

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

**East Belfast Network Centre, Belfast
Thursday, 20th March, 2014**

Political Members	Independent Members
Councillor Adam Newton (Chair)	Ms Lynda Gibson
Councillor Mervyn Jones	Ms Olwen Lyner
	Mr Andy Moorhead
Designated Organisations	
Chief Inspector Darrin Jones, PSNI	Kenny McEwan, NIFRS
Yvonne Cowan, H&SCT	Pauline Stewart, BELB
Gary Ballantyne, NIHE	
Staff Present	Apologies
Glenn Thomas, Safer City Coordinator	Alderman Gavin Robinson
Saranne Gallagher, Partnership Support Officer	Mark Houston

1. Welcome and Routine Matters

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

2. Presentation on Hate Crime - PSNI

- i. Chief Inspector Darrin Jones gave a presentation on hate crime and provided members of the public with information regarding aspects and types of hate crime. He also provided information on reporting procedures for hate crime and how PSNI investigate hate crime.

3. Presentation on Hate Crime - NICHEM

- i. Patrick Yu, Executive Director, NICHEM gave a presentation on race relations and hate crime within East Belfast.
- ii. He provided an overview on the Race Relations Order and detailed what the Order entailed and also the statutory obligations of Councils.
- iii. He also provided an overview on hate crime statistics within East Belfast and highlighted overall trends in incidents and crimes with a racist motivation.
- iv. The Chair thanked both Chief Inspector Darrin Jones and Patrick Yu for their informative presentations. He further commented that East Belfast DPCSP had identified hate crime as one of their priorities and will continue to work within this area.

4. Written questions received from members of the public

Questions 1 - 5 submitted by John Collins

1. *Could the commander tell me the number of arrests and convictions for race hate crimes in East Belfast over the last 2yrs?*

Response:

The table below refers:

	Total Offences Recorded			Outcomes		Outcomes (Rate, %)			Incidents		
	PFYTD	FYTD	Change	PFYTD	FYTD	PFYTD	FYTD	% point change	PFYTD	FYTD	Change
B District	145	213	68	20	26	13.8 %	12.2 %	-1.6%	219	294	75
East Belfast	62	90	28	4	8	6.5%	8.9%	2.4%	80	117	37
South Belfast	83	123	40	16	18	19.3 %	14.6 %	-4.6%	139	177	38
Service	450	643	193	87	101	19.3 %	15.7 %	-3.6%	717	923	206

2. *In 2013/14 could the commander tell me out of the total crime recorded in East Belfast in 2013/14 what percentage was taken up from incidents around the Odyssey complex?*

Response:

Approximately 5% of crime in East Belfast relates to incidents in and around the Odyssey complex.

3. *Has the PSNI had to deal with any OTR's "on the runs" in B District?*

Response:

It would be inappropriate to comment as this issue has now been referred to PONI for investigation and will also be the subject of a judge led inquiry.

4. *Could the commander tell me how many cars have been stolen in East Belfast in 2013/14 and found in West Belfast and the number of arrests & convictions?*

Response:

100 vehicles have been stolen to date in East Belfast and of these 29 have been cleared. Due to the manner in which the information is recorded it is not possible to say how many of these vehicles have been recovered in West Belfast without conducting a manual trawl of each incident at disproportionate cost.

5. *Could the Commander tell me the number of robberies in the Woodstock road / Castlereagh Road in 2013/14 and the number of arrests & convictions?*

Response:

There have been 50 robberies in the Willowfield area to date in 2013/14 of these 5 crimes have been cleared.

5. Questions from the Public

- i. The Chair opened the floor to any additional questions.
- ii. A member of the public commented that the actual amount of hate crime had been underestimated due to a lack of reporting. He further asked if the recent figures had been due to an upsurge of hate crime or people beginning to report hate crime. The Area Commander commented that it had been both, as an upsurge over the last year had impacted on the number of hate crime incidents.
- iii. A member of the public asked what had been the reasons for the recent upsurge and also asked had the number of ethnic minorities increased within East Belfast? The Area Commander commented that he could not answer this question as he did not have a breakdown on statistics. However, he did comment that local communities and PSNI need to work together to combat this crime.
- iv. A member of the public asked if East Belfast had the highest number of hate crime incidents. Patrick Yu commented that the PSNI website refers to the number of hate crime incidents within each district, however when you look at the proportion of population, most hate crime incidents happen in Belfast.
- v. A member of the public asked how many convictions and arrests had been made in relation to hate crime? The Area Commander commented that the outcome rate for hate crime incidents in East Belfast had been 8.9%.
- vi. A member of the public further asked what the PSNI do to work with the community in relation to informing the community what they can do to prevent hate crime. The Area Commander commented that the PSNI offer an after care service to the victim and also sign post victims to support groups.
- vii. Following a discussion, a Member requested that Patrick Yu to review the East Belfast DPCSP Action Plan in relation to Hate Crime and provide guidance regarding this priority.

6. Close

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