

**Minutes of the North Belfast District Policing and
Community Safety Partnership
Policing Committee
Wednesday, 23rd April 2014, 5.30pm
1st Floor HR Conference Room, Cecil Ward Building, Belfast**

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

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 12th March, of which copies were previously circulated, were taken as read and correct.
- ii. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that a written response to the PSNI questions and the invitation to the Confidence in Policing Conference that had been circulated electronically.

4. Area Commanders' Update Report

- i. Chief Inspector Robert Singleton provided Members with an update on criminal statistics.
- ii. Chief Inspector 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 non-domestic burglary had been down by 4.3%.

- iv. The Area Commander advised Members that violent crime with injury (non domestic) had been down and violent crime with injury (domestic) had remained the same. He further advised Members that the outcome rates for violence with injury had increased slightly by 3.1%.
- v. The Area Commander informed Members that there had been an increase in the number of reported thefts and specifically in relation to shoplifting. He commented that there had been a pattern of thefts occurring around the Cityside Shopping Complex and would provide Members with an update at the next DPCSP meeting.

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

- i. The Area Commander commented that following a recent number of burglaries within the Newlodge area, the PSNI had produced a leaflet to raise awareness of recent burglaries which had been distributed to the local community.
- ii. He further advised Members that during the St Patricks period an increase in overall crime and anti social behaviour had been recorded. The Area Commander also commented that with the emergence of seasonal issues, an increase in anti social behaviour may occur.
- iii. The Area Commander advised Members that following the recent incident in Twadell, three arrests had been made and the offenders had been in custody charged with criminal damage.
- iv. The Area Commander also provided an update regarding the implementation of Service First. He advised Members that there had been a regime of meetings to review and monitor progress.
- v. In relation to a previous concern highlighted by a Member at the last NDPCSP Meeting, the Area Commander confirmed that guidance had been circulated to all PSNI officers regarding sports equipment and for all PSNI officers to be mindful of how they approach young people across North Belfast.

6. **Forthcoming policing events/issues**

- i. The Area Commander informed Members that in advance of the Cliftonville and Crusaders football match at the weekend, dialogue had been continuing with both clubs and the Irish Football Association to prevent any public disorder.
- ii. He also advised Members of the forthcoming events, particularly the Orange Widows Parade on 28th April, Giro d'Italia and local government elections.
- iii. The Area Commander advised Members that his priorities currently had been with the tensions within loyalism, hate crime, interface crime and distracted burglaries.
- iv. A Member commented that he found the figures in relation to drugs alarming. He further commented that the local community feels frustrated, as they believe that when information had been provided to the PSNI regarding drug activity, that it had not been acted upon which subsequently allows the crime to continue.

- vi. The Area Commander commented that there needed to be an available resource to do searches. He further advised that there had been a need to ensure that all information received by the PSNI had been handled by the appropriate team.
- vii. Members requested an update from the PSNI regarding a more comprehensive analysis of drug crime in North Belfast.
- viii. A Member asked for clarification regarding a discussion held previously in relation to contested space. He commented that information had been forwarded to the Policing Board regarding the discussion and subsequently the Chief Constable had made a recommendation. The Member requested clarification regarding if the recommendation had been implemented.
- ix. A Member asked what happens if a Councillor is not re-elected. The Safer City Assistant Manager commented that the Partnership under the current process would remain the same until March 2015. She advised that Policing Board would recruit new independent members in the Autumn.
- x. A Member asked if the structure of the Partnership would change. The Safer City Assistant Manager commented that Members had recently met with the Criminal Justice Inspectorate to review the structure of the (D) PCSP's. She commented that it would be the Department of Justice and the Policing Boards responsibility to implement any recommendations from the review.

7. Members Written Questions and Responses

- i. No written questions submitted.

8. Date of next meeting

- i. Members noted the date of the next North Belfast DPCSP meeting as Wednesday 28th May, 5.00pm.