

**Minutes of the North Belfast District Policing and  
Community Safety Partnership  
Policing Committee  
Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> November 2014, 5.00pm  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor HR Conference Room, Cecil Ward Building, Belfast**

<b>Members Present</b>	
<b>Councillors</b>	<b>Independents</b>
Councillor Mary Ellen Campbell (Chair)	Jennifer Cornell
Councillor Patrick Convery	Bronach Graham
Councillor JJ Magee	Ian McLaughlin
Councillor Naomi Thompson	Pat McLarnon
<b>PSNI</b>	
Chief Inspector Robert Singleton	
Inspector Gavin Kirkpatrick	
Inspector Roy Watton	
<b>Staff Present</b>	<b>Apologies</b>
Richard McLernon, Safer City Coordinator	
Saranne Gallagher, Partnership Support Officer	

**1. Welcome & Routine Matters**

- i. The Chair, Cllr Mary Ellen Campbell, welcomed Members to the Policing Committee of the North Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership.
- ii. No apologies were received.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

- i. The Chair highlighted the declarations of interest policy.
- ii. No declarations of interest were recorded.

**3. Minutes of North Belfast DPCSP Policing Committee**

- i. The Minutes of the North Belfast Policing Committee Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> September, of which copies were previously circulated, were taken as read and correct.
- ii. A Member asked if the actions points identified at the DPCSP Meeting were circulated to Members to be completed in advance of the following DPCSP Meeting.
- iii. The Safer Coordinator advised Members of the normal protocol regarding action points being circulated to Members and actioned. He advised Members, that there had been a few issues that prevented the actions being circulated to Members for action in advance of the next DPCSP Meeting.
- iv. Chief Inspector Singleton provided Members with an update regarding the recent attacks on the Memorial for the three Scottish Soldiers at Ligoniel.
- v. Chief Inspector Singleton further informed Members that all operational police based at York Road Police Station would be removed by 1<sup>st</sup> December. He advised Members that

once this had been completed, York Road Police Station would be no longer open to the public.

- vi. A Member asked where the Officers being removed from York Road are being reallocated to. The Chief Inspector commented that all Neighbourhood Officers would be reallocated to Antrim Road Police Station.

#### **4. Area Commanders' Update Report**

- i. Chief Inspector Singleton provided Members with an update on crime statistics to date.
- ii. Chief Inspector Singleton advised Members that there had been an increase of 3% in overall crime.
- iii. He advised Members that there has been a decrease of 7% in violence with injury crimes and there had been a slight increase in violent crime without injury.
- iv. The Chief Inspector commented that there had been a significant increase in the number of sexual offences reported. He advised Members that this had been a concern for the PSNI.
  - i. He advised Members that the number of robberies during the reporting period had decreased. He further informed Members that there had been a reduction of 18% in number of burglaries (90 less incidents reported this year in comparison to this time last year).

#### **5. Review of the previous month's policing**

- i. The Chief Inspector advised Members of recent events and commented all events had passed off without any major incidents.
- ii. He advised Members that all Halloween celebrations had been a success.
- iii. The Chief Inspector commented that following a football match between Crusaders and Cliftonville, there had been a minor incident regarding the removal of Cliftonville supporters.
- iv. The Chief Inspector advised Members that the young girl from North Belfast, Leontia Teague, who disappeared, had been located in Bangor. However, he advised Members that she had recently been reported as missing again.
- v. He advised Members that following Remembrance Sunday on 9<sup>th</sup> November a policing operation had taken place in Tigers Bay. He informed Members due to a show of strength and subsequent searches there had been a requirement for a police presence in the area.
- vi. The Chief Inspector advised Members of a recent incident on the 14<sup>th</sup> November at Ballysillan Leisure Centre. He informed Members that two cross community groups had been playing sport together at the Leisure Centre and when leaving the centre, one of the groups bus had been vandalised with sectarian slogans. He commented that there had been some concern by the local community regarding the police response time to the incident. The Chief Inspector commented that the PSNI had been at the incident within half an hour of it being reported and the reason for the time delay had been there had been no threat to life.

- vii. The Chief Inspector further advised Members that on 16<sup>th</sup> November there had been a rocket style attack on a police landrover at Crumlin Road/Woodvale Road junction. He commented that this had been the third attack in the last 12 months and due to the recent attack, the PSNI had made changes to their local patrol strategy to ensure the safety of their officers.
- viii. A Member commented that following a recent incident regarding a car crash/stabbing and the associated media coverage, asked if there had been any paramilitary connections to the incident. He further asked if the PSNI did not believe there had been any paramilitary connections, why the PSNI do not counteract any false information portrayed by the media.
- ix. The Chief Inspector commented that investigations into the incident had still been ongoing and whether there had been a paramilitary connection to the incident still remained a line of enquiry. He further commented that if the PSNI were contacted in advance by the media before stories are published, the PSNI could steer the story in the appropriate direction.
- x. A Member commented that following this attack, fears had been heightened within the local community regarding knife crime. The Chief Inspector commented that the PSNI would do everything to relay the fears of the local community regarding knife crime.
- xi. Following a discussion regarding the PSNI and the media, the Chief Inspector commented that if the media issue a story containing false information, the PSNI could issue a statement to counteract the story published.
- xii. A Member made a query regarding Neighbourhood Policing Team consultation with the community which was referred to within the Area Commanders' report. The Area Commander informed Members that it related to PSNI attending community meetings.
- xiii. A Member commented that it had been reported that domestic burglary had been reduced; however, rate of burglaries through open windows and doors had increased. The Chief Inspector commented that burglaries through open windows and doors had still been an issue in North Belfast and advised Members that there had been another four burglaries a during last weekend.
- xiv. Following a discussion regarding burglaries, a Member suggested for PSNI officers to attend local community events to distribute home safety awareness leaflets to both older and vulnerable adults. He requested for leaflets to be forwarded to him and he would distribute some on behalf of the PSNI to the community.
- xv. A Member asked if there had been any patterns regarding the recent upsurge in sexual offences. The Chief Inspector commented that there had been 34 more sexual offence reports this year in comparison to last year.

## 6. **Forthcoming policing events/issues**

- i. The Chief Inspector advised Members of forthcoming policing events.
- ii. He informed Members of forthcoming parades in December, in particular on 5<sup>th</sup> December and the Apprentice Boys Parade on 6<sup>th</sup> December.

7. **Members Written Questions and Responses**

- i. No written questions were received.

8. **Policing Committee Funding**

- i. No policing committee applications received.

9. **Date of next meeting**

- i. Members noted that a North Belfast DPCSP Planning Session would be held on 18<sup>th</sup> December.
- ii. Dates of DPCSP Meetings to be confirmed and circulated to Members.
- iii. A Member asked for information to be provided at the next DPCSP Meeting regarding the cost of the recruitment process for Independent Members.