

Minutes of the Belfast Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Policing Committee Meeting

NIFRS Station, 6 Bankmore Street
Wednesday, 12th November 2014

Political Members

Councillor Colin Keenan (Chair)
Councillor Janice Austin
Councillor Matt Garrett
Councillor Mervyn Jones
Councillor John Hussey
Alderman Jim Rodgers

Independent Members

Frank Mulhern (Vice Chair)
Valerie Allen
Claire Canavan
Harry Maguire

PSNI Representatives

Superintendent Muir Clark

Staff Present

Alison Allen, Safer City Manager
Lorna Somers, Safer City Assistant Manager
Katharine McCrum, Partnership Support Officer

Apologies

Chief Superintendent Grimshaw
Liz Groves
Carmel McKinney
John Topping

1. Welcome and Apologies

- 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 the Belfast PCSP Policing Committee Meeting held on 12th November, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct.

4. Update from the PSNI

- i. The Chair drew Member's attention to the statistical report provided by the PSNI on performance against the 2014/2015 Policing Plan.
- ii. Members noted the contents of the report.

5. Members Questions and Input

Traffic Congestion

- i. In response to a Member's suggestion that the timings of traffic lights were causing congestion, Superintendent Clark advised that these were set by the Department for Regional Development but agreed to look into the issue.
- ii. A Member added that the timing of lights could be altered by the Roads Service or Traffic NI without the need to call out to the site in question and that this had been done at areas within Belfast that had caused issues in the past.

Station Opening Hours

- iii. In response to a Member's query regarding changes to police station opening hours, Superintendent Clark advised that due to budget constraints, changes would be necessary however the PCSP would be consulted before any decisions were taken regarding closures.

Statistics

- iv. Superintendent Clark agreed to obtain information on the percentage of officers working within community teams, including how this had changed over recent years at the request of the Chair.
- v. A Member asked for the statistical report provided to the Policing Committee to be amended to show activity levels/numbers of cases rather than percentages, as what may appear to be a 100% increase in one area, may in fact reflect just one case.
- vi. Superintendent Clark agreed to look at this request prior to the next meeting.
- vii. Members also asked for further information on the variety of 'outputs' used within cases as it was noted that a reported hate crime may result in a conviction of a different category.

6. Date of Next Meeting

- i. Members were advised that the next meeting of the Policing Committee would be held on Monday, 16th February at 5.30pm.