

**Minutes of the North Belfast District Policing and
Community Safety Partnership
Policing Committee
Wednesday, 28th May 2014, 5.00pm
1st Floor HR Conference Room, Cecil Ward Building, Belfast**

Members Present	
Councillors	Independents
Councillor Mary Ellen Campbell (Chair)	Ms. Bronach Graham
Councillor Pat Convery	Mr. Pat McLarnon
Councillor JJ Magee	Mr. Ian McLaughlin
Councillor Naomi Thompson	
PSNI	
Chief Inspector Robert Singleton	
Inspector Gavin Kirkpatrick	
Inspector Roy Watton	
Staff Present	Apologies
Richard McLernon, Safer City Coordinator	Councillor Guy Spence
Edele Cleary, Project Officer	Mr. Winston Irvine (Vice Chair)
Saranne Gallagher, Partnership Support Officer	Ms. Jennifer Cornell

1. Welcome & Routine Matters

- i. The Chair, Cllr Mary Ellen Campbell, welcomed Members to the Policing Committee of the District Policing and Community Safety Partnership and noted Members apologies.

2. Declarations of Interest

- i. The Chair highlighted the declarations of interest policy.
- ii. No declarations of interest were recorded.

3. Minutes of North Belfast DPCSP Policing Committee

- i. The Minutes of the North Belfast Policing Committee Meeting held on 23rd April, of which copies were previously circulated, were taken as read and correct.

4. Area Commanders' Update Report

- i. Area Commander Robert Singleton provided Members with an update on crime statistics.
- ii. Area Commander Robert Singleton commented that there had been increase in overall crime rates in North Belfast compared to this time last year.
- iii. The Area Commander commented that there had been an ongoing concern regarding shop lifting at Cityside Shopping Complex. He advised Members that the Neighbourhood Police Team and local traders had a strategy put in place within Cityside to control this issue.

- iv. The Area Commander commented burglary and non-domestic burglary had reduced slightly in comparison to last year.
- v. The Area Commander commented that the outcome rates for last year had been disappointing but the PSNI had been aiming to improve outcomes rates through the implementation of Service First.
- vi. The Area Commander provided Members with an update regarding drugs. He advised Members that in relation to prescription drugs, over 59,000 diazepam tablets had been seized, 135 people searched and vehicles and 29 premises had taken place throughout North Belfast.
- vii. He further commented that a further 42 more drug offences had happened in comparison to last year.
- viii. The Area Commander advised Members that there had been a small reduction in relation to vehicle crime this year. However, he also commented that there had been a small increase in the number of thefts from vehicles.
- ix. The Area Commander also advised Members that there had been vehicles stolen through creeper burglaries. He commented that more than 50% of these incidents had been through open doors and windows.

5. **Review of the previous month's policing**

- i. The Area Commander commented that following the recent football match between Crusaders and Cliftonville, a resolution had been found and that the event passed off without incident.
- ii. The Area Commander advised Members that the Orange Widows Parade and the Giro d'Italia had been successful events and again both events passed off without incident.
- iii. He advised Members that Paula Hilman is leading on Hate Crime for North Belfast.
- iv. The Area Commander provided Members with an update regarding recent paramilitary style attacks within North Belfast.
- v. The Area Commander informed Members that there had been a number of arrests this month. He commented that there had been a recent seizure of explosives, two arrests for hate crime, two arrests for aggravated vehicle and burglary, a further two arrests had been made following a stop and search on the Antrim Road and also following a petrol bomb being thrown at the Orange Hall in Cliftonville Street that an arrest had been made. He advised Members that all information in relation to crime within North Belfast is published through the PSNI Facebook page.
- vi. A Member commented that following a recent search in a house within the Shankill area, asked do the PSNI have a protocol that they have to adhere to before entry into a house or is it the discretion of the officer leading the search.
- vii. The Area Commander replied that it there are parameters which can be used but it is mainly down to the discretion of the officer. The Area Commander further commented that following this incident there had been a learning outcome for the PSNI.

- viii. A Member further asked if TSG had always been used for a search of this nature? The Area Commander commented that pre Service First, the search would have been conducted by the Neighbourhood Police Team. However, due to the resources of Service First, the Neighbourhood Police Team is not available.

6. **Forthcoming policing events/issues**

- i. The Area Commander informed Members that an outcome for the parade on the 7th June remains undecided. The Area Commander provided Members with key dates regarding forthcoming parades in North Belfast.

7. **Members Written Questions and Responses**

- i. No written questions submitted.
- ii. The Safer City Coordinator commented that an oral question had been submitted and will be raised at the next North Belfast DPCSP Public Meeting. Safer City Coordinator to forward question to PSNI.
- iii. A Member asked the Area Commander of his personal opinion of Service First. The Area Commander commented that Service First is about delivering a more effective and efficient police service. He commented that it had been clear from the outset that the implementation of Service First would have a direct impact on Neighbourhood Policing. He further advised Members that Service First had only been in place for approximately eight weeks and that the PSNI would heavily evaluate Service First during the first months of operation.
- iv. A Member asked if Service First had been flexible to deal with issues at a local district level. The Area Commander commented there would be a period of evaluation, whereby a review would include how Service First had been working locally and identify any amendments that would ensure a good PSNI service is provided to the local people of North Belfast.
- v. Members requested the Area Commander to provide an update on Service First at the next DPCSP Meeting.

8. **Date of next meeting**

- i. Members noted the date of the next North Belfast DPCSP Public Meeting as Wednesday 18th June, 7.00pm and the next North Belfast DPCSP Policing Committee/ Private meeting as Wednesday 25th June, 5.00pm.