

**Minutes of East Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership
Meeting In Public**

**Park Avenue Hotel, Belfast
Thursday, 23rd June, 2014**

Political Members

Councillor Mervyn Jones (Chair)
Councillor Claire Hanna

Independent Members

Ms Lynda Gibson
Mr Mark Houston
Ms Olwen Lyner

Designated Organisations

Chief Inspector Darrin Jones, PSNI
Yvonne Cowan, H&SCT

David Elliott, NIHE
Pauline Stewart, BELB

Staff Present

Glenn Thomas, Safer City Coordinator
Andrew Charles, Project Officer
Saranne Gallagher, Partnership Support Officer

Apologies

Alderman Gavin Robinson
Gary Ballantyne, NIHE
Jane Lapin, PBNI
Kenny McEwan, NIFRS

1. Welcome and Routine Matters

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

2. Presentation from PSNI and pupils from Strathearn School, Belmont Road

- i. PSNI Neighbourhood Inspector Dave Moore gave a presentation on the Alive and Kicking NI Website. He commented that the website targeted Year 10 pupils.
- ii. He advised that there had been a consultation exercise undertaken and the website had now been implemented by Strathearn School.
- iii. He commented that the website had been fully interactive and it showed young people the dangers of drugs and alcohol.
- iv. Inspector Davy Moored emphasised the importance of building links with young people and keeping them safe. He also commented that the PSNI had been keen to work with more local schools with an aim of getting additional schools implementing the website.

3. Presentation from East Belfast Drugs and Alcohol Stakeholder Group

- i. Raymond Laverty from East Belfast Drugs and Alcohol Stakeholder Group provided an overview and the key stakeholders who had been currently working with the Group.
- ii. Raymond also provided an overview of the Groups structure and welcomed all to attend the East Belfast Drugs and Alcohol Stakeholder Group's next meeting on 22nd August.
- iii. James Scott from FASA presented the East Belfast Drugs and Alcohol Stakeholder Group's Action Plan.
- iv. James provided an overview of each theme within the Action Plan and gave an update on the work that had recently been undertaken by the Group.

- v. James commented that the Group had been doing a mapping of services within East Belfast. However, he commented that this had been challenging due to situations changing continuously.
- vi. A member of the public asked if there had been any review of best practice models undertaken in relation to reviewing service provision. James commented that the Group had looked at other practices and subsequently some of their current programmes had been developed based on these practices.
- vii. The Chair commented that East Belfast DPCSP would be keen to work in partnership with East Belfast Drugs and Alcohol Stakeholder Group and provide were possible additional support to the Group.
- viii. The Chair further suggested for the East Belfast Drugs and Alcohol Stakeholder Group to link with other DPCSP's. James Scott commented that the Group could link with other DPCSP's to deliver programmes, however to achieve this there would need to be community buy in.
- ix. A representative from Victoria PACT commented that they had been very supportive of the work of the East Belfast Drugs and Alcohol Stakeholder Group and offered to advertise the work of the Group on their newsletter.
- x. The Chair asked if East Belfast Drugs and Alcohol Stakeholder Group had been engaging with young people in primary schools? James commented that there had been some work completed with local schools as awareness of drugs and alcohol had been part of the educational curriculum. He further commented that there had been a need for key messages regarding drugs and alcohol continuing to be relayed to school children and also messages being disseminated to parents.

4. Written questions received from members of the public

Questions 1 - 5 submitted by John Collins

1. The average time a police officer spends on patrol?

Response:

The average time spent by officers on patrol during May 2014 was 64.1%.

2. The total number of racist attacks in East Belfast this year and the number of arrests?

Response:

Since 1st April 2014 there have been 39 Race Hate Crimes to date in East Belfast and 4 arrests have been made for hate crime offences.

3. In relation to question 2 how many people have been charged with a racist related crime this year in East Belfast?

Response:

2 people have been charged with race hate crimes since the beginning of April 2014.

4. Could the PSNI disclose which flags being erected in B division would constitute a breach of the peace?

Response:

The erection of a flag does not of itself necessitate the commission of a criminal offence. Whether a criminal offence has been committed or not will be judged on a number of factors. It is not possible to explicitly identify if an offence will in fact ensue and each case will have to be considered within its own individual circumstances.

The removal of flags is not the responsibility of the PSNI and police will only act to remove flags in extreme circumstances, for example, where life is at risk. The erection and removal of flags and banners falls within the remit of the "Joint Protocol in Relation to the Display of Flags in Public Areas". This protocol was to be reviewed by the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister and the Police Service looks forward to the outcome of this review and future clarity on the flags issue.

A long term resolution to the display of flags and banners in public areas can only be reached by political consensus. Until the joint protocol is updated, the Police Service of Northern Ireland will continue to work with communities and respond to any issue where there is a concern for public safety or where it is believed a criminal offence has occurred.

5. How many incidents/crimes have been reported to the PSNI this year in relation to Ormeau park?

Response:

Since 1st April 2014 there have been approximately 18 incidents/crimes reported in relation to Ormeau Park.

5. Questions from the Public

- i. The Chair opened the floor to any additional questions or supplementary questions to the written questions submitted.
- ii. A member of the public asked a supplementary question to the written response provided in relation to the total number of racist attacks in East Belfast, he asked what additional resources had been put in place to deal with racist incidents?
- iii. The Chief Inspector commented that one of the issues for the PSNI in relation to hate crime is that the PSNI do not know where ethnic minority groups had been living. He commented that the PSNI had established a team who had been responsible for solely investigating hate crime and there had been an hotline launched for hate crime.

6. Close

- i. Chair thanked all the presenters for their well informed presentations. The Chair closed the meeting and thanked all for attending.