

**Minutes of the North Belfast District Policing and
Community Safety Partnership
Private Meeting
Wednesday 14th January, 6.00pm
Youth Justice Agency, 171-179 Duncairn Gardens, Belfast**

Members Present	
Councillors	Independents
Councillor Mary Ellen Campbell (Chair)	Ms. Jennifer Cornell
Councillor JJ Magee	Ms. Bronach Graham
Councillor Guy Spence	Mr. Ian McLaughlin
Councillor Naomi Thompson	Mr. Pat McLarnon
Designated Organisations	
Inspector Gavin Kirkpatrick, PSNI	Mr. Mark Nicholson, PBNI
Mr. David McComiskey, NIFRS	Chief Inspector Robert Singleton, PSNI
Mr. Malachy McKinney	Mr. Alan Wilson. BELB
Mr. Martin Morgan, BHSCT	Inspector Roy Watton, PSNI
Ms. Patricia Muldoon, YJA	
Staff Present	Apologies
Richard McLernon, Safer City Coordinator	Councillor Patrick Convery
Edele Cleary, Project Officer	
Saranne Gallagher, Partnership Support Officer	

1. Welcome/Apologies/ Declarations of Interest

- i. The Chair, Cllr Mary Ellen Campbell, welcomed Members to the Private Meeting of the North Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership and noted the apologies provided.
- ii. The Chair highlighted the declarations of interest policy. No declarations of interest were recorded.
- iii. The Chair thanked the Youth Justice Agency for hosting the North Belfast DPCSP Private Meeting.

2. Minutes of North Belfast DPCSP Private Meeting

- i. The Minutes of the North Belfast Private Meeting held on 24th November, of which copies were previously circulated were agreed.
- ii. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with an update regarding the actions from the previous North Belfast DPCSP Meeting.
- iii. He advised Members that Victim Support provided clarification regarding translation costs. He further commented that a new proposal had been submitted by Victim Support and informed Members that the proposal would be reviewed by the Hate Crime Subgroup but the final decision to fund the applicant would be made the Partnership.
- iv. He advised Members that Victim Support had not provided an update regarding a rationale for the reporting of an increase in referrals.

- v. He informed Members that a meeting had been held with Councillor Thompson and Mrs Lamb. He provided Members with an update on the meeting and issues discussed.

3. **Policing Committee Update**

- 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 2.7% in overall crime.
- iii. He advised Members that there has been a decrease of 0.2% in overall victim crime. He further advised Members that there had been a 3.8% decrease in violence with injury and an increase of 17.2% in violence without injury.
- iv. He informed Members that there had been an increase in sexual offences. He advised Members that this figure had greatly increased in comparison to the same time last year. He advised Members that this had been a concern for the PSNI.
- v. The Chief Inspector commented that there had been a decrease in the number of robberies against individuals. However, there had been an increase in burglaries against businesses.
- vi. He advised Members that the number of anti social behaviour incidents had decreased by 45 incidents for the reporting period.
- vii. A Member commented that although the PSNI Facebook page had been proactive and helpful, the PSNI need to be cautious with the language they use in particular with the reporting of juvenile incidents. She further asked for the PSNI to provide a break down in their analysis of adults and juveniles. The Chief Inspector commented that he would review this, and were possible provide a breakdown of adults/juvenile crime.

4. **Items for Action**

- i. No further items for action discussed.

5. **North Belfast DPCSP Action Plan Update**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with an update in relation to the delivery and financial expenditure to date of the 2014/2015 North Belfast DPCSP Action Plan.
- ii. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that with the end of the financial year near, there had been an element of increased pressure for the successful delivery of projects to be achieved. He requested from Members that if new project is developed before the next DPCSP that a quorum of Members meet to review and agree project proposals. Members agreed to this request.
- iii. The Safer City Coordinator requested for Members to allocate a total of £5,000 towards the Belfast PCSP Hate Crime Conference due to be held in March.
- iv. A Member asked what the itinerary and purpose of the conference had been. The Chair commented that the purpose of the Conference had been to look at best practice regarding hate crime and confirmed the conference would be delivered in partnership with Centre for Peace and Democracy.

- v. Following a discussion regarding the Conference, Members requested further information to be provided on the content and objectives of the Conference before allocating funding to support the delivery of the Conference.
- vi. Members suggested for both organisations Welcome to My World and Beyond Skin to be involved in the delivery of the Conference.
- vii. The Safer City Coordinator reminded Members of the protocol that would be adhered to when decisions had to be made by the Partnership. He advised Members that firstly all proposals would firstly be considered by the full Partnership but failing that, a quorum of Members with voting rights could review and approve proposals. He further commented that if neither the Partnership or quorum of Members had been available, delegated authority had been granted to the Safer City Manager, Assistant Safer City Manager, the Vice Chair and Chair up to £1,000.
- viii. The Safer City Coordinator commented that with reference to 1.2 of the North Belfast DPCSP Action Plan, he requested guidance from Members regarding the delivery of this objective.
- ix. A Member commented that due to the prevalent issue of property thefts, the Partnership may be able to deliver initiatives through objective 1.2 in an attempt to stop thefts from property.
- x. The Safer City Coordinator reminded Members that all change controls regarding Action Plans need to be submitted to the Joint Committee for approval no later than 21st January.
- xi. A Member proposed that the Partnership could consider the delivery of a Road Safety initiative through objective 1.2.
- xii. The Chief Inspector suggested on reviewing the crime statistics for North Belfast, the Partnership should consider allocating funding into an initiative that would increase the awareness of sexual crime.
- xiii. The Chair advised Members that the North Belfast DPCSP Youth Conference had been shortlisted for an award at the NICCY Awards Ceremony. She congratulated all who had been involved in the Youth Conference on their hard work and wished them well at the Awards Ceremony.
- xiv. The Safer City Coordinator informed Members that in 1.9 of the Action Plan £1,000 had been allocated to the development of a Action Plan for the following financial year.
- xv. A Member asked if North Belfast acquire any new areas from 1st April. The Chief Inspector commented that due to police boundaries and neighbourhood areas, part of Court may come under the jurisdiction of North Belfast.
- xvi. Some Members highlighted their concern regarding North Belfast acquiring new areas. The Chair suggested for Members to forward their views directly via email to the Chief Inspector. The Chief Inspector welcomed this suggestion.
- xvii. A Member asked if the new Independent Members are not in place until the 1st June, would existing Independent Members be extended until then. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that the role of existing Independent Members would end their term on 31st March.

- xviii. A Member asked if there had been any interim plans for the beginning of next financial year regarding the makeup of the Partnership. The Safer City Coordinator commented that he would enquire this with the Safer City Manager and provide an update at the next meeting.
- xix. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that Margaret Higgins, Anti Social Behaviour Officer had been responsible for leading and delivering on objective 2.1. He informed Members that the ASB Officer had been liaising with local groups to identify potential projects. However, he further commented that she welcomed ideas from the Partnership.
- xx. The Safer City Coordinator informed Members that the date for the Drugs Bin Launch had been changed to the 16th February at 11.00am.
- xxi. He advised Members that a meeting to discuss Neighbourhood Watch had been proposed for February. He commented that he would provide an update at the next DPCSP Meeting.
- xxii. The Project Officer provided Members with an update on the launch of the Behind Closed Doors Campaign. She advised Members that the launch would be held on 6th March from 9.00am-1.00pm in Belfast Castle.
- xxiii. The Project Officer presented a proposal to Members regarding the delivery of an educational and preventative awareness session for teachers and classroom assistants, students and parents. Following a discussion, Members agreed to allocate £2,750 towards the delivery of this project.
- xxiv. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that a report regarding the Greater Ardoyne Tension Monitoring Group would be presented at a future DPCSP Meeting.
- xxv. He advised Members that there had been approximately £6,000 left in the Policing Committee Funding and requested for Members to encourage the submission of applications.

5a. December Planning Meeting Notes

- i. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with an overview of the meeting notes from the December North Belfast DPCSP Planning Session.
- ii. Members noted the Meeting notes.

5b. DPCSP Consultation Exercise

- i. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with an overview of the Consultation Exercise conducted by Ineqe.
- ii. He advised Members of the key findings specifically in relation to North Belfast. He commented that the information detailed in the report could assist the Partnership when developing their Transition Plan/Action Plan 2015/16.
- iii. Members noted the report.

6. Chair Update on Work with Belfast PCSP

- i. The Chair's provided Members with an update on the last Belfast PCSP Meeting.
- ii. Members requested confirmation if the Consultation Report completed by Ineqe had been submitted to Northern Ireland Policing Board and the Department Of Justice.
- iii. A Member requested for their query regarding youth provision raised through Tension Monitoring to be tabled at the next Belfast PCSP Meeting.

7. Community Safety Updates

- i. A Member presented an NIHE update to the Partnership. He advised Members that there had been three incidents reported in December and in total there had been 55 incidents reported for the year to date.
- ii. He further advised Members that there had ongoing issues regarding brick theft and 10 properties had been reported damaged in the Tigers Bay/ Hallidays Road area.
- iii. Following a discussion, Members asked for a statement to be issued regarding the ongoing housing issues. Members agreed for the communication subgroup to review and prepare the statement on behalf of the Partnership.
- iv. A Member raised his concerns regarding school children and drug taking. He commented that there had been an increase of 23% of young people in schools taking cannabis. He advised Members that both Shankill and Ligoneil had been two areas of great concern regarding young people and drugs.
- v. A Member queried if schools had been restricted in sharing information regarding young people and drug usage with other external agencies. She suggested funding could be utilised to facilitate drug awareness sessions to local schools and Board of Governors.
- vi. Following a discussion, Members suggested that external agencies could develop a project proposal to facilitate drug awareness sessions within local schools and Board of Governors.
- vii. A Member commented that at a recent BDACT meeting, it had been noted that there had been an increase in the use of legal highs and a notable increase of needle finds. She advised Members that she would provide a full update on the meeting at the next DPCSP.

8. Priorities for Action and Timetabling/ Signposting

- i. All issues for action and timetabling were noted by Members.
- ii. A Member requested if any agencies had any work based policies for domestic violence if they could forward a copy on to her.

9. Next Meeting

- i. Members noted that a North Belfast DPCSP Public Meeting would be held on Wednesday 4th February at 7.00pm in the Ligoneil Community Centre.

- ii. Members further noted that a North Belfast DPCSP Policing Committee and Private Meeting will be held on Wednesday 25th February in the Probation Board Offices, Antrim Road, Belfast.
- iii. Following a discussion, Members agreed for future DPCSP Meetings to be held in various community venues.