

# Minutes of the West Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership

## Private Meeting

Conor Room City Hall  
Monday, 29th September, 2014

### Political Members

Alderman Frank McCoubrey (Chair)  
Councillor Steven Corr  
Councillor Matt Garrett  
Councillor Máire Hendron  
Councillor Billy Hutchinson

### Independent Members

### Statutory Designated Organisations

Sharon Beattie, NIHE  
Tommy Boyle, H&SCT  
Carole Carville, PBNI  
Davy Harbinson, NIFRS

Inspector Jamie Hughes, PSNI  
Angela McKeown, BELB  
Aideen McLaughlin, YJA  
John McLaughlin, BELB

### Locally Designated Bodies

Paula Kerr

### Staff Present

Alan Wardle, Safer City Coordinator  
Katharine McCrum, Partnership Support Officer

### Apologies

Harry Connolly (Vice-Chair)  
Breige Brownlee  
Chief Inspector Anthony McNally, PSNI  
Michael O'Hara, Upper Falls Community Safety Forum

## 1. Welcome and Routine Matters

- i. The Chair welcomed Members to the meeting and noted the apologies provided.

## 2. Declarations of Interest

- i. Members were asked to declare any material interests which they may have in relation to any item of business to be considered during the meeting.
- ii. Paula Kerr and Angela McKeown declared an interest in Item 6 of agenda.

## 3. Minutes

- i. The minutes of 28th August, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct.
- ii. By way of an update from the previous meeting, the Safer City Coordinator advised Members that the Council prosecuted 75 people for on-street drinking between 1st April 2013 and 31st March 2014. Since 1st April 2014, 29 people have been prosecuted.
- iii. With regards to the letter to the Joint Committee regarding the cuts to PCSP funds, the Safer City Coordinator advised that the letter was currently being reviewed by

management and would be forwarded to Members once signed and submitted to the Policing Board.

#### **4. Chairs Update on the PCSP**

- i. Members were reminded that the nomination period of the PCSP Youth Awards was currently open and applications were encouraged.

#### **5. Divis Intervention Presentation**

- i. Members were advised that the Divis Intervention Project was currently being evaluated and once this was complete, a presentation would be given to the DPCSP. The Safer City Coordinator advised that this would be within the next 6-8 weeks.

#### **6. PCSP Small Grants**

- i. In line with the Declarations of Interest Policy, Paula Kerr and Angela McKeown left the room during the discussion of this item.
- ii. The Safer City Coordinator advised that a panel of Members had met on 2nd September to ratify the scores given to the Small Grant applications however a quorum of 5 Members had not been reached.
- iii. Members were advised that the 4 Member Panel had recommended that 5 of the applications receive funding, however final approval was needed from the full Partnership as the quorum of 5 Members was not met.
- iv. Members approved the recommendations of the Officer and Member Panels as laid out within the paper.
- v. Paula Kerr and Angela McKeown returned to the meeting and the Partnership was advised that letters of offer would be sent to the 5 organisations the following day.

#### **7. Update on the current West Belfast DPCSP Action Plan budget**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that work on the Action Plan was progressing well. He added that the quotation for the 'Community led service around youth engagement, reducing anti-social behaviour and improving relations with the PSNI' project had been awarded to Falls Community Council and that a report on the process used would be presented to Members at the next meeting of the DPCSP.
- ii. With regards to the Policing Committee Grants, the Safer City Coordinator advised that 2 applications had been approved to date and a further 2 would be presented to Members for a approval at the next Policing Committee meeting. He added that a further 6 applications were expected in the coming months.
- iii. Members noted the progress report and approved the action to date.

## **8. Report of August public meeting/event**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with a report on the West Belfast DPCSP Public Event which was held as part of the Féile on 6th August in St Mary's University College.
- ii. Members were reminded that the theme of the event was legal highs and that the evening featured the emotive DVD produced by Mothers Against Drugs. The Safer City Coordinator advised that the event had been well received by members of the public and that the organisers of the Féile had been pleased to have the event as part of its programme.
- iii. Several Members agreed that the event had been a success and that it had been useful to be part of the larger programme of events in West Belfast.
- iv. It was agreed that a letter of thanks would be written to the Mother's Against Drugs Group who showcased their DVD and participated in the event.
- v. In response to a Member's query about obtaining a copy of the DVD, the Safer City Coordinator advised that due to ongoing legal action and prosecutions, the DVD had been withdrawn however it was hoped that it would become available again soon.

## **9. Policing Committee Funding**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator presented Members with the applications of the two Policing Committee Grants that the Partnership had agreed to fund.
- ii. Aideen McLaughlin, Youth Justice Agency, asked that the educational aspects within both projects be widened to include the Youth Justice Agency, CRJI and Alternatives.

## **10. Preparation for 2015/16 Action Plan**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised that he would be asking Members to pick a date for a planning session at the October meeting of the Partnership to look at priorities for the 2015/16 West Belfast DPCSP Action Plan.
- ii. Members were also advised that as part of the PCSP Citywide Consultation, a consultation evening would be taking place on 2nd October at 7pm in Falls Leisure Centre.
- iii. In response to a query, the Safer City Coordinator agreed to seek clarity on the recruitment process for new Independent Members of the (D)PCSPs and if timeframes will allow for new Members to input into the planning process for 2015/16, but noted that it was unlikely.

## **11. Invitation to Human Trafficking Event**

- i. Members were reminded of the visit from the EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator on 7th November and asked to RSVP to the emailed invitation if they wished to attend.

## **12. Cage Sports**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that, following a successful Assets Recovery Community Scheme (ARCS) application, the PCSP would be launching the Cage Sports arena on 10th October at Titanic Belfast.
- ii. Members were advised that the cage would be highly sought after by communities and that talks had begun with Falls Park about using the cage during October. The Safer City Coordinator added that training was still to be undertaken by staff and that a booking diary was being developed which would sit with the PCSP team.

## **13. Emerging Issues**

### Recruitment of Independent Members

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that the recruitment process for the Independent Members had been delayed and that further information would be brought to Members once available.

### Deputation Request

- ii. Following a request from the organisation, Members agreed to hear a deputation from Sport Changes Life at the next meeting of the DPCSP.

### Lenadoon/Horn Drive

- iii. A Member raised concerns regarding emerging anti-social behaviour issues in the Lenadoon/Horn Drive area and requested that the DPCSP put measures in place to tackle issues as they emerge.
- iv. It was agreed that a multi-agency meeting including the PSNI, Suffolk and Lenadoon Interface Group and the Upper Falls Community Safety Forum would be convened to discuss the recent rise of anti-social behaviour in the area.

### Lower Falls/Ballymurphy Issues

- v. A Member highlighted concerns regarding anti-social behaviour and criminality in the Lower Falls/Ballymurphy area noting that there was no coordinated or proactive approach to dealing with the issues as the local Community Safety Forums were no longer operating and current measures were not resolving the problems. He added that the communities confidence in the police and statutory services was at an all time low and that action was needed.
- vi. Davy Harbinson, NIFRS, advised that the Fire Service would be running an intensive 1 week course for 13-17 year olds in November focusing on fire setting and that referrals were needed. He added that this may not solve all of the issues mentioned, but it was an effective resource that was available.
- vii. Inspector Hughes advised that he was aware of the issues adding that the PSNI had only a certain number of Officers and so a multi-agency approach was needed to tackle problems such as these.

- viii. It was agreed that the DPCSP had a role in driving confidence in communities and that Community Safety Forums had put their faith in the Partnership to lead on Community Safety issues.
- ix. Members resolved to hold a Special Meeting of the DPCSP on 16th October (prior to the Parks and Leisure Committee) to discuss a multi-agency approach to tackling the ongoing anti-social behaviour and criminality in the Lower Falls/Ballymurphy area.
- x. Members also agreed that resources would need to be focused on tackling anti-social behaviour in advance of planning the 2015/16 Action Plan.

#### Public Meetings of the DPCSP

- xi. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that the Partnership was required to hold a further 3 public meetings/events before March 2015 and that he would email Members in the coming weeks with suggestions for a meeting in November and in the New Year.

#### **14. Date of next meeting**

- i. Members were advised that the next meeting of the West Belfast DPCSP would be held on Wednesday, 29th October at 5.30pm in the 1st Floor Conference Room, Cecil Ward Building.