

Minutes of the West Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Private Meeting

Conor Room, City Hall
Wednesday 30th September 2015

Political Members	Independent Members
Councillor Stephen Magennis, (Chair)	Ms Breige Brownlee
Councillor Matt Garrett	Mrs Elizabeth Groves, (Vice Chair)
Councillor Brian Heading	Miss Claire Canavan
Alderman Frank McCoubrey	Mr Eoin McShane
	Ms Lauren Slane
Statutory Designated Organisations	
Tommy Boyle, H&SC Trust	Harry Bradley, YJA
Carol Carville, PBNI	Alan Swann, PSNI
Deirdre Grant, PBNI	Sharon Beattie, NIHE
John McLaughlin, EA	
Locally Designated Organisations	
Staff Present	Apologies
Alan Wardle, Safer City Coordinator	Councillor Billy Hutchinson
Alyson Crompton, Partnership Support Officer	Anthony McNally, PSNI
Katharine McCrum, Partnership Support Officer	Davy Harbinson, NIFRS
	Aideen McLaughlin, YJA

1. Welcome and Routine Matters

- i. The Chair welcomed Members to the inaugural meeting of the newly reconstituted West Belfast DPCSP and noted the apologies provided. Following a round of introductions, the Chair advised Members that Aideen McLaughlin, YJA had retired. It was acknowledged by Members that Aideen had greatly contributed to the work of West DPCSP and it was agreed that a letter of thanks be sent to her to acknowledge this vital contribution.
- ii. The Chair welcomed Lesley McCombe, Partnership Development Officer from the Department of Justice, to the meeting.

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. No declarations of interest were noted.

3. Election of Vice Chair

- i. The Chair advised Members that Elizabeth Groves had been elected, by her fellow Independent Members, as the Vice-Chair of the West Belfast DPCSP, for the period 30th September 2015 to 31st March 2016.
- ii. The Chair congratulated the Vice Chair on her election.

4. (D)PCSP Roles and Responsibilities

- i. The Safer City Co-ordinator drew Members' attention to recommendations regarding the role of the PCSP and DPCSP. These recommendations were 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. With regard to Recommendation 1, "Bringing the Police monitoring function into the main body of the PCSP meeting", a Member commented that it had been 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 of the DPCSP.
- iv. It was agreed that item 1 on the Private Meeting Agenda, following each Policing Committee meeting, would be an update from the PSNI which would allow the full Partnership to feed in to the process and therefore functions of the meetings would remain separate.
- v. 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 Co-ordinator confirmed that groups would continue to complete monitoring and evaluation forms following delivery of projects. He 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. He added that this was an important step in justifying the work of the (D)PCSP and the impact that they have within local communities.
- vi. Members agreed the recommendations.

5. West Belfast DPCSP Funding

- i. The Safer City Co-ordinator advised Members that due to significant levels of financial uncertainty, PCSP funding for 2015/2016 had been cut by 50% which has had a considerable impact on the Belfast PCSP and DPCSPs ability to deliver their work. He added that a Letter of Offer had been received from the Joint Committee 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.
- ii. 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.
- iii. The Chair noted that while it was clear that many budgets lines were stretched, he was not content with the current funding situation and so suggested that he would ask for a meeting between the (D)PCSP 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.
- v. In relation to the future allocation of funding from the PCSP, Members discussed the impact that the increase in population, due to the recently redefined boundaries, particularly in

West Belfast, would have on the resources of the DPCSP, and could this be used to lobby for an increase in funding for the Belfast and area Partnerships in the future?

- vi. The Member representing the NIHE stated that they could provide indicative numbers to the partnership on the population increase in West Belfast as well as the ongoing and planned new housing builds, by them, relating to the area. This information would be forwarded to the Safer City Co-ordinator for distribution to the Members.

6. Small Grants 2015/2016

- i. The Safer City Co-ordinator updated the Members on the Small Grants provision to date by West 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 Co-ordinator advised that eight Small Grants had been approved and funded during Tranche 1 of the current allocated funding totalling £28,628.
- iv. The Safer City Co-ordinator further advised that there had been 11 applications in Tranche 2. After scoring it was deemed that four applications met the required quality score level and that they were eligible for funding dependent on available monies. These applications totalled £16,563.99.
- v. The Members were asked to agree the four 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 agreed that the four organisations should be funded as per the recommendations.

7. (D)PCSP Planning Process

- i. The Safer City Co-ordinator advised Members that the current Transitional Action Plan 2015-2016 which had been distributed at the Training Event on 29th September, would require approval by the current Membership.
- ii. The Safer City Co-ordinator advised Members that in future Action Plans could be developed for three year periods, as requested by the Joint Committee. Therefore the Action Plans for 2016-2019 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.
- iii. He added that the budget for 2016/2017 was currently unknown and therefore plans may need to be developed on the basis of current budget allocations. He also reminded Members that future budget allocations could, potentially, be reduced.
- iv. 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 in the future.
- v. A Member suggested that it may be useful to facilitate Private Meetings of the Partnership in community venues in West Belfast rather than City Hall. The Safer City Co-ordinator

advised Members of some of the considerations in regard to this suggestion such as security and catering costs. He further suggested that further discussions should take place to explore the possibility of community based meetings.

- vi. The Members agreed the current Transitional Action Plan and the initiation, by Officers, of the planning process.

8. Chairs Update on PCSP

- i. The Safer City Co-ordinator presented an update on behalf of the Chair and stated that Members who attended the training evening on 29th September had discussed many of these items.
- ii. Members noted the information provided.

9. (D)PCSP Members' Training Evening

- i. The Safer City Co-ordinator asked Members for any feedback on the PCSP training event, which took place on Tuesday 29th September.
- ii. Members stated that the event was worthwhile, especially for new Members. They also felt that the Safer City Co-ordinator was able to answer all queries and questions that Members had at the time.
- iii. The Safer City Co-ordinator stated that the Officers were always available to offer assistance to all Members as and when required.

10. Financial Update

- i. The Safer City Co-ordinator provided the Members with a report on the current financial situation and spend to date for the West Belfast DPCSP. The report confirmed that the Partnership had committed £56,568 from a possible £86,500.
- ii. The remaining planned funding of £17,738.99 on Tranche 2 and PCSP Meetings, gives an accumulated spend of £74,306.99. Therefore there is a remaining budget of £12,193.01
- iii. The Safer City Co-ordinator recommended that the remaining budget be allocated as follows:
 - £6,000 contribution to Citywide strategic projects (details to follow)
 - £6,193.01 to 'Emerging and emergency issues' budget within the current Action Plan.
- iv. Members agreed the allocation of the remaining budget as per the recommendations.

11. Emerging Issues

Partnership Meetings

- i. The Safer City Co-ordinator informed Members of the requirement for a minimum of two public meetings/events to be delivered in the current financial year. There would normally be a requirement to deliver 4 public events, but due to the lateness of the reconstitution of the Partnerships, it has been decided that only two would be required. The Safer City Coordinator suggested that, to support our partnership working with the PSNI, one of the public events might be used to deliver information in relation to the new structures of the PSNI within West Belfast. The Safer City Co-ordinator offered to discuss the proposal further with the Area Commander.

- ii. The Members discussed that it may be useful to look at other community events and how they could link with them to promote or facilitate Public events of the DPCSP. It was agreed that Members think creatively and that community groups, representatives and partners forward information on proposed events that the DPCSP could support.
- iii. The Safer City Co-ordinator said that it may be possible to link with statutory campaigns like Domestic Burglary being delivered by Police in November. He also stated that Members should review events and link with the PCSP social media Facebook, Twitter and the Ezine platforms to promote the (D)PCSP and its work within the community.

'Safe Place' Training

- iv. The Safer City Co-ordinator 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 West Belfast. The Members were asked to approve a contribution of £1,407.00 towards this initiative.
- v. A Member proposed that we fully support this initiative, as domestic violence is something that can happen to men, women and children.
- vi. The Members agreed the budget allocation of £1,407.00 as per the recommendation.

Locally Designated Groups

- vii. The Safer City Co-ordinator outlined the fact that the West Belfast DPCSP can nominate up to four locally designated groups/organisations to sit on the partnership as Members. He indicated that a decision could be deferred until a future meeting. He asked the Members to consider carefully who they would nominate as local designates and reminded Members of the importance to consider all of west Belfast in their deliberations.
- viii. The Chair stated that any designates to be considered should be strategic and reflective of ongoing community work within west Belfast.
- ix. A Member stated that it was important to include people working on the ground that could have a wealth of experience, which should not be overlooked and to look particularly at delegates with strategic aims shared by the Partnership who could support and address key issues.
- x. The Chair asked Members to consider the points raised and to advise the Safer City Co-ordinator of any recommendations for local designates.
- xi. Members agreed the recommendations discussed
- xii. The Chair asked the Members if they had any emerging issues to discuss or share with the Partnership.
- xiii. A Member stated that there had been an incident that was reported to the PSNI, and that Officers slow response to the incident had caused some concern with residents who had made the report. The Member stated that such issues could undermine the work of the PSNI and DPSCP in the area.
- xiv. The PSNI advised that they would investigate the issue and follow up with the Member after the meeting.
- xv. Further issues were raised by Members about resources available on the ground to deal with incidents of stoning of public transport and taxis in the area.

- xvi. The Safer City Co-ordinator asked that the ASB Officer for West Belfast, Paul Cleary, as well as the PSNI be advised of any incidents. He also advised that any further specific issues could be raised at the Policing Committee meeting in October.
- xvii. The PSNI confirmed they were aware of the issues raised and that Police were exploring possible support for those affected. They also recommended that anyone reporting an incident to the PSNI ask for the incident number.

12. Dates of Next Meetings

- i. The Safer City Co-ordinator advised that the Conor Room had been booked for all future meetings; however he will make every effort, if required, to facilitate external meetings in the West Belfast DPCSP area if logistically possible.

13. Close

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