

# Minutes of the West Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership

## Private Meeting

Conor Room, City Hall  
Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2015

<b>Political Members</b>	<b>Independent Members</b>
Councillor Stephen Magennis, (Chair)	Mrs Elizabeth Groves, (Vice Chair)
Councillor Matt Garrett	Ms Breige Brownlee
Councillor Brian Heading	Miss Claire Canavan
Alderman Chris McGimpsey	Mr Eoin McShane
	Ms Lauren Slane
<b>Statutory Designated Organisations</b>	
Tommy Boyle, H&SC Trust	Harry Bradley, YJA
Davy Harbinson, NIFRS	Anthony McNally, PSNI
Deirdre Grant, PBNI	
John McLaughlin, EA	

<b>Staff Present</b>	<b>Apologies</b>
Alan Wardle, Safer City Coordinator	
Alyson Crompton, Partnership Support Officer	
Lorna Somers, Safer City Assistant Manager	

### 1. Welcome and Routine Matters

- i. The Chair welcomed Members to the meeting of the West Belfast DPCSP and noted that no apologies had been provided. Following a round of introductions, the meeting proceeded.

### 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. West Belfast DPCSP Minutes

- i. The minutes of the Private meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct.
- ii. In response to a query about the meeting between the 5 (D)PCSP Chairs and the Joint Committee to discuss current and future funding issues; the Safer City Co-ordinator advised members that the meeting has been rescheduled for Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November.

### 4. Chairs Update from the Policing Committee Meeting

- i. The Chair invited Chief Inspector McNally to update the Members on the Policing Operations in the West Belfast DPCSP area.

- ii. The Local Policing Team (LPT) in the West Belfast area is Woodbourne; the three Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPT) are based in the following Police Stations; Court West – Grosvenor Road; Black Mountain – Woodbourne; Collin – Woodbourne.
- iii. Chief Inspector McNally briefed the Members on operational matters in each of the District Electoral Areas.
- iv. Court West – car crime remains an issue especially in Divis, including thefts from vehicles, there are operational plans in place for dealing with car crime. Partnership working in the Divis Intervention and the Professional Witness scheme are gaining momentum.
- v. Black Mountain – main issue is drugs and the ASB associated with it, primarily in and around the Turf Lodge area, there are operational plans in place which he would update Members on at the next meeting.
- vi. Collin – transient youths in large numbers have been a major problem in Twinbrook and Poleglass over the last two weekends (17-18 Oct and 24 -25 Oct). These youths are from all over including Lisburn Road, Newforge and Ballymurphy. Police had responded with up to 50 officers deployed on 24th-25th October. There are plans in place for the Halloween weekend however this will require a partnership approach.
- vii. The PBNI designate gave an update on reportable incidents, prolific offender recalls and interventions. She also remarked on the level of substance abuse which had possibly led to a death in a local hostel.

#### **5. Chairs Update on the PCSP**

- i. The Chair advised the Members that it had been approved at the Belfast PCSP meeting that the PCSP hold a Joint Planning Session for all PCSP and DPCSP Members on 9th November in place of their scheduled Private Meeting in order to commence the planning process. The Joint Planning Session will take place in the Ulster Hall at 5.30pm for a 6.00pm start and will conclude at 8.30pm.
- ii. The Safer City Co-ordinator strongly urged Members to attend the Planning Session as the priorities and strategies for the next three years would be discussed in detail.

#### **6. Update from participants of TALK Programme**

- i. The Chair invited Miss Slane to give a report on her experience of the TALK Programme.
- ii. Miss Slane outlined the one year TALK (Transformation, Advocacy, Leadership, and Knowledge) Programme; involving 14 young people, under the age of 28 from PCSPs across Northern Ireland. The programme aims to develop the leadership skills relevant to the PCSPs.
- iii. Part of the programme entailed a one week trip to the USA funded by the Institute of Police. It also involved interaction with the Garda. She felt that while the experience had been positive funding could have been saved if the programme had been held in Northern Ireland.

#### **7. ASB Update**

- i. The Safer City Co-ordinator advised Members that the PCSP Community Safety ASB Officer had been unable to attend the meeting but had forwarded a comprehensive report and he would deliver it.

- ii. The report relates to ASB from 28 October 2014 – 28 October 2015; 291 ASB related incidents have been reported to Belfast City Council's Community Safety Unit, this is down 30% on previous year when 414 reports had been received.
- iii. Of the 291 reports received, 191 were reported by Belfast City Council staff whilst the remaining 100 were made by members of the public.
- iv. 127 (44%) of the reported incidents occurred in and around the City Cemetery and Falls Park. In response to this, Belfast City Council Parks and Cemetery staff have carried out peak time operations to engage and discourage ASB by large groups of young people. The Community Safety Unit liaising with the PSNI, BELB and local youth providers have been actively engaging with and monitoring any displacement from the parks operation with young people in the area.
- v. The main type of ASB activity involves rowdy/nuisance behaviour 36%, street drinking 17% and criminal damage 14%.
- vi. At present the West Belfast Forum is monitoring 50 individuals for ASB related activities; a number of warning letters are being issued and 16 Antisocial Behaviour Orders (ASBO) are being progressed.
- vii. The ASB Forum and the relevant agencies meet monthly to look at multiple cases and individuals across West Belfast. A warning letter has been developed which can be issued to the parents of a young person, who is involved in ASB.
- viii. A Member asked what the letters contain. The Safer City Co-ordinator advised that the letter was part of a staged approach, informing the young person and their parents of the ASB in which they are engaging and how it impacts on them and their community and what could happen if they don't change their behaviour. The idea is to engage and deter the young person before they become a more frequent or prolific offender which could ultimately result in an ASBO.
- ix. The Chair asked if the ASB report and the letter template could be circulated to the Members. The Safer City Co-ordinator indicated that he would check and circulate as appropriate.

## **8. Audit and Governance Arrangements**

- i. The Safer City Co-ordinator advised the Members that this report had been previously agreed by the PCSP at its October meeting and he asked that they note the report and support its implementation.
- ii. The Members noted the report.

## **9. Financial Approval Process**

- i. The Safer City Co-ordinator explained the reason behind the report was to add an agreed stage in the financial process should there be an emergency or time sensitive issue that arises, that shows good governance and accountable decision making.
- ii. The Safer City Co-ordinator asked the Members to approve the financial process for emergency situations as outlined
- iii. The Members agreed the approval of the recommendations.

## **10. Action Plan Update**

- i. The Safer City Co-ordinator asked the Members to approve the recommendation to reallocate the under spend of £929.63 associated with SO2 – ASB “Community led Service Delivery” to SO2 – ASB “Emerging and Emergency Issues” to allow for further project delivery and support.
- ii. The Members agreed the reallocation of the £929.63 under spend as recommended.

## **11. Citywide Sharps Management Update**

- i. The Safer City Co-ordinator asked the Members to note the report on Sharps Management across the City. He stated that the use of heroin in the City was a major issue, he asked the Members to report any incidents in the West Belfast area and to support the initiative which included extensive mapping of the finds across the City.
- ii. The Chair of Belfast PCSP further explained the Sharps Working Group, which is a multi-agency group led by the Belfast PCSP. There are major issues with the lifting of sharps paraphernalia from problematic areas, this can be increased where it is unclear who owns the land, council land, private land or statutory agencies land. He stated that this is a very worthwhile initiative which should be given Members’ support.
- iii. The Safer City Co-ordinator asked that Members note the content of the report and encourage all members of their community to report these issues to the partnership; he also asked that the Designated Members also engage in the data capture process and report on finds to the West Belfast DPCSP.
- iv. The Members agreed to note the report and the recommendations.

## **12. Emerging Issues**

### **Locally Designated Groups**

- i. The Chair outlined the fact that the West Belfast DPCSP can nominate locally designated groups/organisations to sit on the Partnership as Members. He asked that invites be sent to Colin Neighbourhood Partnership (CNP), Upper Falls Community Safety Forum (UFCSF), Falls Community Council (FCC) and Greater Falls Community Safety Forum (GFCSF).

### **Public Meetings/Events/Community Venues for Meetings**

- i. The Chair stated that the West Belfast DPCSP must hold a Public Meeting before December; he asked if the Members would agree to move the next schedule Private Meeting to Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November and hold the first Public Meeting after the Private Meeting on the same date, in a venue in Suffolk or Dunmurry.
- ii. Following discussions the Partnership agreed that the Safer City Co-ordinator would contact Dunmurry Community Association which operates out of Fullerton Park a BCC facility, to see if they could accommodate the West DPCSP Private and Public meetings.
- iii. The Safer City Co-ordinator outlined the content for the first Public Meeting including an introduction to the New Policing Teams and Structures in West Belfast which would give the community an opportunity to meet the new Partnership Members.
- iv. The Members agreed to the change of date for the Private and Public Meetings and for the Safer City Co-ordinator to liaise with Dunmurry Community Association to source a venue.

### **Update on 2016/2017 Small Grants Schedule**

- i. The Safer City Co-ordinator advised the Members that the BCC Small Grants opened on 26<sup>th</sup> October for next year. The deadline for submitted grant applications is 8<sup>th</sup> January 2016, with the first payments for successful applications made on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016.
- ii. He also advised that the Belfast City Council's Small Grants Unit will be holding Information Road Shows Citywide in November and that West Belfast DPCSP staff would be in attendance to provide advice and guidance.

### **13. Dates of Next Meetings**

- i. The Safer City Co-ordinator advised that the next meeting will take place on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November before the Public Meeting.

### **14. Close**

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