

Minutes of the Belfast Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Private Meeting

Lavery Room, City Hall
Monday, 14th September, 2015

Political Members

Councillor Matt Garrett (Chair)
Councillor Janice Austin
Councillor Declan Boyle
Councillor John Hussey
Councillor JJ Magee
Councillor Stephen Magennis
Alderman Jim Rodgers
Alderman Guy Spence

Independent Members

Debbie Hammill (Vice-Chair)
Mary Lambe
John Loughran
Carmel McKinney
Michael O'Hara
Susan Russam
Anne-Louise Toal

Designated Organisations

Chief Superintendent Nigel Grimshaw, PSNI
Eithne McIlroy, PBNI
Patricia Muldoon, YJA

Michael Roberts, NIFRS
Helen Russell, NIHE
T/Superintendent Bobby Singleton, PSNI

Staff Present

Alison Allen, Safer City Manager
Katharine McCrum, Partnership Support Officer
Alyson Crompton, Partnership Support Officer

Apologies

Cecil Worthington, H&SC Trust
Geoff Somerville, NIFRS

1. Welcome and Apologies

- i. The Chair welcomed Members to the inaugural meeting of the newly reconstituted Belfast PCSP and noted the apologies provided. Following a round of introductions, the Chair advised Members that Debbie Hammill had been elected as the Vice-Chair of the Partnership.

2. Declarations of Interest

- i. The Chair advised Members that they were required to declare any material interests that they may have in relation to any items on the agenda.
- ii. No declarations of interest were recorded.

3. (D)PCSP Roles and Responsibilities

- i. The Safer City Manager drew Members' attention to recommendations regarding the role of the PCSP and DPCSPs in Belfast based upon the Joint Committee's vision for the Partnerships, the Criminal Justice Inspection NI (CJI) review and feedback from previous PCSP Members.
- ii. A Member noted the importance of working closely with the NI Policing Board and suggested that regular engagement should be established with the Public Prosecution Service (PPS) as this was a link that was missing from the previous Partnership.

- iii. The Chair agreed, noting that discussion had taken place in previous years about locally designating the PPS. The Safer City Manager was asked to write to the PPS to discuss inclusion in the PCSP structure at whatever level possible.
- iv. With regards to Recommendation 1, 'Bringing the police monitoring function into the main body of the PCSP meeting', a Member commented that it was important not to dilute the role of the Policing Committee and suggested that the meetings should be held separately with feedback provided at the beginning of the Private Meeting.
- v. It was agreed that having an update from the PSNI as one of the first agenda items would allow the full Partnership to feed in to the process and so meetings would remain separate.
- vi. In response to a query regarding Recommendation 4, 'Baseline data, evidence of need and performance indicators should be agreed for every project/initiative', the Safer City Manager confirmed that groups would continue to complete evaluation forms following delivery of projects. She advised that work would be done by staff to ensure that these effectively measured the impact of work in order to develop a uniformed method for measuring success. She added that this was an important step in justifying the work of the PCSP and the impact that it has within communities and community safety generally.
- vii. A Member queried whether high level outcomes or baselines for the City would be developed and made available to other community projects whose impact is often largely unmeasured.
- viii. The Safer City Manager advised that it was important to first establish agreed performance measures for the PCSP before extending this to the full spectrum of community safety work.
- ix. Following discussion the Partnership approved the following recommendations:
 - The PCSP and four DPCSPs will continue to hold meetings of the Policing Committee separately from full Private Meetings of the Partnership. However, one of the first items of business at Private Meetings will be an update from the Policing Committee provided by the PSNI to all Members. This will ensure that all PCSP Members are in a position to receive the PSNI analysis and narrative on crime and ASB.
In additional to this, the engagement of other statutory PCSP Members in the process of providing up to date analysis and narrative on their community safety issues will be provided through a short formal report issued at each meeting in an analytical and narrative way. These reports should not be focused on statistics.
 - Belfast PCSP and DPCSPs will invite a Senior Officer from Belfast City Council to its next meeting to link appropriately with the Belfast Community Planning Agenda and the 'outcomes focussed' way the Community Planning process is being developed.
 - Specific guidance should be developed to support the participation of statutory partners in a consistent way across the city. A task and finish group of statutory members and (D)PCSP Members should meet as a matter of urgency to produce this guidance.
 - As part of the development of strategic action plans for the 2016-2019 period, Belfast PCSP and DPCSPs should include agreed baseline data, evidence of

need, community safety performance indicators for every project/initiative and a quarterly citywide report on performance should be provided to all Partnerships. Projects/initiatives that do not meet their agreed performance measures (without suitable explanation) should not be considered for replication.

- Quarterly written reports on the work of the DPCSPs should be provided by the Chairs to the Belfast PCSP and a quarterly written report on the work of the PCSP will be provided to each DPCSP.

4. PCSP and DPCSP Funding

- i. The Safer City Manager advised Members that due to significant levels of financial uncertainty, PCSP funding for 2015/16 had been cut by 50% which was likely to have a considerable impact on the Belfast PCSP and DPCSPs. She added that a Letter of Offer had been received in the previous week and that while there was a hope that additional resources would become available, there was no guarantee.
- ii. Members were asked to agree that the allocation of funds would continue to be split equally between the 5 Partnerships to enable the DPCSPs to carry on delivering front line services.
- iii. The Chair noted that while it was clear that many budgets were stretched, he was not content with the current funding situation and so suggested that a meeting was set up between the 5 Chairs and the Joint Committee to discuss the funding situation.
- iv. Members agreed that the equal allocation of funding should continue and that a meeting should be convened as suggested.

5. Planning Process

- i. The Safer City Manager advised Members that Action Plans for 2016/17 were due to be submitted to the Joint Committee in February, 2016 and so the planning process must take place from October onwards with draft plans signed off in January, 2016. She added that the budget for 2016/17 was currently unknown and so plans may need to be developed on the basis that activity can be undertaken at no cost, or resources attached as they become known.
- ii. A Member suggested that many of the Statutory Designated organisations were involved in community outreach projects and so it may be useful to link with them in order to work more effectively.
- iii. Accordingly, the Partnership agreed the recommendations as follows:
 - Officers will initiate a planning process that incorporates consultation and Member workshops. Members will supply any relevant plans, statistics, and information on initiatives to staff by 30th September in order for it to be included in the planning process.
 - A Belfast wide planning discussion which incorporates DPCSP Members and focuses on City Strategic Priorities will be scheduled during October, with additional District workshops to be held in October and November 2015.

6. (D)PCSP Members Meeting Expenses

- i. The Safer City Manager advised Members that in line with the 50% reduction in funding, Members would be entitled to claim £60 per meeting up to a maximum of 10 times per year, while Chairs and Vice Chairs may claim up to a maximum of 15 meetings per year. She added that it was up to the Belfast PCSP to agree what official business may be claimed for.
- ii. Members approved the recommendations laid out within the paper, notably that the following meetings would be deemed eligible for a meeting expense payment, up to the maximum threshold:
 - Private PCSP/DPCSP Meetings
 - Policing Committee Meetings
 - Public Meetings
 - Induction and Training Events
 - Action Plan Development Meetings

7. (D)PCSP Training Event

- i. The Safer City Manager advised Members that while the Induction Event organised by the NI Policing Board provided an introduction to the Partnerships, PCSP Staff wished to provide Members with further details on their role, the transitional Action Plans and the practicalities of the (D)PCSPs. She advised that this had been provisionally booked in the Clayton Hotel, Belfast and that a draft agenda was attached for Members approval.
- ii. Member's queried the venue of the training and suggested that City Hall or other Council facilities could be utilised. It was also suggested that some of the Statutory Agencies may have rooms that could be used, or that the date could be changed.
- iii. The Safer City Manager advised that alternatives had been investigated but if other organisations had suitable facilities they could certainly be looked at. The Partnership Support Officer added that City Hall was in use on that particular night for a Neighbourhood Watch event organised in partnership with the PSNI.
- iv. Both the PSNI and NIFRS agreed to look into the possibility of hosting the Training Event.
- v. Members agreed that if other options were not feasible, the Training Event could progress as planned.

8. PCSP Small Grants

- i. The Safer City Manager drew Members attention to the Small Grants paper and apologised for this being tabled at the last moment. She advised that this was not usual practice but necessary due to the tight deadlines involved.
- ii. Members were advised that a process for approving PCSP Small Grants in the absence of a PCSP Members Panel had been approved by the previous Partnership. This involved a panel of senior Council Officers providing independent scrutiny of the Small Grants process.

- iii. The Safer City Manager advised that 2 Small Grants were funded during Tranche 1 of the funding. Members were further advised that as a result of the reduction in funding, the total budget for Small Grants had been reduced to £5,000 for Tranche 2.
- iv. Members were advised that of the 5 city wide applications received, just 1 met the quality score. Details of the project were provided within the paper.
- v. Given that the available budget for Tranche 2 Small Grants was £5,000 and the recommended funding came to £3,810, a Member queried how the underspend would be allocated.
- vi. The Safer City Manager suggested that this could be discussed in detail at the Training Event on 29th September as there would be time to review the Action Plan in detail.
- vii. Members subsequently approved Small Grant funding of £3,810 to the Law Centre NI for the provision of work across Belfast to protect vulnerable communities from forced labour.
- viii. A Member queried where performances of the play focusing on internet safety and cyber bullying would be held, a project funded in Tranche 1. The Partnership Support Officer advised that 10 community centres and schools would host performances of 'Ctrl Alt Delete' and a list of recipients could be circulated. She added that a performance had been set aside for PCSP Members and other interested groups to attend, details of which would be circulated to Members.

9. Date of Next Meeting

- i. The Chair advised Members that future meeting dates had been provided within the papers which had also been emailed to Members.