

Minutes of the Belfast Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Private Meeting

Lavery Room, City Hall
Thursday, 15th October, 2015

Political Members	Independent Members
Councillor Matt Garrett (Chair)	Debbie Hammill (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Janice Austin	John Loughran
Councillor JJ Magee	John MacVicar
Councillor Stephen Magennis	Michael O'Hara
Alderman Jim Rodgers	Susan Russam
Alderman Guy Spence	

Designated Organisations	
Superintendent Darrin Jones, PSNI	T/Superintendent Bobby Singleton, PSNI

Staff Present	Apologies
Alison Allen, Safer City Manager	Councillor Declan Boyle
Lorna Somers, Safer City Assistant Manager	Carmel McKinney
Katharine McCrum, Partnership Support Officer	Anne-Louise Toal

1. Welcome and Apologies

- i. The Chair welcomed Members to the meeting and noted the apologies provided.
- ii. The Chair advised Members that the Statutory Designated Members had taken the decision to leave given the delay in concluding the meeting of the Policing Committee. He advised that the time allocated to the Policing Committee would need to be reviewed as discussions with the PSNI were an important function of the PCSP.
- iii. Members agreed that 30 minutes may not be enough time for the Policing Committee and thanked the PSNI for their comprehensive presentation and informative interaction.
- iv. It was agreed that apologies should be given to each of the Statutory Partners for keeping them waiting with assurances that the timing issues would be resolved ahead of future meetings.

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. Community Planning Presentation

(Stevie Lavery, Programme Manager, attended in relation to this item)

- i. The Chair advised Members that a presentation regarding Community Planning had been scheduled to take place however, as all Members were not present, he suggested postponing this until the next PCSP Meeting.
- ii. Members agreed that the information would be useful for all Members and agreed to postpone the presentation to the next meeting. The Chair thanked Mr Lavery for taking the time to attend.

4. Belfast PCSP Minutes

- i. In reference to the Actions resulting from the previous PCSP Meeting, the Safer City Assistant Manager advised Members that:
 - A meeting had been arranged between the PCSP Chair and the Public Prosecution Service (PPS) to discuss their input and inclusion in the PCSP,
 - A meeting had been arranged between the 5 (D)PCSP Chairs and the Joint Committee to discuss current and future funding issues,
 - Meetings had been held with 6 of the 7 Designated Partners to discuss their links with the PCSP,
 - The PCSP Training had taken place in the originally selected venue as the alternatives had not been suitable, and
 - An invite to 'Ctrl Alt Del' had been circulated to all Members.
- ii. The Chair asked Members to send any specific issues and questions for the PPS to the Partnership Support Officer ahead of the meeting on 4th November.
- iii. In response to a query about the role of the DPCSP Chairs and Vice-Chairs with the PPS, the Safer City Assistant Manager advised that this meeting had been arranged in order to agree a method of dialogue but it was hoped that an ongoing engagement would be established which all Chairs and Vice-Chairs would be invited to take part in.

5. Audit and Governance Arrangements

- i. The Safer City Assistant Manager 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 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 and supported its implementation.

6. Action Plan Progress Report

- i. The Safer City Assistant Manager drew Members attention to a progress report in relation to the delivery of the 2015/2016 PCSP Action Plan. Members were advised that they would receive a progress update at each PCSP meeting.
- ii. A Member questioned the focus on delivering hate crime awareness projects to young people given that most people committing hate crimes were adults. It was also suggested that an audit of what Statutory Agencies were doing to tackle hate crime would be useful.
- iii. The Safer City Manager advised that the Probation Board were piloting a scheme for adults convicted of hate crimes and that the proposed PCSP project aimed to take a preventative approach. She noted that a review of community and statutory services tackling or supporting victims of hate crime had been done last year and agreed to circulate this to Members.
- iv. In response to a query regarding a Small Grant awarded to the Law Centre NI and their signposting methods, the Safer City Manager undertook to seek further clarification on this and update Members accordingly.
- v. A Member suggested that if under spends within budget lines were anticipated, these could be used to support initiatives dealing with cyber crime and sexual exploitation, issues which were on the increase.
- vi. The Chair noted this suggestion for consideration should funds become available.
- vii. The Safer City Manager agreed that the issue was definitely on the increase and so should be considered for future plans. She advised that many movement of funds above 20% were subject to a change control process and so cautioned against any major reprofiling.

7. Update regarding Statutory Designated Partners

- i. The Safer City Manager advised Members that meetings had taken place with 6 of the 7 Statutory Partners at which an agreed process for providing a short formal report on their Community Safety issues had been agreed.
- ii. Three items were agreed; Alignment of priorities, any significant events of note, and emerging issues and themes.
- iii. The Safer City Manager noted that this approach had been agreed with the aim of increasing joined up working, accountability and feedback to Members.
- iv. Members agreed to the process as outlined by the Safer City Manager.

8. ASB Evaluation

- i. The Safer City Manager advised Members that the previous PCSP had procured the services of RSM McClure Watters to undertake a review of anti-social behaviour services across Belfast with the aim of reducing duplication, allocating resources in the most effective way and creating an integrated service delivery model.

- ii. Members were advised that a draft report had been received and were asked to agree to a presentation from RSM McClure Watters at the next meeting of the PCSP.
- iii. A Member suggested that links should be made with the Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships who have a focus on anti-social behaviour and existing plans to tackle the issue.
- iv. The Safer City Manager advised that the work was at an early stage in terms of scoping coverage and service provision. She added that it would be for Members to consider options for potential future service delivery and then engage with other relevant partnerships.
- v. The Chair noted that information on the Community Planning process would also assist Members in agreeing a way forward.
- vi. Members noted the report and agreed to receive a presentation from RSM McClure Watters at the next meeting of the PCSP.

9. City Centre Responsibility

- i. The Safer City Manager advised Members that the previous PCSP had agreed to take responsibility for work of strategic significance in ensuring that Belfast City Centre is a safe place. Members were further advised that this had originally been part of the South Belfast DPCSP area but had represented a significant drain on their resources and so an amended boundary had been agreed.
- ii. Members were asked to note the report and to continue with the previously agreed delegated authority for the Safer Belfast Coordination Team (SBCT) to act operationally on behalf of the Belfast PCSP in managing these issues whilst receiving regular updates on their progress.
- iii. Members noted the contents of the report and approved the recommendations as requested.

10. PCSP Evaluation

- i. The Safer City Manager advised Members that the previous PCSP had issued a quotation document during 2014 in order to engage an external company to review the work of the Belfast PCSP and DPCSPs. Members were advised that the review, which was due next month, would look at what projects had worked best and what had not with the aim of producing a development plan for the Partnerships.
- ii. Members noted the update ahead of a more detailed report on the evaluation's findings at the next meeting of the PCSP.

11. Delegated Authority

- i. Members were reminded that in normal circumstances, funding requests or projects requiring financial approval would be brought to the next available meeting of the (D)PCSP, or a specially convened decision making panel consisting of at least 5 Members.

- ii. The Safer City Assistant Manager asked Members to approve a financial 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 PCSP meeting. Members were also asked to agree that this process be replicated at DPCSP level to ensure consistency of approach.
- iii. Members approved the financial process for emergency situations as outlined above.

12. Road Safe Road Show

- i. The Safer City Assistant Manager provided Members with an update on the recent Road Safe Road Show which was delivered by the PCSP in conjunction with the PSNI, NIFRS, Cool FM and Ambulance Service,
- ii. Members were advised that over 2 days, 700 young people attended from schools across Belfast and that coverage of the event had reached over 50,000 people on Facebook, the second highest rating across Council during that week. Members were further advised that the event received coverage in the Belfast Telegraph and Irish News and had received excellent feedback from the schools.
- iii. The Chair added that the event was very worthwhile and it was a great way to bring so many young people to City Hall. He noted that it was an event that he hoped to see supported again in the future.
- iv. Several Members added their praise for the event which effectively delivered the message of road safety. A Member suggested that the PCSP should put a focus on similar practical events in the future.

13. Sharps Initiative

- i. The Safer City Assistant Manager updated Members on the work that the PCSP and Belfast City Council were doing in relation to needle finds and the disposal of sharps.
- ii. Members were advised that staff had been working since August 2014 with Council's Cleansing Department to tackle needle finds in public toilets, and that the PCSP Chair was taking part in Sharps Working Group meetings alongside Waste Management to progress this work.
- iii. Members were further advised that the Sharps Working Group were focusing on 5 key items; Cleansing, Information Sharing, Training, Response and Data Collection. The Safer City Assistant Manager noted that the group had agreed to bring in a facilitator to assist with its key aims and that a paper on the progress of this work would be brought to Members in due course.
- iv. Several Members commended the rapid response of Belfast City Council in removing drugs and needles from the community. It was noted that issues are often raised regarding whose land items are found on but this should be set aside in the interests of public safety.

- v. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised that the Council was taking the lead in trying to resolve these issues and raise awareness of the health issues and who can be contacted to lift drug related items.
- vi. The Chair commented that similar land owner issues were raised when dealing with bonfires. He noted that it was important to fill the gaps that currently existed and that enforcement was also a key issue.

14. Emerging Issues

- i. Members were reminded that performances of the PCSP funded play 'Blackout' would be taking place throughout November.
- ii. Members were asked to notify the PCSP Office if they wished to attend one of the performances.

15. Date of Next Meeting

- i. Members approved the proposal that the PCSP hold a Joint Planning Session for all PCSP and DPCSP Members on 9th November in place of the scheduled Private Meeting in order to commence the planning process.
- ii. Members were therefore advised that the next Private meeting of the PCSP would be Monday, 7th December.