

Minutes of the Belfast Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Private Meeting

Lavery Room, City Hall
Monday 8th February, 2016

Political Members	Independent Members
Councillor Matt Garrett (Chair)	Debbie Hammill (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Janice Austin	Mary Lambe
Councillor Declan Boyle	Susan Russam
Councillor Carole Howard	
Councillor John Hussey	
Councillor JJ Magee	
Councillor Stephen Magennis	
Alderman Jim Rodgers	
Designated Organisations	
AGC Chris Fee, NIFRS	Chief Superintendent Chris Noble
Eithne McIlroy, PBNI	Helen Russell, NIHE
Patricia Muldoon, YJA	
Staff Present	Apologies
Alison Allen, Safer City Manager	John Loughran
Lorna Somers, Safer City Assistant Manager	John MacVicar
Katharine McCrum, Partnership Support Officer	Carmel McKinney
	Michael O'Hara
	Anne-Louise Toal
	Cecil Worthington, H&SC Trust

1. Welcome and Apologies

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

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.

3. Minutes

- i. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised Members that the Public Prosecution Service (PPS) had emailed the PCSP Office with some amendments to the previously circulated minutes of the PCSP Meeting held on 14th January.
- ii. Members were asked to approve the submitted amendments, and to agree to additional detail being added around the approval of £198,328 Action Plan Funding, as agreed at the meeting on 7th December.
- iii. Members approved the two changes as outlined by the Safer City Assistant Manager.

- iv. In response to a query regarding the additional funding recently allocated to the West Belfast DPCSP, the Safer City Assistant Manager advised that the full £5,000 had not been fully spent on the assigned project, however rather than return the underspend, it had been agreed that this would be used to fund further related activity.

4. Presentation from Central Grants Unit

- i. The Safer City Manager advised Members that the Central Grants Unit were not available to present to Members.
- ii. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised that the purpose of the presentation had been to inform those who were not familiar with PCSP Small Grants of the scoring process and purpose of the Unit.
- iii. She also asked for 5 Members to volunteer to sit on the PCSP Small Grants Members Panel between 7th – 10th March to approve the scoring process, noting that a quorum of 3 Members was required.
- iv. Alderman Jim Rodgers, Councillors Declan Boyle and Stephen Magennis, and Debbie Hammill volunteered. Councillors Matt Garrett and Janice Austin stated that they may also be available to sit on the panel, depending on the time of the meeting.
- v. The Chair advised that a request had been made for Members to receive a presentation on the Bonfire Management Programme at the next PCSP Meeting. In line with the previously agreed policy to have 1 presentation per meeting, Members agreed to hear this presentation and for the Small Grants presentation to be circulated via email.
- vi. A Member asked the Safer City Assistant Manager to ascertain why the Central Grants Unit had not attended as this was not good practice.

5. Chair's Update

- i. On behalf of the Chair, the Safer City Assistant Manager advised Members that;
 - A further £11,000 had been received from the Department of Justice (DOJ) for the delivery of the Drug Dealers Don't Care Campaign,
 - Information regarding the PSNI Youth Academy had been circulated to all DPCSPs,
 - 30 Assets Recovery Community Scheme (ARCS) funding applications had been received and would be passed to the DOJ for scoring once they had been reviewed to ensure a fit with PCSP objectives,
 - A letter had been received from the Joint Committee to advise that the PCSP budgets for 2016/2017 would be subject to a 2% cut from those provided at the outset of 2015/2016.
- ii. Members noted the update provided.

6. Update regarding Statutory Designated Partners

- i. The Chair advised Members that update reports from each of the Statutory Designated partners was provided within the meeting papers. Chief Superintendent Noble was

invited to explain the recent changes to the Senior Leadership Team within the Belfast District Command Unit. He advised that Superintendent Hilman would be taking up the post as Local Policing Superintendent for Belfast while Superintendent Singleton would be moving to the Crime Operations Department. Members were further advised that Chief Inspector Norman Haslett would be replacing Anthony McNally as the Local Policing Chief Inspector in West Belfast.

- ii. The Chair asked for full details of the personnel changes to be circulated to Members,

7. (D)PCSP Financial Update

- i. The Safer City Assistant Manager provided Members with an update on the actual, committed and planned financial spend for the PCSP and each of the DPCSPs. She advised that the figures would be circulated to Members via email.
- ii. Members were advised that staff had some concerns regarding the full utilisation of the budget given the high levels of planned spend in comparison to actual spend. The Safer City Assistant Manager did however note that if projects were delivered as intended, only a small underspend was anticipated.
- iii. Members were reminded that the Joint Committee had issued the Belfast PCSP with an additional £340,077 in December, 2015. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised that staff would endeavour to utilise the full budget however this would be difficult given the timescales involved and the financial procedures that must be followed.
- iv. In response to questions regarding how Statutory Partners could assist in the development of additional projects, the Safer City Assistant Manager advised that work was ongoing with the Youth Justice Agency and Probation Board regarding 2 pieces of work. She added that many partner agencies had also received additional funding in late 2015 and so they too were dealing with the pressures associated with last minute expenditure.
- v. A Member suggested that unallocated funds could be used to support older people, particularly those affected by crime. It was suggested that Officers meet with this Member to discuss such possibilities rather than return available funding.
- vi. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised that several projects focusing on these issues had been agreed by Members in December, including the purchase of equipment for a four-tier crime prevention initiative and a campaign focussing on the impact that burglary has on elderly victims.
- vii. The Safer City Manager advised that she had an existing meeting with the Member in question and so project proposals could be discussed then.
- viii. In response to a query as to whether a shortage of staff was hampering project delivery, the Safer City Assistant Manager advised that the level of funding and the timescales with which to spend the money were the main problem. She reminded Members of the audit and governance procedures in place for PCSP funding.
- ix. A Member suggested that Officers speak with the Head of Service, Department Director and Head of Finance to advise them of the financial pressures at play.

- x. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised that conversations were ongoing with senior management who were very supportive of the Partnerships, however some issues were beyond their control.
- xi. In response to the suggestion that a request should be made to carry forward funding into the new financial year, the Safer City Assistant Manager advised that this was not an option given the rules governing central government funding however a letter could be written if Members wished.
- xii. The Safer City Manager advised Members that the unprecedented level of funding provided at the last minute had resulted in this position which was a first for Belfast PCSP. She reiterated the staff team's commitment to utilise the full budget and suggested that a final decision regarding the return of funds would be made at the end of February.
- xiii. Members were reminded that the Partnership had given full delegated authority to the Chair and Vice-Chair to approve project spend alongside the Safer City Manager and Assistant Manager.

8. (D)PCSP Action Plan Progress Reports

- i. The Safer City Assistant Manager presented Members with Progress Reports for the PCSP and each of the DPCSPs providing progress to date against each project, as well as future actions.
- ii. Members were reminded that the DOJ had provided an additional £11,000 of support to the Drug Dealers Don't Care Campaign which would be launched as part of a larger DOJ New Psychoactive Drugs Seminar on 24th February. Members were asked to approve the allocation of £1,500 to support the delivery of the conference.
- iii. Members were also asked to approve the allocation of £4,300 for a West Belfast DPCSP Community Engagement Network residential regarding community protocols.
- iv. Members noted the contents of the reports and approved the 2 additional items of funding.

9. Draft 2016/2017 (D)PCSP Action Plans

- i. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised Members that the Draft 2016/2017 DPCSP Action Plans had been agreed in principal by each of the Partnerships, with some minor changes still to be made.
- ii. Members were advised that the PCSP Plan had not yet been finalised and so the Safer City Assistant Manager asked Members to provide delegated authority to the PCSP Planning Sub-Group to finalise the details of the PCSP 2016/2017 Action Plan.
- iii. The Safer City Manager advised that the deadline for submission of the Plans was 29th February, which due to the focus on delivery of the 2015/2016 Action Plans, would not be met. She further advised that this was the case for many of the regional PCSPs.
- iv. Members agreed to provide delegated authority to the Planning Sub-Group and approved the Draft DPCSP Action Plans for 2016/2017.

10. Future PCSP Schedule of Meetings

- i. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised Members that a proposed schedule of meetings for 2016/2017 was contained within the papers, including a Joint (D)PCSP Briefing for all Members on 14th March.
- ii. Members were also asked to approve a change in the order of meetings with Private meetings being held at 5.30pm followed by meetings of the Policing Committee every other month.
- iii. Members approved the list of future meetings and agreed to trial a change to the order of which Private and Policing Committee meetings are held.

11. Date of Next Meeting

- i. Members were reminded that the next Private Meeting of the PCSP would be held on Monday, 7th March at 5.30pm.