

Minutes of the East Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Policing Committee Meeting

East Belfast Network Centre, Templemore Avenue, Belfast
Thursday, 20th March, 2014

Political Members	Independent Members
Councillor Adam Newton (Chair)	Mrs Lynda Gibson
Alderman Gavin Robinson	Mr Andrew Moorhead
Councillor Mervyn Jones	Mrs Olwen Lyner
Police Service of Northern Ireland Representatives	
Chief Inspector Mark McEwan	
Chief Inspector Darrin Jones	
Staff Present	Apologies
Glenn Thomas, Safer City Coordinator	Mr Mark Houston (Vice-Chair)
Saranne Gallagher, Partnership Support Officer	

1. Welcome and Routine Matters

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

2. Declarations of Interest

- i. No declarations of interest were noted.

3. Minutes

- i. The minutes of the East Belfast DPCSP Policing Committee Meetings held on 28th January, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and agreed.
- ii. A Member advised the Partnership that there had been an opportunity for a key agency within the local community to deliver on the family support hub and would be keen to get the opinions on how this can be moved forward. The Area Commander commented that he would review the options available and provide an update at a future DPCSP meeting.

4. Area Commanders Update

- i. The Area Commander provided Members with an update on crime statistics for East Belfast.
- ii. The Area Commander commented that by the end of December, there had been an increase of 11% for overall crime.
- iii. The Area Commander further commented that non domestic violent crime had slightly increased by 6.3% in comparison to last year.

- iv. The Area Commander advised Members that burglaries had increased to 4.2% and that 23% of domestic burglaries within East Belfast had been due to opened doors and windows.
- v. The crime of criminal damage had increased by 4.2% and this includes current interface disorder.
- vi. The Area Commander commented that ASB had increased by 5.5%.
- vii. He further advised Members that robbery had been down to 29.4% and that violence with injury had been down by 7.2%.
- viii. A Member commented that there had been an opportunity with Operation Torun being linked to the PCSP Drugs Campaign.
- ix. Following a discussion, the Area Commander advised Members of the processes associated with funding applications for the Asset Recovery Community Scheme.
- x. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that the Belfast PCSP had been successful in securing funding from the Asset Recovery Community Scheme and details of the funding will be circulated to Members. He further advised Members that the equipment purchased will be beneficial to all areas in Belfast.
- xi. The Area Commander commented that the Asset Recovery Community Scheme may have a second tranche of funding available in the summer and suggested organisations to be in a state of readiness to apply for this funding.
- xii. A Member asked if funding had been given back to the area where the assets had been originally recovered. The Area Commander commented not necessarily as funding could be allocated to another area within Northern Ireland.
- xiii. A Member asked if shoplifting crime had mainly been high end goods. The Area Commander commented a lot of shoplifting crime had not been recorded and it had been mainly in relation to clothes and food theft.
- xiv. A Member commented that discussions had been held at the last Victoria PACT meeting regarding how to reduce shoplifting. He further commented that it had been suggested that more PSNI and community engagement is required to reduce shoplifting.
- xv. Following a discussion regarding food banks within East Belfast, the Area Commander commented that a list of food banks would be collated by the PSNI and circulated to Members for information. He further commented that the PSNI had been reviewing their Facebook page for East Belfast and a new page will go live in the next few weeks. He asked Members to promote and raise awareness of the new Facebook campaign.
- xvi. A Member commented that there had been serious concerns among the local community when violence happens and the community feel that the Neighbourhood Policing Team know who the offenders are and do not do anything.

- xvii. The Area Commander commented that if the PSNI received information regarding people involved in any crime, the PSNI will investigate.
- xviii. A Member commented that confidence in the police had been low, however there are people in the community who want to improve relationships and engage with the PSNI but their esteem had been low due to recent activities and PSNI failing to do anything to prevent the activities.
- xix. Following a discussion regarding ongoing anti social behaviour and public disorder within East Belfast, a Member suggested that the DPCSP could possible fund a summer diversionary programme to engage with people who are involved in anti social behaviour and public disorder activities.
- xx. The Area Commander updated Members on Service First. He commented that through this service, more Neighbourhood Police will be on the ground in East Belfast and that it had been an opportunity for the PSNI to engage further with local communities.

5. Date of Next Meeting

- i. Date, venue and time for next East Belfast DPCSP to be agreed and circulated to Members.
- ii. Members thanked Cllr Newton for his contribution to the Partnership over the last year in his capacity as Chair of the partnership.