

Minutes of the Belfast Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Private Meeting

Youth Justice Agency Offices Duncairn Gardens

Monday, 19th January, 2015

Political Members

Councillor Mervyn Jones (Acting Chair)
Councillor Colin Keenan
Councillor Mary Ellen Campbell
Alderman Jim Rodgers

Independent Members

Valerie Allen
Claire Canavan
John MacVicar
Carmel McKinney
John Topping

Designated Organisations

Chief Superintendent Nigel Grimshaw, PSNI
Alan Hamill, NIFRS
Superintendent Paula Hilman, PSNI
Eithne McIlroy, PBNI

Ian McCrickard, NIHE
Patricia Muldoon, YJA
Trevor Murphy, BELB

Staff Present

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

Apologies

Councillor Janice Austin
Councillor Matt Garrett
Councillor Kate Mullan
Frank Mulhern (Vice-Chair)
Liz Groves
Cecil Worthington, H&SC Trust

1. Welcome and Apologies

- i. As the Chair was not available to open the meeting, and in the absence of the Vice-Chair, Councillor Mervyn Jones, Chair of the East Belfast DPCSP, acted as the Chair. Councillor Jones 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 16th December, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct.
- ii. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised that the actions arising were covered within the meeting's papers.

4. Safer Belfast App

- i. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised Members that while a presentation on the previously agreed Safer Belfast App had been planned, the representative from Digital Services was no longer available.
- ii. Members were advised that development of the app was underway using the existing My Belfast App as a template and that focus groups would be held as part of this development. The Safer City Assistant Manager also advised that an email would be sent to Members allowing them the opportunity to submit thoughts, comments, and suggestions regarding the format of the App.
- iii. In response to a Members' query, the Safer City Assistant Manager advised that the My Belfast App was still 'live' however it would be re-launched as the Safer Belfast App before the end of the financial year with the additional Community Safety elements added.
- iv. With regards to monitoring activity, Members were advised that once launched, the number of downloads, click-throughs and level of access could be measured.
- v. In response to a question about how the App would be publicised, the Safer City Assistant Manager reminded Members that they had previously agreed for the remaining budget of £2,333 to be used for publicity purposes.
- vi. Members noted the update provided.

5. Action Plan Update

- i. The Safer City Assistant 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, adding that work was progressing well with the majority of the budget spent or allocated.
- ii. In response to a query about the 2FAST2SOON simulator, the Safer City Assistant Manager advised that the car had been ordered and that Belfast was on the waiting list for delivery during this financial year. She added that conversations had taken place with DOJ regarding the possibility that the timeline for delivery would slip, and so it was hoped that they would remain flexible regarding this.
- iii. A Member queried what the uptake of the Ur Zone Cage had been, and how staff were increasing awareness of the resource.
- iv. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised that there had been interest in the Cage and that this was expected to increase over the Spring/Summer period. She added that from a diversionary point of view people preferred to have the Cage outside and so work was ongoing with the Parks and Leisure Department to train staff for delivery.
- v. Members were further advised that advertising was ongoing and that details were also available online at <http://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/community/pcsp/belfast-cage-arena.aspx>.
- vi. Members noted the report and approved its contents.

6. Social and Economic Evaluation of Belfast (D)PCSPs

- i. The Safer City Assistant Manager provided Members with an update on this previously agreed piece of work, advising that two submissions to the quotation document had been received, and that RSM McClure Watters had been awarded the contract.
- ii. Members were advised that a briefing had been scheduled for 28th January and it was suggested that RSM McClure Watters could be invited to this to provide Members with further information on their work as it would link well with the conversations about the Criminal Justice Inspection Report and the future direction of the PCSP.
- iii. In response to comments that the timescale for the delivery of this piece of work was tight, the Safer City Assistant Manager assured Members that the deadline of 31st March had been detailed within the quotation document and that this had again been discussed with RSM McClure Watters at an initial contract meeting.
- iv. Members noted the update provided and agreed to invite RSM McClure Watters to the briefing on 28th January.

7. Hate Crime Update

- i. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised Members that work was ongoing regarding the previously agreed Hate Crime Conference which was likely to be held in late March, 2015.
- ii. The Safer City Assistant Manager reminded Members that at the last meeting of the PCSP, it was agreed that delegated authority would be provided to the Chair, Vice-Chair, PCSP Staff and Eva Grosman, Centre of Democracy and Peace Building, to take forward 3 project proposals relating to Hate Crime.
- iii. Members were advised that this meeting had taken place and that the group had decided to progress with the 3 projects, including the development of a Hate Crime App.
- iv. A Member noted that several of the PCSP Youth Award winners were working on the issue of Hate Crime and suggested that their work could be showcased at the Hate Crime Conference.
- v. A request was also made for offenders to be included in some way as part of the agenda.
- vi. The Safer City Assistant Manager agreed to raise these suggestions with the Safer City Manager who was leading on this piece of work.

8. PCSP Drugs Campaign

- i. The Safer City Assistant Manager reminded Members of the 'Drug Dealers Don't Care' Campaign which was delivered during the last financial year with funding from PCSPs across Northern Ireland as well as Crimestoppers and the PSNI.
- ii. Members were reminded that the PCSP had been successful in securing £50,000 of Assets Recovery Community Scheme (ARCS) funding to deliver the campaign again

but with an added television advertisement alongside the radio, social media and poster campaign.

- iii. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised that invitations to the launch of the campaign on 9th February would be circulated to Members, the Chief Constable, Justice and Health Ministers and the NIPB Chair.
- iv. Members were further advised that to support the campaign, the PSNI would be rolling out Operation Torus, a policing initiative which deals with the issue of street level drug dealing across Northern Ireland, on the same date. She added that the Public Health Agency in conjunction with FASA would also be launching their legal highs information leaflet alongside the campaign.
- v. Members noted the update provided.

9. Local Government Reforms/Recruitment of (D)PCSP Members Update

- i. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised Members that a Communiqué had just been received from the Joint Committee and while Officers had not yet had a change to digest its contents in full, it included two key items;
 - Partnerships are required to provide a 9 month Annual Report for the period April – December 2014 which is to be approved by the current Membership and submitted to the Joint Committee by 31st March, 2015.
 - Due to a delay in the recruitment process, it is unlikely that the Partnerships will be reconstituted before late June, 2015 and so PCSPs are asked to review current Action Plans in order to develop a 6 month Transitional Action Plan which will be led by staff in the absence of a Partnership. This is to be submitted to the Joint Committee by 28th February.
- ii. The Safer City Assistant Manager then asked Members for their comments and suggestions regarding these items.
- iii. Members agreed that the deadlines imposed by the Joint Committee showed poor planning on their part and it was suggested that a letter should be written to the Chair of the Policing Board expressing the PCSP's concern.
- iv. A Member noted that in the past, current Members were allowed to continue in their roles until the new Partnership was constituted.
- v. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised Members that if NIPB were not successful in recruiting the HR Consultant which was currently out for tender, it was possible that further delays could be expected.
- vi. She added that while there was a concern about developing a transitional plan, the PCSP currently had strong projects that could be well delivered by staff in the interim period. She also suggested that the Plan cover the full year's activities to ensure service delivery continued if delays did go on beyond the initial 6 month period.
- vii. In response to a query from a Member regarding the CJI suggestion to remove DPCSPs from the Belfast structure, the Safer City Assistant Manager assured Members that CJI had confirmed that the wording had differed from their meaning and

that further clarification could be provided at the briefing on 23rd February. She also advised Members that a change in legislation would be required for such a change.

- viii. A Member again raised concerns regarding the timescales imposed and how this looked from a community perspective. He commended the work of the PCSP Staff and offered his support for their delivery of the Transitional Plan.
- ix. Some discussion took place regarding new 'Positions of Responsibility' which would affect PCSP and DPCSP Members from April, 2015.
- x. Members resolved to send a letter to the Policing Board detailing their concerns regarding the unrealistic timescales that were being imposed. Furthermore, the Partnership agreed for the Safer City Assistant Manager to bring to the briefing on 28th January, a draft Transitional Plan for Members to review.

10. Strategic Issues

Statutory Partner Updates

- i. Representatives from the Statutory Partners provided the Partnership with updates from their respective organisations:
 - BELB – Trevor Murphy advised that the Youth Service was hopeful of retaining a similar budget to previous years, and that if the funding formula was changed to reflect need rather than population, budgets may in fact increase.
 - NIFRS – Alan Hamill advised Members that the Fire and Rescue Service ran 4 youth engagement programmes in Belfast throughout the year to educate young people on the dangers of fire starting and dangerous driving. He advised that this would no longer be the case in 2015/2016 and so match funding would need to be sought from partners, including the PCSP and DPCSPs. He also advised that 1 day educational awareness courses were cost neutral and so it may be useful to expand these into a larger event in partnership with the PSNI, Youth Justice Agency and Probation Board.
 - PSNI – Chief Superintendent Nigel Grimshaw advised that the police response to Local Government Reform (LGR) continued however no decision had yet been taken on whether to match Neighbourhood Policing Teams to Council DEAs or the Local Area Working Groups. He added that there would be some changes to the Senior Management Team as several Superintendents were moving to become District Commanders outside Belfast.
 - NI Housing Executive – Ian McCrickard advised that the NIHE boundaries would be amended to reflect the LGR changes.
 - Probation Board – Eithne McIlroy advised that PBNI are to review their business operating model. She advised that plans had been made for services based on the expected 12% cut in funding however this was now likely to be slightly less, and so operational plans would need to be reconsidered again. Members were also advised that PBNI were meeting with the judiciary regarding community sentences and how to increase confidence in community sentences following on from a Criminal Justice Issues workshop.

- Youth Justice Agency – Patricia Muldoon advised that the Youth Justice Agency was facing cuts of between 12-15% and so they were focusing on how to offer the same services with less funding. She confirmed that they had not yet begun to look at restructuring in line with LGR.
- ii. With regards to policing boundaries, a Member suggested that Chief Superintendent Grimshaw speak with Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services, regarding the Council boundaries and Area Working Groups.
- iii. Several Statutory Partners advised that they would consider boundary changes once the PSNI had made a decision, given the knock on effect it created for them.
- iv. Chief Superintendent Grimshaw advised that he would look again at how the PSNI would respond to LGR and feed this back to the Partnership.
- v. A Member suggested that the Chief Executives of the Youth Justice Agency and Probation Board arrange to meet with the Council's Chief Executive as it was important for closer relationships to be forged.

Communications Strategy

- vi. Councillor Colin Keenan advised Members that the Communications Strategy Working Group had met earlier that afternoon to discuss how to take forward the Communications Strategy.
- vii. He advised that a letter would be issued to the Statutory Partners inviting their communications representatives to attend the next meeting in order to provide a partnership approach to PCSP communications.
- viii. The Safer City Assistant Manager reminded Members that the Chair and Vice-Chair were the PCSP representatives on the Communications Strategy Working Group, alongside further representatives from the four DPCSPs.

11. Date of Next Meeting

- i. Councillor Jones advised Members that the next meeting of the PCSP would be on Monday, 16th February at 6pm, following a meeting of the Policing Committee at 5.30pm in a venue to be confirmed.
- ii. The Safer City Assistant Manager reminded Members of the remaining PCSP meetings:
 - RSM McClure Watters/Transitional Plan Briefing - Wednesday, 28th January, 6pm, Conor Room
 - CJI Briefing - Monday, 23rd February, 6pm, Banqueting Hall
 - Private Meeting - Monday, 23rd March, 6pm, venue to be confirmed
- iii. Members were also reminded to return any outstanding expenses and mileage claims as soon as possible to ensure that payment would be made before the end of the financial year.