

**Minutes of the North Belfast District Policing and  
Community Safety Partnership  
Private Meeting  
Wednesday, 23 April 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)         | Jennifer Cornell            |
| Councillor JJ Magee                            | Bronach Graham              |
| Councillor Guy Spence                          | Ian McLaughlin              |
| <b>Designated Organisations</b>                |                             |
| Chief Inspector Bobby Singleton                | Patricia Muldoon, YJA       |
| Inspector Gavin Kirkpatrick                    | Mark Nicolson, PBNI         |
| Inspector Roy Watton                           | Alan Wilson, BELB           |
| Malachy McKinney, NIHE                         |                             |
| <b>Staff Present</b>                           | <b>Apologies</b>            |
| Richard McLernon, Safer City Coordinator       | Councillor Pat Convery      |
| Andrew Charles, Project Officer                | Councillor Naomi Thompson   |
| Saranne Gallagher, Partnership Support Officer | Winston Irvine (Vice Chair) |
| Lorna Somers, Safer City Assistant Manager     | Davy Harbinson, NIFRS       |
|  | Pat McLarnon                |

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

- i. The Chair, Cllr Mary Ellen Campbell, welcomed Members to the Private Meeting of the District Policing and Community Safety Partnership and noted apologies provided.
- ii. The Chair highlighted the declarations of interest policy. 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 12<sup>th</sup> March and Public Meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 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. Following a discussion regarding an action from the previous meeting, the PSNI to provide an update regarding car crime in North Belfast at the next DPCSP meeting.
- iv. It was noted that the issues of care homes was to be raised by political parties, in particular the impact on policing resources. The Safer City Coordinator noted that the issue had been raised with Northern Ireland Policing Board.

- v. The Safer City Coordinator also advised Members that a written response to the questions submitted by Mrs Lamb had been provided and circulated.

### 3. **Community Safety Updates**

- i. A Member provided an update regarding the possibility of budgetary constraints on the Probation Board. He advised Members that if budgets are reduced this could have an impact on funding community led initiatives. The Member commented that he will keep the Partnership updated regarding this issue.
- ii. A Member commented that she had further concerns regarding levels of hate crime, distraction burglaries, anti social behaviour, quads and litter in parks particularly Ligoneil Park.
- iii. The Chair asked in relation to the issues highlighted by the Member, if outreach workers could provide any assistance. A Member commented that outreach workers had been engaging with local young people and had been doing their best to address the situation but it had been a difficult situation to resolve.
- iv. The Chair commented that the idea of a Partnership is collaborative working and there had been a need to regain this focus again.
- v. A Member commented that there could be an opportunity whereby offenders on community service could assist with the clear up in Ligoneil Park.
- vi. A Member commented that there had been anti social behaviour in Woodvale Park and that there had been ongoing discussions with the PSNI and Belfast City Council to develop a series of events that would assist the community to take back ownership of the park. The Member commented that the community had seen this as a way forward to stop anti social behaviour and that this ethos could be rolled out across Belfast.
- vii. The Area Commander suggested that in relation to Ligoneil Park, the Partnership could look at community service and adapt a strategic approach to resolve the issue. Members welcomed this suggestion. The Area Commander agreed to convene an interagency meeting to discuss hot spots/parks.
- viii. The Safer City Assistant Manager provided an update on the work with the Parks Department. She commented that there had been a need identified for Parks to work directly with units across Council. She advised Members that a proposal on how this work will be conducted will be circulated to all DPCSP's. She also suggested for a representative from Parks to attend a future DPCSP meeting to provide Members with an update on the services that they provide and how the DPCSP can avail of these services.
- ix. The Safer City Assistant Manager also provided an update regarding Neighbourhood Watch including Parks Watch and School Watch.
- x. A Member commented that she had recently attended a workshop 'Design out Crime' which focused on anti social behaviour in parks. She commented that the course had been very good, the principles were simple and easily applied. She recommended that Members attended the course.
- xi. A Member commented that there had been difficulties for outreach workers gaining access to parks due to trespassing. He commented that the only park they could access had been Orangefield Park. He further commented that outreach workers tried to engage with young

people before they go into parks but it had been problematic due to legal and ethical issues.

- xii. A Member commented that he had been disillusioned to how a small group of young people can hold a community to ransom. He commented that there had been ongoing discussions with social services to resolve this issue.
- xiii. A Member commented that there had not been a representative from social services at recent DPCSP meetings. She suggested that the Partnership write to the Trust to request reasons for non attendance. She further asked why had three young people been charged with hate crime for removing flags from Twadell? The Area Commander commented that the incident had been classed as sectarian which resulted in a charge being made. She further asked if the removal of election posters by individuals had been legal? The Area Commander commented that if individuals removed posters it would be viewed as criminal damage.
- xiv. A Member commented that he is also disillusioned about issues happening around interface areas and young people. He commented in order to address issues with young people there needs to be a multi agency approach adapted. The Member also provided an update regarding the Lower Shankill Young People Interface Project 'Carlisle Cluster'.
- xv. A Member commented that not all young people engage in anti social behaviour and caution needs to be taken when referencing young people. The Member circulated copies of the Youth Conference Report 2014 and highlighted that at the conference young people identified what issues they were concerned about. He further advised Members that he is currently working on a new plan and if the Partnership wanted anything referenced in the plan to forward the information on.
- xvi. A Member requested that a copy of the report to be circulated to the full Partnership.
- xvii. The Area Commander commented that following the implementation of Service First police boundaries would change. He commented that there will be a PSNI engagement and communication plan which will be circulated to all DPCSP's on completion. He suggested that there had been an opportunity for other agencies contact details to be included on the plan. If partners wanted to avail of the opportunity to forward on relevant contact details.
- xviii. The Area Commander also informed Members of the PSNI's new social media campaign and highlighted that the campaign will allow for local community engagement and for information to be shared with stakeholders.
- xix. A Member asked why the PSNI had not been monitoring social media sites specifically in relation to organised fights. The Area Commander commented that this had been a central issue for the PSNI. He further commented that the issue had been monitored and will continue to be monitored.
- xx. Inspector Roy Watton advised Members of a project called 'Beyond the Margins'. He informed Members that the project had a mentoring scheme focus which assisted young people to engage directly with the PSNI. He commented that to date the project had been very successful and continues to flourish.
- xxi. A Member commented that he had attended numerous local meetings to prevent arranged fights being organised through social media. He further commented that it had been discussed at the meetings the importance of Neighbourhood Police Teams remaining consistent within each of the areas.

- xxii. Inspector Roy Watton commented that there had been a need for all to be open minded, work in partnership and focus on building relationships to enhance community safety in all areas of North Belfast.
- xxiii. A Member provided an update regarding on ongoing issues for the NIHE. He updated Members of a stringent exercise that had been conducted into tenancy fraud and will provide an update at future DPCSP meetings.

#### 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. Following a discussion, Members requested an action to be noted in relation to anti social behaviour in local parks and surrounding hot spots.
- ii. A Member asked in the absence of funding from SEUPB for unwanted bonfires, would Belfast City Council be financially supporting diversionary programmes.
- iii. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised Members of the forth coming funding available in relation to unwanted bonfires.

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

- i. Members requested for concerns identified regarding issues within local parks to be highlighted to the Parks Department and for contact details of groups who are facilitating diversionary programmes to be circulated.

#### 7. **Items for Actions**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator presented to Members a report regarding local designate working groups. He advised Members that the purpose of this report had been to give an overview of the options around local designation, following a discussion at the March 31<sup>st</sup> 2014 Public Meeting in West Kirk Presbyterian Church.
- ii. The Safer City Coordinator updated Members that following the last North Belfast Public Meeting regarding the request for an older person representative to become a Member of the NDPCSP. He advised Members that there had been very little guidance regarding the appointment of local designates and that clarification had been sought from the Policing Board and to date a response had not been provided.
- iii. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised Members of the difficulties paying local designates. She further advised Members to take caution when appointing only one section of Section75 Groups and commented that by doing this the Partnership could be opened to challenge.
- iv. A Member commented that she found the administration restrictions placed on the DPCSP very frustrating. The Safer City Assistant Manager commented that the DPCSP had not

been restricted due to administration burdens but had to be mindful of governance issues and due diligence.

- v. Following a discussion, Members agreed that there should be a place available for an older person representative on the DPCSP. However, Members agreed that a further discussion had been required regarding how the older person representative is appointed. Members requested for a report to be provided at the next DPCSP to look at options.
- vi. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with an update regarding the North Belfast DPCSP Action Plan 2014/15. He advised Members that project briefs would be completed and discussed at the next DPCSP. He commented that once the project briefs had been approved by Members, he requested that delegated authority be granted to allow officers to implement and deliver projects. He commented that Members would be updated on project delivery at DPCSP meetings.
- vii. A Member commented that the DPCSP should lead on projects not officers. Members requested for the membership of working groups to be reviewed and for Members to identify where they are best placed.
- viii. Following a discussion regarding Members attendance at DPCSP meetings and their attendance at other meetings, Members requested for clarification to be sought from the Policing Board in relation to why the Chair and Vice Chair are able to attend additional meeting and receive payment.
- ix. A Member asked for an update regarding the PCSP Communication Strategy and the ongoing consultation. The Safer City Assistant Manager commented that LK Communications had been due to complete consultation by the end of June and a full report would be circulated to Members for review.
- x. A Member commented that she had been contacted by LK Communications but had not heard any further correspondence. The Safer City Coordinator commented that he would contact LK Communications regarding correspondence with Members.
- xi. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with an update regarding the discussion that took place in NICVA on the 10<sup>th</sup> March 2014, around the issue of Hate Crime in North Belfast.
- xii. He provided Members with an overview of the key actions agreed and associated budget.
- xiii. Members noted the paper.
- xiv. The Area Commander advised Members that Nick Williams had been appointed the PSNI Hate and Signal Crime Officer for North Belfast.

## 8. **Next Meeting**

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