

**Minutes of the North Belfast District Policing and
Community Safety Partnership
Private Meeting
Wednesday, 29 January 2014, 6.00pm
1st Floor HR Conference Room, Cecil Ward Building, Belfast**

Members Present	
Councillors	Independents
Councillor Patrick Convery (Chair)	Ms. Jennifer Cornell (Vice Chair)
Councillor JJ Magee	Ms. Bronach Graham
Councillor Guy Spence	Mr. Winston Irvine
Councillor Naomi Thompson	Mr. Pat McLarnon
	Mr. Ian McLaughlin
Designated Organisations	
Chief Inspector Andy Freeburn	Davy Harbinson, NIFRS
Chief Inspector Ian Campbell	Martin Morgan, HSCT
Inspector Robin Gouk	Malachy McKinney, NIHE
Inspector Gavin Kirkpatrick	Patricia Muldoon, YJA
Inspector Roy Watton	Alan Wilson, BELB
Staff Present	Apologies
Richard McLernon, Safer City Coordinator	Councillor Mary Ellen Campbell
Edele Cleary, Project Officer	Mark Nicolson, PBNI
Saranne Gallagher, Partnership Support Officer	

1. Welcome/Apologies/ Declarations of Interest

- i. The Chair, Cllr Patrick Convery, welcomed Members to the Private Meeting of the District Policing and Community Safety Partnership.
- ii. Apologies noted for Cllr Mary Ellen Campbell and Mark Nicholson.
- iii. The Chair highlighted the declarations of interest policy. No declarations of interest were recorded.

2. Minutes of North Belfast DPCSP Policing Committee

- i. The Minutes of the North Belfast Private Meeting held on 18th November, of which copies were previously circulated, were taken as read and correct.
- ii. The Safer City Coordinator updated Members on the agreed actions from the previous North Belfast DPCSP Meeting.
- iii. The Safer City Coordinator updated Members regarding the ongoing work to identify the location of drug bins. He further commented that there had been no quotations received for the Anti Social Behaviour contract, however advised Members that the project will be supported.

3. Community Safety Updates

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members on the Communiqué published and circulated by the Department of Justice.

- ii. The Safer City Coordinator commented that the Communiqué is for information purposes and further advised Members that all PCSP's throughout Northern Ireland will be reviewed by Criminal Justice Inspectorate, particularly a review of Action Plans, structures and the effectiveness of DPCSP's.
- iii. A Member asked when this review had to be completed by. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that the review may be linked to the end of the financial year.
- iv. A Member requested that the Partnership should discuss the role and responsibilities of the DPCSP.
- v. The Chair commented that his understanding of the role of the DPCSP had been to monitor police in North Belfast against the Policing Plan and hold the PSNI to account.
- vi. A Member commented that his understanding of the role of the DPCSP had been to work in partnership with the police, not solely to hold them to account. He further commented that the Partnership and PSNI should adapt a collective working approach to deal with community safety issues.
- vii. A Member commented that there is an element of frustration as the Partnership cannot deliver on what the local community want.
- viii. The Chair suggested to Members that a further discussion regarding the role and responsibilities of the DPCSP to be facilitated at the next Review Day. Members agreed.
- ix. A Member commented that the North Belfast DPCSP Public Meeting held in the Girls Model School had been well received and very positive. A Member further commented that the event allowed the DPCSP to engage with the local community.
- x. A Member provided an update regarding the ongoing issues around legal highs and the emergency meeting facilitated by the South DPCSP. The Member further commented that a multi agency approach had been developed and a commitment had been given by all key stakeholders to address the ongoing issues. The Member commented that admiration had to be given to Belfast City Council and also PSNI for responding to the issue.
- xi. A Member offered the Partnership an opportunity to invite a representative from the NIHE to attend a future DPCSP meeting to update Members on the role of the NIHE regarding community safety.
- xii. A Member advised the Partnership of the 'Future Generations' programme that he had been involved in, and how the programme had been able to strengthen the relationship between the local community and the PSNI.
- xiii. A Member provided details regarding the forthcoming Youth Consultation Event and welcomed Members to attend.
- xiv. The Chair provided Members with an update regarding ongoing work with the PSNI following recent issues in the Whitewell area and also the continuing work of youth engagement.
- xv. A Member requested that the DPCSP send a letter to those families affected by the recent attacks. Members agreed for a letter to be forwarded on behalf of the Partnership.

4. Chair Update on Work with Belfast PCSP

- i. The Chair informed Members that LK Communications had been appointed on behalf of the PCSP to develop a Communication Strategy. The Chair further commented that the communication strategy would involve an element of social media which would assist with increasing the profile of the PCSP and also to allow for public meetings to be more streamlined.
- ii. The Chair also advised Members of the forthcoming PSCP Drugs and Neighbourhood Watch Campaigns.
- iii. The Chair informed Members that the first working group to discuss parades and public disorder would be held on 6th February.

5. Review of North Belfast DPCSP Action Plan

- i. The Project Officer provided Members with an update on the Action Plan.
- ii. The Project Officer advised Members that a Domestic Violence Seminar in partnership with Belfast Area Domestic Violence Partnership will be facilitated on Monday 24 February at NICVA and welcomed Members to attend.
- iii. The Project Officer further advised Members of the forthcoming Youth Consultation Event to be held Wednesday 12 February. The Project Officer commented that this event had been delivered in partnership with BELB.
- iv. The Project Officer requested two Members to assist with the review of application received for the Small Grants Programme. Winston Irvine and Alan Wilson to attend.
- v. The Project Officer also requested Members to participate on a subgroup regarding annual information exchange. Malachy McKinney and Jennifer Cornell to attend.
- vi. A Member requested if an update could be provided regarding Members expenses for attending additional meetings.
- vii. The Safer City Coordinator commented that it had been agreed by the Department of Justice that both the Chair and Vice Chair can claim up to 30 meetings in any one financial year.

6. Priorities for Action and Timetabling

- i. The Project Officer advised Members that the next North Belfast DPCSP Public Event had been scheduled for 12th March. The Project Officer requested that Members suggest a theme and venue for the meeting.
- ii. The Chair suggested that Members consider facilitating the next the Public Meeting in the Spectrum Centre.
- iii. The Area Commander advised Members of his concern regarding hosting a meeting in the suggested venue, particularly in the light of the current issues regarding public disorder.

- iv. Members were supportive of hosting the Public Meeting in a location where a meeting had not been held yet but agreed caution had to be taken regarding public disorder.
- v. A Member further commented that the thought of public disorder should not deter the DPCSP facilitating a future Public Meeting.
- vi. Members agreed for an agenda to be developed regarding the Public Meeting and for the agenda brought to the working group meeting on 6th February for discussion.

7. **Sign-posting**

- i. The Chair provided an update regarding the ongoing issues with care homes and possible legislation change to the new Member of the Partnership.

8. **Tension Monitoring Update**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that Tension Monitoring had been extended to 31st March.
- ii. The Safer City Coordinator informed Members that £30,000 had been allocated for North Belfast through the programme and suggested that Members give consideration to the recommendations of when the funding ended how the DPCSP could assist with the sustainability of the links created.
- iii. A Member declared an interest and left the meeting. Members agreed the report recommendations.
- iv. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that an evaluation would be completed on the programme and a report would be presented to Members at a future DPCSP meeting.

9. **Items for Information**

- i. The Chair advised Members of all agreed dates for future DPCSP meetings.

10. **Items for action**

- i. No items noted.

11. **Next Meeting**

- i. Date, time and venue of next meeting noted.