safety checks.

13. Date of Next Meeting

- i. The Acting-Chair advised Members that the next meeting of the PCSP would be on Monday, 13th October in the Conor Room, City Hall, unless an alternative external venue was sourced.