

Minutes of the Belfast Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Private 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

Designated Organisations

Chief Superintendent Nigel Grimshaw, PSNI
Superintendent Muir Clark, PSNI
Alan Hamill, NIFRS

Eithne McIlroy, PBNI
Patricia Muldoon, YJA
Cecil Worthington, H&SC Trust

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. The minutes of the Belfast PCSP meeting held on 15th September, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct.

4. Matters Arising and Chairs Business

- i. With regards to the actions from the previous meeting, the Safer City Assistant Manager advised that;
 - A letter of offer had been issued to Spanner in the Works Theatre Company who were successful in the second tranche of PCSP Small Grants,
 - The Flood Warden bibs purchased by the PCSP had been worn during the recent floods,

- Information regarding the Hate Crime Research and Human Trafficking were contained within the papers, and,
- Work was ongoing with regards to Performance Management and Evaluation.

5. Hate Crime Project Update

(Professor Peter Shirlow and Eva Grosman attended in relation to this item.)

- i. The Chair welcomed Professor Shirlow and Ms Grosman to the meeting and congratulated them and the PCSP Staff for a well attended launch of the research on 4th November in City Hall.
- ii. Professor Shirlow provided Members with a summary of the research which was designed to challenge the myths about migrants focusing on population, employment, housing, benefits, the economy, healthcare, education, crime and social cohesion.
- iii. Members welcomed the clarity of the report and asked in what ways the information would be disseminated to the public.
- iv. Professor Shirlow advised that while work was underway to develop a strategy to publicise the findings, dissemination by statutory partners, community groups, activists and schools was important. He added that immigrant communities should also be included.
- v. Ms Grosman stated that the report was just a starting point, and that additional aspects such as drama, sports and social media would have a part to play in the wider campaign. Members were advised that the campaign had reached 300,000 people so far and that further proposals regarding awareness raising would be brought to the PCSP in the future.
- vi. Ms Grosman noted that local communities were facing real problems in relation to many of the issues raised within the research and so publicising these facts was only one step in a complex issue.
- vii. Eithne McIlroy advised that the Probation Board was working with perpetrators of hate crime looking at how their actions were linked with such myths, and how likely people were to act upon their misconceptions.
- viii. Ms Grosman concluded by advising Members that Unite Against Hate would be holding a seminar in January which she hoped the PCSP would support.
- ix. The Chair thanked the speakers for their presentation and they retired from the meeting.

Hate Crime Conference

- x. The Safer City Manager advised Members that £4,000 of funding within the Action Plan had been set aside for a regional conference on Hate Crime in the New Year, details of which were contained within the report and in Item 9 of the agenda, the PCSP Action Plan Progress Report.
- xi. Members reaffirmed their approval of this project.

6. Safer Belfast Coordination Team

- i. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with a briefing on the work of the Safer Belfast Coordination Team (SBCT) who meet each month to consider current issues at a city wide level and provide operational direction.
- ii. Members were advised that the group had focused on legal highs and drug and alcohol misuse and as such had coordinated Joint Enforcement in the city centre between 6-17th October to tackle these issues.
- iii. Members were also advised that the SBCT had suggested that a smartphone 'app' would assist in tackling drug and alcohol issues within the night time economy and improve people's feeling of safety within the City.
- iv. The Safer City Coordinator explained that, via GPS, the app would allow users to locate their nearest safe place. He suggested that the app could be used by local people and those visiting the city, for example, those disembarking from cruise ships.
- v. Members queried whether the Council's Digital Services Department had been consulted regarding the app and how updates would be managed and paid for.
- vi. The Safer City Coordinator advised that Corporate Communications had been contacted however they had advised that Digital Services would be unable to produce the app. He added that the upkeep itself would sit with one of the SBCT partners, Belfast City Centre Management and that the cost of software updates would be minimal and could be considered within future Action Plans.
- vii. Members were advised that initial discussions had taken place with Queens University who quoted £8,000 for the work, and two other private companies who quoted in the region of £6,000. The Safer City Coordinator explained that the group's budget was £5,000, £2,000 of which had been spent on the review of the Get Home Safe Partnership, and that the remaining costs would be met by the other partners. He added that approval for the app was time sensitive given the time taken for procurement and development.
- viii. Members raised concerns regarding the uptake of the app given the range of users suggested. Chief Superintendent Grimshaw advised that the PSNI also had an app but that he was not convinced by the uptake and that the police were focusing on Facebook and Twitter communication.
- ix. The Safer City Assistant Manager reminded Members that through the PCSP Action Plan, Members had asked the SBCT to review the Get Home Safe (GHS) Partnership and to provide a suggestion on how to allocate their budget. She added that the previous year's GHS Campaign had cost over £8,000 for one week and so was not deemed value for money, therefore the development of an app was felt to be more effective by the multi-agency group.
- x. The Chair surmised that Members were willing to support the app in principle, however further information on its purpose and use in other regions would be useful.
- xi. The Safer City Coordinator advised that apps had been developed in England however they did not have the buy in from Statutory Agencies as this one did, and were not as far reaching in their objectives.

- xii. A Member proposed progressing with the apps procurement with regular updates being provided to Members.
- xiii. The Safer City Manager suggested that Officers carry out market research on the use of such an app, while releasing a procurement document for its development in order to get the process moving.
- xiv. Members agreed to this course of action, noting that they could not support the development of an app without evidence that it would be a worthwhile investment.

7. The Cage – ARCS Project

- i. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised Members that the Ur Zone Cage was launched on 10th October at Titanic Belfast and was now available to be booked via the Council website or by emailing urzone@belfastcity.gov.uk.
- ii. Members noted the report provided and acknowledged the completion of the project.

8. Human Trafficking Awareness

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that the £6,000 allocated to increasing awareness of human trafficking had been fully utilised through the launch of the UN Human Trafficking Gift Box in June, development of an educational toolkit and the visit of the European Anti-Trafficking Coordinator in October.
- ii. A Member commended the PCSP Staff on a very successful campaign which had generated a huge amount of awareness.
- iii. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that the DVD which had been produced as part of the toolkit would be made available to hotels and B&Bs using a replica of the UN Human Trafficking Gift Box and rolled out with the help of the PSNI.
- iv. Members were then shown the DVD and a number of Gift Boxes were distributed to Members. The Chair also commended the work undertaken as part of this campaign.
- v. Members noted the delivery of the project and the budget spend.

9. PCSP Action Plan Progress Report

- i. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised Members that a progress report on the 2014/2015 Action Plan for the PCSP had been provided within Members' papers, stating that the majority of the budget had been spent or was already allocated.
- ii. Members noted the contents of the report and the progress made to date.

10. PCSP Communications Strategy

- i. At the request of the Safer City Manager, Mr Frank Mulhern volunteered to represent the PCSP on the Communications Working Group. Alderman Rodgers was nominated in his absence, and the Chair agreed to partake in the Working Group if Alderman Rodgers was not available.

11. ASB Integrated Service Delivery

- i. The Safer City Manager advised Members that dates for the study visits were being finalised and once agreed would be circulated to Members. She added that she envisioned a range of Members from the PCSP and DPCSPs would be invited to attend.

12. PCSP Consultation Exercise

- i. The Safer City Manager advised Members that the Public Consultation carried out by Ineqe following a procurement exercise had received a good response, and that the final report was due for completion on 14th November.
- ii. Members were reminded that a Joint Briefing would be held on 18th November at 6.30pm in the Ulster Hall in order to deliver the findings of the report.
- iii. Members noted the contents of the report.

13. Recruitment of (D)PCSP Independent Members

- i. Members were reminded that the process for the recruitment of Independent Members to the reconstituted PCSPs was now open and would close on 28th November.
- ii. The Safer City Manager advised that an information evening would be held in City Hall on 25th November at which the Vice-Chair would be speaking.
- iii. Members were asked to encourage applications.
- iv. A Member noted that the advertisements stated that the positions were not remunerated and questioned whether the Policing Board viewed the positions as important.
- v. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised that the roles were not currently deemed as remunerated but as eligible for meetings expenses, and that this was under review.
- vi. A Member queried whether this would result in only mileage being paid.
- vii. The Chair confirmed that he had requested a paper be brought to the next meeting of the PCSP regarding what meetings are eligible for the meetings expense payment, with the option of allowing each Member to decide what meetings they wished to claim for.

14. Strategic Issues

Drug Dealers Don't Care Campaign

- i. The Safer City Manager advised Members that the Drug Dealers Don't Care Campaign developed in partnership by the PCSP had been hailed as good practice and replicated in several Councils within Wales.

Funding Request

- ii. Members were advised that an approach had been made by a group 'Hollaback' requesting funding for their Reclaim the Night march which calls for action against gender violence and harassment. The Safer City Manager advised that Hollaback was not a constituted organisation or charity and so would not be eligible for PCSP funding.
- iii. Members agreed that funding an unconstituted group would not be appropriate and therefore the PCSP would not be in a position to support the request financially.

Christmas Crime Prevention and Safety Event

- iv. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised Members that the PCSP Christmas Crime Prevention and Safety event would be held in the City Hall on Wednesday, 3rd December between 10am and 1pm. Members were encouraged to attend and to promote the event.

Hate Crime

- v. A Member suggested that the Hate Crime Research be publicised within the Council's City Matters Magazine.
- vi. The Safer City Manager advised that due to the establishment of the new Council in April, much of the space was being taken up by updates on service delivery and so this was unlikely to be possible, however work to disseminate the message would be undertaken.

Youth Awards

- vii. Patricia Muldoon congratulated the Officers on a well delivered PCSP Youth Awards on 7th November but raised her disappointment at the lack of attendance by PCSP Members.
- viii. The Chair and Vice-Chair advised that they had not been in a position to attend.

15. Date of Next Meeting

- i. The Chair advised Members that the next meeting of the PCSP would be on Tuesday, 16th December at the earlier time of 6pm in the Conor Room, City Hall, unless an alternative external venue was sourced.