

**Minutes of the North Belfast District Policing and  
Community Safety Partnership  
Private Meeting  
Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2014, 6.00pm  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor HR Conference Room, Cecil Ward Building, Belfast**

<b>Members Present</b>	
<b>Councillors</b>	<b>Independents</b>
Councillor Mary Ellen Campbell (Chair)	Mr. Ian McLaughlin
Councillor Pat Convery	Ms. Bronach Graham
Councillor Guy Spence	
Councillor Naomi Thompson	
Councillor JJ Magee	
<b>Designated Organisations</b>	
Chief Inspector Robert Singleton	Mr Mark Nicholson
Mr. Martin Morgan	Mr. Alan Wilson
Ms. Patricia Muldoon	Mr. Liam Gunn
Inspector Gavin Kirkpatrick	Chief Superintendent Nigel Grimshaw
<b>Staff Present</b>	<b>Apologies</b>
Richard McLernon, Safer City Coordinator	Mr. Pat McLarnon
Edele Cleary, Project Officer	Mr. Winston Irvine
Alison Allen, Safer City Unit Manager	Mr. Malachy McKinney

**1. Welcome/Apologies/ Declarations of Interest**

- i. The Chair, Cllr Mary Ellen Campbell, welcomed Members to the Private Meeting of the North Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership and noted apologies provided.
- ii. The Chair highlighted the declarations of interest policy and informed Members that in the case where a member has a declaration of interest, the Member must state what the interest is and remove themselves from the room while the discussions are being held. No declarations of interest were recorded.

**2. Minutes of North Belfast DPCSP Private Meeting**

- i. The Minutes of the North Belfast Private Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> June, of which copies were previously circulated, were taken as read and correct.
- ii. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with an update regarding actions from the last DPCSP Meeting.
- iii. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that a business meeting with the Parks Department, NIPB and PSNI is to be held next week. A follow up meeting will be held for DPCSP Members to attend.  
Chief Inspector Singleton informed Members that he has met with Assistant Director of Parks, Rose Crozier. He stated that it was a very positive meeting with a focus on ensuring longer term safety, not just short term resolution to ASB. In recent weeks PSNI have noticed improved communication between PSNI and Park Wardens.  
The Safer City Co-ordinator informed Members that the concerns in relation to ASB at Cavehill Country Park are being fed into these discussions with parks.

- iv. Chief Inspector Singleton informed Members that there has been a delay in providing a map for the new policing boundaries. The delay is due to internal resourcing issues however he is optimistic that there will be a report by the end of the month.  
**Action-** Chief Inspector Singleton to provide an electronic version of the map to Safer City Coordinator who will circulate to Members.  
In the future PSNI may request some financial support to produce and circulate information cards.
- v. The Safer City Project Officer informed Members that there has been a delay in receiving evaluation information on projects delivered in 2013/14. A report will be provided at the next meeting in relation to small grants funded projects in North (2013/14).
- vi. Alan Wilson informed Members that a report detailing breakdown of funding available from BELB will be ready by mid September. The report will be done in district electoral areas rather than wards.  
A Member suggested that the overview should include how much per head is spent within various areas e.g. Shankill, Lower Oldpark, New Lodge etc. Another Member also suggested that the report is broken down into wards rather than DEA's as smaller areas would be more beneficial.  
Alan Wilson explained that BELB target areas of deprivation, not numbers. BELB are looking towards educational outcomes for young people. Members can access the area plans on BELB website.  
Alan explained that it is possible for some community groups to take over the BELB club e.g. Ashton Community Trust has taken over the running of the BELB Club.
- vii. Mark Nicholson explained that the Reducing Offending in Partnership presentation will be delivered at the November meeting. The presentation will last approx 20mins with input from YJA, PBNI and PSNI.
- viii. PSNI were to provide an update on legislation (if any) regarding flags being put on lamp posts. Chief Inspector Singleton informed Members that it is not an offence to put a flag on a lamp post. The issue is complex as it doesn't lie with any single agency. PSNI can only remove a flag if there is a substantial risk to public safety.
- ix. The Partnership Support Officer circulated the Belfast PCSP Drug Awareness Campaign Evaluation report.
- x. Safer City Coordinator confirmed that funding for the New Lodge Arts Group came from the DOJ and not North DPCSP.
- xi. The Safer City Manager provided an update on Belfast PCSP Hate Crime. Hate Crime has been identified as a priority and ACC Kerr and Suzanne Wylie are directing their efforts at Communication and Messaging and identifying gaps at a Community Level. A mapping exercise is currently ongoing. The mapping exercise is approximately 90% complete and upon completion the report will be circulated around DPCSP members.  
**Action-** Safer City Manager to circulate paper taken to PCSP on 12<sup>th</sup> August.

### 3. Community Safety Updates

- i. A Member provided an update regarding the work of Youth Justice Agency. She advised Members that they are getting ready to start the public order initiatives with schools and York Road PSNI team. YJA hope to extend the "prevent and deter" initiative to the Tennent Street area.

- ii. NIHE representative explained that they currently have around 50 cases open in North Belfast Housing Executive Office however this is a standard level of cases.
- iii. PBNI representative updated members on work with YJA, Environmental Health and PSNI in relation to purchase and use of Legal Highs in North Belfast.  
Mark updated Members on the visit to Thompson House. If Members would like to rearrange an evening visit to Thompson House Mark would be happy to coordinate.  
In North Belfast PBNI have 107 people on Community Service; 257 on a Probation Court Order; 105 on License and 14 on Juvenile Justice Orders.
- iv. A Member provided an update on the work of HSCT. The Children's Home at College Park Avenue will be moving. HSCT will be delivering an Edge of Care package. This includes intensive support for families in community, looking at teenagers. The package attempts to keep teenagers out of the care system.
- v. PSNI updated on an issue at Shandon Court in Lower Oldpark. PSNI are working with NIHE and hope to have resolution within the next few days.  
Parades over the next few weeks include the Royal Black District Church Parade and Henry Joy McCracken Parade.  
PSNI priorities over the coming months include Burglary; Sexual Offences and Hate Crime.
- vi. A member requested that an update on policing is added to the Private Meeting Agenda.
- vii. BELB have submitted a bid to the department for additional funding for a Halloween Scheme.

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

- i. The Chair advised Members that she attended her second Belfast PCSP Meeting.

#### 5. **Priorities for Action and Timetabling**

##### i. **North DPCSP Draft Disability Action Plan**

Draft action plan was circulated to members. Members are asked to read the document and reply with comments by Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2014.

##### ii. **Child Sexual Exploitation**

Paper to be circulated to members

##### iii. **Communications Strategy**

Paper circulated to Members for information.

#### 6. **Sign Posting**

- i. No issues for sign posting noted.

#### 7. **Items for Action**

## a) DPCSP Approval Process

- i) A member stated that clarity is required on the decision making process as BCC officers were taking a nil response as a yes and support for the initiative. Some members felt that the turnaround time for applications was too short and not responding to the application should not be taken as agreement or disagreement. Some members stated that due to other commitments that they were unable to check their personal emails throughout the day and as a result may not respond within the timeframe given.
- ii) Some members explained that they are unavailable to attend working groups due to their own work commitments.  
A member valued the work out of the working groups stating that last year successes came from the working groups e.g. Youth Event, Domestic Violence Event etc
- iii) Members discussed authorisation of the working groups. The Safer City Manager explained that there should be a quorum of at least 5 DPCSP members when making decisions about expenditure. Ensuring a quorum of 5 members when making decisions about expenditure also provides a level of protection for the BCC officers administrating the projects.  
DCPSP Members have the ability to delegate officers/ working groups the authority to spend in emergency situations.
- iv) Members discussed an option where decisions in relation to expenditure being brought to a specially convened panel. A Member questioned whether this could be done via email rather than meeting? Some Members do not like email system as previously no response has been taken as support for the project. Another Member question whether decisions could be made via telephone or is a paper trail required?
- v) Members discussed giving authority to Safer City Unit Manager, Assistant Safer City Manager and Safer City Coordinator to spend under £1000 in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of North DPCSP.  
Safer City Unit Manager stated that this was not good practise to follow this process; this should only be used in emergencies.
- vi) Some Members felt that applications for funding should be dealt with by the partnership while others felt that there had to be a degree of flexibility when need to issue funding in an emergency.
- vii) Members felt that a deadline should be put on the policing committee application form requesting applications to be submitted at least 6 weeks before the delivery date. This amendment should be communicated to the groups intending to apply.  
Action- amend Policing Committee Application with an application deadline.
- viii) Members discussed “emergency” applications. A member stated that it was difficult to be descriptive as there are sometimes unforeseen circumstances. A member expressed that some applications currently coming in at last minute are not exceptional circumstances e.g. applications for work on 11<sup>th</sup> July.  
Safer City Manager assured members that she would scrutinise applications in an emergency situation and is happy to be held accountable for any decisions made at a future meeting.
- ix) A Member raised the code of conduct for new Councillors and if there are any risks around making financial decisions.

Action- Alison to seek legal advice and defer decision until the next meeting.

**b) DPCSP Action Plan Update**

i) "To undertake an independent evaluation for North Belfast DPCSP to assess action plan delivery and partnership performance"  
Safer City Coordinator requests approval to appoint an independent evaluator. Action- Safer City Coordinator to bring Terms of Reference to the next Private Meeting.

ii) "To work in partnership with the Belfast PCSP to deliver strategic citywide projects."  
Request from Belfast PCSP for £5000 contribution towards a drug awareness campaign. Approaches have been made to the other PCSP's in NI for contributions towards the campaign. The money requested is specifically to enhance the campaign within North Belfast. A member noted that there has been a recent drugs death in North Belfast as well as two individuals hospitalised for consuming legal highs. Members agreed to contribute £5000 towards the drug awareness campaign to enhance the campaign within North Belfast. Funding to be allocated from "Drugs and Alcohol related offending" budget.

Belfast PCSP has requested £1500 contribution towards the Youth Awards due to take place in City Hall on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2014. The funding is towards catering, awards and entertainment at the event. 2013/14 budget for Youth Awards totalled £30,000 however this year the budget has been cut to £15,000. A member suggested using talented young people from North Belfast Youth's to provide entertainment.  
North DPCSP does not have a specific budget for engaging with Youth however Members agreed to fund £1500 towards Youth Awards 2014.

iii) Safer City Project Officer updated Members on the drugs bins. Permission has been granted to install a drugs bin at the Co-Op on Oldpark Road. FASA have stated that the bin will be hopefully be installed by the end of the summer. FASA need to re-engage with all community groups to inform them of the installation of the bin and provide information sessions.

iv) "To support the development of the Good Morning Scheme within North Belfast"  
Members agreed to fund Good Morning North Belfast £1630 to purchase practical items including defender alarms, door handle alarms, window alarms and safety cans to distribute to elderly and vulnerable residents. In addition this funding will fund two information events to promote the Good Morning Scheme in North Belfast and encourage new volunteers to assist in delivering the project.

v) Members discussed a proposal to hold a seminar on Hate Crime with an invited audience of community, voluntary and statutory representatives. A Member stated that PCSP are looking to run a Belfast wide event. Safer City Coordinator agreed to link to PCSP plans to hold a Hate Crime event.

vi) Members were updated on the work of the Domestic and Sexual Violence Subgroup. Members agreed to fund £950+VAT to purchase 300 key ring alarms, 200 Window Alarms and 48 Door Wedge Alarms to be distributed by PSNI Domestic Abuse Officers. Members also agreed to contribute £3000 towards emergency packs for victims entering and leaving the Women's Aid refuge in North Belfast.  
Members agreed to provide £700 towards two sessions of Onus "Safe Place" training for Neighbourhood Police Officers in North and West Belfast. PSNI will match fund £700 towards the training, venue hire and catering. The training opportunity is open to North DPCSP members. Dates to be circulated to members.

Members discussed raising awareness of Domestic Violence and support services within Minority Groups. Domestic Violence Subgroup to liaise with Hate Crime Working Group to run an awareness event not solely on Domestic Violence but incorporate personal safety, hate crime etc

- vii) Safer City Coordinator updated on Small Grants Tranche II. Projects are due to commence on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2014 therefore there is a tight turnaround in assessing the applications and issuing funding to successful groups. BCC staff officers will assess the applications firstly and make recommendations to a quorum panel. Safer City Coordinator requested volunteers to sit on the Small Grants panel. Members asked if the panel could be held after 4pm. Statutory Members asked if they were not available could they send a representative on their behalf. Cllr Thompson, Cllr Magee, Cllr Spence and Bronach Graham volunteered to sit on the Small Grants panel.

Safer City Coordinator updated members that groups can apply to small grants projects up to the value of £5000. North DPCSP has approximately £11,000 remaining in their small grants allocation. A proposal was put to the partnership to fund 3 projects rather than 2 projects if each project requests £5000. Members agreed. Safer City Project Coordinator to review budgets and identify where the extra expenditure can be taken.

- viii) Members were provided with a Community Tensions Project Plan at the meeting. Safer City Coordinator recommended that £10,000 is split equally among partners within the Greater Ardoyne Tension Monitoring Group. A Member felt that this was not good governance to split the money equally. Another Member agreed and feels that the work of Tension Monitoring Interface Groups overlaps. He requested information on how the funding is monitored and evaluated. He believes there has to be more input from groups working on the ground and questioned why the groups could not come together and work as a consortium.

The four areas represented within Greater Ardoyne Tension Monitoring Group includes; Ardoyne, Upper Ardoyne, Woodvale and Oldpark. PSNI would like to see the individual merit of each project.

Two requests for funding with Safer City Coordinator at present- request from Ardoyne Association for £900 for family fun day and £1000 request from CRUA for a single identity diversionary trip.

Safer City Manager is happy to assess applications and if successful happy to look at a method of supporting projects as an interim measure.

A member suggested that outcomes should be written into the application process.

### **c) Draft Annual Report**

The Draft Annual Report was circulated to Members prior to this evenings meeting. Members discussed the attendance at meetings section of the report. A Member stated that designates should be recognised for attending additional meetings. The Annual Report should state that Cllr Magee only joined the partnership mid way through the year. Safer City Coordinator to review attendance at meetings section of the annual report.

A Member stated that the case study information within the report was very good.

### **8. Next Meeting**

- i. Members noted that the next North Belfast DPCSP Policing Committee and Private Meeting will be held on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> September, 5.00pm, Cecil Ward Building.
- ii. The Safer City Coordinator informed Members that a North Belfast DPCSP planning session would be held in September and a date/venue would be circulated to Members.
- iii. Members noted that North Belfast DPCSP will facilitate a Public Meeting in September. The Safer City Coordinator asked Members to suggest a theme for the Meeting. The Area Commander suggested for the PSNI to facilitate a table top exercise at this meeting, whereby it would assist with the PSNI engaging with the local community and providing information on the roles and responsibilities of the PSNI. Members welcomed this suggestion. Members suggested The Mac or University of Ulster Belfast as a venue for the meeting.