

Minutes of the Belfast Policing and Community Safety Partnership Private Meeting

Conor Room, City Hall, Thursday, 7th June 2012

Members Present

Councillor Claire Hanna	John MacVicar (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Janice Austin	Valerie Allen
Alderman Tom Ekin	Michael Cunningham
Councillor Matt Garrett	Liz Groves
Councillor John Hussey	Harry Maguire
Councillor Colin Keenan	Frank Mulhern
Councillor Gareth McKee	Mark Vinton
Alderman Jim Rodgers	Alan Wardle
Councillor Guy Spence	

Staff

Eve Bremner, Safer City Manager
Suzanne Wylie, Director Health and
Environment Service Department
Katharine McCrum, Partnership Support
Officer

Apologies

Councillor Jim McVeigh (Chair)
Eva Grosman

1. Welcome and Declaration of Interests

- i. In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice-Chair, John MacVicar welcomed Members to the meeting.
- ii. John MacVicar then advised Members of their responsibility to declare any material interests which they may have in relation to any item of business to be considered at the meeting. He requested that Members clearly state the nature of the interest and withdraw from the meeting whilst the issue is under discussion.

2. Draft Code Of Practice

- i. Eve Bremner, Safer City Manager, requested that Members consider the draft code of practice issued by the joint Committee for PCSPs and DPCSPs and submit any responses to the consultation paper to staff before Friday, 15th June.
- ii. Members questioned the misleading language in the code, for example where reference is made to the Belfast PCSP being made up from DPCSP Members, and queried whether a separate code for Belfast would be developed.
- iii. Suzanne Wylie, Director of Health and Environmental Services, advised that dual membership had been envisioned by the Joint Committee however, as

the development of PCSPs moved on, this was not followed through. With regards to a separate code of practice for Belfast, she stated that a request for this would be submitted as part of the consultation response as the current code was not meaningful for Belfast Partnerships.

- iv. Members agreed to submit a joint response, as drafted by staff, on behalf of the PCSP and four DPCSPs for review by Members at the next meeting on Wednesday, 27th June.

3. Future Meetings of the PCSP

- i. Members discussed the frequency, duration and format of future meetings.
- ii. **ACTION:** Following discussion, Members agreed to hold a ½ day facilitated away day at an external venue in order to develop the strategic plan of the PCSP, in addition to the next meeting on Wednesday, 27th June. Members further agreed to delegate the choice of venue and date for the away day to the Chairman. It was also agreed that future meetings be held in the City Hall.

4. Designated Organisations

- i. In line with the previously discussed item of Declarations of Interests, Frank Mulhern, Mark Vinton, Councillor Matt Garrett and Harry Maguire left the room having declared interests in the NIHE, Alternatives and CRJ, respectively.
- ii. Eve Bremner advised Members that the deadline for the consultation on the proposed formally designated groups was 20th August and it was anticipated that the formally designated groups would be in place by November.
- iii. She therefore asked Members to consider whether they wished to invite the 7 proposed statutory agencies (NIHE, PSNI, PBNI, Youth Justice Agency, NIF&RS, Education and Library Board and the H&SCT) to PCSP meetings before their formal designation. She added that the statutory agencies had agreed to waive their voting rights for the first year of the partnership.
- iv. **ACTION:** Members discussed the benefits of working with these organisations and subsequently agreed to invite the 7 agencies to forthcoming meetings of the PCSP.
- v. Eve Bremner then invited Members to consider the locally designated organisations that they wished to engage with, either as designated groups or through other forms of engagement. She reminded Members that, if organisations were chosen to be designated Members, they would be full members with voting rights.

- vi. Members discussed the agencies listed within the presented report and suggested a range of additional organisations, including local community safety networks, the business sector, statutory and voluntary agencies.
- vii. **ACTION:** The decision was made to invite 3 organisations, BRO, PPS and NICVA, with the view that these were strategic bodies with a remit for the whole of Belfast whilst other suggestions were locally based and therefore more suitable for designation by the DPCSPs. In addition, Members agreed to consider further organisations once the DPCSPs had selected their designated representatives. Alderman Rodgers abstained from the vote.
- viii. **ACTION:** To assist future decisions, Eve Bremner agreed that the staff team would formulate a list of possible organisations that represent the private sector and interface work, for consideration by the partnership at a later date.

5. PR and Engagement

- i. Members were asked to consider the PR and engagement activities that they wished to undertake and to discuss the development of a communications plan, including the production of an information leaflet and press releases in relation to the small grants funding for summer 2012. Members were also asked to delegate authority to the Chairman to authorise expenditure of up to £3,000 to support PR and engagement activities.
- ii. **ACTION:** Members agreed to the production of an information leaflet however requested that all expenditure decisions be brought to the partnership for approval with delegated authority only used in extreme circumstances.
- iii. **ACTION:** Members also requested that the PCSP staff contact the Joint Committee to request that consideration be given to changing the name of the Belfast PCSP to a shorter, more user friendly alternative.

6. Closing

- i. **ACTION:** Eve Bremner undertook to circulate a draft copy of the standing orders to members ahead of the next meeting and add this item to the next agenda.
- ii. A Member queried how to raise additional items in the absence of an “Any Other Business” section on the agenda, adding that members of the community had contacted him with queries for the partnership. Members were informed that items could be submitted in advance of the meeting for inclusion on the agenda, however best practice dictated that AOB not be included on any agenda to allow staff and Members appropriate time for consideration.

- iii. Members were advised that the issue of AOB would be different for the policing committee given the nature of the meeting, and that any Member was free to contact staff with any queries which they may have.

7. Date of next meeting

- i. To be confirmed (planning workshop now confirmed on 5th July, 9.30-13.30 at Farset International).