

Minutes of the East Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Specially Convened Policing Committee Meeting

Room 1c, Cecil Ward Building, Belfast
Monday 30th November, 2015

Political Members	Independent Members
Councillor Carole Howard (Chair)	Mr David Geddis (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Sonia Copeland	Mr Jonathan Currie
Councillor Aileen Graham	Mr Steven McMillen

PSNI Representative	Staff Present
Chief Inspector David Moore	Glenn Thomas, Safer City Coordinator
	Katharine McCrum, Partnership Support Officer

1. Welcome and Routine Matters

- i. The Chair welcomed Members to the specially convened meeting of the Policing Committee which was called in order to consider the approval of 6 new funding applications.

2. Declaration of Interests

- i. Members were reminded of the need to declare any material interests which they may have in relation to any item of business to be considered during the meeting. No declarations of interest were noted.

3. Policing Committee Applications

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that groups can apply for Policing Committee grants of up to £1,000 for projects that aim to help and encourage groups to work directly with the PSNI and build relationships and confidence in policing. He added that projects are signed off by the PSNI before being scored twice (once by the East Belfast Project Officer and by the Safer City Coordinator) against a set criterion. An application must score over 60 marks to be considered eligible for funding.
- ii. Members were asked to review each of the following grant applications and to ratify the decision to fund each based on the scores awarded:
 - a) Charter NI, Christmas Engagement and Prevention Event.
Members were advised that this intergenerational project had received a score of 72 and was focused on an area of high anti-social behaviour. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that the project aimed to improve relationships with the police, reduce social isolation and improve community cohesion.

Members approved funding of £785 towards the event.
Proposed: Chief Inspector David Moore

Seconded: Mr Steven McMillen

- b) Youth Initiatives, St Christopher's Church, Merry on the Mersey.
The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that this project was taking place in the Connswater area and would help deal with the issue of transient youth. He added that the project was being match funded by Connswater Greenway and Belfast City Airport.

Members approved funding of £1,000 towards the range of events.

Proposed: Mr Jonathan Currie

Seconded: Councillor Aileen Graham

- c) Polish Community Association, Family Fun Day.
Members were advised that this event was focused on building relationships between local Polish residents in East Belfast and other local communities. He noted that Polish residents in Northern Ireland often experienced high levels of racially motivated incidents and so this was an ideal way to promote cohesion and inclusion.

Following discussion, Members agreed to provide £970 of Policing Committee funding for the event.

Proposed: Councillor Carole Howard

Seconded: Councillor Sonia Copeland

- d) Alternative Education Provision, Back on Track!
The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that this project was aiming to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour through a CCEA accredited programme addressing alcohol and drug issues.

Members noted the range of areas from which young people would be referred from and welcomed the qualification that would be achieved by participants.

Members approved funding of £840 towards the project.

Proposed: Mr David Geddis

Seconded: Mr Steven McMillen

- e) Walkway Community Association, Community Engagement Event.
Members were reminded of the issues that had taken place in the Walkway area over the summer months and more specifically over the July period. Members were advised that as a result, community confidence in statutory services and community groups was perceived as being low, while fear of crime was on the increase.

The Safer City Coordinator advised that this event aimed to rebuild relationships between agencies (in particular the police) and local residents as well as provide crime prevention advice.

Members approved funding of £660 towards the event.

Proposed: Councillor Sonia Copeland

Seconded: Mr Jonathan Currie

- f) East Belfast Area Youth Project, Drug Awareness Course.
Members were advised that the project focused on young women, who were often difficult to engage with, and improving their knowledge about the consequences of drugs misuse by delivering OCN level 1 drugs awareness training. Members were further advised that the Education Authority were providing match funding for the project.

Members agreed to provide £1,000 of funding towards the delivery of the course.

Proposed: Mr Steven McMillen

Seconded: Mr David Geddis

- iii. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that governance visits would be carried out for each of the projects to ensure that the projects were on track and offering value for money. He also suggested that Members visit the groups and attend events where possible in order to build relationships with community organisations.
- iv. In response to a query about the timescale for submitting Policing Committee project suggestions, the Safer City Coordinator advised Members to contact the Anti-Social Behaviour Officer to discuss future applications as soon as possible.