

Minutes of the West Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Private Meeting

Conor Room, City Hall
Monday, 26th January, 2015

Political Members

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

Independent Members

Bernie Reilly

Statutory Designated Organisations

Sharon Beattie, NIHE
Tommy Boyle, H&SC Trust
Inspector Jamie Hughes, PSNI

Aideen McLaughlin, YJA
Chief Inspector Anthony McNally, PSNI

Locally Designated Organisations

Paula Kerr, CRJI

Staff Present

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

Apology

Councillor Tim Attwood
Councillor Máire Hendron
Carole Carville, PBNI
Davy Harbinson, NIFRS
Angela McLaughlin, BELB

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 24th November, 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;
 - A meeting of the PCSP Communications Working Group took place on 19th January, and while the West Belfast DPCSP representative was not present, Officers had advised that an area based strategy would be developed in the coming months.
 - Discussions had taken place with staff of the Lisburn PCSP and community groups in the transferring areas which would soon be part of Belfast City Council and as

such, a meeting would be scheduled in early February to develop these relationships.

- Concerns regarding criminal and anti-social elements in the St James'/Donegal Road area had been raised at a meeting of the Anti-Social Behaviour Forum and discussions regarding the issues were ongoing.
 - Joint Enforcement operations were continuing within Falls Park and the City Cemetery and plans were being developed for similar activities in Lenadoon.
 - The venue for the Anti-social behaviour conference had been changed from City Hall to Farsset International.
- ii. A Member advised that he had been required to reassure members of the public about the deployment of Safer Neighbourhood Officers within West Belfast and suggested that a plan regarding deployment could be provided to the community in order to provide reassurance. This was likened to the texting system that the PSNI use to advise community representatives when Neighbourhood Policing Teams were in the area.
- iii. The Safer City Coordinator advised that an operations diary could be circulated to relevant representatives.

5. Extern Presentation

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that a presentation by Extern would be provided to the Partnership at its February Meeting.

6. Chairs Update on the PCSP

- i. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with details about 2 PCSP Events which would be taking place in the coming weeks;
- Launch of the regional 'Drug Dealers Don't Care...Do You?' Campaign on 9th February at 11am in the Banqueting Hall, City Hall. Councillor Corr is to speak at the event and all Members will receive an invite to attend.
 - Hate Crime Conference, late March, City Hall. Members were advised that a contribution may be sought from the DPCSPs.

7. Anti-Social Behaviour Update

- i. In the absence of the Anti-Social Behaviour Officer, the Safer City Coordinator advised that Officers continued to work alongside the PSNI on 'hot spot' areas and encouraged Members to continue to report incidents of anti-social behaviour.
- ii. A Member advised that through the Health and Environmental Services Committee, site visits to Dublin and Glasgow had been proposed to view Parks where good practice projects had reduced anti-social behaviour. It was suggested that it may be useful for DPCSP Members including the PSNI and Youth Justice Agency to be included.
- iii. The Safer City Coordinator advised that work was ongoing with the Parks Department regarding Falls Park and the Blacks Road and so as part of these discussions, he would raise the issue of the site visits.
- iv. Members discussed the ongoing issues of anti-social behaviour and criminality in the Lower Falls/Divis areas and the multi-agency approach that was needed to make long

term changes to the area. Social Investment Funding and Family Support Hubbs that would soon be established were mentioned.

- v. Chief Inspector McNally advised that small changes were being seen however a 3 – 5 year early intervention and rehabilitation plan would be needed to resolve such long standing issues.
- vi. Aideen McLaughlin advised Members that the Youth Justice Agency had recently received a presentation regarding a good practice project in Dublin which had made sustained changes to similar issues in Dublin. She undertook to source further details on the project for the next meeting of the DPCSP.
- vii. Members were advised that a Coordinator from within the Community Safety Unit had recently been assigned to the Lower Falls/Divis Intervention in order to give direction to the project.
- viii. Members acknowledged that the media also had a role to play in its reporting of issues within the area and so it was important that the DPCSP, whilst acknowledging the issues, demonstrated that this was not a no-go area.

8. Update on current Action Plan Budget

- i. The Safer City Coordinator presented Members with an update report on the expenditure of the West Belfast DPCSP Action Plan.
- ii. Members were advised that £65,000 had been spent to date, a further £56,000 was allocated to projects, leaving just £5,000 still to be distributed.
- iii. Members noted the contents of the report and approved the action to date.

9. Additional Projects Update

- i. The Safer City Coordinator reminded Members of the additional financial approval process whereby the Safer City Manager, Assistant Manager and Coordinator, in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair, would be granted decision making authority for spend under £1,000 if a quorum of Members were unable to meet to approve projects.
- ii. Members were advised that 4 projects had recently been approved via this method;

• Suffolk Ju-Jitsu	£1,000
• Blackie Residents Residential	£771.28
• Wildlife Trust – Bog Meadows Engagement	£1,000
• City Wide Drugs Campaign	£1,000
- iii. With regards to the Drugs Campaign, Members were advised that the £1,000 contribution would be matched by £3,500 of funds from Crimestoppers for activity within West Belfast.
- iv. The Safer City Coordinator advised that as the end of the financial year approached, it was likely that this process may be required again in order to fully utilise the budget.

10. PCSP Consultation Update

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that 700 responses to the PCSP Consultation had been received from within West Belfast and that this had produced 5 priorities;
 - Burglary and Theft
 - Anti-Social Behaviour
 - Drugs
 - Alcohol related crime and disorder
 - Fear/worry about crime
- ii. Members noted the report and agreed to reflect the concerns raised when formulating the 2015-2016 Action Plan.

11. Joint Operations in West Belfast

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that Officers continued to carry out Joint Enforcement Operations within West Belfast, with particular focus on Falls Park and Lenadoon.
- ii. Members were asked to inform Officers of issues in other areas which could benefit from Joint Enforcement.
- iii. In response to a query from the Youth Justice Agency, the Safer City Coordinator and Chief Inspector McNally advised that Risk Assessments permitting, other agencies could be involved in Joint Enforcement Operations.

12. Proposed West Belfast Anti-Social Behaviour Conference

- i. Members were reminded that a West Belfast wide conference on anti-social behaviour would be held on 18th February between 9.30am – 2.30pm in Farset International, Springfield Road.
- ii. The Safer City Coordinator advised that 3 speakers had been confirmed; Kate Turner, Healing Through Remembering; Assistant Chief Constable Steven Martin; and a Magistrate Judge. He added that as well as the key note speakers, the conference would include a panel discussion, workshops and a the production of a conference report which would provide both a legacy for the Partnership and assist in strategising solutions for the future.
- iii. Members were encouraged to attend, and to encourage attendance from the community.
- iv. Members were also asked to approve the conference budget of approximately £4,000 - £2,000 for room hire and catering, £1,500 for facilitation and £500 for promotion of the event.
- v. Members noted the update provided and approved the conference budget.

13. Community Safety Resource Booklet

- i. In relation to the previously approved Community Safety Resource Booklet, Members were advised that due to additional designs requirements, the booklet was slightly delayed however it would be produced before the end of March, 2015.

14. Update on Divis Intervention

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that the West Belfast DPCSP had been asked to take on several of the projects which had formed part of the Divis Intervention. Members were further advised that while an evaluation of the intervention was not yet available, it was expected by the end of summer, 2015.

15. Emerging Issues

Evaluation of the Social and Economic Impact of (D)PCSPs

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that the Belfast PCSP had awarded a contract to RSM McClure Watters to review and evaluation of the social and economic impact of (D)PCSPs.
- ii. Members were advised that as part of the review, McClure Watters had asked to attend each of the Partnerships to ascertain the opinions of DPCSP Members about what projects had worked, what had not worked, and the impact of Partnership interventions.

Communiqué regarding Transitional Plans

- iii. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that a communiqué had been received by the Joint Committee which asked PCSPs to develop Transitional Plans to ensure service delivery was maintained given that the recruitment of Independent Members was unlikely to be completed before June, 2015.
- iv. Members were also advised that a cut in funds from the Joint Committee was to be expected.
- v. In response to the suggestion that an additional Planning Session should be scheduled during February to agree a Transitional Plan, Members advised that given the number of meetings currently in the Committee Schedule, and the fact that the Transitional Plan would be compiled using the existing Action Plan, this process could be completed via email.
- vi. Members expressed concern at possible budget cuts and suggested that a letter should be sent from the Chair to the Joint Committee regarding the need to resource the additional area and population which would soon fall within West Belfast.
- vii. The Safer City Coordinator agreed to circulate a draft Transitional Plan to the Partnership for comment and to draft a letter on behalf of the Chair regarding possible budget cuts.

Public Event

- viii. Members were reminded that a public event would be held in Highfield Community Centre before the end of the financial year and that discussions were ongoing regarding its delivery.

16. Date of Next Meeting

- i. Members were reminded that the next DPCSP meetings would be held on 25th February and 25th March in the Conor Room, City Hall.
- ii. A Member advised that having no set meeting date made regular attendance at meetings difficult. He suggested that a recurring date, such as the last Monday of each month, should be selected in future.
- iii. It was also suggested that the Policing Committee could be held before the DPCSP Private Meeting to allow issues raised at the first meeting to be discussed at the full Partnership meeting.
- iv. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that meeting dates were chosen based on availability within the Democratic Services Committee Schedule and so regular slots could not always be guaranteed. He also advised that the order of meetings had been changed to the current set-up at the request of Members and so could be changed back if desired. He further advised that the change had been made as Members felt that arising issues discussed by the policing Committee were not repeated for all Members at the Private Meeting.