

Minutes of the Belfast Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Policing Committee Meeting

NIFRS Station, 6 Bankmore Street
Wednesday, 12th November 2014

Political Members

Councillor Colin Keenan (Chair)
Alderman Jim Rodgers

Independent Members

Frank Mulhern (Vice Chair)
Valerie Allen
Claire Canavan
Liz Groves
Harry Maguire
John MacVicar
Carmel McKinney
John Topping

PSNI Representatives

Chief Superintendent Nigel Grimshaw

Superintendent Muir Clark

Staff Present

Alison Allen, Safer City Manager
Lorna Somers, Safer City Assistant Manager
Stephen Sheerin, Safer City Coordinator
Katharine McCrum, Partnership Support Officer

Apologies

Councillor Matt Garrett
Councillor Kate Mullan
Councillor Janice Austin
Mark Vinton

1. Welcome and Apologies

- i. The Chair welcomed Members to the meeting and noted the apologies provided.

2. Declarations of Interest

- i. No declarations of interest were recorded.

3. Minutes

- i. A Member asked that an additional line was added to the minutes to reflect the efforts of community representatives in the delivery of a peaceful summer period.
- ii. The minutes of the Belfast PCSP Policing Committee Meeting held on 12th August, copies of which had previously been circulated, were subsequently taken as read and agreed as correct.

4. Update from the PSNI

- i. Chief Superintendent Grimshaw advised Members that Belfast would now be policed as one District rather than two, and would be called the Belfast City Policing District. He added that this was likely to result in a number of benefits, particularly in communications.

- ii. Members were advised that Chief Superintendent Grimshaw would be leading the team and that the Area Commanders working alongside the DPCSPs would remain unchanged.
- iii. With regards to priorities for the District, Members were advised that the emphasis would be on increasing outcome rates, which was an issue for the entire service.

Staffing and Resources

- iv. A Member noted how refreshing it was to see the new recruits that had recently passed out from police training beginning to work in the Districts. Chief Superintendent Grimshaw added that Belfast had received its fair share of new officers which was to be welcomed.
- v. A Member queried the shift in language from clearances to outcomes and noted difficulties that had been experienced with the 101 non-emergency number.
- vi. Chief Superintendent Grimshaw acknowledged that there had been some problems with the 101 number at its inception.
- vii. With regards to the focus on outcomes, he advised Members that Home Office guidelines had dictated this change which focused on charges. He added that as part of the structural changes within the PSNI, such as Service First, the Case Progression Team were now following up on 80% of calls however these changes were still a work in progress and tweaks would be made as required. He noted that while the crime statistics would improve as the financial year progressed, it was unlikely that they would meet last year's figures.
- viii. In response to a Member's query regarding how changes in anti-social behaviour legislation would impact Northern Ireland, Chief Superintendent Grimshaw advised that he not been given a sense of the proposed changes.

SOS Bus

- ix. A Member wished Chief Superintendent Grimshaw well in his new post and asked what consideration could be given to reinstating the funding previously provided to the SOS Bus.
- x. Chief Superintendent Grimshaw accepted that the service brought added value to certain operations but advised that given the huge cuts experienced by the PSNI, the money was no longer available.
- xi. The Member acknowledged this and suggested that Members consider promoting and supporting the service in the future through the PCSP Action Plan.

5. Date of Next Meeting

- i. Members were advised that the next meeting of the Policing Committee would be held on Tuesday, 16th December at 5.30pm.