

Minutes of the East Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Private Meeting

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

Political Members

Councillor Carole Howard (Chair)
Councillor Sonia Copeland
Councillor Aileen Graham
Councillor Deirdre Hargey
Councillor Niall O Donngaile
Councillor Tommy Sandford

Independent Members

Mr David Geddis (Vice-Chair)
Mr Jonathan Currie
Ms Lisa McMaster
Mr Steven McMillan

Designated Organisations

Yvonne Cowan, H&SCT
Alan Cunningham, NIFRS
Jane Lappin, PBNi
Dermot Magorrian, YJA

Alison Methven, NIHE
Chief Inspector David Moore, PSNI
Pauline Smart, EA

Staff Present

Glenn Thomas, Safer City Coordinator
Katharine McCrum, Partnership Support Officer

Apologies

Mrs Michelle Bryans
Gary Ballantyne, NIHE

1. Welcome and Routine Matters

- i. The Chair welcomed Members to 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 of interest were declared at the outset of the meeting.

3. Minutes and Matters Arising

- i. Minutes of the East Belfast DPCSP Private Meeting held on Monday, 26th October, and Private and Public Meetings held on Tuesday, 3rd November, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct.

4. Agreed Actions Update

- i. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with an update on the actions agreed at the previous meetings, noting that:
 - A presentation from the Connswater Community Greenway Team would be delivered at the next meeting of the DPCSP,

- A report on the Transient Youth Project was contained within the papers,
- The presentations which had been delivered at the last DPCSP meeting had been emailed to Members,
- PCSP Small Grants were currently open for applications and Officers were available to offer support to groups as required, and
- Further information on the Sharps Working Group would be circulated when available.

5. Chairs Update from the Policing Committee

- i. At the request of the Chair, the Safer City Coordinator reminded Members that a Planning Working Group had been agreed at the last meeting and dates for the first meeting would be circulated in the coming week. Members were further advised that once a Plan had been developed by the Working Group, this would be brought back to the full Partnership for further discussion.
- ii. A Member commented upon the good discussions that had taken place at the (D)PCSP Joint Planning Session on 9th November and welcomed the opportunity to continue with more in depth exchanges at further meetings.

6. Action Plan Update

- i. The Safer City Coordinator drew Members' attention to the update provided, noting that while spend of the Action Plan budget was currently low, several project proposals had been tabled for approval during the meeting, with further papers would be brought to the next DPCSP meeting on 14th December.
- ii. Members noted the update provided.

7. City Wide Transient Youth Project

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised that as a result of ongoing issues across Belfast, and previous intervention and diversionary work carried out by the West Belfast PCSP, the Safer City Coordinator and staff team for West Belfast had been asked to lead on a city wide strategy in regard to Transient Youth. Members were reminded that East Belfast had experienced anti-social behaviour in the Orangefield and Avoniel areas which had caused issues for both the Council and PSNI and that some of the crowds involved were transient in nature.
- ii. Members were further advised that the East Belfast DPCSP had allocated £6,000 towards city wide projects, £2,000 of which would be allocated to this project.
- iii. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that there was a request for a Member to sit on the transient Youth Steering Group. The Vice-Chair, Mr David Geddis, volunteered to sit on the steering group and with no objections, it was agreed that he would be the East Belfast DPCSP representative.

- iv. A Member suggested that only a minority of young people were causing issues and suggested that the Steering Group should consider carefully where funding should be allocated given that the total budget was small.

8. East Belfast Drug and Alcohol Stakeholders Forum

- i. In line with the policy, Councillor Tommy Sandford and Mr Jonathan Currie declared an interest in this item and stepped out of the room during the discussion. Yvonne Cowan, H&SCT, also advised Members that she was a Member of the East Belfast Drug and Alcohol Stakeholders Forum however the Safer City Coordinator pointed out that she sat as a statutory member and as such had no vested interest in any financial aspects of the group.
- ii. Members were advised that an application had been received from the East Belfast Community Development Agency (EBCDA) who run the Forum requesting that financial support be afforded by this Partnership in order to meet its operational running costs and production of a resource directory.
- iii. In response to some concerns about funding room hire and duplicating existing leaflets, the Safer City Coordinator advised those present that the makeup of the Forum made it unique within East Belfast and as such the leaflet would ensure that work of the group as well as the related services were promoted properly.
- iv. Yvonne Cowan added that in order to get the best from the partnership, it was important to move the Forum (noting that it currently met in the Network Centre on Templemore Avenue) around East Belfast to ensure real community buy in.
- v. A Member suggested that if the resource directory was to cover citywide services, other DPCSPs could be approached to supply match funding.
- vi. The Safer City Coordinator advised that the resource would be bespoke to East Belfast and used to promote local services. He added that in the past, the East Belfast DPCSP had placed a regular update segment in a local newspaper to promote the Partnership and suggested that this could be used again to promote engagement with community groups and as a further means of promoting the work of the East Belfast DPCSP.
- vii. One Member suggested utilising the Council's City Matters publication while another suggesting providing leaflets to schools who could then pass them on to parents.
- viii. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that all communication methods including those mentioned would be considered as part of the planning process.
- ix. Following further discussion, Members agreed to the recommendations as contained in the report namely to provide £2,000 to EBCDA for the running of the East Belfast Drug and Alcohol Stakeholders Group.
Proposed: Councillor Carole Howard
Seconded: Councillor Sonia Copeland

- x. Councillor Sanford and Jonathan Currie were invited back into the room and advised of the Partnerships' decision and updated around the discussion regarding future communications planning.

9. Bands, Banners and Bonfires Project

- i. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with information on a suggested 7 week project addressing the issues of parades, protests and bonfires through an educational programme delivered by the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland. Members were advised that the cross community project aimed to raise awareness of different cultures and an independent evaluation would be used to inform future project planning.
- ii. While Members felt that the premise of the project was sound, several requested further information on the groups that would be taking part, what the workshops would involve, and a breakdown of facilitator and venue costs.
- iii. A question was also raised about recent grant money that may have been received by the Lodge and why this was not being utilised. Several Members also questioned the age range that was being proposed and how the young people would be selected to take part. It was agreed that there would need to be confidence in the programme before young people could be referred.
- iv. A Member welcomed the project and suggested that if the cross community aspect was not possible, it could be used as a diversionary project over the summer period as it represented good value for money.
- v. The Safer City Coordinator noted the concerns raised and suggested inviting a speaker from the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland to the next meeting to address such questions. He also asked Members to email any further queries to him to ensure that the presentation could address them. He added that the project had the potential to be exciting and well received if delivered effectively adding that there were few opportunities within East Belfast for projects of a cross community nature.
- vi. Members agreed to reconsider the project following a presentation from the applicant group.

10. Prevention through Education Project

- i. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with a report detailing a suggested 8 week project led by a Belfast Boys Brigade Company working with 8 young men considered hard to reach and vulnerable to becoming involved in anti-social behaviour.
- ii. Members queried how the young people had been identified, how at risk they were if already engaged with the Boy Brigade, value for money, and asked for more detail on qualifications and level of tutoring that would be offered to the boys.
- iii. Several Members welcomed the project noting the positive outcomes that could be achieved by it.

- iv. The Safer City Coordinator advised that a project brief is completed for each project that is suggested to Members which includes information on monitoring, evaluation, analysis of need and value for money. He suggested that while this was an internal planning document, it may be useful for Members to see in order to reassure them of the checks that are done ahead of any proposals being brought to the Partnership and in order to satisfy their queries .
- v. A Member commented that the DPCSP must be satisfied that projects will have an impact within communities, while being careful not to micro-manage each application. The Chair agreed that Members have a role in questioning reports but must also trust in Officers' judgement of projects and allow them the freedom to deliver the Action Plan.
- vi. The Safer City Coordinator left the meeting to retrieve the briefs for each of the projects to be discussed (Items 9, 10, 11 and 12), and then provided Members with key details from each.
- vii. In response to a query regarding the projects described under Item 10 and Item 11 being from the same Church, the Safer City Coordinator assured Members that the projects had been reviewed in terms of delivery times and attendees and as such he was confident that there was not a duplication between the applications or of the work to be delivered as part of them.
- viii. A Member suggested that the DPCSP should look favourably at the applications, whilst being mindful of value for money. A second Member noted that while she was sceptical at first, having heard more detail she was happy to support the project which could be looked upon as a pilot that could be used to promote the message of achievement and family support.
- ix. The Chair agreed that such a project could be the starting point, and that the DPCSP should consider how parents could be brought on board once the project had delivered what was set out within the application.
- x. Following further discussion, Members approved funding of £1,388 for the Prevention through Education Project.
Proposed: David Geddis
Seconded: Jane Lappin

11. Engaging Youth Project

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that the Engaging Youth Project had been funded by the last East Belfast DPCSP and was being proposed for funding again as the project seeks to provide positive engagement between young people and agencies such as FASA, BELB, YJA and the PSNI through homework sessions over a 12 week period.
- ii. Members were advised that queries had already been raised regarding the costs of the materials detailed within the budget and so details of best value and appropriateness would be requested should funding be agreed. This requirement would be stipulated in the Letter of Offer that would go out to the applicant group.

- iii. Several Members supported the project, noting that the group would not have the opportunity to receive funding elsewhere, and it was agreed that the cost per head represented good value, and engagement with the PSNI in the target area was of critical importance.
- iv. Following further discussion, Members agreed to fund the project with the provisos previously discussed.
Proposed: Lisa McMaster
Seconded: Councillor Niall O Donnghaile
- v. In response to comments that such projects would need to be replicated across the City given the transient nature of crime and anti-social behaviour, the Safer City Coordinator advised that Coordinators from each of the DPCSPs met on a weekly basis to discuss projects, and reminded Members that the Transient Youth Steering Group would be looking at exactly these issues.
- vi. A Member suggested that a similar city wide group should be established to deal with interface issues given that many of the incidents are carried out by those travelling to the area.
- vii. The Safer City Coordinator agreed to feed this suggestion back to the PCSP Management Team.

12. Domestic Violence Campaign

- i. The Safer City Coordinator outlined a project aimed at addressing issues around domestic violence through the encouragement of reporting incidents, raising awareness and educating members of the public about the support that exists. Members were further advised that there had been an increase in domestic violence incidents while outcome rates had fallen. The campaign would be run in conjunction with the regional campaign and seek to secure additional advertising within East Belfast in order to increase the footprint of that message.
- ii. Members were asked to support funding of £3,000 towards a domestic violence project and a further £500 for a domestic violence seminar which in the previous year had been delivered in conjunction with Castlereagh PCSP.
- iii. Members approved the funded as outlined within the paper.
Proposed: Councillor Niall O Donnghaile
Seconded: David Geddis

Jane Lappin, PBNI, noted that the Probation Board were not mentioned in the report despite the fact that they were heavily involved in work of this nature. The Safer City Coordinator apologised for this oversight

- iv. In response to queries regarding placement of the advertising, the Safer City Coordinator advised that the regional campaign had taken up many of the advertising spots and so the additional East Belfast DPCSP coverage would take what limited space was left.

13. AOB/Emerging Issues

Drugs and Alcohol

- i. A Member commended the PSNI on the recent drugs find in the Short Strand area.
- ii. In response to concerns regarding licensed premises selling alcohol to young people, Chief Inspector Moore advised that while he could not go into specifics, reports were being investigated at a citywide level.

Home Fire Safety Checks

- iii. Station Commander Alan Cunningham, NIFRS, advised Members that the Fire Service were aiming to change the scope of the free fire safety checks that it carried out, with more of a focus on vulnerable groups including those in deprived areas, as this was where most fatal fires occurred.
- iv. He further advised that Partnership Agreements were being developed to support such referrals and asked Members to promote meaningful referrals to the service.
- v. The Safer City Coordinator agreed to circulate this information to Members to the NIFRS wished to send further information to the PCSP Office.
- vi. In response to queries regarding the provision of Carbon Monoxide Alarms, he confirmed that they were the remit of the Health and Safety Executive however the Fire Service could monitor gas levels as part of the Home Safety Check.
- vii. A Member advised that a report provided by the NIFRS at quarterly Cregagh Interagency Meetings was very useful.

Additional Funding for PCSPs

- viii. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that additional funding had been made available to the PCSP from the Joint Committee. He asked Members to contact him to discuss any projects that they felt could be supported or delivered using additional DPCSP funding, either at a local or citywide level.
- ix. The Safer City Coordinator reminded Members of the need to come up with projects in order to satisfy the aims and objectives of the current Action Plan. He reminded members that there were still outstanding monies available within the Action Plan.

14. Dates of Next Meetings

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that the next DPCSP meeting would be held on Monday, 14th December at 5.30pm.