

**Minutes of East Belfast District Policing and Community Safety  
Partnership  
Conor Room, City Hall, Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2012**

**Political Members**

Cllr Claire Hanna (Chair)  
Cllr Deidre Hargey  
Cllr Mervyn Jones  
Cllr Adam Newton  
Cllr Niall Ó Donnghaile  
Ald Gavin Robinson

**Independent Members**

Gareth Beacon  
Lynda Gibson  
Mark Houston (Vice Chair)  
Olwen Lyner  
Andrew Moorhead

**Police Service of Northern Ireland  
Representative**

Chief Inspector Mark McEwan

**Invited Organisations (Proposed Future Designated Bodies)**

Brian Stanfield, NIFRS  
Jane Lappin, Probation Board

**Staff Present**

Suzanne Gowling CS Coordinator  
Sean McCormick DPP Officer  
Jo Black, Partnership Support Officer

**Apologies**

Richard Williamson, NIHE

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

- i. The Chair, Councillor Hanna, welcomed Members and the representative of the Police Service of Northern Ireland to the meeting of the East Belfast DPCSP and asked that each person present to briefly introduce themselves to the Partnership.

**2. Apologies and Declarations of Interest**

- i. Apologies for inability to attend were received from Richard Williamson, NIHE and Brian Stanfield attended in the place of Aidan Jennings, NIFRS.
- ii. The Chair read out the Declarations of Interest statement to the Members as per Council policy.

**3. Completion of the East Belfast Action Plan 2012/2012**

The Community Safety Coordinator, Suzanne Gowling, took members through the Action Plan page by page.

- i. Priority One, Antisocial Behaviour was discussed. The CS Coordinator explained the DPCSP had been asked to continue to fund the Bee Safe campaign and Mobile CCTV vans from North and South Belfast also deployed in East Belfast.
- ii. A Member disagreed with the allocation of the Mobile CCTV funding coming out of this budget.
- iii. The Chief Inspector cautioned against the use of CCTV as it needed to be responded to. The CS Coordinator explained this was in place alongside other CCTV. The CS Coordinator offered to circulate a case study.
- iv. Priority Two, Drugs and Alcohol Misuse was discussed. This plan was mainly agreed. However several members suggest 2I was crudely worded. The Chief Inspector suggested education of the wider community on the acceptable behaviours within ethnic communities, for example gathering at people's doorways.
- v. Priority Three, Inner East Interface was discussed.
- vi. A Member suggested that point 3A had many overlaps with point 3 F. There were also considerations of funding streams potentially ending for projects listed in F. There was discussion around the consultation of existing groups. It was agreed that groups could be consulted as per the launch plan which would be discussed later in the meeting.
- vii. Priority Four, Burglary was discussed. The Chair highlighted this priority had been a topic of discussion at the PCSP. The Chair outlined that there was discussion that the funding of this priority could be open ended. While the listing in the action plan was for £8K, it was decided to see if overlap was found with other funding.
- viii. A Member suggested that Neighbourhood Watch would wish to participate and suggested a demonstration of devices would be sufficient. The PCSP Christmas Crime Prevention and Safety event was suggested as a good venue where demonstrations would be carried out.
- ix. Priority Five, Organised Crime was discussed. The CS Coordinator highlighted a review of good practice was being undertaken.
- x. Priority Six, Information Sharing and Confidence Building was discussed. There was discussion if the funding should be allocated on a quarterly or a monthly basis. It was agreed that this would be raised each month and reviewed on an ongoing basis and raised with the PCSP that it was not required quarterly.
- xi. The Area Commander raised 6A and asked how this would be carried out. There was further discussion about how to identify underreporting.

- xii. A Member requested that Short Strand Community Forum be added to the list of forums in 6H.
- xiii. A Member queried the number of Public Meetings represented by point 6G. The DPP Officer, Sean McCormick, advised 4 public meetings per year were required however with the Christmas Crime Prevention and Safety event scheduled it was agreed that February would be the first public event.
- xiv. A Member suggested the Short Strand as a location for an early public meeting.
- xv. A Member raised point 6I. A promotional flier would be circulated and approved by the PCSP. A Member suggested that East Belfast Community Telegraph was a good place for local publicity in East Belfast.
- xvi. A Member raised point 6L. The CS Coordinator highlighted that research for East Belfast could be identified at no extra cost.
- xvii. A Member raised point 6M and suggested it would be important not to duplicate existing funding in commissioning research.
- xviii. It was agreed to merge points 4D and 6P to be “Feeling Safer” and to allocate this under heading number 6.

#### **4. Launch of East Belfast Action Plan**

- i. The Community Safety Coordinator outlined the Launch of the East Belfast Action Plan. She explained the format and a draft would be circulated prior to the 4<sup>th</sup> October meeting. A leaflet would also be given out with a copy of the draft plan at the launch.
- ii. A Member suggested that copies of the leaflet were distributed by email prior to members not in attendance on 4<sup>th</sup> October to the meeting to allow members the opportunity to respond.
- iii. A Member proposed the Skainos building as a venue for the launch. The cost was £20 plus VAT. A Member declared an interest in the Skainos building being used as the venue.
- iv. A Member proposed the Mount Conference centre as a venue for the launch. It was agreed that an early public meeting would be held in the Short Strand area however the Skainos building as venue for the launch and the novelty of the recent opening would attract attendance.
- v. A Member informed members that they would discuss the launch with the Short Strand Community Forum and encourage attendance by residents.
- vi. The CS Coordinator agreed to coordinate and circulate an invitations list. The Area Commander agreed it would be publicised on the PSNI Facebook page.

- vii. The DPP Officer raised the format of the launch event. There was discussion around the format and content. It was agreed that members of the East Belfast DPSCPS would present the plan and hold a Q&A. The Chair requested an event briefing for Members.

**Action: DPP Officer to prepare an event briefing and circulate to the members.**

## **5. Future Dates of East Belfast DPCSP Meetings and Events to 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2012**

- i. The Chair confirmed the future meeting and events dates of the East Belfast DPCSP, circulated in advance.
- ii. The CS Coordinator responded to the Vice Chair regarding the release of funds from criminal assets. This was currently being quantified by the Department of Justice and the PCSP would coordinate applications, which would be due to them on 5<sup>th</sup> October.

## **6. Code of practice and designated bodies**

- i. The Chair circulated a communiqué which was received from the Department of Justice. She outlined that it indicated that the timeline was forthcoming for designated bodies.
- ii. A Member asked for clarification on the roles and relationships between the DPCSPs and the Belfast PCSP. The Chair agreed to write to the DPP Manager seeking clarification on the roles and relationships between the DPCSPs and the Belfast PCSP.

**Action: Chair to write to the DPP Manager.**