

**Minutes of the South Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership**

**Private Meeting**

**Room 1C, The Cecil Ward Building, Linenhall Street, Belfast BT2 8BP**

**Thursday 08 October 2015, 18:00**

<b>Political Members</b>	<b>Independent Members</b>
Councillor Declan Boyle (Chair)	Aleksandra Lojek-Magdziarz (Vice Chair)
Councillor Paula Bradshaw	Paul McDonnell
Councillor Jeffrey Dudgeon	Aidan Hughes
Councillor Deirdre Hargey	Michael Boyle
Councillor Geraldine McAteer	Richard Kennedy
<b>Statutory Designated Bodies</b>	
Christine Hunter PBNi	Yvonne McKnight H&SCT
Gary Ballantyne NIHE	Tony O'Neill YJA
Chief Inspector Robert Murdie PSNI	Michael Roberts NIFRS
Jamie Hughes PSNI	Darren Hardy PSNI
<b>Staff Present</b>	<b>Apologies</b>
Suzanne Gowling, Safer City Coordinator	Alan Cunningham NIFRS
Alyson Crompton, Partnership Support Officer	Dermot Magorrian YJA
Lorna Somers Safer City Assistant Manager	Anita Duff EA
Rosie Hamilton Project Officer	
Keith Addy ASB Officer	

**1. Welcome & Routine Matters**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator introduced the Project Officer, Rosie Hamilton and the Antisocial Behaviour Officer, Keith Addy for south Belfast to the Members; they then left the meeting.
- ii. The Chair welcomed the Members to the inaugural meeting of the newly reconstituted South Belfast District PCSP and noted the apologies provided.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

- i. Members were asked to declare any material interests which they may have in relation to any item of business to be considered during the meeting.
- ii. Cllr Paula Bradshaw made a declaration of interest in Item 5a 2.1.

**3. Confirmation of Independent Vice Chair**

- i. The Chair advised Members that Aleksandra Lojek-Magdziarz had been elected, by her fellow Independent Members, as the Vice-Chair of the South Belfast DPCSP.

- ii. The Chair congratulated the Vice Chair on their election.
- iii. A Member asked for clarification on length of term in office for the Chair and Vice Chair and if it was on a rotation.
- iv. The Safer City Assistant Manager confirmed that this term of office for the Chair and Vice Chair would end on 31 March 2016; however confirmation of this is being sought from the Joint Committee. The rotation of the Chair is based on the four largest parties and that the Independent Members elect a Vice Chair annually.

#### **4. Chair's Update On Belfast PCSP Meeting 14 September 2015**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator drew Members' attention to the agreements made at the PCSP Meeting on 14 September 2015; she stated that the Chair of each DPCSP sits on the PCSP and that the DPCSP shares and links with the PCSP with a formal quarterly report to PCSP from the DPCSP.
- ii. It was also agreed at the PCSP meeting, that the Policing Committee meeting would be held separately so as not to dilute the important function of the Policing Committee and feedback would be provided at the beginning of the Private Meeting.
- iii. It had been further agreed that Item 1 on the Private Meeting Agenda, following each Policing Committee meeting, would be an update from all designated partners to allow the full Partnership to feed in to the process and therefore functions of the meetings would remain separate.
- iv. A Member asked if the Policing Committee and Private Meetings are held on the same night. The Safer City Coordinator stated that they are held on the same night, the Policing Committee 30 minutes prior to the Private Meeting. Another Member said that she felt 30 minutes was not long enough for the Policing Meeting and that it often ran into the Private Meeting, she felt 60 minutes would be more suitable. The Safer City Coordinator recommended that all Policing Committee Meetings should commence at 17:00 with the Private Meetings commencing at 18:00; with confirmed dates for Policing Committee Meetings of Thursday 26 November 2015 and Monday 25 January 2016.
- v. The Members agreed to the new times for the meetings and the dates of the Policing Committee meetings.
- vi. The Safer City Coordinator confirmed that £60.00 meeting costs per day can be claimed (up to 10 meetings annually Independent and Elected Members) and (up to 15 meetings annually for Chair and Vice Chair). Additionally up to 5 NIPB arranged training meetings are permitted. She also stated that it was important that Members complete and return their expense forms promptly.
- vii. The Safer City Coordinator confirmed that groups would continue to complete monitoring and evaluation forms following delivery of projects. She advised that staff will continue to work to ensure that these processes effectively

measure 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 (D) PCSPs and the impact that it has within local communities.

- viii. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that due to significant levels of financial uncertainty, PCSP funding for 2015/16 had been cut by 50% which has had a considerable impact on the Belfast PCSP and DPCSPs ability to deliver their work. She added that a Letter of Offer had been received from the Joint Committee within the previous week and that, while there was a hope that additional resources would become available, additional support would be unlikely in this financial year.
- ix. Members were asked to note that it had been agreed at the PCSP meeting, that the allocation of funds would be split equally between the five Partnerships to enable the (D) PCSPs to support front line service delivery. This has resulted in South Belfast DPCSP having an allocation of £86,500 for the delivery of the current year's plan (2015/16)

## **5. South Belfast DPCSP Plan to March 2016**

### **Small Grants 2015/16 Tranche 2**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator updated the Members on the Small Grants provision to date by South Belfast DPCSP.
- ii. Members were advised that a process for approving PCSP Small Grants, in the absence of a (D) 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 Coordinator advised that six Small Grants had been approved and funded during Tranche 1 of the current allocated funding totalling £24,010
- iv. The Safer City Coordinator further advised that there had been nine applications in Tranche 2. After scoring it was deemed that three applications met the required quality score level of 50% and that they were eligible for funding dependent on available monies. These applications totalled £9,867
- v. The Members were asked to agree the three applications for funding in Tranche 2. Members were also advised that this information should be classed as sensitive until all applicants have been informed.
- vi. The Members were asked to agree to re-allocate the remaining £6,123 to support local delivery within the 2015-16 action plan.
- vii. A Member whilst agreeing to the reallocation of the under spend; asked for information on why groups did not gain the necessary 50%, for future reference.
- viii. Another Member asked for the scoring mechanism to be explained, he did not see how he could approve funding when he had no sight of projects.

- ix. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised that to ensure protection of the Members that scoring was carried out by Officers of Belfast City Council. She explained the process followed the Central Grants Unit Protocol; through various stages. Stage 1; criterion to be met e.g. Community & Policing links; Stage 2; approval by previous PCSP & DPSCP and then independently scored by a panel of Senior Officers within BCC. The Members are asked to approve on the basis that the grants have been through a rigorous process which has been doubly scrutinised, with good governance shown.
- x. A Member stated that the BCC Central Grants Unit Process is tight and accountable. She also asked that we ask an Officer from the CGU to attend the next meeting for a presentation to Members.
- xi. The members agreed that the Chinese Welfare Association, Mornington Community Project and Ormeau Boxing should be funded as per the recommendations and that the CGU be invited to attend the next meeting.

### **Safe Place Training – Onus**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator outlined the proposal to recommend support for 'Safe Place' training with regard to Domestic Violence delivered by Onus for three Belfast community groups, one of which would be from South Belfast's Donegall Pass Community Forum. The Members were asked to approve a contribution of £1,407.00 towards this initiative.
- ii. The Members agreed the budget allocation of £1,407.00 as per the recommendation.

### **Drug and Alcohol Action Plan 2015/16 Proposals**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator outlined the three areas of the Drug & Alcohol Action Plan and recommended that £6,500 funding be allocated to the projects;

### **Alcohol and You th**

- i. The aim of the project is to create information that is relevant and attractive to young people to increase their understanding of the consequences of their alcohol and other drug consumption. She stated that the project proposes to invite 14 young people (14-17yrs) from different communities across South Belfast to participate. It was felt that the young people to be targeted are those who participate in youth programmes during the week but display risk taking behaviours at the weekend.
- ii. A number of questions were asked by Members including; who will be targeted, are the 14 young people at risk or are they young leaders? Who will deliver the project? Will the young people be referred? How will the project reach minority communities? How will the project ensure the group is diverse? Should the project consider the 18-25 year age group as well?
- iii. The Safer City Coordinator responded by stating that the project would go through procurement and these issues could be included. She also advised that local community groups had indicated that 14-17 years was the main age

group of concern at the moment. She committed to seek guidance about identifying the most appropriate young people to participate from Anita Duff, the Education Authority's representative on SBDPCSP, who manages the south Belfast outreach youth team.

- iv. Members agreed that suicide be added to the risk taking behaviours to be considered.
- v. A Member recommended that this project be used as a pilot with the budget allocation of £4,000; this was agreed by the Members.

### **React E-Pub**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator outlined the project to the Members it is targeted at 3<sup>rd</sup> Level Education in particular UU and QUB, with the support of the student unions who will promote and front the campaign. QUB has successfully piloted the React E-Pub; the project will encourage students to use the online toolkit at the start of term and at various key times throughout the academic year. The results will be used to target campaigns by the universities to combat excessive alcohol consumption and alcohol fuelled anti-social behaviour incidents.
- ii. The Safer City Coordinator recommended that this project be allocated £1,500 in funding for 2015/16 with a view in principle to continue until 2019.
- iii. The Members discussed the merits of the project; it was felt that it was a useful project that would help build relationships with the Universities, which would engage and educate the students in the risks associated with alcohol consumption both on health and welfare.
- iv. The Members agreed the budget allocation of £1,500 as per the recommendation.

### **Training and Capacity Building**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator outlined the project, to train a total of 40 community volunteers in intervention training. 20 places will be used for the volunteers who deploy over St Patrick's Day and 20 others.
- ii. A Member stated that the St Patricks Day Intervention Plan was very successful and that they would like to see it implemented at Halloween as well.
- iii. The Safer City Coordinator indicated that if the project was approved she would endeavour to secure the brief intervention training for volunteers before Halloween.
- iv. The Members agreed the budget allocation of up to £1,000 as per the recommendation.

### **South Belfast DPCSP Action Plan 2015-16**

#### **Strategic Objective 1**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator reviewed the Action Plan with the Members; she stated that £6,000 had been requested by the PCSP to support strategic citywide projects i.e. Drug Dealers Don't Care, Get Home Safe including Without Consent and One Punch, and to take a Belfast wide approach to addressing the challenge of transitory youth. By pooling the money from the districts this ensured better use of funds for citywide projects.
- ii. The Members agreed the budget allocation of £6,000 as per the recommendation.

### **Strategic Objective 2**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator outlined the Action Plan in detail.
- ii. There was a query by a Member over the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme; was it still operating and was there support from the PSNI for it.
- iii. The Safer City Assistant Manager is in the PCSP Action Plan; she also stated that there had been a NHW Coordinators quarterly meeting in City Hall on Tuesday 29 September which was attended by Coordinators Citywide and the PSNI
- iv. The PSNI representative stated that he would bring information on NHW, to the next meeting.
- v. Another Member also asked about the ASB issues in Woodland and other parks across South Belfast by transient youths.
- vi. The Safer City Assistant Manager said that West and North Belfast had similar problems and that the PCSP and Parks had started pilot projects in particular areas; which involved enforcement and engagement patrols in parks provided by Park Wardens and the Safer Neighbourhood Officers, feedback will be provided once the project is complete and evaluation has taken place.
- vii. The Members agreed the Action Plan as per the recommendation.

### **6. (D) PCSP Planning Process**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that in future Action Plans would be developed for three year periods, as requested by the Joint Committee. Therefore the Action Plans for 2016-19 are due to be submitted to the Joint Committee in February 2016; planning must take place from October onwards with draft plans signed off in January 2016.
- ii. She added that the budget for 2016/17 was currently unknown and therefore plans may need to be developed on the basis of current budget allocations. She also reminded Members that future budget allocations could, potentially, be reduced.
- iii. She recommended that Members authorise Officers to initiate the planning process incorporating consultation, Member workshops and use of relevant plans, statistics and information to be included in the planning process.

- iv. She also recommended that Members consider the establishment of a Thematic Working Group to represent the District in the strategic planning process.
- v. The PSNI representative outlined how the PCSP and PSNI linked together and prioritised locally; with drug use the main issue at present Citywide. He also stated that due to the restructuring of PSNI districts to reflect electoral wards, statistics would not be available until at least November.
- vi. A Member asked if the PSNI could give an update on Drug use in South Belfast to the DPCSP at the next meeting; the PSNI representative agreed to this.
- vii. The Members agreed the initiation of the planning process.

## **7. Emerging Issues**

- i. It was agreed that the Safer City Coordinator arrange a meeting between the hate crime project steering group and the most relevant members of staff from the PCSP members.

## **8. Close**

- i. The Chair thanked the Partnership for attending and closed the meeting.