

Minutes of the South Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Private Meeting

Belfast Activity Centre, Barnett's Demesne, Belfast

Thursday 26 November 2015

Political Members

Councillor Declan Boyle (Chair)
Councillor Jeffrey Dudgeon

Independent Members

Aidan Hughes
Richard Kennedy

Statutory Designated Bodies

Christine Hunter PBNI
Gary Ballantyne NIHE
Chief Inspector Robert Murdie PSNI
Gerry Lennon NIFRS

Dermot Magorrian YJA
Anita Duff EA
Jamie Hughes PSNI
Darrin Hardy PSNI
Robert McMurrin CPO

Staff Present

Suzanne Gowling, Safer City Coordinator
Alyson Crompton, Partnership Support Officer

Apologies

Councillor Deirdre Hargey
Aleksandra Lojek-Magdziarz (Vice Chair)
Paul McDonnell
Michael Boyle

1. Welcome & Routine Matters

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

2. Declarations of Interest

- 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.
- ii. No declarations of interest were noted.

3. South Belfast DPCSP Minutes & Matters Arising

- i. The minutes of the private meeting held on 29th October 2015, copies of which had been previously circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct.
- ii. The Safer City Coordinator advised that the Officer from the Central Grants Unit was unable to attend tonight's meeting.
- iii. The Safer City Coordinator updated the Members that the drug and alcohol working group had their first meeting. She also reminded the Members of the

Introduction to Drugs and Alcohol Services Event on Monday 14th December at 2pm in City Hall.

- iv. An updated contact list of community group in the South Belfast Area will be re-circulated to the Members.
- v. The Safer City Coordinator advised the Members that the training opportunity of a visit to view the Custody Suite at Musgrave Street on Friday 06 November 2015 from 11.00am – 1.00pm was cancelled due to a poor response; however it may be revisited at a later date.

4. Chairs Update on PCSP

- i. The Chair commended the partnerships for continuing to work together across the districts.

5. Action Plan 2015/16 Update

- i. The Safer City Co-ordinator asked the Members to note the Action Plan progress report.
- ii. The Members agreed to note the Action Plan.
- iii. The Safer City Coordinator updated the Members on the Introduction to Drugs and Alcohol Services Event on Monday 14th December 2015 at 2pm in City Hall.
- iv. She also informed the Members that there has been an increase in the number of meetings eligible for expenses.
- v. The Safer City Co-ordinator outlined the agenda for the Hate Crime Round Table scheduled for Wednesday 13th January 2016 in City Hall, time still to be confirmed. She stated that the Charter was to be developed at the round table and asked any Members who wished to add anything to the agenda, to forward items to her.
- vi. The Safer City Co-ordinator outlined the proposal to allocate £2000 to St Patrick's Day to help manage the related ASB in the University area as advised by the Wider University Area PACT Sub Group e.g. SOS Bus, CCTV etc. She added that the partnership working since 2011 had helped in the decline of ASB and to maintain this progress she asked the Members to agree the recommendations.
- vii. After lengthy discussions the Chair stated that he thought the CCTV may be over the top and that early intervention on the ground by community workers was a good option. Chief Inspector Murdie said there has been more of an issue in the City Centre last year, with two public order units deployed, due to a flag protest.
- viii. The Members agreed the recommendation, to allocate £2000 to invest in the University Area to help manage ASB on St Patrick's Day.

- ix. The Safer City Co-ordinator stated that no submissions had been received for the Alcohol and Youth Project. However after discussions with invited organisations they have shown interest in resubmitting and Members agreed to its reissue.
- x. The Safer City Co-ordinator advised the Members that the ethnic minorities and migrants hate crime project was on track.
- xi. Chief Inspector Murdie advised the Members that the Syrian refugees are due to arrive on 15 December 2015, 51 individuals, 10 families, initially housed in FARSET. Premises are currently being vetted for housing city wide in non contentious areas. He also advised the members that an anti-refugee protest had been planned for Saturday 5th December at City Hall.
- xii. A Member stated that communities need education regarding refugees and migrants to accept them in a positive way. Another Member stated that it should be noted that the NIHE is not stock piling houses for refugees ahead of locals.
- xiii. The Safer City Co-ordinator stated that all refugees' not only Syrian refugees need support and should be encouraged to access services.
- xiv. Chief Inspector Robert Murdie advised that PSNI would be holding a hate crime conference in March and he would provide more information closer to the time.
- xv. The Safer City Co-ordinator updated the Members on the feel safer project in the new areas of Belvoir/Milltown. The new Neighbourhood Policing Teams are getting to know the community and are meeting up with vulnerable members. Inspector Hughes asked the Members to inform him of any residents who don't know their Local Policing Teams and he will arrange for an Officer to make contact with them.
- xvi. The Safer City Co-ordinator outlined the proposal for £2,500 to be allocated for a focused package of therapies and support services for vulnerable adults, particularly those from the wider university area who are affected by anxiety and sleep deprivation due to community safety problems in the area.
- xvii. In-depth discussions followed about the areas located within the wider university area and it was requested that this area be clearly identified.
- xviii. Further discussions took place on how the members of the community who would be entitled to the therapies would be identified; it was agreed that the therapies be offered to repeat victims of crime who would be identified by the PSNI, victim support, noise teams and university reporting.
- xix. The Safer City Co-ordinator outlined the proposal for £1,183 to be allocated to the purchase of crime prevention material for delivery at local Partnership level.
- xx. Following discussions on which items to purchase; it was agreed that the Crime Prevention Officer and the Anti-Social Behaviour Office would identify

the most suitable items to be purchased; the Partnerships preference being for personal alarms, 24 hour timers and door alarms.

- xxi. The Safer City Co-ordinator outlined the proposal for £2,500 to be invested in the crime stoppers campaign, to encourage reporting to crime stoppers if the community felt uncomfortable reporting to the PSNI.
- xxii. A Member said that he felt, it would promote crime stoppers, but that it would probably not build confidence in policing.
- xxiii. Another Member stated that an alternative would be to produce videos for ethnic minorities/communities to highlight the social responsibility that they have as part of the community with regard to crime.
- xxiv. It was agreed that the £2,500 would not be invested in the crime stoppers campaign but that the Chair, the Safer City Co-ordinator and Chief Inspector Murdie would establish a working group to explore other options for build confidence in policing allocation.

6. City Wide Transient Youth Project

- i. The Safer City Coordinator gave an update on the City Wide Transient Youth Project. She advised that South Belfast DPCSP are required to nominate a representative to sit on a steering group, ideally the representative should be available during normal business hours.
- ii. After discussion Dermot Magorrian YJA agreed that he would consider being the rep, there were no other nominations.

7. Emerging Issues

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised the Members that there were no emerging issues.

8. South Belfast DPCSP Planning Process

- i. The Safer City Co-ordinator gave an update on the joint planning process on Monday 9th November held in the Ulster Hall.
- ii. The Members were asked to appoint a planning sub group to further develop the South Belfast DPCSP Action Plan for 2016-2017.
- iii. It was agreed that Declan Boyle and Aidan Hughes would sit on the planning sub group.
- iv. The emerging priorities for South Belfast DPCSP are as follows:
 - a. Drugs and Alcohol
 - b. Vulnerable People
 - c. Hate crime and fear of hate crime
 - d. Building community confidence
 - e. Identified hotspots

- v. After discussion it was felt, by the Members that the focus should be on the Holyland, Sandy Row and the Markets planning.
- vi. It was also felt that in the Holyland Area there are particular issues that need PCSP support. A diverse community with issues around translation and lack of ability to read within the Roma community. The ARCANI Community Centre is well used, however tension between students and the Roma community result in issues on both sides. It was thought that work in the area and consultation with the students and Roma would be worthwhile.
- vii. There was no agreement on the priorities for the Holyland at this stage however it was agreed that the planning sub group would discuss further.

9. Dates of Next Meetings

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised that the next meeting will take place on Monday 25th January 2016 after the Policing Committee.

10. Close

- i. The Chair thanked the Partnership for attending and closed the meeting