

**Minutes of South Belfast District Policing and Community
Safety Partnership
Wednesday, 27th August 2014, 6.00pm
1st Floor HR Conference Room, Belfast**

Political Members

Cllr. Kate Mullan (Chair)

Independent Members

Mr. Niall Kelly (Vice Chair)
Ms. Paula Bradshaw
Mr. Trevor Greer
Ms. Debbie Hammill

Statutory Designated Bodies

Chief Inspector Robert Murdie, PSNI
Mr. Gary Ballantyne, NIHE
Ms. Anita Duff, BELB

Aideen McLaughlin, YJA
Christine Hunter, PBNI

Staff Present

Denise Smith, Safer City Coordinator
Saranne Gallagher, Partnership Support Officer

Apologies

Cllr. D Hargey
Yvonne McKnight, H&SCT

1. Welcome & Routine Matters

- i. The Chair welcomed the Members to the Private Meeting of the South Belfast DPCSP.
- ii. Apologies were noted for, Cllr. Deirdre Hargey and Ms Yvonne McKnight.
- iii. The Chair welcomed Chief Inspector Robert Murdie to his first official meeting of South Belfast DPCSP.

2. Declarations of Interest

- i. No declarations of interest were declared.

3. Previous Minutes

- i. The Minutes of the South Belfast DPCSP meeting held on 16th June, copies of which were previously circulated, were taken as read and correct.

4. Draft South DPCSP Annual Report 2013-14

- i. The Chair provided Members with an overview of the South Belfast DPCSP Annual Report 2013/14.
- ii. The Chair informed Members that the Annual Report had to be completed due to a request by the Joint Committee and it is a legislative requirement.
- iii. The Safer City Coordinator informed Members that the Chairman's report had been updated and revised copies were circulated to Members for review.

- iv. The Safer City Coordinator asked Members if they had any amendments to the Annual Report to forward them for inclusion.
- v. The Chair asked Members to agree for the Annual Report to be circulated to Council and Joint Committee. She further asked Members to agree to the publication of the Annual Report on the Council's website.
- vi. Members noted the Annual Report and agreed to the requested recommendations.

5. Small Grants

- i. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with an update regarding Tranche 2 of the South Belfast DPCSP Small Grants Scheme.
- ii. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that within the South Belfast DPCSP Action Plan 2014/2015, a total of £31,630 had been allocated to Small Grants.
- iii. She informed Members that a total of 38 eligible applications had been received across all districts. She further commented that eight of these applications were for South Belfast.
- iv. The Safer City Coordinator requested for a minimum of five Members to attend a verification panel to review the applications submitted. She commented that all eight applications had been scored and a total of £26,630 had been requested.
- v. The Safer City Coordinator also requested delegated authority from the Partnership to allow project delivery to commence.
- vi. A Member asked for clarification regarding Designate Members voting rights. The Safer City Coordinator commented that Designate Members do not have voting rights, however confirmed that Designate Members can participate in the verification panel as no voting would take place.
- vii. Debbie Hamill, Niall Kelly, Trevor Greer and Cllr Kate Mullan agreed to participate in the verification panel. Members requested for an email to be circulated to all Members for an additional Member to attend the panel.

6. Local Government Reform

- i. The Chair provided Members with an update following the recent elections using the new government boundaries and that the new Council is operating in shadow format.
- ii. The Chair also informed Members of the requirement for the reconstitution of the PCSPs after the elections.
- iii. The Safer City Coordinator informed Members that a recruitment process for Independent Members would commence in September. She advised

Members that further details on the recruitment process would be made available to the Partnership in due course.

- iv. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that it may be beneficial for a policing and community safety stakeholder map from the new transferring areas to be presented at a future South Belfast DPCSP meeting. She further requested Members to agree to the inclusion of new transferring areas in any consultation work undertaken during 2014/15.
- v. Members noted the paper and agreed to the recommendations.

7. Disability Action Plan

- i. The Chair updated Members on the South Belfast DPCSP Disability Action Plan.
- ii. The Chair requested Members to consider the Disability Action Plan for the South Belfast DPCSP.
- iii. The Chair recommended Members to endorse the submission of the Disability Action Plan to the Equality Commission.
- iv. A Member asked if the Disability Action Plan had been reviewed by legal services. The Safer City Coordinator commented that clarification in relation to legal services reviewing the Plan would be sought and Members would be updated accordingly.
- vi. Members noted the paper and agreed to the recommendations.

8. Action Plan Update 2014/2015 Project Proposals

- i. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with an update in relation to delivery of the South Belfast DPCSP Action Plan 2014/2015.
- ii. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that it had been agreed at a pre meeting with the Chair and Vice Chair that an update will be provided in areas within the Action Plan that are highlighted red or amber at future DPCSP Meetings.
- iii. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that in relation to Strategic Objective 1, an update regarding Freshers Plan had been due for submission by Belfast Metropolitan College. She further commented that once the update had been received, it would be forwarded to Members for information.
- iv. The Safer City Coordinator informed Members that no progress had been made regarding the implementation of the Belfast PCSP Partnership Plan. She further commented that this had been due to local government reform and the new transferring areas. She advised Members that guidance would be sought from Belfast PCSP on how to move forward on this.

- v. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that within Strategic Objective 1 – Consultation and Engagement, particularly with reference to commissioning local research to identify risk factors for young people that initial conversations had been held with BELB. She further commented that a review of the PSNI statistics showed hot spot areas within City Centre and the Holylands. She commented that a need had been identified to move forward with this and to highlight which areas the research could be conducted within.
- vi. A Member commented that the BELB detached team had been working in the Markets to monitor the area. She advised Members that the detached team had not worked within the area during the summer, but would back working in the area again from September.
- vii. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that she has been asked by Councillor Hargey to raise her concern reference the ongoing ASB problems in the Markets. She commented that Councillor Hargey had concerns regarding ongoing activity within the Markets area and in particular, where crime had not been reported. She further commented that Councillor Hargey had concerns regarding the local play park close to the train station and the increasing number of young people congregating in the play park.
- viii. A Member commented that BELB staff identified that the surrounding fence near the walkway and the train station had been vandalised. She commented that if the fence was fixed, this could prevent people from gathering in the park.
- ix. The Safer City Coordinator commented that the Inter Agency Group met last year and were keen to reconvene meetings. She suggested for a representative from Translink to attend the Inter Agency Group meetings.
- x. The Chair requested for contact to be made with Translink regarding the vandalised fence.
- xi. Chief Inspector Murdie advised Members that the PSNI had been keen to support issues within the Markets. He advised Members that there had been a number Translink buses and taxis damaged within the area and commented that there had been concerns that this could escalate.
- xii. A Member suggested for a survey to be developed and circulated to organisations to gain an overview of the current situation with in the Markets She commented that the information collated could be used to lobby statutory organisations to assist with resolving issues.
- xiii. A Member commented that if additional resources had been available at the weekend, there could be the possibility of opening St Malachy's on a Saturday evening.
- xiv. The Safer City Coordinator informed Members that she would develop a paper identifying how issues within the area could be addressed and present it at the next South Belfast DPCSP Meeting. She commented that she would revisit the work previously undertaken by the Inter Agency Group and review the recommendations.

- xv. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that work regarding the Roundtables had not been progressed. She advised Members that work had not been progressed as guidance regarding the transfer of new areas had not yet been confirmed. She commented that once confirmation had been received she would progress with the Roundtable events.
- xvi. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with an update regarding drugs and alcohol. She informed Members there had still been ongoing issues regarding legal highs and on street drinkers.
- xvii. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with an update on the Good Neighbour Scheme. She advised Members that a further update will be provided at the next DPCSP Meeting.
- xviii. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with an update regarding Focused Area Working. She provided Members with a breakdown of funding allocation within Focused Area Working. She commented that a total of £10,000 had been allocated to Taughmonagh, £10,000 had been allocated to Hate Crime and the remaining £10,000 could be allocated to intervention work in other area identified by the partnership.
- xix. A Member asked what Taughmona's plan included. The Safer City Coordinator commented that Taughmona's plan alluded to working with traders and elderly. She commented that a full project brief had not been submitted but a meeting had been scheduled and would provide an update at the next DPCSP meeting.
- xx. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with an update regarding Violence Crime and Gender Based Violence. She advised Members of the key delivery organisations and commented that a sub group meeting had been held in August with the key organisations to discuss project proposals. She suggested to Members that a total of £3,000 to be allocated to Women's Aid and £5,000 to be allocated to the Men's Advisory Project NI. Members approved the total funding requested.

9. Communication Strategy

- i. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with an update regarding the PCSP Communication Strategy.
- ii. The Safer City Coordinator asked Members to note the content of the final report and agree the strategic direction. She further asked Members to agree to the establishment of a Communication Working Group.
- iii. A Member asked who would be responsible for the implementation of the strategy.
- iv. The Safer City Coordinator informed member that implementation of the strategy would be supported by the community safety team. She will keep the partnership updated on progress.

10. NI Policing Plan Update

- i. The Safer City Coordinator asked Members to note that a consultation process had begun regarding the 2015/16 refresh to the 2014/17 Policing Plan.
- ii. She informed Members that all responses in relation to the consultation process should be forwarded for inclusion by Tuesday 30th September.
- iii. Members noted the consultation process and response date.

11. Youth Awards

- i. Members were provided with an update regarding the Youth Awards 2014.
- ii. Members were informed that the Awards will be held on Friday 7th November at City Hall and an overview of the itinerary for the event was provided.
- iii. Members were advised that Belfast PCSP had requested a total of £1,500 from each district to assist with the delivery of the Awards.
- iv. Members agreed to allocate £1,500 towards the Youth Awards 2014.

12. Emerging Issues

- i. The Safer City Coordinator confirmed that a paper will be presented at the next DPCSP Meeting to identify and address on going issues with the Markets area.
- ii. The Chair informed Members that in addition to the Markets there had been issues that needed addressed within Essex Grove. She advised Members that local families had concerns regarding drug dealing and vandalism of local houses. The Chair requested for the Safer City Coordinator to link with local community groups to review the situation, identify ways of resolving the ongoing issues and present a paper with recommendations at the next DPCSP meeting.
- iii. The Chair also advised Members that funding from OFMDFM to Belfast Migration Centre recently ended. She highlighted the importance of the work that Belfast Migration Centre had undertaken and suggested for the DPCSP to write to OFMDFM to highlight the Partnerships concerns regarding this funding being no longer available. Members supported this suggestion.
- iv. The Chair commended the work recently undertaken by Council in relation to the recent concerts. She commented that Patrick Cunningham's team needed to be praised for all their hard efforts to ensure all events went off successfully. The Chair suggested Patrick to attend the next DPCSP Meeting to provide Members with an update regarding the logistics of all recent concerts. Members welcomed the attendance of Patrick at the next DPCSP Meeting.
- v. Chief Inspector Murdie commented that this year had been a success with over 16,000 units of alcohol seized. He also informed Members that 13 arrests had been made during Tennent's Vital and only five arrests made during Belsonic.

He further commented that the awareness campaign on buses also assisted with the management of the events.

- vi. The Safer City Coordinator informed Members that a request for Mobile CCTV at Freshers had been submitted to DPCSP. She advised Members that a total of £2,000 had been requested for a three week period. Members agreed to fund this initiative.

13. Date of Next Meeting

- i. Members noted that South Belfast DPCSP will host a Public Meeting on Thursday 18th September, 12.00noon in the Banqueting Hall, City Hall.
- ii. Members also noted that the next South Belfast DPCSP Policing Committee and Private Meeting will be held on Tuesday 23rd September, 5.00pm , Conor Room, City Hall.