

Minutes of the South Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Private Meeting

Monday 29th February 2016, 6.00pm

Room 1C, The Cecil Ward Building, Linenhall Street, Belfast BT2 8BP

Political Members	Independent Members
Councillor Geraldine McAteer	Aidan Hughes
Councillor Jeffrey Dudgeon	Richard Kennedy
Councillor Paula Bradshaw	Aleksandra Lojek-Magdziarz (Vice Chair)
Councillor Deirdre Hargey	Paul McDonnell
Alderman Christopher Stalford	Michael Boyle
Statutory Designated Bodies	
Chief Inspector Robert Murdie PSNI	SC Michael Roberts NIFRS
Christine Hunter PBNI	Yvonne McKnight H&SCT
Anita Duff EA	
Staff Present	Apologies
Suzanne Gowling, Safer City Coordinator	Councillor Declan Boyle (Chair)
Alyson Crompton, Partnership Support Officer	Gary Ballantyne NIHE
Alison Allen Safer City Manager	
Jacqui White Central Grants Unit	
Ruairi Donnelly Central Grants Unit	

1. Welcome & Routine Matters

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

2. Central Grant Unit Presentation

- i. The Vice Chair introduced Jacqui White, Grants Manager and Ruairi Donnelly Grants Officer from the Central Grants Unit (CGU) to the Members.
- ii. The Grants Manager outlined the Central Grant Unit's role in administering grants available from Belfast City Council, including the PCSP Small Grants. She explained the application process and confirmed that there are 2 tranches per year and there are workshops for those interested in applying.
- iii. She explained that the small grants are scored by individual Officers and then moderated by an Officer Panel made up of three Safer City Coordinators. The DPCSP then appoint Independent Member's Assessment Panel to validate the scores and allocate the funding. Once this is complete the awards are approved and the Officers work with the groups and assist as necessary.
- iv. The Grants Manager asked the Members if they had any questions.

- v. A Member asked given the number of applications, how do you select, when there may be duplications? The Grants Manager advised that there are eligibility checks, the project must involve the PSNI and the need for the project must be identified before it is sent through for scoring. The scoring is independent and is marked against a set criteria out of 100%. There are three Officers involved in the scoring before the applications are forwarded to the Independent Member's Assessment Panel. It is an open and transparent process, which is advertised through social media. Workshops are held where applicants can speak to Officers who will advise on the appropriate grant stream and clarify any queries.
- vi. The Member said it was good to hear of the co-ordination between the CGU, PCSP and the applicants, and also that the process was open and transparent. The Vice Chair thanked the CGU for the presentation and they left the meeting.
- vii. The Vice Chair asked for five volunteers for the Small Grant Independent Members Assessment Panel.
- viii. The Safer City Coordinator gave an outline of the requirements for the Assessment Panel. She explained that the five volunteers had to be Political or Independent Members of South Belfast DPCSP.
- ix. The following five Members volunteered to be on the Small Grant Independent Members Assessment Panel, Alderman Christopher Stalford, Paul McDonnell, Aleksandra Lojek-Magdziarz, Michael Boyle and Councillor Geraldine McAteer.

3. 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. The following declarations of interest were noted, Anita Duff Item 5 4.2 (d), Aleksandra Lojek-Magdziarz Item 5 4.2 (e).

4. South Belfast DPCSP Minutes and Matters Arising

Private Minutes

- i. Councillor Dudgeon raised a query over Item 5 viii – xii, he claimed that this was not as he remembered.
- ii. Councillor Hargey said the proposal 3 and the minute was as agreed in the minutes.
- iii. Richard Kennedy replied that he thought it was viii proposal 1 that had been agreed.
- iv. A further five Members, Councillor Paula Bradshaw, Paul McDonnell, Michael Boyle, Aleksandra Lojek-Magdziarz and Yvonne McKnight agreed with the

Member statement ii above that the proposal 3 and the minute was as agreed in the minutes.

- v. The Safer City Manager advised the Members that the query could be down to interpretations of the Minutes, and stated that the Members should vote to agree the minutes.
- vi. Councillor Hargey proposed the minutes should stand as they are accurate. This proposal was seconded by Councillor Paula Bradshaw. Six members voted in favour of this proposal.
- vii. Councillor Dudgeon proposed that the minutes were not accurate. This proposal was seconded by Richard Kennedy. Two members voted in favour of this proposal.
- viii. Councillor Hargey's proposal was carried and the minutes stand.
- ix. The minutes of the South Belfast DPCSP Meeting held on 25th January, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read following the vote at vi – vii above, the minutes were agreed as correct.

5. Action Plan 2015/2016 Update

- i. The Safer City Coordinator asked the Members to note the Action Plan progress report item 5a. The Members agreed to note the Action Plan.
- ii. Councillor Hargey declared an interest in Item 5 4.2 (e)
- iii. The Safer City Coordinator updated the Members on the action plan and outlined the following proposals Item 5 4.2 (a-e);
 - a. To fund £475.00 for the Finaghy Youth Centre project.
 - b. Resources are made available to cover refreshments at training to be supplied under focused area working in line with current capped rates.
 - c. £1,000 available for use of CCTV in Area 3 to understand community safety issues.
 - d. To fund £1,750 for Roden Street Young People's Community Safety Project.
 - e. A further £1,436.50 to be invested in community engagement at priority sites at Wellwood Street (Days Hotel), Milltown and Inner South (Markets and Lower Ormeau).
- iv. The Members agreed to all the proposals from (a-e) as outlined above.

6. South Belfast DPCSP Draft Action Plan for 2016/2017

- i. The Safer City Coordinator asked the Members to consider the allocation for Small Grants in the draft action plan for 2016/2017. She advised that the

applications from groups in South Belfast had been of poor quality and of the applications received only three have been recommended for funding. It may be possible to look at the amount of money allocated to small grants and reallocate it. She proposed the following options.

- a. Proposal 1 – work with the unsuccessful applicants to develop the projects so that the DPCSP may fund them
 - b. Proposal 2 – create a “feel safer” theme and the Community Safety Team can work with local groups to develop proposals that would help people feel safer
- ii. Following discussions the DPCSP agreed to establish a new “feel safer” theme using the expected under spend from small grants. The Safer City Coordinator recommended that £5,000 is allocated to address emerging areas/issues also be added to the feel safer budget. Members noted this recommendation and agreed to allocate £5,000 as suggested by the Safer City Coordinator.

6a. Strategic Priority 1

- i. The Safer City Coordinator explained the Draft Action Plan and the allocation of £5,000 to strategic priority 1, to form and successfully deliver the functions of South Belfast DPCSP.

6b. Strategic Priority 2

- i. The Safer City Coordinator explained the Draft Action Plan and the allocation of £40,000 small grants, £35,000 focused area working, £10,000 drugs and alcohol, £15,000 hate crime and £5,000 vulnerable adults, to strategic priority 2, to improve community safety by addressing crime and antisocial behaviour.

6c. Strategic Priority 3

- i. The Safer City Coordinator explained the Draft Action Plan and the allocation of £10,000 to build community confidence, strategic priority 3.
- ii. The Safer City Coordinator explained that once the PCSP decides their priorities the South Belfast DPCSP Draft Action Plan will be refined.
- iii. The Members discussed the need for improving community confidence and community safety. In response to an enquiry about leaflet drops to neighbourhoods who are subject to burglaries, Inspector Murdie confirmed that this is already in place but it might be an idea to include the DPCSP branding on the leaflets.
- iv. On the subject of hate crime, the Safer City Coordinator confirmed that we would contract out to a facilitator.
- v. The Vice Chair advised that workshops had been held by the Northern Ireland Alternatives (NIA) to educate the ROMA in the ways of Northern Ireland, which were very different from their ways.

- vi. It was discussed that the wording of building community confidence, particularly in police should be explicit in this strategic priority and that it would be good to hold a general discussion at the next meeting about hotspots and particular issues across South Belfast, to talk about neighbourhoods and inform the partnerships decision making. Members noted this request and agreed for a discussion to be held at the next South Belfast DPCSP Meeting.

7. Public Meeting

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that the Public Meeting of the Policing Committee would take place on Thursday 10th March in the Wellington Park Hotel at 12.30pm. The Chair and the key note speaker Chief Inspector Murdie have both been confirmed.
- ii. In answer to a question about advertising the meeting it was confirmed that it would be advertised through social media and an email would be circulated to group contacts in South Belfast.
- iii. The Safer City Coordinator added that the Private meeting on the 21st Marc could be postponed. Chief Inspector Murdie reminded the Members that the Draft Local Policing Plan for 2016/2017 needs approval, although this could be addressed after the Public Meeting. The Safer City Coordinator confirmed that the 21st March private meeting was cancelled unless directed to hold it by the PCSP.

8. Chair's update

- i. The Vice Chair confirmed that the Joint DPCSP Briefing would be held on Monday 14th March at 6.30pm in the Clayton Hotel to review the Action Plans for 2016/2017.

9. Emerging Issues

- i. Chief Inspector Murdie outlined the proposals for the Draft Local Policing Plan for 2016/2017.
- ii. The Safer City Coordinator outlined that the DOJ have funding available for Priority Youth Interventions, applications close on 31st March at 5.00pm. The Safer City Coordinator agreed to forward the information to the Members.
- iii. Following discussions about North and West Belfast DPCSPs use of the funding they received last year it was asked would it be possible to collaborate with West Belfast DPCSP in relation to ongoing problem areas close to each other Finaghy Halt and Suffolk.
- iv. In a response to a question from a Member about the ongoing burglaries and south Belfast burglary statistics being huge, Chief Inspector Murdie replied that the press sensationalise; there had been an increase of 14.9% in burglary in south Belfast. He stated that burglary and drug use go hand in hand; following a recent successful operation in south Belfast targeting heroin

dealers, 4 key dealers had been arrested. The focus was on street dealing and it is hoped these operations will happen on a more regular basis. He also commented on a successful crime prevention presentation by Belfast City Council and the PSNI.

- v. In response to a Member asking if the provision of alleygates would help; Councillor Hargey indicated that Phase IV of the alleygating project had been allocated however this is not a quick fix as there is consultation and prioritisation. The Safer City Coordinator reminded the Members that the PCSP cannot fund Alleygates as they are a capital expenditure. The Member stated that the alleygates need to be kept closed especially after refuse collection and could the Partnership write to cleansing to ask that they are closed after bin collections. Members agreed this action
- vi. Chief inspector Murdie advised that the continued drug misuse of heroin would see burglaries increase.
- vii. The Vice Chair and the Safer City Coordinator agreed to provide further detail about the Area 3 project to Councillor Dudgeon after the meeting.

10. Date of next meetings

- i. The Vice Chair confirmed the next meetings;
 - a. Public Meeting Thursday 10th March at 12.30pm Wellington Park Hotel.
 - b. Joint DPCSP Briefing Monday 7th March at 7.30pm Clayton hotel
 - c. Private Meeting 21st March Cancelled
- ii. The Vice Chair thanked the Members for attending and closed the meeting.