

**Minutes of the North Belfast District Policing and
Community Safety Partnership
Private Meeting
Wednesday, 12 March 2014, 6.00pm
1st Floor HR Conference Room, Cecil Ward Building, Belfast**

Members Present	
Councillors	Independents
Councillor Patrick Convery (Chair)	Ms. Jennifer Cornell (Vice Chair)
Councillor Mary Ellen Campbell	Ms. Bronach Graham
Councillor JJ Magee	Mr. Winston Irvine
Councillor Naomi Thompson	Mr. Pat McLarnon
	Mr. Ian McLaughlin
Designated Organisations	
Chief Inspector Bobby Singleton	Malachy McKinney, NIHE
Inspector Gavin Kirkpatrick	Patricia Muldoon, YJA
Inspector Robin Gouk	Alan Wilson, BELB
Staff Present	Apologies
Alison Allen, Safer City Manager	Councillor Guy Spence
Richard McLernon, Safer City Coordinator	Davy Harbinson, NIFRS
Andrew Charles, Project Officer	Mark Nicolson, PBNI
Saranne Gallagher, Partnership Support Officer	

1. Welcome/Apologies/ Declarations of Interest/NICEM Presentation

- i. The Chair, Cllr Patrick Convery, welcomed Members to the Private Meeting of the District Policing and Community Safety Partnership.
- ii. The Chair highlighted the declarations of interest policy. No declarations of interest were recorded.
- iii. Joanna Kuberczyk from NICEM presented to Members regarding race hate crime within Northern Ireland. She provided Members with an overview on bi-lingual support for victims of race hate crime. She also advised Members on the impact of racial harassment and how NICEM respond and support victims of race hate crime.
- iv. A Member asked what options are available to residents who own their own house and are victims of race hate crime. A Member commented that there are a range of safety measures that all tenants can apply for through the NIHE. He further commented that the NIHE can re-house people immediately but if the tenant wants to remain in their house, the NIHE with the assistance of the PSNI can implement protective measures.
- v. A Member provided an update on new initiatives by NIHE to support NIACRO and Extern Projects.
- vi. The Chair thanked Joanna for attending the North Belfast DPCSP and also for her very informative presentation.

2. Minutes of North Belfast DPCSP Policing Committee

- i. The Minutes of the North Belfast Private Meeting held on 26th February, of which copies were previously circulated, were taken as read and correct.

3. Community Safety Updates

- i. Following a paper circulated to Members at the last North DPCSP Meeting regarding Belfast City Council's election protocol arrangements and the Purdah period, the Safer City Manager provided clarity for Members around these arrangements. She advised Members that the Partnership is an independent body and has independent decision making power. She confirmed that it was for North Belfast DPCSP to determine how best to proceed regarding having Private Meetings during the Purdah period. She asked Members to note that a number of Elected Members had already indicated they would be busy during this period and that an agreement is in place between the Designate Organisations where they have agreed not to exercise their vote at meetings. The Safer City Manager asked members to also note that this could result in a situation where decisions are taken by Independent Members alone with no Elected Member input.
- ii. A Member asked for clarity and confirmation that Independent Members could make a decision without Elected Members input. The Safer City Manager commented that was the case, however she advised Members that she had consulted the Town Solicitor on this matter that the recommendation from both herself and the Town Solicitor was that it would not be in line with good governance principles to have meetings where decisions could be taken without elected member input.
- iii. A Member asked what the options were. The Safer City Manager advised Members that there were two recommendations from the original paper submitted to the partnership at its last meeting. Firstly, that the Partnership should adopt the Election Protocol in terms of conduct during that period and secondly, that the Partnership would not schedule private meetings of the partnership during the election period.
- iv. A Member commented that the current Elected Members within the Partnership would remain Elected Members of the Partnership until April 2015. The Member proposed that the Partnership should continue with meetings during this period and it would be up to Elected Members to give a commitment to attend meetings. A short discussion took place during which three Elected Members indicated that they intended to be in attendance during the Purdah period with another two Elected Members indicated that they would take direction from their Party, so could not give a firm commitment either way at this time.
- v. Following the discussion Members agreed for meetings to continue as normal, and for Elected Members to attend when available.
- vi. The Safer City Manager asked that her recommendations were noted in the minutes. She further advised Members that the Partnership should exercise caution when considering making any policy or financial decisions if elected members were not present as this may present difficulties at any future meetings. The Safer City Manager also requested permission from Members to attend any private meetings of North Belfast DPCSP during the Purdah period to advise them on decision making and to minimise risk. This was agreed by Members.
- vii. A Member commented that there had been an increase in car crime within North Belfast. She asked the Area Commander if there had been an update in relation to the recent

activity. The Area Commander commented that he had not been aware of this activity and would look into it and report back at the next DPCSP Meeting.

- viii. A Member commented that there had been recent reports of scramblers within the local area and requested that the PSNI monitor the situation. She further advised Members that another Safe Place Awareness Training session would take place on 26th March and welcomed Members to attend.
- ix. A Member provided an update regarding work with young people. He commented that young people had identified a request to develop a small video in relation to stopping organised fights. He further commented that the project would require external facilitators and funding to cover associated costs. He asked if Members had any suggestions on how the project could be funded to forward information on.
- x. A Member commented that the Lower Shankill Youth Project in partnership with Tennant Street Neighbourhood Police Team had a successful 'pizza and peeler event'. He commented that the event allowed for young people to engage with the PSNI, build on relations and thanked Inspector Gouk for his input.
- xi. A Member commented that there had been a number of incidents around the Sportsman Bar and requested if PSNI would monitor the situation.
- xii. A Member commented if the DPCSP could be aware of costs incurred by schools to distribute information and how the DPCSP could assist with making this easier.
- xiii. Inspector Gouk advised Members that a new PSNI Emergency number, 101, would be effective from 24th March. He advised Members that 999 will still be in use and will gradually phased out.
- xiv. A Member updated the Partnership on a joint initiative with the PSNI and Youth Justice Agency. The initiative will focus around police and youth justice issues and the first seminar will be held on 25th March.
- xv. The Chair commented that following recent incidents on the Antrim Road, the local community had been concerned and their fears had been heightened. The Chair commented that the PSNI need to do their best to get the people reasonable committing these crimes.

4. **Chair Update on Work with Belfast PCSP**

- i. The Chair advised Members that the working group 'Policing in Confidence' had not met and therefore could not provide an update.

5. **Priorities for Action and Timetabling**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator circulated a Draft Action Plan to Members. He informed Members that a consultant had been reviewing the Plan to include performance indicators and if Members had any suggestions regarding performance indicators and how they can be measured to forward for inclusion. He advised Members that the deadline for the final plan to be signed off is 26th March.

- ii. A Member asked if all projects are evaluated. The Safer City Manager advised Members that verification visits are conducted, however did note that there are weaknesses around procedures and believes that all projects should be evaluated. She advised Members that a framework would allow the Partnership to review what they had achieved.
- iii. The Chair agreed with the implementation of a framework and that there had been a need to move away from doing evaluations ad hoc.
- iv. A Member commented that the targets within the Action Plan need to be more specific, smarter and provide detail of the officer who will be responsible for delivering against a target.
- v. The Safer City Coordinator proposed for Members to meet to review that Action Plan. Members agreed to this proposal.
- vi. The Chair requested for evaluation forms to be distributed at Public Meetings.

6. **Sign Posting**

- i. No information discussed.

7. **Items for Actions**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that Belfast PCSP had appointed LK Communications to develop Communication Strategy.
- ii. He advised Members that each partnership has been asked to nominate 3 x Elected Members, 3 x Independent members and three representatives from our statutory partners to take in part in the first phase of the consultation process.
- iii. The following Members agreed to participate in the consultation process, Cllr Mary Ellen Campbell, Jennifer Cornell, Patricia Muldoon, Malachy McKinney and Bronach Graham (evenings only).
- iv. The Chair advised Members of the next North Belfast DPCSP Public Meeting and proposed the venue for the meeting to be the Spectrum Centre. Members agreed to this proposal.
- v. The Safer City Manager also encouraged Members to participate in the Criminal Inspector Review Meeting. She advised Members that the next meeting will be held on Tuesday 8th March.

8. **Next Meeting**

- i. Date, time and venue of next DPCSP Meeting to be agreed and circulated to Members.
- ii. Members thanked Cllr Convery for his commitment, support and dedication to the Partnership through his role as Chair.