

**Minutes of the North Belfast District Policing and  
Community Safety Partnership  
Private Meeting  
Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February, 6.00pm  
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)	Mr. Winston Irvine (Vice Chair)
Councillor Patrick Convery	Ms. Jennifer Cornell
Councillor JJ Magee	Ms. Bronach Graham
Councillor Guy Spence	Mr. Ian McLaughlin
Councillor Naomi Thompson	Mr. Pat McLarnon
<b>Designated Organisations</b>	
Inspector Gavin Kirkpatrick, PSNI	Ms. Patricia Muldoon, YJA
Mr. Malachy McKinney	Chief Inspector Robert Singleton, PSNI
Mr. Martin Morgan, BHSCT	Mr. Alan Wilson. BELB
<b>Staff Present</b>	<b>Apologies</b>
Richard McLernon, Safer City Coordinator	Mr. David Harbinson, NIFRS
Edele Cleary, Project Officer	Mr. Mark Nicholson, PBNI
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.

**2. Minutes of North Belfast DPCSP Private Meeting**

- i. The Minutes of the North Belfast Private Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> January and 4<sup>th</sup> February, of which copies were previously circulated were agreed.
- ii. The Chair advised Members of North Belfast DPCSP receiving an award at the recent NICCY Awards and congratulated all who had been involved in the delivery of the Youth Project.
- iii. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with an update regarding the actions from the previous North Belfast DPCSP Meeting.
- iv. Members requested for a joint statement/letter to be issued regarding ongoing concerns of bricks issues/derelict houses.
- v. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that a meeting had been held with ASCERT regarding the delivery of awareness raising sessions and will provide Members with an update accordingly.
- vi. Councillor Thompson requested all statutory agencies to forward (if they have) work based policies for domestic violence.

- vii. A Member asked if costs had been received in relation to the recruitment process of Independent Members. The Safer City Coordinator commented that information in relation to the costs for the recruitment process had been requested but had not yet been received.
- viii. Following a discussion in relation to the Minutes from the DPCSP Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> February, Members requested for representatives from the Men's Advisory Project to be invited to attend the next DPCSP Meeting.

### 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 4% in overall crime across Belfast. He commented that North Belfast had the lowest increase of crime.
- iii. He advised Members that there has been a decrease of 15% in burglaries and a decrease of 10% in robberies.
- iv. The Chief Inspector advised Members that there had been an increase in the number of sexual offences reported. He informed Members that PSNI officers had been visiting local schools to raise awareness around sexual crime.
- v. He further advised Members that there had been an increase in domestic violence crime.
- vi. He informed Members that there had a reduction in the number of complaints made against the PSNI.
- vii. The Chief Inspector commented that following the recent crime and anti social behaviour statistics released, it had been evident that North Belfast had been leading in these two areas by maintaining low levels of these types of activities.
- viii. The Chief Inspector provided Members with an overview of the Neighbourhood Policing Team structures across the City.
- ix. The Chief Inspector advised Members that there would be 24 Neighbourhood Police Teams in North Belfast, 26 in West Belfast, 18 in South Belfast and 10 in East Belfast.
- x. He advised Members of the selection process for the Neighbourhood Officers and commented that the new structure would be implemented by 1<sup>st</sup> October.

### 4. **Items for Action**

- i. Niall Murphy from RSM McClure Watters facilitated a consultation workshop with Members to review the effectiveness of the North Belfast DPCSP.
- ii. He advised Members of the purpose of the consultation workshop.
- iii. Following a series of in depth questions proposed by Niall, Members provided an overview of the following;
  - the role and benefits of the Partnership;
  - the types of projects that the Partnership had funded;

- what methodologies/indicators the Partnership had implemented to assess the effectiveness and impact of projects;
- the direct impact that the Partnership had made in relation to dealing with community safety issues;
- partnership working;
- future role of the Partnership; and,
- how the Partnership managed projects that did not achieve the anticipated outcomes.

iv. The Chair on behalf of the Partnership, thanked Niall for attending the North Belfast DPCSP Meeting.

5a. **North Belfast DPCSP Transitional Action Plan**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with an overview of the North Belfast DPCSP Transitional Plan 2015/16.
- ii. He advised Members that due to the new DPCSP not being in place until approximately June 2015, a Transitional Plan had been developed to allow for the work of the existing Partnership to continue in the interim.
- iii. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members of the budget allocation and the strategic priorities identified within the Transitional Plan.
- iv. The Chair asked why North Belfast DPCSP had profiled £12,000 to assist with the delivery of strategic citywide projects and to support BCC in delivering key community safety initiatives in North Belfast – Cage Soccer, Car Simulator, Drugs Campaign, Roads Safety Strategy.
- v. The Chair advised Members that West Belfast DPCSP had profiled £7,000 to assist with the delivery of strategic citywide projects and suggested to ensure consistency across all DPCSPs, that North Belfast DPCSP allocate £7,000 to this strategic objective and reprofile the remaining £5,000 to another strategic objective within the Transitional Plan.
- vi. Members noted their concern regarding how the PCSP allocated a part of the North Belfast DPCSP budget towards the delivery of their initiatives without consulting the Partnership and Members did not review the Transitional budget.
- vii. Members also commented that the amount appropriated to the delivery of Citywide projects appeared to include funding for events that will not take place within the six-month transitional period.
- viii. Following a discussion, Members agreed to this suggestion and agreed for the remaining £5,000 to be allocated to the strategic objective consultation and engagement. However, one Member commented that she did not agree with this decision.

#### **5b. North Belfast DPCSP Annual Report**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator presented the Draft North Belfast DPCSP Annual Report to Members.
- ii. He advised Members that the Draft North Belfast DPCSP Annual Report provided an overview of the work the Partnership facilitated for the period April – December 2014.
- iii. The Chair requested Chairman Report to be changed to Chairs Report.
- iv. A Member requested the attendance figures to be reviewed for the Youth Justice Agency and if appropriate amend accordingly.
- v. Members noted and agreed the Draft North Belfast DPCSP Annual Report.

#### **5c. Project Briefs**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with an overview of the following proposed project briefs:
  - Project Brief – SID – request for £2,265, DPCSP budget £1,500; - Not yet agreed.
  - Project Brief – ASCERT - £800; - Agreed, and,
  - Project Brief – Greater Shankill Alternatives £2,020. – Agreed.
- ii. Following a discussion on the project proposals, Members requested an update to be provided on DPCSP funding items classified as assets. The Safer City Coordinator commented that an update regarding this would be provided at the next DPCSP meeting.
- iii. Members also requested further information regarding ownership of equipment detailed within the SID Project proposal.
- iv. A Member asked if any funding remained in the overall DPCSP budget. The Safer City Coordinator commented that there had been approximately £8,000 remaining in the budget.
- v. A Member requested the remaining budget to be allocated to Women's Aid to support the purchase of additional packs given to women/families when they arrive at a refugee. Members agreed to allocate £2,800 of the identified under spend to support Woman's Aid in the purchasing of additional packs.

#### **6. Chair Update on Work with Belfast PCSP**

- i. The Chair provided Members with an update on the last Belfast PCSP Meeting.

#### **7. North Belfast DPCSP Communication and Engagement Update**

- i. A Member provided an overview on the proposed North Belfast DPCSP Communication and Engagement Strategy.
- ii. She advised Members that representatives on the Communication and Engagement Subgroup had suggested in order for the Strategy to be effective, that the new North Belfast DPCSP to underlay the necessary structures in community and include representatives from the community who are not involved in the Partnership.

- iii. Following a discussion, Members agreed to adopt the proposed Communication and Engagement model.

## **8. Community Safety Updates**

- i. A Member presented an NIHE update to the Partnership. He advised Members that there had been 37 ongoing incidents in North Belfast. He further advised Members that the NIHE had been successful in getting an eviction in Richmond Square.
- ii. A Member requested for clarification to ensure that communication had been taking place between the PSNI and NIHE.
- iii. A Member also requested for the PSNI and DPCSP to reiterate communities concerns to Belfast City Council Parks Department regarding the bench in Woodvale Park as it continues to be damaged by young people.
- iv. Following a discussion on the recent attacks on the Soldiers Memorial, the Chief Inspector commented that the PSNI had been working with the local community to try and stop the attacks from happening.

## **9. Priorities for Action and Timetabling/ Signposting**

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

## **10. Next Meeting**

- i. Members noted that a Neighbourhood Watch Meeting had been scheduled for Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March in Antrim Road Police Station.
- ii. Members further noted that a North Belfast DPCSP Private Meeting would be held on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March in the Cecil Ward Building and a North Belfast DPCSP Public Meeting would be held on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March, venue to be confirmed.