

Minutes of the North Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Private Meeting

Room 1c, Cecil Ward Building, Belfast
Tuesday 27th October, 2015

Political Members

Councillor Guy Spence (Chair)
Councillor Mary Ellen Campbell
Councillor Mary Clarke
Alderman Patrick Convery

Independent Members

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

Designated Organisations

T/Chief Inspector Gavin Kirkpatrick
Kathy Latchum, Crime Prevention Officer
Sergeant Craig McDowell
Malachy McKinney, NIHE

Inspector Kelly Moore
Patricia Muldoon, YJA
Sergeant John Russell

Staff Present

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

Apologies

Councillor Nuala McAllister
Alderman Gareth McKee
Davy Harbinson, NIFRS
Mark McBride, EA
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:
 - Information regarding the DOJ Priority Youth Intervention Project had been circulated to Members,
 - Copies of the Housing Executive's Hate Harassment Toolkit had been brought to the meeting and more were available online or on request,
 - A letter of support had been written to the NIFRS following recent attacks on the service, and

- Emails had been sent requesting volunteers to sit on each of the thematic working groups and some responses had been received.
- ii. The minutes of the North Belfast DPCSP Private Meeting held on Tuesday, 6th October, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct.
Proposed: Councillor Convery
Seconded: Gerard O'Reilly

4. Chairs Update on Belfast PCSP

- i. The Chair reminded Members that the PCSP would be hosting a Joint Planning Session on 9th November in the Ulster Hall and asked for RSVPs to be sent to the PCSP Office.
- ii. Members were advised that the PCSP had suggested that Officers from the Local Policing and Neighbourhood Policing Teams should attend Public Meetings of the DPCSPs in order to explain the new structures and begin to build relationships with the public.
- iii. Members noted the report from the Chair.

5. Designated Priorities and Emerging Issues

- i. Each Member was asked to say a few words for the purposes of introductions and to see what issues were emerging in their area. The key points were as follows:
 - Work is needed in the Cavehill Area as large numbers of young people continue to congregate in the Country Park and surrounding residential areas. Heroin use is also a concern. CCTV patrols organised over Halloween were welcomed.
 - The PSNI is continuing to work with Council to tackle issues at Cavehill through joint operations.
 - The Youth Justice Agency has restructured to have 1 team covering Belfast. The DOJ are currently completing a scoping exercise to see how the Agency deals with young people coming into contact with the law, with proposals due back in February, 2016.
 - The development of the Girdwood Hubb and housing developments at interfaces were raised as possible issues in the future
 - The levels of burglary are of concern, as is anti-social behaviour in Cavehill and Ballysillan Parks.
 - There is confusion in the community about hate crime and which category particular crimes would fall into
 - Contractors involved in redevelopment in Newlodge had been the victim of extortion attempts and had since left the site seeking reassurances. The incidents had not been reported to police.
 - Attacks had taken place in the Hillview/Rosapenna areas with detached youth work and PSNI patrols in place to tackle the ring leaders but further interventions were needed.
 - Engagement with older people was suggested to explain what resources were available to them in the fight against burglary, and to young people to warn them

about the long term consequences of becoming involved in anti-social behaviour.

- ii. The Safer City Coordinator reminded Members that an invite had been issued by the Probation Board to visit staff on 1st December between 6-7pm to learn more about their work in North Belfast.
- iii. Members were also advised that focused work was being put in place over Halloween to address concerns at Cavehill based on previous work carried out in the Ligonell area. The Safer City Coordinator advised that an update on this work would be provided at the next meeting.
- iv. In response to comments regarding the classification of hate crime, Malachy McKinney advised that NIHE were available to give presentations on the Hate Crime Toolkit.
- v. Patricia Muldoon advised that the Youth Justice Agency was working with School Liaison Officers to educate young people on the consequences of their actions following rioting at Carlisle Circus in previous years. She noted that feedback had been very positive and advised that she would keep Members up to date with future developments.

6. DPCSP Planning Process

- i. The Safer City Coordinator reminded Members about the Planning Session on 9th November and asked Statutory Partners to send through information on their priorities to inform discussions, both at a Belfast and local level. Members were also asked to send any local information to the Safer City Coordinator.
- ii. Members were further advised that a meeting of the Planning Sub-Group would be held after this event and that the DPCSP meeting on 24th November would also focus on planning.
- iii. Due to meetings of the Sub-Groups, Members were asked to consider reducing the number of DPCSP meetings by 2 to avoid several meetings per month.
- iv. Members noted the report and agreed to reduce the number of DPCSP meetings. The Safer City Coordinator agreed to circulate the meetings dates to Members via email.

7. DPCSP Financial Approval Process

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that under normal circumstances, funding requests, or projects requiring financial approval, would be brought to the next available meeting of the DPCSP, or if requiring earlier approval, a specially convened decision making panel consisting of at least 5 Members.
- ii. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that the PCSP had approved a 3rd financial approval process for emergency situations, whereby decision making authority for spend under £1,000 can be delegated to the Safer City Manager and

Assistant Manager in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair, with a retrospective paper brought to the next DPCSP meeting. Members were advised that this process had been used by the previous North Belfast DPCSP.

- iii. A Member voiced their support for the proposal, particularly option 2, which had proven very useful in the past.
- iv. Members agreed the process and supported its implementation across the 5 Partnerships.

8. Governance Arrangements

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised that this report had been tabled in order to provide Members with information in relation to the governance arrangements in place for the Belfast PCSP and each of the DPCSPs, including the submission of annual reports, audited accounts, financial returns, progress reports and compliance with Council's procurement guidelines.
- ii. Members were further advised that the arrangements detailed within the report were designed to ensure that the public money awarded to the Belfast PCSP and DPCSPs is administered in line with the highest standards of governance and accountability covering Joint Committee, Belfast City Council and Audit Office requirements.
- iii. Members noted the contents of the report.

9. Action Plan Update

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that a progress report on the delivery of the North Belfast DPCSP Action Plan was provided within the papers. He advised that the working groups would be looking at the detail of each initiative during November and then driving actions with updates provided at the DPCSP Meetings.
- ii. In response to query regarding consultation and how this would inform projects and future plans, the Safer City Coordinator advised that there was a small budget for consultation with specific groups however the DPCSP would need to be aiming for continuous engagement in its work and activities.
- iii. Members noted the contents of the report.

10. North Belfast DPCSP Action Plan Expenditure Approval

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that the annual Action Plan developed by the Greater Ardoyne Tension Monitoring Group had been revised to take into consideration local community dynamics and linkages with other initiatives, using a budget of £7,500.
- ii. Members were asked to approve the Plan and the budget allocation.

- iii. In reference to comments that had been made earlier in the meeting, a Member asked if any of the youth outreach work detailed within the Plan would be carried out at Clifton Park Avenue given the recent incidents.
- iv. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members of which areas the plan covered and agreed to follow up on the suggestion. He added that the Plan had been developed with the assistance of statutory agencies and the group was representative of the full community.
- v. Members subsequently approved the Action Plan and the budget assigned to its delivery.

11. Sharps Management Update

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that the Belfast PCSP had established a multi-agency Sharps Working Group in 2014 to address concerns relating to the increase of drug related paraphernalia being discovered by members of the public, which was timely given the discussions which had taken place earlier in the meeting.
- ii. Members were encouraged to report any issues to the Partnership, and to encourage communities to do the same. The Safer City Coordinator advised that this was key to tracking issues, aligning services and providing resources to where they are needed.
- iii. Members noted the update provided.

12. Dates of Next Meetings

- i. The Safer City Coordinator reminded Members that a Public Meeting would be held in the Church of the Nazarene on Monday, 16th November at 7pm. He advised that this would be an opportunity for the public to meet new DPCSP Members and to find out more about the changes to PSNI structures. Members were also reminded that the next Private Meeting would be held on 24th November.
- ii. The Chair encouraged Members to promote the Public Meeting through their networks and suggested that it was an ideal event to begin the consultation process with communities.
- iii. The Safer City Coordinator advised that a second Public Meeting had been scheduled for 15th February and asked Members to consider a venue for the event.
- iv. Suggestions included the Greater Shankill area, Indian Community Centre and Highfield areas. Members resolved to send suggestions to the Safer City Coordinator who would then investigate the possibilities.