

**Minutes of the North Belfast District Policing and
Community Safety Partnership
Policing Committee
Wednesday, 26 February 2014, 5.00pm
1st Floor HR Conference Room, Cecil Ward Building, Belfast**

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

1. Welcome & Routine Matters

- i. The Chair, Cllr Patrick Convery, welcomed Members to the Policing Committee of the District Policing and Community Safety Partnership.

2. Declarations of Interest

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

3. Service First Briefing

- i. Inspector Colin Shaw provided Members with an overview of the PSNI Locate System and how the system supports Service First.
- ii. Inspector Colin Shaw advised Members that the system allows for the deployment of appropriate resources to calls and keeps a log of what officers had been assigned to.
- iii. He also advised Members that the system can also produce performance reports that allow the PSNI to analyse activities in a particular area.
- iv. A Member asked Inspector Shaw, if visibility of PSNI officers is going to increase and a public disorder occurs, how would the PSNI handle this.
- v. Inspector Shaw commented that in any situation, it would be the closest and the appropriate resource sent to the situation.

- vi. Inspector Robin Gouk commented that A District had been doing a pilot and that the software had been an encouraging and effective tool to assist the PSNI when focusing resources where a problem had been identified.
- vii. A Member asked if live information can be abstracted from the system.
- viii. Inspector Shaw commented that the system allows for live information to be abstracted and it can also allow for information to be abstracted in relation to when the PSNI arrive at a situation.
- ix. The Chair thanked Inspector Shaw for his very informative presentation and for his attendance at the DPCSP Meeting.

4. Minutes of North Belfast DPCSP Policing Committee

- i. A Member requested that the Minutes of the North Belfast Policing Committee Meeting held on 29th January, were amended to reflect an action detailing an update to be given by each political parties at a future DPCSP Meeting regarding care homes and legislative change.
- ii. Members agreed when actions had been updated, minutes could be taken as read and correct.

5. Area Commanders' Update Report

- i. Inspector Kirkpatrick advised Members that there would be a large movement of PSNI officers within the next six weeks.
- ii. Inspector Kirkpatrick advised Members that that both Chief Inspector Andy Freeburn and Chief Inspector Ian Campbell had both left their positions and had been replaced by Chief Inspector Robert Singleton.
- iii. Inspector Kirkpatrick provided Members with an update on criminal statistics.
- iv. Inspector Kirkpatrick commented that there had been an increase of 5.5% in overall crime rates in North Belfast compared to this time last year.
- v. He advised Members that there had been a decrease of 7% in domestic burglary and a decrease of 3% for non-domestic burglaries.
- vi. Inspector Kirkpatrick advised Members that there had been a slight increase in drug seizures, however a decrease in the number of arrests.
- vii. Inspector Kirkpatrick commented that ASB figures had slightly increased by 1%, violent crime is decreased by 4% and hate crime had increased by 4%.
- viii. A Member queried if the 5.5% increase in crime had been in A District or just North Belfast.
- ix. Inspector Kirkpatrick commented that the increase in crime rate had been for North Belfast.

- x. A Member asked that given the current ongoing situation at Twadell, there had been speculation that street crime had been rampant. He asked if this had been the view of the PSNI.
- xi. Inspector Kirkpatrick commented that the ongoing situation at Twadell had been managed as a separate policing issue and that the situation should not impact on day to day policing. However, he could not make comment on why crime had increased and if it had a direct link to Twadell.
- xii. A Member asked for clarification on 'Protective Policing – Outcomes: Vulnerable People are protected - point three. He commented that he had been unaware that the report had been logged as alcohol related. He asked if the PSNI allocate a 'spoc' to each individual issue.
- xiii. Inspector Kirkpatrick commented that would it be normal police practice for an individual officer to be allocated to individual cases as it would remove any confusion.
- xiv. A Member asked who the Inspectors for North Belfast would be following PSNI officer changes. Inspector Kirkpatrick replied that the Inspectors would remain the same.
- xv. A Member asked what impact the change in personnel would have on North Belfast.
- xvi. Inspector Kirkpatrick commented that the change would be positive as there would be more police on the ground and higher visibility of officers.
- xvii. A Member requested that residents around York Road were updated regarding PSNI restructuring.
- xviii. Inspector Kirkpatrick commented that the District Commander would give residents assurances that York Road would remain and that neighbourhood policing would operate from York Road and that they would still have the same service from response when they are located to Tennent Street.
- xix. Members paid tribute to both Chief Inspector McCrum and Chief Inspector Campbell for their contribution to the Partnership.
- xx. A Member commented that it had been frustrating to see members of senior management leaving and felt that it had been pre-emptive of the PSNI to change senior management during a process of partnership building.
- xxi. Inspector Kirkpatrick provided Members with an update regarding questions raised at the last Policing Committee Meeting regarding recent incidents in North Belfast.
- xxii. He advised Members that following the Girls Model incident, PSNI spoke to the three youths who had been involved with the incident regarding criminal damage.
- xxiii. He further advised Members that PSNI officers intervened and took names of young people who had been involved in the incident at Our Lady of Mercy School.
- xxiv. He also updated Members in relation to the PSNI landrover incident. He advised Members that both Mr Kelly and the PSNI Officer driving the landrover had been dealt with but unfortunately the people who had been banging the side of the landrover could not be identified.

- xxv. Inspector Kirkpatrick also advised Members of the on-going hate crime incidents in the White City area. He advised Members that due to the hate crime attacks in the area, that two families had left the area, one arrest had been made, however the defendant is currently on bail. He further commented that hate crime is on the increase and that were possible for the Partnership to work collaboratively and Members to use their influence in the local communities to help address this serious issue.
- xxvi. A Member requested for a written response to be provided with reference to the questions addressed. Inspector Kirkpatrick agreed to forward a written response to the Partnership.
- xxvii. A Member asked if a compliant needs to be made by the general public in order for the PSNI to respond to a hate crime incident.
- xxviii. Inspector Watton replied that the PSNI need to be alerted to any issues of hate crime.
- xxix. A Member asked what had been the extend of human trafficking within North Belfast.
- xxx. Inspector Kirkpatrick commented that he had not been aware of any human trafficking incidents specifically on North Belfast.
- xxxi. A Member commented that he had been aware of a number of suspected cases around the Shore Road.
- xxxii. A Member further commented that she had been aware of a case where people had been arrested in South Belfast but from North Belfast.
- xxxiii. Inspector Kirkpatrick commented he was not sure of the case.

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

- i. No update provided.

7. **Forthcoming policing events/issues**

- i. No events/issues were discussed.

8. **Members Written Questions and Responses**

- i. No written questions submitted.

9. **Date of next meeting**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that the next North Belfast DPCSP Meeting will be held on 12th March, HR Conference Room, Cecil Ward, Belfast at 5.00pm.