

# Minutes of the Belfast Policing and Community Safety Partnership

## Private Meeting

PBNI Offices, 80-90 North Street, Belfast  
Monday, 16th February, 2015

### Political Members

Councillor Colin Keenan (Chair)  
Councillor Janice Austin  
Councillor Mary Ellen Campbell  
Councillor Matt Garrett  
Councillor John Hussey  
Alderman Jim Rodgers

### Independent Members

Frank Mulhern (Vice Chair)  
Valerie Allen  
Claire Canavan  
Liz Groves  
John MacVicar  
Harry Maguire  
Carmel McKinney  
John Topping

### Designated Organisations

Ian McCrickard, NIHE  
Eithne McIlroy, PBNI

Patricia Muldoon, YJA  
T/Superintendent Bobby Singleton, PSNI

### Staff Present

Alison Allen, Safer City Manager  
Katharine McCrum, Partnership Support Officer

### Apologies

Councillor Mervyn Jones  
Alderman Frank McCoubrey  
Councillor Kate Mullan  
Chief Superintendent Nigel Grimshaw, PSNI  
Trevor Murphy, BELB  
Cecil Worthington, H&SC Trust

#### 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. Eithne McIlroy, PBNI, advised that there were inaccuracies within the minutes relating to the statutory update from the Probation Board.
- ii. Notwithstanding this element, the minutes of the Belfast PCSP meeting held on 19th January, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct.

#### 4. Good Relations Bonfire Management Programme Review

(Nicola Lane, Good Relations Manager, and Stevie Lavery, Programme Manager, attended in relation to this item).

- i. Stevie Lavery, Programme Manager, provided Members with details of the Bonfire Management Programme in 2014 and advised that negotiations were underway for the funding of the 2015 Programme.
- ii. Members were advised that 2014 had been the first year that the Programme was delivered directly by Council and allowed the 15% management fee to be removed from the overall cost. Nicola Lane, Good Relations Manager, added that the Programme was however resource intensive requiring a full time Officer for 4 months with additional administrative support.
- iii. In response to a query regarding those bonfires which had not signed up to the scheme, and those not on Council land, Ms. Lane advised that even those not on Council land could sign up to the Programme however it was a gradual process and not all groups wanted to take part. She advised that engagement with these groups was critical and ongoing.
- iv. Mr. Lavery added that the number of groups signing up to the scheme could become a resource issue for the Council and that there was still a need to address some negative issues of those groups currently involved.
- v. A Member enquired as to when the evaluation of the 2014 Programme would be complete, and how this had been achieved without a comparative baseline.
- vi. Mr. Lavery advised that this was difficult given that it was hard to measure something that was not occurring. He added that the evaluation was independent and would aim to measure the environmental and social impact that the Programme was having. Ms. Lane added that the £11,000 spent on the evaluation during 2014 would not be repeated annually.
- vii. In response to a question regarding the Council's recourse should groups disregard the terms and conditions of the grant, Mr. Lavery advised that 6 second stage payments had been withheld for this reason, and it would be for Members to decide how this would affect future funding.
- viii. Following a question regarding August bonfires, Mr. Lavery advised that 5 bonfires had been supported by the Council during August, however this was through different methods.
- ix. A Member noted that many of the agencies involved in PCSPs would need to be involved in the planning of Bonfire programmes, and that it was important to support communities in both July and August with regards to bonfires.
- x. A Member commented that he would be in support of continuing to fund the Programme, pending the review which was due to go before the Council's Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 9<sup>th</sup> March.
- xi. Members agreed to support the allocation of £15,000 towards the Bonfire Management Programme, subject to the pending review.

## **5. Matters Arising and Chairs Business**

- i. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised Members that the PSNI were still considering how its Policing Districts would be affected by Local Government Reform.

## **6. Action Plan Update**

- i. The Safer City Manager provided Members with an update on the PCSP's Action Plan for 2014/2015 and noted that work had progressed well throughout the year.
- ii. Members noted the contents of the Progress Report provided within the papers.

## **7. DPCSP Action Plan Updates**

- i. The Safer City Manager drew Members' attention to Progress Reports for each of the District PCSPs.
- ii. Members noted the contents of the 4 DPCSP updates.

## **8. 2015/2016 Transitional Action Plan**

- i. The Safer City Manager asked Members to approve a Transitional Action Plan for 2015/2016 as provided. She noted that these projects had been selected from the current Action Plan as those which demonstrated a clear strategic and community impact and so should be continued into the new financial year.
- ii. Members were also advised that items including Cyber Crime and Child Sexual Exploitation had been added to the plan given that the DOJ had cited them as likely priorities in the future.
- iii. Members were further advised that due to the increase in population as a result of Local Government Reform, the PCSP budget from the Joint Committee had been increased by 22%. The Safer City Manager added that the funding model within Belfast would need to be considered by the new Partnership which was not expected to be in place before June, 2015.
- iv. In response to a query regarding activities planned within the incoming areas, the Safer City Manager clarified that no activities were in a set geographical area, but were in fact city wide and strategic in their objectives.
- v. A Member welcomed the increase in budget given the new areas that would soon fall within the Belfast PCSP boundary. Concern was raised about existing PCSP funded projects and posts within the incoming areas and how continuity of service could be maintained.
- vi. Several Members raised concerns that a new Partnership could overturn the decision to fund the current projects, and one Member felt that it was not appropriate for the current Members to approve an Action Plan for the new Partnership.
- vii. The Safer City Manager advised that these issues had been reviewed by the Joint Committee and agreed to confirm with Members the legal advice which had been obtained.
- viii. In response to queries about engagement with the transferring areas, the Safer City Manager advised that consultation evenings had been held in each of the new areas and that staff were beginning to make contact with the relevant community groups.

- ix. Members again raised concerns at the delay in the recruitment of Independent Members given that the key summer period was going to be effected.
- x. The Safer City Manager advised that the Transitional Plans for DPCSPs were working to the same total budget, however this was a notional figure and funding options were still to be agreed. She added that the consultation done by the PCSP during 2014/2015 would be available to the new Members who would agree the final Action Plan for 2015/2016 however until then Officers alone would deliver on the Plans.
- xi. A Member noted the inclusion of training within Strategic Objective 1, adding that little or no guidance had been issued to the current Members.
- xii. The Safer City Manager advised that this point had also been acknowledged within the Criminal Justice Inspection Report.
- xiii. Eithne McIlroy, PBNI, advised that the Probation Board had met with the Joint Committee and Criminal Justice Inspection where it had been acknowledged that more utilisation of the skills around the table would be needed in the future.
- xiv. Following further discussion, Members approved the PCSP Transitional Plan for 2015/2016, including the additional items as outlined by the Safer City Manager.

#### **9. Hate Crime Update**

- i. The Safer City Manager advised Members that work was ongoing regarding the previously agreed Hate Crime Conference which would be held between 25<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2015.
- ii. Members were advised that the Conference would focus on Social Cohesion and Inclusion and take a positive look at the good practice existing within Northern Ireland. Members were further advised that satellite sessions would be held in each area of Belfast and that invites would be circulated within the next few weeks.

#### **10. Anti-Social Behaviour Project Update**

- i. The Safer City Manager reminded Members that McClure Watters had been procured to carry out the Economic Appraisal as part of the Anti-Social Behaviour Project. She added that the site visit to Glasgow had been confirmed for 4<sup>th</sup> March.
- ii. Members were asked to confirm their wish to attend the visit.
- iii. Members noted the update provided.

#### **11. PCSP Communications Strategy Working Group**

- i. The Safer City Manager advised Members that the Communications Strategy Working Group had suggested that E-zines and advertorials should be used as the methods by which to promote the PCSP and its work.
- ii. Members were also advised that advice was being sought by Council regarding the establishment of Facebook and Twitter sites, primarily around autonomy and risk.

- iii. Members agreed to provide delegated authority to Officers to implement the recommendations of the Working Group, including the production of an E-zine and development of advertorials, at the cost of £4,405.

## **12. PCSP Drugs Campaign Update**

- i. Members were advised that the PCSP Drugs Campaign 'Drug Dealers Don't Care...Do you?' had been relaunched on 9<sup>th</sup> February with the inclusion of a television advert.
- ii. The Chair welcomed the campaign and noted that the launch in City Hall had been well attended.
- iii. The Safer City Manager advised that a further update on the reach of the campaign would be provided at a later date.

## **13. Local Government Reform Update / (D)PCSP Recruitment Process Update**

- i. The Safer City Manager reiterated that the new PCSP was likely to be constituted between June and September, 2015. She added that the PSNI Districts did not currently fit the new Council boundaries and so this was being reviewed.
- ii. Members were further advised that the PCSP was looking at issues within the City Centre that currently fell within the remit of the South Belfast DPCSP given the strategic nature of many of these issues.

### Castlereagh Police Station

- iii. Members agreed that a letter should be written to the Chief Constable regarding concerns that Castlereagh Police Station will not fall under Belfast City Policing District Command despite being within the new Belfast City Council boundary come April, 2015.

### Charing of PCSP Meetings

- iv. Several Members raised the issue of Independent Members acting as the Chair of the PCSP, suggesting that there should be a democratic rotation as seen with the Policing Board.
- v. The Safer City Manager advised that this would require a legislative change, however it had been raised within the Criminal Justice Inspection Report and the Joint Committee were committed to reviewing this.

## **14. Strategic Issues**

- i. Members commented upon the lack of PSNI representation at the Private Meeting and suggested that it would be useful for all Statutory Partners to attend the meeting of the Policing Committee.
- ii. The Safer City Manager advised that this too would require a change in legislation however she agreed to speak with Chief Superintendent Grimshaw regarding the attendance of PSNI Officers at PCSP meetings.

- iii. Eithne McIlroy, PBNI, suggested that at the session with the Criminal Justice Inspection, it was suggested that operation of separate Policing Committee meetings had been an interpretation of the law that had become practice.
- iv. The Chair of the North Belfast DPCSP advised that the PSNI were asked to provide a 10 minute update at the start of every Private Meeting.
- v. A Member noted that a 2 year review of the PCSP structure had been initially planned however this had not taken place and so improvements to the way of operating were required.
- vi. The Safer City Manager noted, and several Members agreed, that the real issue was the need for information rather than to be part of the Policing Committee which monitors the PSNI.
- vii. Members agreed that a meeting of the Policing Committee should take place prior to the Private Meeting in March.

#### Statutory Partner Updates

- viii. Patricia Muldoon, Youth Justice Agency, confirmed that the service was to receive a 12% reduction in budget which would not include in year savings. She advised that a voluntary redundancy scheme was in operation and that those who left would not be replaced meaning that Youth Justice would be doing more with fewer resources.
- ix. Eithne McIlroy, Probation Board, advised that the Board were beginning to look at how best to contribute to PCSPs whilst looking at the themes of Fear of Crime, Anti-Social Behaviour and Hate Crime.
- x. The Chair advised that the PSNI would be inviting Members to a briefing regarding the new PSNI boundaries and Local Neighbourhood Teams within the coming weeks.

#### **15. Date of Next Meeting**

- i. The Chair advised Members that the next meeting of the PCSP would be on Monday, 23rd March at 6pm, following a meeting of the Policing Committee at 5.30pm in the Conor Room, City Hall.