

**Minutes of the West Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership
Private Meeting**

**1st Floor Conference Room, Cecil Ward Building
Monday, 10th March, 2014**

Political Members

Councillor Marie Hendron (Chair)
Councillor Tim Attwood
Councillor Matt Garrett
Councillor Billy Hutchinson
Alderman Frank McCoubrey

Independent Members

Breige Brownlee
Bernie Reilly
Ann-Marie Weir

Statutory Designated Organisations

Tommy Boyle, H&SCT
Davey Harbinson, NIFRS
Inspector Jamie Hughes, PSNI
John McLaughlin, BELB

Aideen McLaughlin, YJA
Chief Inspector Anthony McNally, PSNI
Inspector Alan Swann, PSNI
Inspector Mike White, PSNI

Locally Designated Groups

Paula Kerr, CRJI
Terry Quinn, GFCSF

Staff Present

Alistair Charles, Safer City Co-ordinator
Ronnie Irvine, Safer City Coordinator

Katharine McCrum, Partnership Support
Officer

Apologies

Councillor Steven Corr
Harry Connolly, Vice-Chair
Carol Carville, PBNI
Michael O'Hara, UFCSF

1. Welcome and Routine Matters

- i. The Chair welcomed Members to the meeting and noted the apologies provided. Members were introduced Ronnie Irvine who would be replacing Alistair Charles as the Safer City Coordinator, and the new Area Commander, Anthony McNally and Inspector Jamie Hughes who had replaced Inspector Jocelyn Wise.

2. Declarations of Interest

- i. The Chair asked Members to declare any material interests which they may have in relation to any item of business to be considered during the meeting.

3. Minutes

- i. The minutes of 27th January, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct.

4. Audit an Governance Arrangements

- i. The Safer City Coordinator reminded Members of the governance and audit arrangements in place for the PCSP and DPCSPs and outlined the reporting structures to the Joint Committee given that each Partnership is independent from Council.
- ii. He advised Members that independent assurance was also provided through audits from the NI Policing Board, Belfast City Council's Internal Audit and the NI Audit Office.
- iii. Members were introduced to Mr. Andy Harrison from the Council's Audit team who advised that the Belfast PCSP would be reviewed as part of Internal Audit's Annual Plan for 2014/2015.
- iv. Members noted the contents of the report.

5. PCSP Small Grants

- i. Alderman Frank McCoubrey and Paula Kerr declared an interest in the Small Grants Report and subsequently left the room.
- ii. The Safer City Coordinator reminded Members of the process involved in the advertisement and scoring of PCSP Small Grants and advised that of the 12 applications submitted for funding from the West Belfast DPCSP, 1 had withdrawn and 1 was deemed ineligible for funding. He added that the Members panel which met on 17th February had recommended that 6 of the remaining applications be granted funding from the 2014-2015 West Belfast DPCSP Action Plan, at a cost of £21,616.
- iii. Members were advised that a 7th application was rescored due to a discrepancy between Officer's scores and had since received a high mark making it eligible for funding.
- iv. Members agreed that the 7th application should also be funded and so the total commitment to the first tranche of the PCSP Small Grants was agreed at £26,556.

6. Bonfire Meeting Update

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that a report on the progress of the Bonfire Working Group would be provided at the next meeting as the Vice-Chair who had chaired the last meeting and was not present on this occasion.

7. Local Government Election Protocol

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that Belfast City Council had produced an Election Protocol which guides Council Officers on the organisation of meetings and events during the election period, which had stipulated the Purdah period as 14th April to 22nd May.
- ii. Members were therefore asked to consider observing the Council's Purdah period and to cancel all DPCSP meetings and events during this period.
- iii. Members asked how the Shadow Council and Local Government Reform would impact this, to which the Safer City Coordinator advised that the DPCSP would continue with

its existing Membership and that the addition of other Council areas would not have an impact until 2015, however it would be useful to begin this discussion now.

- iv. Members agreed to observe the Purdah period in respect to DPCSP Meetings and Events.

8. 2014/2015 West Belfast DPCSP Action Plan Update

- i. The Safer City Coordinator presented Members with the first Draft of the West Belfast DPCSP Action Plan for 2014-2015 and reviewed each of the 3 Strategic Objectives and associated Actions.
- ii. Members provided items of feedback including inviting traders to attend meetings of the Bonfire Working Group and including DPCSP Members and Partners in a focused campaign to address the issue of underreporting and confidence in the PSNI.
- iii. With regards to the Bonfire Strategy, Members agreed that work was needed to tackling the environmental impact of burning tyres as well as more accountability for those who supplied the material.
- iv. The Safer City Coordinator commented upon the budget allocated to Small Grants, particularly given discussions at the Review/Planning Day in February at which Members had suggested reducing the total available. Members agreed to maintain the total budget at £30,000 until the second round of funding later in the year at which point it could be reassessed. The Safer City Coordinator added that £15,000 had been set aside for Policing Committee Grants, as requested at the Planning Session.
- v. A Member queried in what way evaluations were done of the PCSP campaigns such as the City Wide Drugs and Neighbourhood Watch Campaigns.
- vi. The Safer City Coordinator advised that evaluations were done on all pieces of work would be made available to Members once complete.
- vii. The Member asked that a campaign's effectiveness and target audience was also considered, particularly for the likes of Neighbourhood Watch Campaigns which would have a varying degree of success in areas across West Belfast.
- viii. In closing, the Safer City Coordinator asked Members to contact the PCSP Office with any items that they felt was missing from the current Draft Plan. He advised that the final draft would be presented to Members at a meeting at the end of March for their final approval and sign off.

9. Nominees for NIPB 'Confidence in Policing' Conference

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that the NI Policing Board had invited PCSP and DPCSP Members to attend a 'Confidence in Policing' Conference on 25th and 26th March in Titanic Belfast and asked for 2 nominees from the Partnership.
- ii. As no nominees were forthcoming, it was agreed that the invitation would be circulated via email.

10. Emerging Issues

Dangerous Driving Initiatives

- i. The Safer City Coordinator and Davy Harbinson, NIFRS, advised Members that a car crime leaflet and event had been organised by the NIFRS and other partners including the Youth Justice Agency and families Bereaved Through Car Crime, in order to inform young people of the dangers of death driving/joy riding, particularly in response to incidents in West Belfast over the Christmas period.
- ii. Members were further advised that the West Belfast DPCSP had contributed by purchasing the scrap cars that would be used to demonstrate how people were cut free from damaged vehicles at a cost of approximately £750.
- iii. The Safer City Coordinator undertook to circulate a flyer to Members about the event which would be held at 11am on 27th March in St. Peters Parish Hall
- iv. Members were also advised that the DPCSP would be working with Families Bereaved Through Car Crime to relaunch their message and produce an educational DVD for schools.

New Area Commander for West Belfast

- v. Chief Inspector McNally introduced himself to Members and provided them with some background information on his role as Area Commander in Craigavon and detailed his key aims of service delivery in working to build confidence in the PSNI.

11. Date of Next Meeting

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that the next meeting would be held during the week commencing 24th March and that this would be confirmed via email in due course.

12. Presentation on LOCATE

- i. Inspector Colin Shaw provided a briefing on the PSNI's LOCATE Software package which utilises GPS to track Officer and vehicle movement in order to make the best use of resources and enable the closest and most suitable units to respond to calls for service.
- ii. A Member welcomed the information that could be provided using the system, particularly given the move of Neighbourhood Officer's from Grosvenor Road to Woodburn Police Station, and asked how long it would take for analysis to be provided.
- iii. The Officer's advised that information could be available within 5 minutes, and although they welcomed the opportunity to feed information on response times and patrol hours to the community, common sense would need to be used when requesting data and should be based on genuine concerns.
- iv. Discussion took place regarding the end of Operation Echinus and community perception regarding levels of policing. Chief Inspector McNally commented that while the PSNI could provide a high level of policing for a period of time, this was not

sustainable and that partnership working was required to strengthen the long term effects of such an Operation.

- v. In response to the suggestion that the LOCATE presentation could be used at a public meeting, Chief Inspector McNally advised that he was open to discussing this however safety considerations would need to be reviewed.