

Minutes of East Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Lavery Room, City Hall, Tuesday, 11th June, 2012

Members Present

Cllr Claire Hanna (Chair)	Gareth Beacom
Cllr Deidre Hargey	Lynda Gibson
Cllr Mervyn Jones	Olwen Lyner
Cllr Adam Newton	Andrew Moorehead
Alderman Gavin Robinson	

Staff Present

Eve Bremner, Safer City Manager
Suzanne Gowling, CS Coordinator
Sean McCormick, DPP Officer

Apologies

Cllr Niall Ó Donnaghaile
Mark Houston

1. Welcome and Introductions

- i. The Chair, Councillor Hanna, welcomed Members to the inaugural meeting of the East Belfast DPCSP and asked that each Member briefly introduce themselves to the Partnership.

2. Apologies and Declaration of Interests

- i. Apologies for inability to attend were received from Cllr Ó Donnaghaile and Mr. Houston.
- ii. The Chair read out the Declaration of Interest statement to the Members as per Council policy.

3. Confirmation of the Vice-Chair of the Belfast PCSP

- i. Members were informed that a nomination had been received for the position of Vice-Chair of the East District Belfast Policing and Community Safety Partnership; namely, Mark Houston who had been nominated by Andrew Moorehead.
- ii. Although Mr. Houston was not present at the meeting, Mr. Moorehead informed the Members that he had consulted with Mr. Houston who had agreed to take up the position if nominated.
- iii. Mr. Houston's nomination was seconded by Gareth Beacom and subsequently elected as the Vice-Chair of East Belfast DPCSP for the period of 31st May, 2012 to 31st March, 2013.

4. Overview of New PCSP and DPCSP Structures

- i. Members were given a presentation by support staff in relation to the new structures and functions of the Belfast PCSP and its four DPCSPs. The presentation included information on 'formally' and 'locally' Designated Organisations, functions of a DPCSP and the 'restricted functions' of the DPCSP Policing Committee.

5. Review of the Transitional Plan and Financial Budget

- i. Support staff presented Members with the transitional plan for the Belfast PCSP and DPCSPs, explaining that this had been developed at the request of the Joint Committee in order to avoid gaps in service delivery between the cessation of DPPs and CSPs and the inaugural meetings of the PCSPs.
- ii. It was explained that the plan had been developed by the Chairs of the PCSP and DPCSPs and agreed at their meeting of 31st May. The Members were advised that it was intended to ensure that as much resource was made available to DPCSPs upon their formal establishment. Furthermore, the transitional plan also ensured commitment to spend on an area basis during the transitional period and until the PCSP and DPCSPs can agree local delivery plans.
- iii. Members were advised that from an initial citywide budget of £500,000, £150,000 had been committed leaving £350,000 to be split evenly between the four Belfast DPCSPs. Therefore, East Belfast DPCSP had an allocation of £87,500 for the period to 31st March, 2013. Members were given details of the expenditure to date.
- iv. A Member asked if there was strategic city wide funding available. Eve Bremner informed the Member that should there be a city wide initiative/scheme instigated, then funding for such an initiative/scheme would be made available from the PCSP.

6. Consideration of Local designated Bodies to the East Belfast DPCSP

- i. Members were advised that there was provision for a DPCSP to identify and designate at least four local organisations to that DPCSP to assist the DPCSP in their functions. In addition to any 'formal designations' so designated by the Department of Justice, the Members of a DPCSP can invite any other groups, bodies, or organisations that they would deem suitable for participation in that DPCSP. Such additions would be known as 'local designations'.
- ii. Members were also advised to note that a number of the proposed formally designated organisations had agreed to waive their voting rights until 1st April 2013. However, locally designated organisations have retained their voting rights. Furthermore, an organisation for the time being locally

designated by a DPCSP, must nominate a person to attend the meetings of the DPCSP. A person so nominated and who attends the meetings will be treated as a Member of that DPCSP or committee.

- iii. Notwithstanding the above, Members were advised that from time to time they could invite an organisation to work alongside it in an informal capacity without that organisation having to be designated per sae.
- iv. Several Members expressed the opinion that the designation of locally designated bodies should be part of the overall planning process of the East Belfast DPCSP and that time should be taken in relation to such appointments. It was also agreed by Members that neither locally nor formally designated organisations should attend meetings of the East Belfast DPCSP until Members felt that processes were in place to facilitate such attendance.

7. PR and Engagement

- i. Members were advised by support staff of the appropriate protocol when engaging with any media requests, this included the role of the Chair in such cases.
- ii. Members then discussed in general various methods of how consultation and engagement with the community of East Belfast should take place. They deferred proposals until such times that an overall planning process for East Belfast DPCSP was in place.
- iii. Members did however approve the production of an information leaflet specific for East Belfast DPCSP that would include an overview of the new partnership, what the functions of the DPCSP were and contact details. Members requested that the leaflet be ready for the first public meeting of the East Belfast DPCSP.

8. Future meetings of the East Belfast DPCSP

- i. Members were asked by support staff to consider future dates, locations and timings for meetings in relation to the private, public and Policing Committee meetings of the East Belfast DPCSP. Members were also asked to consider interim arrangements for participation of proposed formal designated organisations as detailed by Department of Justice.
- ii. After discussion Members proposed that the next private meeting of the East Belfast DPCSP should be held in the City Hall on Tuesday, 3rd July, at 4.45pm. Members also agreed that 4.45pm should as far as possible be the starting time of all the private meetings.
- iii. Members deferred the decision on the arrangement of any further meetings until the 3rd July private meeting.

- iv. As previously discussed during the meeting, Members agreed that neither locally nor formally designated organisations should attend meetings of the East Belfast DPCSP until Members felt that processes were in place to facilitate such attendance.

9. PCSP Small Grants Funding 2012

- i. Two Members, Andrew Moorehead and Gareth Beacom, declared a conflict of interest in relation to this item and subsequently left the room prior to discussion.
- ii. Suzanne Gowling gave an overview of the Police and Community Safety Small Grants Scheme 2012. The overview included funding decisions, conditions, schedule and details of funding of £36,100 already awarded to 6 schemes/initiatives in East Belfast. Copies and details of the funding had previously been circulated to Members
- iii. Members were given details of eight initiatives/schemes that although submitted were not funded due to lack of funding. Members were asked to consider if the East Belfast DPCSP would be willing to fund these initiatives from the East Belfast DPCSP funding allocation.
- iv. Members discussed the implications of funding initiatives/schemes that had not been funded through the Small Grants process. Some Members expressed concern that the DPCSP would be funding initiatives/schemes that had rejected and that there was a possibility of setting a precedent.
- v. After further discussion the Members decided that the East Belfast DPCSP would fund the following Small Grants 2012 community projects:
 - The Oak Partnership - £3,677
 - Street by Street - £2,170
 - Young Women's Project - £2,000
 - Solway Stars - £3,750
 - Clarawood Action Group - £1,300
 - East Belfast Titanic Festival - £1,300

 - Total - £14,197
- i. Members were asked to consider being panel members for the awarding of East Belfast DPCSP Small Grants in 2013. Accordingly, Andrew Moorehead, Gareth Beacom and Olwen Lyner agreed to be panel members.

10. Consultation on the Draft Code of Practice for PCSP and DPCSPs

- i. Members were informed that a draft Code of Practice for PCSP and DPCSPs had been issued by the Department of Justice, copies of which had already been circulated to Members. Members were asked to forward any comments to the support staff in order that collation of responses could be forwarded to the PCSP by 15th June.

11. Consultation on the Formal Designation of Bodies onto PCSP and DPCSPs

- i. Members were advised that PCSPs and DPCSPs are required to have a minimum of four designated organisations on their partnership. Designated organisations become full members of the Partnership with voting rights; though it is understood that those designated by the Minister of Justice will waive their voting rights for the first year of operation.
- ii. A draft Code of Designation, previously circulated to Members, was issued by the Joint Committee for consultation and responses to the consultation are required by 20th August 2012. Due to the summer break, Members were asked to submit comments by 15th June, in order that a report can be brought before the PCSP at its meeting on 27th June.
- iii. Members were advised that the Joint Committee were recommending the following organisations for 'formal' designation:
 - PSNI
 - NIHE
 - PBNI
 - Youth Justice Agency
 - Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service
 - Education & Library Boards
 - The Health Family