

**Minutes of South Belfast District Policing and Community
Safety Partnership
Wednesday, 5th March 2014, 6.00pm
1st Floor HR Conference Room, Cecil Ward, Belfast**

| Political Members | Independent Members |
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| Cllr. Deirdre Hargey (Chair) Cllr. Kate Mullan | Mr. Trevor Greer Ms. Debbie Hammill Mr. Niall Kelly Ms. Nuala Toman |
| Statutory Designated Bodies | |
| Chief Inspector Gaby Moran, PSNI Gary Ballantyne, NIHE Anita Duff, BELB Christine Hunter, PBNI | Yvonne McKnight, YJA Aideen McLaughlin, BHSC Kenny McEwan, NIFRS |
| Staff Present | Apologies |
| Denise Smith, Safer City Coordinator Saranne Gallagher, Partnership Support Officer | Ald. Ruth Patterson Cllr. Máirtín Ó Muilleoir Ms. Paula Bradshaw (Vice Chair) |

1. Welcome & Routine Matters

- i. The Chair welcomed the Members to the Private Meeting of the South Belfast DPCSP.
- ii. Apologies were noted for Alderman Ruth Patterson, Cllr. Martin O'Mulleoir and Mr Niall Kelly.

2. Declarations of Interest

- i. No declarations of interest were declared.

3. Previous Minutes

- i. The Minutes of the South Belfast DPCSP meeting held on 4th February, copies of which were previously circulated, were taken as read and correct.

4. Presentations

- i. The Chair welcomed Andrew Irvine and Liam Lynch from Belfast City Centre Management to the South Belfast DPCSP Private Meeting.
- ii. Liam Lynch presented an overview of the recently conducted Youth Consultation. He detailed the key objectives and the approach that had been taken when facilitating the Consultation. He further informed Members that through the use of a digital survey they were able to gain information regarding where the young people shop, where they are from, the frequency of young people visiting the City Centre and how much young people are spending in the City Centre.

- iii. A Member asked if any feedback had been received from the shop traders?
- iv. In response Liam Lynch commented that the retailers had been surprised by the findings from the Consultation and that retailers were now viewing the young people as an asset rather than an issue.
- v. A Member thanked Liam for his presentation. She further commented that the presentation has been very informative and it demonstrated a refreshing way to capture feedback.
- vi. A Member suggested that the South Belfast DPCSP should submit questions for inclusion in the survey. He further commented that the information captured could be very beneficial to the Partnership when looking at developing initiatives.
- vii. Members requested that the action points from the Emergency Meeting to be circulated for review.
- viii. The Chair thanked both Andrew and Liam for attending and for the informative presentation.
- ix. The Chair introduced Ann Maire White from Creating Cohesive Community.
- x. Ann Marie White presented Members with an overview of the project. She informed Members that the project had been required to develop key strategies through a multi agency approach to support community cohesion. She further advised Members of the initiatives that had been delivered and highlighted a number of good practice examples. She commented that the project allowed for the creation of a consortium to address local issues.
- xi. A Member asked if police involvement within the project regarding hate crime had been beneficial. Ann Maire commented that the involvement of the police in the project had been very beneficial and had allowed for community relationships to be strengthened with the police.
- xii. A Member congratulated Ann Marie on the work that project had delivered to date. However, she went on to ask how the project ensures that all organisations are working collectively and not duplicating work? Ann Marie commented that there is always limited capacity among organisations and therefore they work together to source external funding. She further commented that the consortium allows for work to be done collectively, keeping people informed and therefore avoiding possible duplication.

- xiii. The Chair thanked Ann Marie for her presentation and attending the South Belfast DPCSP Meeting.

5. Audit and Governance Arrangements

- i. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with an update on Audit and Governance in support of a Table Report.
- ii. Claire O'Prey, Audit Governance and Risk Services Manager, Belfast City Council attended in relation to the aforementioned report. She advised Members of the Councils audit requirements and commented that all (D)PCSP's are required to be compliant with the Letter of Offer from the Department of Justice as well as the associated financial guidelines.
- iii. The Audit Governance and Risk Services Manager, informed Members that there had been an audit for 2014/15 to which all (D) PCSP's would be eligible for.
- iv. A Member asked if procurement procedures applied to DPCSP grants?
- v. The Safer City Coordinator commented that any project exceeding the Councils threshold of £3,000 was subject to Council procurement procedures. She further advised Members that there is a clear process adhered to and managed centrally through the Small Grants Unit.
- vi. The Chair thanked Claire O'Prey for her attendance and for providing Members with an update regarding audit and governance procedures.
- vii. Members noted the report.

6. Tension Monitoring Update

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised updated Members on the Belfast Tension Monitoring.
- ii. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that Tension Monitoring funding had been extended until the 31st March.
- iii. The Safer City Coordinator recommended that contact is maintained with local tension monitoring groups after funding ends and where possible for the DPCSP to support the local groups.
- iv. Members noted the paper and also recommendations.

7. Small Grants

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised the Partnership that Members had participated on the Small Grants 2014/15 assessment panel.

- ii. The Safer City Coordinator informed Members that two applications had been considered by the panel. She advised Members that the panel was supportive of the first application, however requested clarity on refreshment costs. With regards the second application, the panel had asked for further information to be provided regarding the location of the applicant and also if the applicant actually exists.
- iii. A Member requested that before funding is awarded to applicant two, further information regarding from where the young people had been referred.
- iv. The Chair commented that the Small Grants Unit do all checks including child protection policy ones.
- v. The Chair suggested for the Grants Manager, Belfast City Council to attend a future DPCSP meeting to provide Members with an overview of the term and conditions associated with small grants and how new groups are managed with regards compliance procedures. Members welcomed this suggestion.
- vi. Following a discussion regarding applicant two, Members agreed that a copy of the signed lease should be provided, as well as information regarding who the young people the group are targeting should be provided and a request to provide information detailing who they will be working with.
- vii. Following further discussion regarding applicant one, Members agreed that subject to clarification regarding refreshment costs, the DPCSP would fund the project.
- viii. A Member commented that the applications received had been of a poor quality as applicants did not complete applications fully and did not provide full details regarding their organisational role.
- ix. The Chair acknowledged that some groups applying for funding lack capacity and suggested that the DPCSP facilitate information sessions to assist clubs with completing funding application forms.
- x. The Safer City Coordinator commented that Belfast City Council do facilitate information sessions, however it may be beneficial for the DPCSP to facilitate local information sessions to highlight DPCSP grants.

8. Local Government Election Protocol

- i. The Safer City Coordinator updated Members on the forthcoming electoral period.
- ii. The Safer City Coordinator asked Members to note the recommendations to adopt Belfast City Council's Electoral Protocol and for all DPCSP's meetings to be cancelled during Purdah.

- iii. Members noted the report and agreed its recommendations.

9. Action Plan 14/15

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members on the South DPCSP Action Plan and budget spend to date.
- ii. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that the first of the Holyland Hub's, focusing on 'Social Media' had been held on Tuesday 4th March. She commented that the event had been well received by all in attendance and the event provided the DPCSP with a further opportunity to engage with local students. She advised Members that a second Holyland Hub had been scheduled for Tuesday 11th March focusing on the 'One Punch Campaign'.
- iii. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that the next South Belfast DPCSP Public Meeting will be held on Thursday 20th March. The theme for the Public Meeting will be 'Good Practice'. The Safer City Coordinator proposed that Members meet before the Public Event. Members agreed to this suggestion.
- iv. A Member requested an update regarding the Giro d'Italia. The Safer City Coordinator advised that no information had been received to date, but if information does become available, she will circulate accordingly.
- v. The Safer City Coordinator commented that Members had requested further information regarding hate crime training, and she confirmed that the training does cover all categories as encompassed within the definition of hate crime. She advised Members that the Hate Crime training would be held on 24th-26th March and welcomed Members to attend if available. Members requested for information regarding the training to be circulated.
- vi. The Safer City Coordinator requested for Members to attend a sub-group meeting to review the Draft South Belfast DPCSP Action Plan 2014/15 and associated budgets. Councillor Deirdre Hargey, Trevor Greer, Gary Ballantyne and Niall Kelly agreed to attend.

10. Emerging Issues

- i. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with an update regarding legal highs and the recently held multi agency meeting.
- ii. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that ongoing work is continuing with the local traders and PSNI to resolve the situation around Smithfield adding that there is another Inter Agency Meeting scheduled for Friday 14th March.
- iii. The Safer City Coordinator also provided Members with an update regarding the forthcoming St Patrick Day operations. She advised Members that the parades will be held on Sunday 16th March.

- iv. The Area Commander commented (in relation to the St Patricks Day preparations) that there will be a PSNI operation in place from Monday 10th March.
- v. A Member asked if PSNI would be present in areas outside the Holylands? The Area Commander commented that officers will be present in both A and D Districts and that key areas will be targeted throughout the City.
- vi. A Member also suggested that information could be forwarded to schools highlighting the dangers of how anti social behaviour can potentially have an adverse of gaining entry to university in the future. The Area Commander commented that the PSNI circulated a letter regarding this issue to schools last year and the letter had been circulated again this year.
- vii. The Area Commander suggested that a request should be forwarded to the NIHE regarding information on hate crime, particularly in relation to people turning down houses within a particular area due to hate crime.
- viii. The Chair suggested inviting a representative from the NIHE to attend a future DPCSP meeting to discuss the issue of hate crime.
- ix. The Chair commented that the Partnership needs to ensure that all relevant information is presented at meetings in order to allow the Partnership to be proactive and where relevant for inclusion in the South Belfast DPCSP Action Plan.
- x. A Member requested for information regarding the priorities of other DPCSP's to be circulated to Members for review.
- xi. The Area Commander provided Members with an update regarding policing structures. He advised Members that there would be the loss of 60 officers within the next six months. He advised Members that he will be taking up a new role which will see him leading the Crime Investigations Unit. He informed Members that the new Area Commander for South Belfast had not yet been appointed, however his replacement should be in post by 20th March.
- xii. The Chair on behalf of the South Belfast DPCSP thanked the Area Commander for his commitment and support to the Partnership.

11. Date of Next Meeting

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that the next South Belfast DPCSP Meeting will be held on Thursday 20th March, Belfast City Hall.