

**Minutes of the North Belfast District Policing and
Community Safety Partnership
Private Meeting
Monday 24th November, 6.00pm
1st Floor HR Conference Room, Cecil Ward Building, Belfast**

Members Present	
Councillors	Independents
Councillor Mary Ellen Campbell (Chair)	Ms. Jennifer Cornell
Councillor Patrick Convery	Ms. Bronach Graham
Councillor JJ Magee	Mr. Ian McLaughlin
Councillor Naomi Thompson	Mr. Pat McLarnon
Designated Organisations	
Mr. Liam Gunn, NIHE	Ms. Patricia Muldoon, YJA
Inspector Gavin Kirkpatrick, PSNI	Mr. Mark Nicholson, PBNI
Mr. Martin Morgan, BH&SCT	Chief Inspector Robert Singleton, PSNI
Mr. David McComiskey, NIFRS	Mr. Alan Wilson, BELB
	Inspector Roy Watton, PSNI
Staff Present	Apologies
Richard McLernon, Safer City Coordinator	
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 no apologies were provided.
- ii. The Chair highlighted the declarations of interest policy. No declarations of interest were recorded.

2. Minutes of North Belfast DPCSP Private Meeting

- i. The Minutes of the North Belfast Private Meeting held on 24th September, of which copies were previously circulated.
- ii. A Member requested further information to be included in the Minutes regarding the North Belfast Guardian Newspaper.

3. Reducing Offending Partnership

- i. Mark Dennison provided Members with an overview of the Reducing Offending Partnership.
- ii. He advised Members that the role of the Reducing Offending Partnership is to provide effective interventions for young people at risk of offending and managing the most prolific and high-risk offenders throughout Northern Ireland.
- iii. He informed Members that the Reducing Offending Partnership had a three tier approach;
 - Prevent and Deter;

- Catch and Control; and,
- Rehabilitate and Resettle.

- iv. He further informed Members of proposals to develop the Reducing Offending Partnership during 2015.
- v. The Chair thanked Mark for his informative presentation.
- vi. A Member asked how the Reducing Offending Partnership defined young people. Mark commented that a young person is anyone up to 18 years old.
- vii. A Member asked if the Reducing Offending Partnership had engaged with any academic institutions. Mark commented that the Reducing Offending Partnership had worked with Queen's University and currently recruited two students' placements from University of Ulster.
- viii. A Member asked how information regarding the role and the work of the Reducing Offending Partnership had been communicated to the local community. Mark commented that the Reducing Offending Partnership facilitate a large amount of community engagement to deliver the key messages of the Partnership.
- ix. A Member suggested for the Reducing Offending Partnership to attend a future North Belfast DPCSP Public Meeting. Members welcomed this suggestion.
- x. A Member asked if the Economic Evaluation for the Reducing Offending Partnership had been available for review. Mark commented that the Economic Evaluation had not yet been finalised, however when it was available he would circulate it to the North Belfast DPCSP.

4. **Policing Committee Update**

- i. Inspector Gavin Kirkpatrick provided Members with an update regarding PSNI operations.
- ii. Inspector Gavin Kirkpatrick advised Members of recent events and commented that all events had passed off without any major incidents.
- iii. Inspector Gavin Kirkpatrick advised Members that there had been an increase of 3% in overall crime.
- iv. He advised Members that there has been a decrease of 7% in violent with injury crime and a slight increase in violent crime without injury.
- v. Inspector Gavin Kirkpatrick 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.
- vi. 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).
- vii. A Member asked how many rape crime incidents had been reported. Inspector Kirkpatrick commented that there had been 34 incidents of rape crime reported.

- viii. A Member advised that there had been reports of young people engaging in sexual activities in both Ballysillan Park and Woodvale Park. Inspector Kirkpatrick informed Members that the PSNI had been aware of the events and had been investigating the reports received.
- ix. A Member commented that all information received in relation to these activities should be reported to the PSNI through the Neighbourhood Police Teams or detached youth workers.

5. **Items for Action**

- i. No further items for action discussed.

5a. **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 the Action Plan had been updated in relation to all reprofiled funding allocated to priorities within the Action Plan. He advised Members that all change control documentation had been completed and approved by the Department of Justice.
- iii. He advised Members that in relation to 1.2 of the North Belfast DPCSP Action Plan, there could be potential funding allocated to the Unwanted Bonfires Project.
- iv. He provided Members with an update on the PCSP Christmas Safety Event and reminded Members that the event will take place on Wednesday 3rd December in the City Hall from 10.00am-1.00pm.
- v. He further advised Members that the Small Grants Programme is due to open soon and will update Members when the Programme is open for applications.
- vi. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that Neighbourhood Watch would remain a priority within the North Belfast DPCSP Action Plan. He commented that he would facilitate a meeting with Neighbourhood Watch to identify their requirements and advised Members that he would link in with Inspector Roy Watton in relation to Neighbourhood Watch.
- vii. He informed Members that only three Policing Committee applications had been submitted to date. He requested Members to encourage local community groups to apply for Policing Committee Grants.

Domestic Violence

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that North Belfast DPCSP had allocated £4,000 towards a Domestic Violence Awareness Campaign in 2014/15. He commented that a total of £520 had been allocated to Child Contact Seminars and therefore leaving a remaining budget of £3,480. He requested Members to approve £3,000 to deliver a Domestic Violence Awareness Campaign.
- ii. Councillor Naomi Thompson provided Members with an overview of the Domestic Violence Awareness Campaign in North Belfast titled "Behind Closed Doors". She advised Members that the Campaign would run for a period of two weeks during December.

- iii. Members agreed to allocate £3,000 towards the Domestic Violence Awareness Campaign.
- viii. A Member asked how groups could access funding from North Belfast DPCSP. The Safer City Coordinator commented that if Members identify any groups and/or project proposals, that he would meet with the group to discuss their project proposal further. He advised Members that groups would need to demonstrate and ensure value for money. He further commented that the Members would review all project proposals before any funding is granted.
- ix. The Chair congratulated Councillor Naomi Thompson on her work in relation to Domestic Violence.

Greater Ardoyne Tension Monitoring Group

- i. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with an update regarding Greater Ardoyne Tension Monitoring Group.
- ii. He advised Members that £1,000 had been allocated to diversionary activities during periods of heightened tensions.
- iii. A Member asked how the dates for the diversionary activities to take place on had been decided. The Safer City Coordinator commented that the PSNI and local community groups had been consulted with in relation to the dates confirmed.
- iv. A Member commented that all work with local community groups needed to commence in advance of any periods of heightened tensions.
- v. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that the Greater Ardoyne Action Plan had been previously approved and requested Members to approve the project proposal. He informed Members that a full evaluation of the project would be completed and presented at a future DPCSP Meeting.
- vi. Members agreed the project proposal discussed.

Hate Crime

- i. The Safer City Coordinator presented to Members an update on the work of the Hate Crime Working Group.
- ii. He asked Members to review the progress to date of the Hate Crime Working Group and authorise officers, to undertake activity and spend on the various work streams as detailed within the project proposal.
- iii. He informed Members that North Belfast DPCSP had allocated £14,000 in its 2014/2015 Strategic Action Plan to deliver Hate Crime.
- iv. Following a discussion regarding the project proposal, a Member asked why funding had been requested from Victim Support.
- v. The Safer City Coordinator commented that Victim Support had received a number of referrals from North Belfast. He advised Members that in addition to the referrals, Victim Support had constraints on their budget for translation costs.

- vi. The Chair requested for funding towards Victim Support to be verified to ensure there would be no double funding.
- vii. A Member commented that a report discussed in the previous Policing Committee Meeting, demonstrated that there been a 3.5% decrease in the number of referrals. She requested clarification to be provided regarding number of referrals made to Victim Support.
- viii. Following a discussion, the Chair commented that £1,000 to support the development of an app seemed cheap and questioned if an app had been the best method of communication. She suggested for links to be made with an app already developed.
- ix. Members noted and agreed the project proposal.

6. Chair Update on Work with Belfast PCSP

- i. Due to the Chair's absence at the last Belfast PCSP Meeting, no update had been provided.

7. Community Safety Updates

- i. A Member advised the Partnership that a meeting had been held with local residents to resolve ongoing issues within the area of Carlisle.
- ii. He further advised Members that a County Court decree regarding anti social behaviour had been appealed to the High Court.
- iii. A Member commented that the report provided by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive did not include information on Housing Associations. He requested for information from the Housing Association to be included in future reports presented to the DPCSP.
- iv. A Member further requested for information regarding the Shankill Area to be included in future reports presented by the Housing Northern Ireland Housing Executive.
- v. A Member provided an update on the Belfast PCSP Youth Awards and commented that the event had been a huge success for North Belfast. She congratulated all who had been involved in the event.

8. Priorities for Action and Timetabling/ Signposting

- i. All issues for action and timetabling were noted by Members.

9. Next Meeting

- i. Members noted that a Planning Session would be held on Thursday 18th December at 5.00pm in the Cecil Ward Building.
- ii. Following a discussion regarding the format, style and attendance at Public Meetings, Members agreed to discuss this further at the Planning Session scheduled for 18th December.
- iii. Members further discussed questions asked at Public Meetings and if answers had not provided. A Member commented that answers needed to be provided to questions that members of the general public had asked.

- iv. The Chair requested for a review on all questions asked at North Belfast DPCSP Public Meetings and to confirm if answers were provided.
- v. Members agreed for a meeting to be facilitated between a concerned resident, Councillor Naomi Thompson and the Safer City Coordinator regarding unanswered questions raised at a Public Meeting.