

Minutes of the Belfast Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Private Meeting

Conor Room, City Hall
Tuesday, 16th December 2014

Political Members	Independent Members
Councillor Colin Keenan (Chair)	Frank Mulhern (Vice Chair)
Councillor Janice Austin	Valerie Allen
Councillor Matt Garrett	Claire Canavan
Councillor Mervyn Jones	Harry Maguire
Councillor John Hussey	
Councillor Kate Mullan	
Alderman Jim Rodgers	
Designated Organisations	
Superintendent Muir Clark, PSNI	Patricia Muldoon, YJA
Alan Hamill, NIFRS	Trevor Murphy, BELB
Eithne McIlroy, PBNI	Cecil Worthington, H&SC Trust
Staff Present	Apologies
Alison Allen, Safer City Manager	Chief Superintendent Grimshaw
Lorna Somers, Safer City Assistant Manager	Liz Groves
Katharine McCrum, Partnership Support Officer	Ian McCrickard, NIHE
	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 meeting held on 12th November, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct.

4. Matters Arising and Chairs Business

- i. With regards to the actions from the previous meeting, the Safer City Assistant Manager advised that the Hate Crime Report had been circulated to Members and that the remaining actions were covered in the papers and so would be addressed throughout the meeting.

5. Action Plan Update

- i. The Safer City Manager advised that a Progress Report was contained within the papers detailing the work that had taken place to date on each area of the Action Plan.
- ii. Members noted the report and approved its contents.
- iii. A Member requested clarification on the purpose of a quotation document which had been issued to progress a review of the Belfast (D)PCSP given the recent review carried out by the Criminal Justice Inspectorate (CJI).
- iv. The Safer City Manager advised that this piece of work had been approved by Members at a previous meeting and its purpose would be to look in detail at the Belfast (D)PCSPs in order to measure the impact of the work carried out to date and to provide a baseline for future interventions.
- v. The Member advised that he was happy to support the project as long as it did not represent a duplication of effort.
- vi. A Member welcomed the success of the recent PCSP Christmas Crime Prevention and Safety Event in City Hall. She added that while the event attracted a large audience, support from PCSP Members could have been better.
- vii. The Chair also commended the event.

6. Anti-Social Behaviour Project

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that the site visits to Glasgow and Tower Hamlets would need to be delayed until 2015 due to work pressures within these Councils. Members were however asked to approve the decision to move forward with the Economic Appraisal portion of the project.
- ii. A Member advised that given the findings within the CJI Report and the PCSPs move towards Community Planning, he would be supportive of moving forward as suggested by the Safer City Manager.
- iii. Members agreed that work on the Economic Appraisal of the Anti-Social Behaviour project should go ahead.

7. Hate Crime Update

- i. The Safer City Manager reminded Members of their request for staff to work alongside the Centre for Democracy and Peace Building (CDPB) and Queens University to explore options for a further roll out of the messages contained within the Hate Crime Research which was partly funded by the PCSP.
- ii. Members were advised that the CDPB had since submitted 3 project outlines for them to consider:
 1. Youth Drama Advocacy Project
 2. Development of an info-graphic viral video for social a media campaign
 3. Development of a Smartphone App

- iii. The Safer City Manager advised Members that Officers had reviewed the current Action Plan and identified savings which could be reprofiled in order to financially support these projects.
- iv. A Member welcomed the report but noted that the work did not address the victims of hate crime and suggested that the PCSP should look at specific areas and focus on those not already targeted as part of the myth busting exercise. He also suggested that front line services should be considered in the NIHE estates where many new communities are settling.
- v. It was also suggested that the travelling community should be considered within future work given that they are often victims of hate crime.
- vi. The Chairs of the South and East Belfast DPCSPs advised that they were working on hate crime issues at a local level. The Safer City Manager added that the proposals had been suggested by CDPB at the PCSP's request and would be addressing the issue at a strategic level.
- vii. Eithne McIlroy, PBNI, advised that the Probation Board were looking at restorative measures alongside the Public Prosecution Service and Youth Justice Agency. She advised that they may wish to speak with the PCSP in the future about funding for these initiatives.
- viii. A Member suggested that the funding associated with the Smartphone App could be better utilised in promoting the viral video and drama piece to a wider audience.
- ix. Members resolved to bring this suggestion to Eva Grosman, CDPB, at a meeting with the Chair and Vice-Chair in order to determine if this was a suitable way to progress.
- x. Members agreed to provide delegated authority to the Chair, Vice-Chair and PCSP staff to develop these projects following the agreed meeting with the Centre for Democracy and Peace Building and to reallocate budget profiles accordingly.

8. Safer Belfast App

- i. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised Members that following the previous meeting of the PCSP, further discussions had been held with the Council's Digital Services Department who had advised that they were now in a position to develop the Safer City Smartphone Application (App).
- ii. Members were further advised that this development would mean that there would be no initial cost for the development of the format and software requirements. This would leave £2,333 in the budget for a launch event and promotional activity.
- iii. Members agreed to provide delegated authority to the Safer Belfast Coordination Team to develop, launch and promote the Safer Belfast App within the remaining budget.

9. Neighbourhood Watch Update

- i. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised Members that following significant cuts within the PSNI's budget, they were no longer in a position to fund the part time position of a Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) Development Officer.

- ii. Members were further advised that following a meeting with Chief Inspector Murdie, the PSNI had supplied details of the NHW Coordinators and contact details for the police officers who would be leading on NHW within their areas. The Safer City Assistant Manager added that the quarterly Coordinators meetings would continue with PSNI Officers and Community Safety Anti-Social Behaviour Officers and that new schemes would be approved in the usual way.
- iii. Members were asked to consider allocating the remaining £494 within the Neighbourhood Watch budget to holding a 'meet and greet' event for the existing Coordinators and those schemes that would be transferring to the Belfast area from Castlereagh and Lisburn Council areas.
- iv. In response to a query from a Member, the Safer City Manager advised that the new arrangement mirrored what was done prior to having the part time PSNI Officer and so it was expected that the arrangement would work well and was expected to enable better working relationships with the community.
- v. Members approved the allocation of the remaining NHW budget of £494 for the suggested 'meet and greet' event which, alongside the coordinators, would include PSNI and Community Safety Staff who would now be supporting Neighbourhood Watch.

10. (D)PCSP Consultation Exercise Update

- i. The Safer City Manager advised Members that Ineqe, the company who carried out the (D)PCSP Consultation Exercise, had consulted with over 3,000 people and that a final report detailing their findings had now been submitted.
- ii. Members were advised that the breakdown of statistics would be useful for the current and future Members of the PCSP when considering Action Plan development.
- iii. Members noted the contents of the report.

11. Criminal Justice Inspectorate Report on PCSPs

- i. In reference to the Criminal Justice Inspectorate Report into PCSPs, a Member noted that although the positive work of local DPCSPs is mentioned, it was also suggested that the Partnerships should be combined.
- ii. The Member added that local engagement undertaken through the DPCSPs had been welcomed by the PSNI and it was suggested that combining DPCSPs with the PCSP could be seen as a backward step.
- iii. The Safer City Manager advised there were some aspects of the structures that could benefit from operating as one Partnership given the current requirement to produce 5 Annual Reports, 5 Disability Action Plans and 5 Equality Schemes, however she agreed that local delivery was key.
- iv. It was suggested that a Joint Briefing could be held in order for Members to express their views to the CJI Inspectors before an action plan on how to move forward is developed. The Safer City Manager also advised that while the report provided

recommendations, many of these would not be achievable until there was a change in the legislation governing PCSPs.

- v. Members agreed that the local DPCSPs were vital in delivering services and engaging with communities. It was also agreed that Members should recommit to the Partnerships with added enthusiasm in order to promote the good work that goes on.
- vi. Following comments from Members, it was agreed that future agendas should include an item to allow Statutory Partners to provide an update thus encouraging contributions. It was also agreed that a session should be held in January to allow Members to discuss the issues raised within the CJI Report and for planning purposes.
- vii. A Member also suggested that the Chair's meetings should be reinstated as it was a useful way to share good practice.
- viii. It was resolved that a session would be held for Members in January, 2015, followed by a further session, to include the CJI Inspectors, in February to discuss the findings of the report and the way forward.
- ix. Furthermore, it was agreed to reinstate the Chairs/Vice-Chairs quarterly meetings.

12. (D)PCSP Members' Meeting Expenses

- i. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised that a letter would be sent to all Members advising them of how many meeting expense payments they had claimed to date, and asking them to list any other meetings and events related to their role as a PCSP/DPCSP Member which they now wished to claim for above and beyond the current eligibility criteria.
- ii. A Member questioned whether the Joint Committee would accept a change in the eligibility criteria.
- iii. Members were reminded that while expenses are paid by the Joint Committee, the eligibility criteria was set by PCSP Members and so could be amended as required.

13. Recruitment of (D)PCSP Independent Members

- i. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised Members that the application period for the recruitment of Independent Members had now closed and that in Belfast 81 applications had been received for the 29 available spaces.
- ii. Members were further advised that shortlisting would take place during February, interviews were scheduled for March, and so it was anticipated that Members would be appointable in June, 2015.
- iii. The Safer City Assistant Manager noted that given this timeline, the PCSP would not be in a position to hold meetings during April and May 2015 and as such Members would need to consider developing a transitional plan which would be lead by staff in the interim.
- iv. Members were advised that a paper on this would be provided at the next meeting of the PCSP.

14. Strategic Issues

- i. In reference to the previous item, the Safer City Manager advised that PCSP and DPCSP Annual Reports would need to be with Members before the end of the financial year to allow the current membership to approve them.
- ii. Members were further advised that discussions with the Joint Committee were indicating that the PCSP could expect budget cuts of around 15% which, alongside the additional populations which would soon fall within the Belfast City Council Area, would make the prioritisation of issues key.
- iii. A Member suggested that the recent evaluation of PCSPs should be considered when formulating new Action Plans and that Members should submit any suggestions regarding key themes to the PCSP Staff.
- iv. A Member noted the importance of including the new areas of Belfast in the Action Plans in order to ensure buy in in the future. It was noted that although the Belfast Council boundary was increasing, the budget was actually being reduced.
- v. The Safer City Manager advised that it was likely that the next few months would bring a period of uncertainty and that the budget constraints would be mirrored by the Council too. She added that Ineqe were beginning to do additional consultation work within the new Council areas to ensure that their voices were included in the (D)PCSP Action Plans.
- vi. A Member suggested that additional meetings should be scheduled between January and March, 2015 in order to address the issues being discussed.
- vii. The Safer City Manager suggested that once a communiqué providing further direction was issued by the Joint Committee, this could be arranged.

15. Date of Next Meeting

- i. The Chair advised Members that the next meeting of the PCSP would be on Monday, 19th January at 6pm.