

**Minutes of the North Belfast District Policing and
Community Safety Partnership
Private Meeting
Wednesday 29th October, 6.00pm
1st Floor HR Conference Room, Cecil Ward Building, Belfast**

Members Present	
Councillors	Independents
Councillor Patrick Convery	Mr. Winston Irvine (Vice Chair)
Councillor JJ Magee	Ms. Jennifer Cornell
Councillor Guy Spence	Ms. Bronach Graham
Councillor Naomi Thompson	Mr. Ian McLaughlin
	Mr. Pat McLarnon
Designated Organisations	
Chief Inspector Robert Singleton, PSNI	Ms. Patricia Muldoon, YJA
Inspector Gavin Kirkpatrick, PSNI	Mr Mark Nicholson, PBNI
Mr Martin Morgan. BH&SCT	Mr. Alan Wilson. BELB
Mr. David McComiskey, NIFRS	Inspector Roy Watton, PSNI
Mr. Malachy McKinney, NIHE	
Staff Present	Apology
Richard McLernon, Safer City Coordinator	Councillor Mary Ellen Campbell (Chair)
Saranne Gallagher, Partnership Support Officer	

1. Welcome/Apologies/ Declarations of Interest

- i. The Vice Chair, Winston Irvine, welcomed Members to the Private Meeting of the North Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership and noted the apologies provided.
- ii. The Vice Chair highlighted the declarations of interest policy. No declarations of interest were recorded.

2. Minutes of North Belfast DPCSP Private Meeting

- i. The Minutes of the North Belfast Private Meeting held on 24th September, of which copies were previously circulated, were taken as read and correct.

3. Policing Committee Update

- i. The Chief Inspector provided Members with an update regarding PSNI operations.
- ii. The Chief Inspector advised Members of recent events and commented that the events had all passed off without any major incidents.
- iii. The Chief Inspector commented that there had been a football match between Crusaders and Cliftonville, where there had been no major incidents. However, he advised Members that there had been an issue regarding parking for Cliftonville supporters. He confirmed that this issue would be addressed in advance of the next football match.

- iv. The Chief Inspector advised Members that on 7th October, a device had been left on the Crumlin Road. He commented that the device posed a clear threat to the PSNI and the local community.
- v. He advised Members that there had been recent incidents at the interface area of Clifton Park Avenue. He commented that the Neighbourhood Police Team had been monitoring the area and to date things had been quiet.
- vi. The Chief Inspector advised Members of the ongoing issues in Tigers Bay. He commented that the PSNI were continuing to engage with all parties in the area.
- vii. He advised Members of a recent attack in Victoria Parade whereby a male had been stabbed. He commented that the PSNI did not believe the victim had been the intended target and that the PSNI had been continuing with investigations into the incident.
- viii. A Member advised the Partnership that recently a NIHE van had been burnt out. He informed Members that this had been a direct result of a mural being removed in Ligoneil.
- ix. A Member commented that the removal of any mural should only be done when there had been complete buy in from the community.
- x. Following a discussion regarding the removal of murals and flags, Members commented that engagement with the local community, community representatives and Elected Members had been key to ensuring that when murals/flags were removed that the community had been consulted with.

4. **Public Meeting Debrief**

- i. A Member commented that at the last North DPCSP Public Meeting, it had been evident that there had been a high level of frustration among the local community in relation to a need for an open meeting where the local community can ask the PSNI questions. She further commented that the local community had been concerned regarding budget cuts, PSNI visibility, lack of consultation, PSNI availability and police abstraction.
- ii. The Chief Inspector commented that the general public in attendance at the meeting, raised questions for both the Public Prosecution Service and the Department of Justice. He commented that all questions asked in relation to the PSNI were answered. He further commented that the PSNI would acknowledge the request for community consultation.
- iii. A Member commented that at the last Public Meeting, there had been no significant role for Statutory Partners to play. She highlighted her concern regarding the role of Statutory Organisations at Public Meetings and commented that their role needed to be clarified.
- iv. A Member commented that following discussions at the Public Meeting, there had been a need to refocus all Public Meetings on community safety issues.
- v. A Member further commented that questions raised by Members at Public Meetings should be identified in advance and raised at a DPCSP Meeting not in a public forum.
- vi. Following discussion, Members agreed that the format and style of the Public Meetings needed to be reviewed. Members agreed that if the format and style of the Public Meetings had been correct, greater levels of engagement with the community would be achieved.

- vii. The Vice Chair commented that in addition to the format of the Public Meeting being reviewed, the role of individuals and agencies needed to be reviewed also. He further commented that all Public Meetings needed to have an impact and be beneficial to the local community.
- viii. A Member commented that there still is a need to facilitate a public meeting whereby the local community could have an open forum to ask the questions they want to.
- ix. The Chief Inspector commented that any question he had been asked in a public forum he answered. He further commented that if he had been unable to answer any question when asked he would always obtain the information required to answer the question and reply directly to the person who asked the question.
- x. Following a discussion, Members agreed for the Safer City Coordinator to review the format of the Public Meetings. Members also requested for the Communication Working Group to assist with this review.

5. **Items for Action**

- i. No further items for action discussed.

5a. **North Belfast DPCSP Action Plan Update**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with an update in relation to the delivery and financial expenditure to date of the 2014/2015 North Belfast DPCSP Action Plan.
- ii. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that in relation to 1.3 of the Action Plan, a proposal had been submitted by the PSNI to support an anti burglary campaign in the run up to Christmas. He advised Members that the total request for funding to support this initiative had been £5,000.
- iii. The Chief Inspector provided Members with an overview of the anti burglary campaign and advised Members that the PSNI would make a financial contribution to the campaign as well.
- iv. The Safer City Coordinator suggested to Members that funding that had been originally profiled for Neighbourhood Watch could be reprofiled to support the anti burglary campaign.
- v. Following a discussion, Members requested that a proportion of the funding profiled for Neighbourhood Watch to be reprofiled into the anti burglary campaign.
- vi. Members requested that the Safer City Coordinator review the budgets in advance of DPCSP Meetings and when necessary bring an amended budget to the DPCSP meeting for review and approval by the Partnership.
- vii. The Chief Inspector requested Members to support the initiative 'Not the Face of Justice'. He informed Members that there would be no financial support required for this initiative. Members agreed to support the initiative.
- viii. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that there had been a request from the Belfast PCSP to support Citywide initiatives. He informed Members that a request of £1,000 had been made by the Belfast PCSP to support the delivery of the Christmas

Safety Event. Members agreed to support the Christmas Safety Event and allocate a total of £1,000 to the event.

- ix. A Member asked for a discussion to be held when planning for the next financial year regarding how funding is focused on individual initiatives.
- x. A Member provided an update in relation to spend against the area of Domestic Violence. She advised Members that there had been further events scheduled and details of all events would be circulated to Members when available. She confirmed that all funding allocated to the delivery of domestic violence would be fully exhausted.
- xi. The Safer City Coordinator requested for two Members to attend the Belfast PCSP Communication Working Group. Members requested for an email to be circulated with details and for Members to confirm with the Safer City Coordinator if they would like to participate on the Working Group.

5b. **North Belfast DPCSP Working Group Update**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with an update on the Working Group.
- ii. He advised Members that the Hate Crime Working Group had met on numerous occasions and subsequently the group had produced a Draft North Belfast Hate Crime Action Plan.
- iii. He commented that a copy of the Draft North Belfast Hate Crime Action Plan had been circulated to Members for review. He asked that if any Members had comments in relation to the Plan, if they could forward them through for inclusion.
- iv. He asked Members to consider and approve the attached Draft North Belfast Hate Crime Action Plan.
- v. He informed Members that a copy of the Draft Community Response Plan would be circulated at a future DPCSP Meeting.
- vi. Members noted the Draft North Belfast Hate Crime Action Plan and approved the associated content.

5c. **Partnership Development and Engagement**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with an update regarding future Partnership development and engagement.
- ii. He advised Members that in order to progress Partnership development and engagement, the first measure would be to implement a series of short one to one meetings with Members which would focus on individual/organisational role and priorities.
- iii. He further advised Members that in addition to the one to one sessions, a future quarterly Planning Meeting would be used to facilitate a session whereby Members would review the life of the Partnership to date, with an aim of producing a legacy for future Members.
- iv. Members welcomed the one to one sessions and requested the Safer City Coordinator to circulate dates, times and venues to Members.

- v. Members requested that no facilitator to be used at the Quarterly Planning Meeting. Members suggested that facilitators to be sourced from organisations on the Partnership.

6. **Chair Update on Work with Belfast PCSP**

- i. Due to the Chair's absence at the Meeting, no update was provided.

7. **Community Safety Updates**

- i. A Member advised the Partnership of a new newspaper in North Belfast called the North Belfast Guardian and their email address was editornbg@nipublishing.com. She commented that the paper would be circulated to approx 20,000 homes within North Belfast and suggested that the DPCSP could use the paper to advertise the work of the Partnership.

8. **Priorities for Action and Timetabling/ Signposting**

- i. All issues for action and timetabling were noted by Members.

9. **Next Meeting**

- i. Members also noted that the next North Belfast Private Meeting will be held on Monday 24th November at 6.00pm in the Cecil Ward Building.