

# Minutes of the West Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership

## Private Meeting

1st Floor Conference Room, Cecil Ward Building  
Wednesday, 29th October, 2014

### Political Members

Councillor Tim Attwood (Acting-Chair)  
Councillor Matt Garrett

### Independent Members

Breige Brownlee  
Ann Marie Weir

### Statutory Designated Organisations

Angela McKeown, BELB  
Aideen McLaughlin, YJA  
Chief Inspector Anthony McNally, PSNI

Inspector Alan Swann, PSNI  
Inspector Mike White, PSNI

### Staff Present

Alan Wardle, Safer City Coordinator  
Katharine McCrum, Partnership Support  
Officer

### Apologies

Harry Connolly (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor Máire Hendron  
Bernie Reilly  
Sharon Beattie, NIHE  
Carole Carville, PBNI  
Davy Harbinson, NIFRS  
Tommy Boyle, Trust  
Paula Kerr, CRJI  
Michael O'Hara, UFCSF

## 1. Welcome and Routine Matters

- i. In the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair, Councillor Tim Attwood welcomed Members to the meeting and noted the apologies provided.

## 2. Declarations of Interest

- i. No declarations of interest were recorded.

## 3. Minutes

- i. The minutes of 29th September and 16th October, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct.

## 4. Matters Arising/Actions from Previous Meeting

- i. With regards to the actions from the previous meeting, the Safer City Coordinator advised that the letter regarding cuts to the PCSP budget had been forwarded to the PCSP and that a presentation on the Divis Intervention would be provided at the November meeting of the DPCSP.
- ii. Members were advised that the remaining actions had all been completed.
- iii. In response to a query about how budget cuts were affecting the PSNI, Chief Inspector McNally advised that cuts of £54.1mil had been imposed before the end of the financial

year which equated to £100,000 per week across the City. He advised that back office functions were being scaled back and enquiry office hours were being reduced. Members were advised that the impact on front line services was being minimised during this financial year, however it was possible that this would not be the case during 2015/16.

- iv. Chief Inspector McNally added that the impact would be more greatly felt in rural areas where travelling time to custody suites would become an issue. He stated that there would be no impact, in the short term, on community policing given that numbers had in fact increased in West Belfast, however if recruitment was to stop, natural wastage may mean that staff shortages would become an issue again.

## **5. Presentation from Sport Changes Life**

(Marc Mulholland, Sport Changes Life, attended in relation to this item)

- i. Marc Mulholland provided Members with information on Sport Changes Life and the E-Hoops Programme which educates and empowers disengaged or at risk young people. The 24 week programme enables them to take charge of their own life by raising their aspirations through sport.
- ii. Members were advised that the programme was now in Phase 2 within West Belfast and was targeting anti-social behaviour hot spots alongside the PSNI with funding from the Department of Education and Learning.
- iii. Mr Mulholland advised that attendance on the programme was over 80% which was very high for such a long programme, and that external evaluations had demonstrated a 76% reduction in hate crime and a 29% reduction in anti-social behaviour.
- iv. A Member welcomed the presentation and the programmes work within West Belfast, and asked if there were any linkages with the Active Communities Network.
- v. Mr Mulholland advised that young people can be directly referred to the programme and that he was keen to work in partnership with other organisations.
- vi. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that 3 young people involved in the programme had been nominated for PCSP Youth Awards and that 2 had been shortlisted.
- vii. The Acting-Chair thanked Mr Mulholland for his presentation and he retired from the meeting.

## **6. Chairs Update on PCSP**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised that 2 Members were required from each of the DPCSPs to sit on the PCSP Communications Working Group and suggested that an email would be circulated requesting nominees.
- ii. Members were advised that the PCSP Youth Awards would be held on 7th November and that a formal invitation would be circulated to all Members.

## **7. Update on recent Anti-Social Behaviour Meetings**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised that since the previous meeting of the DPCSP, two meetings had been convened to discuss issues in (i) Lenadoon and (ii) Ballymurphy.

- ii. Members were advised that on 9th October, Councillor Garrett chaired a meeting with service providers which looked at, amongst other issues, coordinating the many youth services which were available in the Suffolk/Lenadoon area. Councillor Garrett advised that, like the Broadway Intervention, a template would be developed to look at what services existed and what was falling through the gaps.
- iii. It was noted that future meeting dates for this group should be circulated to all Members and that the template would also be circulated for completion.
- iv. A Member added that while the police were responding well in the area, there were ongoing serious issues with alcohol, fireworks and broken windows in the Corrib Avenue area.
- v. Members were advised that Corrib Avenue was discussed at the previously mentioned meeting, and it was suggested that if resources were not required at the interface, services could be diverted to this area. Councillor Garrett advised that he would reconvene a further meeting accordingly.
- vi. Councillor Attwood made reference to the Ballymurphy meeting and the issues with drug misuse that had been raised.
- vii. Members discussed the success of the multi-agency Divis Intervention at its inception but noted that it had since lost momentum, and as such lessons could be learnt from this work.
- viii. It was agreed that Extern would be invited to a future meeting of the Partnership in order to make a presentation to Members on their Family Support Service.

## **8. PCSP Small Grants Process**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that work had been ongoing with Féile An Phobail following their unsuccessful Small Grants application, and that while they had not met the criteria for funding this year, it was hoped that this could be resolved for future funding rounds.
- ii. A Member advised that he had been involved in setting the criteria for the PCSP Small Grants and so accepted the decision, but noted his frustration given the good work that Féile An Phobail deliver in the community.
- iii. Other Members agreed that the group played a vital role in Community Safety and voiced their hopes that the DPCSP could support them in the future.
- iv. It was suggested that recurring festival funding may be more appropriate than small grants funding given the nature of their work.

## **9. Report on award of Quotation for delivery of Localised Services**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised that £28,000 had been awarded to the Falls Community Council for the Delivery of Localised Services following a quotation exercise, full details of which were contained within the papers.
- ii. Members noted the report and the process undertaken.

## **10. Update on current Action Plan Budget**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator presented Members with a half year progress report on the delivery of the West Belfast DPCSP Action Plan for 2014/15.
- ii. Members were advised that while the actual spend was not particularly high, that majority of the funds had been allocated with approximately only £18,000 remaining unallocated.
- iii. Members noted the contents of the report and approved the progress to date.

## **11. Update on Policing Committee Funding**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator presented the Partnership with 2 project plans for Policing Committee funding applications which had been previously approved by Members via email; PSNI/Caffrey's Hill Community Safety Family Fun Day, and Suffolk/Lenadoon Interface Group 'Youth Policing Programme'.
- ii. Members were also advised that 3 further applications had recently been received, 1 from the Colin Glen Trust and 2 from Springfield Star Blackmountain. The Safer City Coordinator advised that further details on each project would be provided to Members for their information at the next DPCSP Meeting.
- iii. A Member welcomed the Partnership's decision to allocate £10,000 to the Policing Committee fund during the 2014/15 year given its success to date and suggested that this could be increased again during the following financial year.
- iv. Members noted the project plans for the PSNI/Caffrey's Hill Community Safety Fund Day and Suffolk/Lenadoon Interface Group's Youth Policing Programme and also noted the progress made to date.

## **12. Performance Management Funding Request**

- i. Members were advised that as part of its 2014/15 Action Plan, the PCSP was committed to developing a performance management framework in order to measure the impact of the PCSP and DPCSPs.
- ii. The Safer City Coordinator advised that in addition to the £3,000 allocated by the PCSP, each DPCSP was being asked to contribute £2,000 towards this piece of work. He also outlined how funds from within the Action Plan could be drawn from 2 budget lines, subject to successful change control application to the Joint Committee.
- iii. Members approved the allocation of £2,000 towards the development of the PCSP Performance Management Framework.

Proposed: Councillor Matt Garrett  
Seconded: Breige Brownlee

### **13. Citywide Christmas Crime Prevention and Safety Event**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator reminded Members that the PCSP Christmas Crime Prevention and Safety Event would be held in City Hall on 3rd December, and asked Members to consider supporting the event to a total of £1,000, funding which was contained within the current Action Plan.
- ii. Members approved the allocation of £1,000 towards the event but asked that officers look into holding a similar event in West Belfast.
- iii. The Safer City Coordinator advised that work was underway to link in with a senior citizens event in Anderstonstown.

### **14. Proposed West Belfast Anti-Social Behaviour Conference**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator reminded Members that, as a consequence of recent community concern around persistent ASB issues across West Belfast but particularly in and around the Upper Springfield/Ballymurphy area that he and the DPCSP staff team had begun to develop a number of initiatives to help raise awareness of the concerns.
- ii. One of the initiatives developed was a conference, to be held in February, which would assist relevant local organisations and agencies explore and map strategies which could be utilised to further address and possibly resource ASB interventions.
- iii. The Safer City Coordinator informed Members that he would bring a report to the Partnership at their next meeting

### **15. Emerging Issues**

#### Youth Justice Agency

- i. Aideen McLaughlin, YJA, advised Members that the Youth Justice Agency Office of the Falls Road would be closing due to resourcing issues and so staff were hoping to use community centres as and when required.

#### Anti-Social Behaviour Leaflet

- ii. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that work was continuing on the production of 5,000 Community Safety leaflets that would be distributed in the Ballymurphy/Whiterock area however design and print costs were more than had been expected.
- iii. Members were advised that a paper would be brought to the November meeting of the DPCSP to discuss possible contributions from the statutory partners.

#### New Council Areas

- iv. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that the first tranche of the 2015/16 Small Grants would launch in November, 2014. Members are asked to encourage groups in the new Council areas to apply for the first of two tranches which would cover the period of April to September, 2015.
- v. In response to a Member's query regarding funding from the Joint Committee, the Safer City Coordinator agreed to ask what additional resources would be provided to Belfast

PCSP given the additional population from Lisburn and Castlereagh which will soon fall within the new Council boundaries. He confirmed that no formal links had been made with Lisburn Council however staff were beginning to make contact with groups on the ground.

#### Recruitment of Independent Members

- vi. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that the recruitment of Independent Members would commence on 7th November and that an information evening would be held on 25th November in City Hall.

#### **16. Date of next meeting**

- i. Members were reminded that the next meeting of the West Belfast DPCSP would be held on Monday, 24th November at 5.30pm in the Conor Room, City Hall.