

**Minutes of the North Belfast District Policing and
Community Safety Partnership
Policing Committee
Wednesday, 29th October 2014, 5.00pm
1st Floor HR Conference Room, Cecil Ward Building, Belfast**

Members Present	
Councillors	Independents
Councillor Patrick Convery	Winston Irvine (Vice Chair)
Councillor JJ Magee	Jennifer Cornell
Councillor Guy Spence	Bronach Graham
Councillor Naomi Thompson	Ian McLaughlin
	Pat McLarnon
PSNI	
Chief Inspector Robert Singleton	
Inspector Gavin Kirkpatrick	
Inspector Roy Watton	
Staff Present	Apology
Richard McLernon, Safer City Coordinator	Councillor Mary Ellen Campbell (Chair)
Saranne Gallagher, Partnership Support Officer	

1. Welcome & Routine Matters

- i. The Vice Chair, Winston Irvine, welcomed Members to the Policing Committee of the North Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership and noted Cllr Mary Ellen Campbell's apologies.

2. Declarations of Interest

- i. The Chair highlighted the declarations of interest policy.
- ii. No declarations of interest were recorded.

3. Minutes of North Belfast DPCSP Policing Committee

- i. The Minutes of the North Belfast Policing Committee Meeting held on 24th September, of which copies were previously circulated, were taken as read and correct.
- ii. A Member asked for the minutes (Pg 2, Point 4) to be amended to reflect that Members take responsibility when observing in sterile zones at parades.

4. North Belfast DPCSP Letter to Policing Board

- i. The Safer City Coordinator reminded Members of the request made by the Partnership for a letter to be forwarded to the Policing Board to seek clarification regarding the Board's view on whether DPCSP Members role did not include observing parades and events.
- ii. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that a copy of the letter had been circulated to the Partnership for information.

- iii. He asked Members to note the content of the letter. Members noted the content of the letter.

5. **Area Commanders' Update Report**

- i. Chief Inspector Singleton provided Members with an update on crime statistics to date.
- ii. Chief Inspector Singleton advised Members that there had been a reduction of 1.1% in overall crime. He advised Members that during the reporting period, there had been 49 less crimes reported.
- iii. He advised Members that there has been an increase of 7.4% in violent crime. He further commented that there had been an increase in violent crime with injury.
- iv. He informed Members that there had been an increase of 16% in shoplifting. He commented that there had been an increase in shoplifting in particular in the Cityside Shopping Complex.
- v. The Chief Inspector commented that there had been a significant increase in sexual offences. He advised Members that in relation to this crime, there had been 11 incidents reported (an increase of 64%).
- vi. He advised Members that robberies had decreased and there had been a reduction of 16.6% in vehicle theft.
- vii. He commented that the PSNI had been struggling to obtain the desired outcome rates. He further commented that the PSNI would continue to improve their services and aim to achieve the desired outcome rates.

6. **Review of the previous month's policing**

- i. The Chief Inspector advised Members of recent events and commented that all recent events had passed off without any major incidents.
- ii. 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.
- iii. 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.
- iv. 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.
- v. 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.
- vi. He advised Members of a recent attack in Victoria Parade where a male had been stabbed. He commented that the PSNI did not believe the victim had been the intended target and the PSNI had been continuing with investigations into the incident.

- vii. Chief Inspector Singleton advised Members of some recent good news stories in North Belfast. He commented that there had been an overall reduction of robberies in North Belfast whereby four males had been jailed for robbery and a further two males arrested for cash in transit robbery. He further advised Members that the young girl who had been reported missing in North Belfast had been found and commented that her safe return had been a result and demonstration of the power of partnership working.
- viii. The Chief Inspector informed Members of the financial pressures that the PSNI had been facing. He advised Members of the recent merge of A and B Districts. He informed Members of the cut backs in relation to officers overtime. He further advised Members of a review due to be undertaken in relation to local police stations and their opening hours.
- ix. A Member commented that it would be more beneficial to keep things the way they had been or alternatively create a PSNI Headquarters where everything is managed centrally. He further commented that it had been important for PSNI presence to remain in areas where tensions are not lessening and would urge the PSNI to keep a presence within the York Road area.
- x. The Chief Inspector commented that the only PSNI officers based in York Road had been Neighbourhood Police. He commented that all Neighbourhood Police Officers should not be station based as they should be patrolling the streets. He further commented that there was a police station less than one mile away that could house the Neighbourhood Officers from York Road.
- xi. The Vice Chair asked what the timescales would be in relation to when an assessment would be made regarding York Road Police Station. The Chief Inspector commented that a formal process would be undertaken, however he would need to have further conversations with the District Commander to confirm timescales. He advised Members that when timescales had been confirmed he would update the Partnership accordingly.
- xii. A Member asked in relation to financial pressures, how would budget constraints impact on the delivery of Service First.
- xiii. The Chief Inspector commented that Service First would remain as an operational model. He advised Members that there would be a review of civilianisation duties within the PSNI. He informed Members that the diary car system continues to exist and there would also be an increase in officers in Neighbourhood Policing Teams due to new students from Garnerville.
- xiv. A Member asked would the 101 phone service be enhanced if PSNI stations close. The Chief Inspector commented that the call management function of 101 remains an issue for the PSNI and it is part of an internal review process. He further commented that due to the withdrawal of call teams, the service provided by 101 had been affected.
- xv. A Member commented that there had been a concern regarding the abstraction of PSNI officers and their attendance at meetings.
- xvi. The Chief Inspector commented that each Neighbourhood Police Team had 18 officers. He further commented that if one officer cannot attend a meeting, a representative from the Neighbourhood Police Team should attend on their behalf.
- xvii. A Member asked why agency staff are employed by the PSNI. The Chief Inspector commented that agency staff do not incur the same costs as PSNI officers mainly due to their pro-rata employment and that subsequently they do not incur pension costs.

- xviii. A Member asked if the PSNI had been able to be flexible and when required, had been able to change officers rotas due to a change in the environment. The Chief Inspector commented that the PSNI rotas are completed a year in advance and it is up to the individual officer to be flexible. He further advised Members that if there is a clear article 2 issue, officers rotas can be amended.
- xix. Following a discussion regarding the attendance of statutory representatives at meetings, Members requested for a breakdown of PSNI's attendance at local community forum meetings to be presented at the next DPCSP Meeting.
- xx. A Member commented that there had been a number of hate crime attacks recently in North Belfast. He asked if the PSNI had conducted any investigations into the recent attacks. The Chief Inspector commented that Superintendent Paula Hillman had been the lead officer responsible for Hate Crime. He advised Members that the PSNI had scheduled to do a leaflet drop in the forthcoming weeks throughout North Belfast. He also advised Members that the local Neighbourhood Policing Teams had been facilitating a lot of work with victims of hate crime.
- xxi. A Member requested that an update be provided at the next DPCSP Meeting in relation to attacks on the Memorial for the three Scottish Soldiers at Ligonell.

7. Forthcoming policing events/issues

- i. The Chief Inspector advised Members of forthcoming policing events.
- ii. He advised Members that a policing operation had already begun in relation to the forthcoming Halloween celebrations.
- iii. He informed Members of forthcoming parades in November/December.

8. Members Written Questions and Responses

- i. No written questions were received.

9. Policing Committee Funding

- i. No policing committee applications received.

10. Date of next meeting

- i. Members noted the date of the next North Belfast DPCSP Policing Committee Meeting as Monday 24th November, 5.00pm.