

Minutes of the North Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Private Meeting

Room 1c, Cecil Ward Building, Belfast
Tuesday 24th November, 2015

Political Members

Councillor Guy Spence (Chair)
Councillor Mary Clarke
Alderman Patrick Convery
Councillor Nuala McAllister

Independent Members

Michael Murray (Vice-Chair)
Jennifer Cornell
Gerard O'Reilly
Catherine Patrick
Gerald Solinas

Designated Organisations

T/Chief Inspector Gavin Kirkpatrick, PSNI
Mark McBride, EA
Malachy McKinney, NIHE

Inspector Kelly Moore, PSNI
Patricia Muldoon, YJA
Sergeant Nick Williams, PSNI

Staff Present

Richard McLernon, Safer City Coordinator
Katharine McCrum, Partnership Support Officer
Edele Cleary, Project Officer

Apologies

Councillor Mary Ellen Campbell
Alderman Gareth McKee
Davy Harbinson, NIFRS
Gabi Mornhinweg, H&SCT
Mark Nicholson, PBNI

1. Welcome and Routine Matters

- i. The Chair welcomed Members to the meeting and noted the apologies provided.

2. Declaration of Interests

- 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. No declarations were provided at the outset of the meeting.

3. Minutes

- i. The Safer City Coordinator recapped on the actions from the previous meeting of the North Belfast DPCSP noting that:
 - Joint patrols between the PSNI, Parks Department and Community Safety Unit had been put in place over the Halloween period, as well as the use of a CCTV tower at Upper Cavehill,
 - Future meeting dates were provided within the papers, and no meeting would be held on 21st December,

- The venue for the next Public Meeting was still to be agreed upon, as was the theme. Members were reminded that the Highfield/Springmartin area had previously been suggested.
- ii. The Safer City Coordinator agreed to put into writing the initiatives that had been put in place over Halloween in order to have a record for future years. It was also suggested that leaflets should be circulated to residents in future as there had been some confusion about whether the CCTV tower was a permanent fixture.
 - iii. A Member suggested that burglary should form the theme of the next Public Meeting, and recommended supporting an intergenerational drama group to produce a DVD to look at both home security and anti-social behaviour myths. A second Member suggested that the DVD could then become a resource at a city wide level.
 - iv. It was agreed that Officers would investigate the feasibility of producing this DVD, looking at both the timescales and funds required. It was also agreed that the relevant Sub-Group would agree the details of the next Public Meeting based on this intergenerational theme.
 - v. Members discussed the most recent Public Meeting and how to increase attendance at future events.
 - vi. The Safer City Coordinator confirmed that advertising had taken place via social media, leaflet drops and by email. He added that Belfast City Council's City Matters Magazine was utilised when timings permitted, and local papers had been used in the past. Members suggested that community centres and church notices should be used to advertise events in future.
 - vii. The minutes of the North Belfast DPCSP Private Meeting held on Tuesday, 27th October, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct.

4. Chairs Update on Belfast PCSP

- i. The Chair advised Members that, as announced at the Joint Planning Session on 9th November, additional money had been made available to the Belfast PCSP by the Department of Justice, and so Members were asked to provide any ideas for additional initiatives to Officers for consideration. Members were advised that suggestions could be for both city wide initiatives and/or North Belfast specific projects.
- ii. A Member circulated information on a project entitled #GoodForNothing, which aims to turn negative youth stereotypes on their head by encouraging young people to give up their free time to the benefit of others. She advised that through social media, it was hoped that the campaign would go viral.
- iii. Members noted the report from the Chair.

5. Transient Youth Project

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that the West Belfast DPCSP would be leading on a city wide Transient Youth Project, and that a representative from each of the DPCSPs was being requested in order to form a Working Group to assist with the development and oversight of the project.
- ii. Patricia Muldoon stated that the Youth Justice Agency was keen to be involved with the project, and may have additional funding to support the project. She also advised that the Education Authority was being represented on the Working Group.
- iii. Members agreed to contact the Safer City Coordinator before Friday 27th November to register interest in sitting on the Transient Youth Project Working Group.

6. Designated Priorities and Emerging Issues

- i. Each of the Designated Partners were asked to provide a short update on key priorities and emerging issues. The key points were as follows:
 - T/Chief Inspector Gavin Kirkpatrick provided Members with a report on PSNI service demands, current campaigns, key operations and performance against Local Policing Plan targets.
 - Patricia Muldoon advised that the Youth Justice Agency (YJA) had received additional funding to work on early intervention projects with young people at risk of entering the criminal justice system. She advised that conversations were ongoing with RADAR and Spanner in the Works Theatre Company. She also advised that YJA staff were working with staff in children's homes to promote restorative practices and to deter young people from entering the criminal justice system.
 - Malachy McKinney advised that the NIHE continued to encourage reporting of incidents, particularly hate crime incidents, as this appeared to be under reported. Sergeant Williams advised that while not all Officers would be aware of housing rights in relation to hate crimes, it was an issue that was being looked at. He added that once follow up meetings with Neighbourhood Officers took place, support and referrals were usually put in place. Malachy advised that the NIHE's Hate Crime Toolkit was a useful resource and that these issues could be picked up by the Hate Crime Sub-Group.
 - Mark McBride, Education Authority, advised that there had been a recent reduction in transient youth, however this was likely to be seasonal. He added that the Education Authority and North Belfast Alternatives continued to work with groups in the Ballysillan area which remained a problem. He added that a 3 year plan for youth work would be issued in April, 2016, and was currently undergoing consultation.
- ii. The Chair suggested holding a meeting in the RADAR centre to allow Members to view the facility.
- iii. It was also suggested that a report should be brought to the next meeting of the DPCSP in order to discuss the issue of unwanted bonfires as currently this was not covered by any of the existing Sub-Groups. The Safer City Coordinator agreed to work with Councillor Mary Ellen Campbell and Gerard O'Reilly to develop this paper.

- iv. Members discussed the 'Nominate a Neighbour' Scheme and it was suggested that information should be made available at the tea dances which would be held on December. Inspector Moore advised that information on the 'Quick Check Number' was also produced as nominating a neighbour was not always available. Members suggested that too many schemes and numbers could become confusing for vulnerable people.

7. Project Briefs

- i. The Safer City Coordinator presented Members with 4 Project Briefs for approval;
 - Anti-Social Behaviour Initiatives – tackling hot spots using a problem specific process. The amount agreed was £9,151.20.
 - Hate Crime Initiatives – a Community Response Plan as agreed by the Hate Crime Sub-Group. The amount agreed was £7,387.00.
 - Priority Youth Intervention Project – covering 3 areas with additional funding from the DOJ. The amount agreed was £4,500.00.
 - Domestic Violence – a range of initiatives including Safe Place Training, Advertising, a Legal Remedies Workshop, Services Directory, Awareness Campaigns and practical support items. The amount agreed was £8326.20.
- ii. The Project Officer asked Members to consider providing an additional £60 of funding to the Domestic Violence project to allow an article to be placed in the Christmas Edition of the Polish Community Newsletter.
- iii. Following the suggestion that bonfires could be included within the anti-social behaviour project and any subsequent Sub-Group, it was resolved that bonfires need to remain a more specific area of focus.
- iv. Members discussed the process for identifying problems, planning, responses and problem solving. The Safer City Coordinator advised that the aim of having thematic Sub-Groups was to allow for a more detailed discussion of activities and budgets, and to ensure the inclusion of Members in the process. He also advised that Members may wish to call one-off Working Groups to tackle emerging issues, with a budget allocated to this.
- v. Following discussion, Members approved funding for the 4 projects, including an additional £60 for the Polish Newsletter.

8. DPCSP Planning Process

- i. Members were provided with a summary of discussions that had taken place at the Joint Planning Session on 9th November and at the North Belfast DPCSP Planning Sub-Group on 13th November.
- ii. The Safer City Coordinator confirmed that the agreed priorities for 2016/2017 were Hate Crime, Domestic Abuse, Burglary, Anti-Social Behaviour and Drugs. He advised that it had been suggested that a smaller number of focused interventions

would be most effective, and that the desired outcome should be agreed before determining the specific interventions or projects.

- iii. Members were further advised that the Hate Crime, Domestic Abuse and Youth Sub-Groups would meet again to develop these themes before a further meeting of the Planning Sub-Group, with a draft Action Plan then being brought to the DPCSP in February.
- iv. Members noted that apparent gap in terms of Sub-Groups around the issues of Anti-Social Behaviour, Drugs, Burglary and Community Engagement.
- v. The Safer City Coordinator reassured Members that community engagement would run through each strand of the Action Plan. He also asked Members to feed in any further comments to ensure that Members felt ownership of the Plan.
- vi. In response to a query regarding alcohol issues within parks, the Safer City Coordinator agreed to provide Members with details of the alcohol by-laws.
- vii. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that a Community Prioritisation Index had been provided to him which was useful when considering planning processes as it included a formula for looking at the most vulnerable areas. It was agreed that a summary report would be provided at a future meeting to inform discussions.

9. Dates of Next Meetings

- i. Members were reminded of the invitation from the Probation Board to learn more about their work on 1st December.
- ii. As a Council Meeting was due to take place on this date, the Safer City Coordinator agreed to contact PBNI to arrange an alternative date.
- iii. The Safer City Coordinator reminded Members that the next Private Meeting of the North Belfast DPCSP would be held at 6.15pm on Tuesday, 26th January, 2016.