

Minutes of the West Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Private Meeting

Conor Room, City Hall
Wednesday 25th February, 2015

Political Members	Independent Members
Alderman Frank McCoubrey (Chair)	Breige Brownlee
Councillor Tim Attwood	Bernie Reilly
Councillor Steven Corr	Ann-Marie Weir
Councillor Matt Garrett	
Councillor Máire Hendron	
Statutory Designated Organisations	
Sharon Beattie, NIHE	Angela McKeown, BELB
Tommy Boyle, H&SC Trust	Aideen McLaughlin, YJA
Carol Carville, PBNI	John McLaughlin, BELB
	Chief Inspector Anthony McNally, PSNI
Locally Designated Organisations	
Paula Kerr, CRJI	Terry Quinn, Greater Falls C.Safety Forum
Staff Present	Apology
Alan Wardle, Safer City Coordinator	Davy Harbinson, NIFRS
Katharine McCrum, Partnership Support Officer	

1. Welcome and Routine Matters

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

2. Declarations of Interest

- i. No declarations of interest were recorded.

3. Minutes

- i. The minutes of 26th January, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct.

4. Matters Arising/Actions from Previous Meeting

- i. With regards to the actions from the previous meeting, the Safer City Coordinator advised that;
 - Work was ongoing regarding the circulation of an electronic diary showing the deployment of Safer Neighbourhood Officers;
 - The PCSP would be taking part in a study visit to Glasgow City Council on 4th March which the Chair, Vice-Chair and Councillor Corr had been invited to attend;
 - The budget for the Belfast PCSP and DPCSPs had been increased rather than reduced and so the West Belfast Transitional Action Plan for 2015/2016 would be based on a budget of £125,000.

- ii. A Member welcomed the increase in budget and questioned how the additional funds would be drawn down, noting that it was important to retain the services currently supported by the Lisburn PCSP within the areas that would be transferring to Belfast.
- iii. The Safer City Coordinator advised that there was no confirmation yet as to how this would be done but options were being explored.
- iv. In response to a query regarding what was currently being spent by the Lisburn PCSP, the Safer City Coordinator advised that he had requested information regarding their small grants and project spend.

5. McClure Watters Members Consultation Session

(Niall Murphy, RSM McClure Watters, attended in relation to this item)

- i. Niall Murphy from RSM McClure Watters facilitated a consultation workshop with Members to review the effectiveness of the West Belfast DPCSP.
- ii. Following a series of in-depth questions proposed by Mr. Murphy, Members provided an overview of the following;
 - the role and benefits of the Partnership;
 - the types of projects that the Partnership had funded;
 - what methodologies/indicators the Partnership had implemented to assess the effectiveness and impact of projects;
 - the direct impact that the Partnership had made in relation to dealing with community safety issues;
 - partnership working;
- iii. On behalf of the Partnership, the Chair thanked Mr. Murphy for his attendance and he retired from the meeting.

6. Extern Presentation

(Gemma Donnelly and Colm Walsh, Extern Intensive Family Support Service, attended in relation to this item)

- i. Gemma Donnelly, Programme Manager, provided Members with an overview of Extern's Intensive Family Support Service including statistics on the number of families within West Belfast currently involved with the Service.
- ii. Members thanked Ms. Donnelly for the presentation but commented upon the absence of a community referral method and suggested that this had been a strength in the previous Integrated Services model.
- iii. Ms. Donnelly advised that their contract had stipulated the referral routes however a 1 year evaluation of the Service was scheduled and so the question of community referral could be raised as part of this.
- iv. In response to queries about how the Service was being promoted, Ms. Donnelly advised that she had met with the Statutory Organisations and was beginning to make contact with community groups such as Alternatives and CRJI.
- v. Aideen McLaughlin, Youth Justice Agency, suggested that if Members were aware of young people who could benefit from the Service, their names should be passed to the Youth Justice Agency for referrals.

- vi. It was suggested that the DPCSP should write to the Health and Social Care Trust to support the inclusion of community referrals to the Intensive Family Support Service.

7. Update on West Belfast DPCSP Action Plan

- i. The Safer City Coordinator presented Members with an update report on the progress and expenditure of the West Belfast DPCSP Action Plan.
- ii. Members were advised that based on the projected spend, the Partnership would have fully utilised its annual budget with an over spend of £33.
- iii. Members noted the contents of the report and approved the action to date.

8. Transitional Action Plan Approval

- i. The Safer City Coordinator reminded Members that the Joint Committee had asked each (D)PCSP to formulate a Transitional Action Plan for 2015/2016 to allow service delivery to continue given that the PCSPs would be unlikely to be reconstituted before June, 2015.
- ii. Members were advised that the Plan included projects to maintain front line delivery, as well as supporting strategic citywide projects.
- iii. Members welcomed the Plan, noting that services could not be allowed to break down during such a key time of year.
- iv. In response to a query regarding how work would be delivered against quotations which were coming to an end, the Safer City Coordinator advised that he was taking advice on the possibility of extending the delivery period. He added that the Transitional Action Plan also included work to support and build the capacity of the existing Community Safety Forums, including those in the incoming areas of Colin.
- v. Members approved the West Belfast DPCSP Transitional Action Plan for 2015/2016 and its delivery by Officers in the absence of the DPCSP.

9. West Belfast DPCSP Annual Report

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that the Joint Committee had requested that a 9 month Annual Report be compiled for each of the (D)PCSPs covering the period of April to December, 2014.
- ii. As such, Members were asked to approve the submission of the West Belfast DPCSP Annual Report which included a paragraph on each of the projects undertaken by the Partnership.
- iii. It was noted that the Financial Statement and name of the Health and Social Care Trust would need to be amended before submission.
- iv. Members subsequently noted the contents of the Report and approved its submission to the Joint Committee.

10. West Belfast Anti-Social Behaviour Conference

- i. The Chair congratulated Officers on the well organised and attended Anti-Social Behaviour Conference held at Farset International on 18th February, 2015.
- ii. The Safer City Coordinator added that the Conference had been well received both internally and externally. He noted that attendance from key agencies had been positive, however there had been some anxiety about the level of engagement with the Judiciary.
- iii. A Member agreed that the duration of the Judge's attendance had been frustrating but perhaps it could be seen as the first step in dialogue with families who had been greatly affected by issues with the criminal justice system.
- iv. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that a draft report on the Conference had been submitted to Officers and that a final version would be circulated to Members during March, 2015.

11. Emerging Issues

Approval of Additional Projects

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that through regular monitoring of the West Belfast DPCSP Budget, a number of under spends had been identified. He added that in order to ensure that the allocated budget was effectively disseminated, a number of initiatives that could be delivered before the end of the financial year had been developed.
- ii. The Safer City Coordinator outlined the 6 proposed projects; Additional CCTV Usage; a Bike Registration Scheme; the Delivery of the Unwanted Bonfire Evaluation Report; and 3 Media Engagement Projects.
- iii. A Member commended the work of groups in the Brooke/Blacks Road areas in pulling together resources to deal with increasing numbers of young people gathering. He added that 'good will' funding for enforcement and diversionary activities had been provided however there was no long term funding available to support this work going forward. The Member questioned the possibility of the DPCSP supporting an Assets Recovery Community Scheme (ARCS) Application in order to obtain funding for the work.
- iv. The Safer City Coordinator advised that there had been some confusion regarding the Belfast PCSP supporting applications and as such further discussions regarding this were being had at a management level.
- v. Following discussion, Members approved the allocation of £3,890 towards these projects.

12. Date of Next Meeting

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that the final meeting of the West Belfast DPCSP would be held on Wednesday, 25th March at 6pm. He advised Members that he would like to use the meeting as a way to recognise the good work that had been undertaken by the Partnership over the previous year.

- ii. Members were also reminded that a Policing Committee Meeting would be held at 5.30pm, prior to the Private Meeting.
- iii. In conclusion, the Safer City Coordinator advised that applications for Summer Small Grants were oversubscribed within West Belfast and so it was possible that a panel of Members would need to be convened during March, 2015 also.