

**Minutes of the North Belfast District Policing and
Community Safety Partnership
Public Meeting
Monday, 31 March 2014, 11.00am
West Kirk Presbyterian Church, Belfast**

Members Present	
Councillors	Independents
Councillor Patrick Convery (Chair)	Ms. Jennifer Cornell (Vice Chair)
Councillor Mary Ellen Campbell	Mr. Ian McLaughlin
Councillor Guy Spence	
Councillor Naomi Thompson	
Designated Organisations	
Inspector Gavin Kirkpatrick	
Inspector Robin Gouk	
Inspector Roy Watton	
Staff Present	Apologies
Richard McLernon, Safer City Coordinator	
Andrew Charles, Project Officer	
Saranne Gallagher, Partnership Support Officer	

1. Welcome

- i. The Chair, Cllr Patrick Convery, welcomed all to the Public Meeting of the North Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership.
- ii. The Chair outlined the purpose of the meeting and provided an overview of projects that had been supported by North Belfast DPCSP.

2. Presentations

- i. Vicky Titterington from Linking Generations provided those present with an overview of the project. She commented that the focus of the project is consulting with local communities in relation to what can be delivered through an intergenerational approach.
- ii. David McComiskey from Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service provided those present with an overview of the support available to vulnerable people. He advised that the NIFRS conduct a free home safety check and if anyone would like to avail of the service to contact their local fire station.
- iii. Ashley Neill from Good Morning North Belfast provided an update on the services that are available to vulnerable people within the local community.
- iv. Kathy Latcham, Crime Prevention Officer, PSNI, provided an overview on how vulnerable people within the local community can protect themselves and their homes.
- v. The Chair thanked all presenters for their informative presentations and attending the North Belfast DPCSP Public Meeting.

3. Questions

- i. A member of the public commented that there had been recent incidents in North Belfast whereby the PSNI response time had been slow. She asked the PSNI are incidents that are reported prioritised?
- ii. Inspector Roy Watton commented that the PSNI have to prioritise calls. However, if the call is in relation to a repeat victim this would be taken into consideration.
- iii. A member of the public commented that confidence in the PSNI among the local community is low. She asked what are the PSNI doing to try and build confidence with the local community.
- iv. Inspector Gavin Kirkpatrick commented during the last two years confidence in the PSNI had reduced. He advised that the PSNI are trying to increase confidence levels with local communities. He further commented that through the implementation of Service First, PSNI visibility will increase which would assist with building confidence with local communities.
- v. A member of the public commented that she had submitted questions in September 2013 and to date had not received a response from the PSNI. Inspector Gavin Kirkpatrick apologised for the delay in a response being provided to the questions submitted and will endeavour to get answers to the questions forwarded on.
- vi. The Chair commented that there had been a need to build relationships when confidence had been broken down, however a lot of work had been required by all to achieve confidence being restored.
- vii. A Member advised the members of the public that all questions submitted to the PSNI are tabled at DPCSP Meetings and there is a clear process for questions to be answered. However, if the PSNI officers attending the DPCSP Meetings cannot answer the questions submitted, the questions are referred onto the Policing Board.
- viii. A member of the public asked if an older people representative had been a member of the North Belfast DPCSP.
- ix. A Member commented that there is a process of co-opting people on to the Partnership and that she would make a formal proposal at the next DPCSP meeting for an Older People representative to join the Partnership.
- x. Following a discussion, a member of the public commented that no information regarding (D)PCSP's is circulated to Senior Citizens Forums and therefore older people are unaware of the support available. A Member commented that he is a member of the Greater Shankill Senior Citizens Networking Partnership and at DPCSP meetings he asks questions on their behalf and relays answers back to the Partnership.
- xi. A member of the public suggested that when incidents are being dealt with by the PSNI, that information regarding the incident is circulated to the local community and by doing this increased confidence with the PSNI may be achieved.
- xii. A member of the public commented that the local community believes that the PSNI are under the influence of political parties and are seen as political policing. Inspector Robin Gouk commented that the PSNI cannot speak on behalf of political parties.

- xiii. A Member suggested for a meeting to be arranged with a focus on the justice system. He commented that this meeting would allow for the people who lack confidence in the justice system to speak and also provide local communities with some clarity.
- xiv. The Chair commented that this would need to be done through the DPCSP and for caution taken regarding political pressure. He agreed that there is a need to do something to move things forward but there needs to be agreement how this is done.
- xv. Members and members of general public thanked Councillor Convery for all his continuing support during his role as Chairman of the North Belfast DPCSP.
- xvi. The Chair, on behalf of North Belfast DPCSP, thanked all for attending and for their support over the last year.