

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

## Private Meeting

Belfast Met, E3 Campus, Springfield Road

Thursday 24 March 2016

<b>Political Members</b>	<b>Independent Members</b>
Councillor Stephen Magennis, (Chair)	Elizabeth Groves (Vice Chair)
Councillor Matt Garrett	Lauren Slane
	Claire Canavan
<b>Statutory Designated Organisations</b>	
Chief Insp Norman Haslett PSNI	
Carol Carville PBNI	
Insp Mike White PSNI	
<b>Locally Designated Organisations</b>	
Karol McKee Upper Springfield Community Safety Forum	Micheal Donnelly Greater Falls Community Safety Forum
<b>Staff Present</b>	<b>Apologies</b>
Alan Wardle, Safer City Coordinator	Breige Brownlee
Alyson Crompton, Partnership Support Officer	Eoin McShane
	Patricia Muldoon YJA
<b>Also Present</b>	Sharon Beattie NIHE
Debbie Watters NIPB	Harry Bradley YJA
Siobhan Fisher NIPB	Paula Kerr Upper Falls Community Safety Forum
	Michael George Colin Neighbourhood Partnership
Jennifer McCann, MLA	

### 1. Welcome and Routine Matters

- i. The Chair welcomed Members to the meeting of the West Belfast DPCSP and noted the apologies provided.
- ii. He welcomed and introduced two members of the Northern Ireland Policing Board; Debbie Watters Vice Chair and Siobhan Fisher Staff Member to the meeting.
- iii. The Chair at a later point, also welcomed Jennifer McCann MLA as a guest to the meeting.

### 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 & Matters Arising

- i. The Minutes of the West Belfast DPCSP Private Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> January, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct.
- ii. The Safer City Co-ordinator advised the Members that all the agreed actions from the meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> January had been completed.
- iii. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

#### 4. Chairs Update from PCSP

- i. The Chair, having no relevant update from the PCSP, provided a summary of projects and interventions that West Belfast DPCSP had supported. He further commented that it had been a very productive year especially regarding the level of partnership work undertaken between West Belfast DPCSP and the local community.
- ii. For the benefit of the guests from the Northern Ireland Policing Board, the Safer City Coordinator outlined a number of successful projects including the Summer Interventions to address ASB issues across west Belfast and the response by the DPCSP, supported by resource from the PCSP, after the Christopher Meli incident and the lead up to the Christmas period. The Safer City Coordinator emphasised that he believed that the success of these responses was down to excellent communication between the community, the DPCSP and the PSNI. He also advised that similar response plans involving all the partners had been in place at St Patricks Day and for the Easter Centenary Celebrations.
- iii. The Chair at this stage brought forward Item 6 and requested for an update to be provided regarding the delivery of the West Belfast DPCSP Action Plan 2015/2016 (Item 6).
- iv. The Safer City Co-ordinator provided Members with an overview of the West Belfast DPCSP Action Plan 2015/16.
- v. He advised Members that the original budget allocated to the delivery of the West Belfast DPCSP Action Plan 2015/2016 had been £86,500. He informed Members that in November 2015 additional funding had been made available from the Joint Committee. He further informed Members that West Belfast DPCSP had requested an additional spend of £26,009 to deliver the additional projects as set out below:

Project	Amount
Upper Falls & Colin Community Safety Initiative	£14,995
Centenary Community Planning (CEN)	£4,300
Christmas Emergency Response	£1,300
Blackie River Community Group Bonfire Programme	£2,950
CRJI Travellers Engagement Project	£2,464

The Safer City Coordinator further confirmed that the West Belfast DPCSP had been successful in securing a further £26,009 for the delivery of additional projects. Therefore, he advised the Partnership that the total project spend for West Belfast DPCSP 2015/2016 had been £112,509.

- vi. A Member commented that he would like to highlight the issue of when budgets were confirmed for 2015/16 and when additional funding was released in Late November. He advised Members that the Joint Committee had been previously notified of the Partnerships concerns regarding the associated timeframe for funding being released. He further welcomed the attendance of representatives from the Northern Ireland Policing Board to the West Belfast DPCSP Meeting and further stated that he hoped that the exceptional spend and good work by West Belfast DPCSP would be taken back to the Board and promoted as good practice.
- vii. A Member commended the project work undertaken by West Belfast DPCSP and local community organisations. He further emphasised the importance of how West Belfast DPCSP recognises the need and provides the necessary resources required by the community to deliver interventions and initiatives on behalf of the Partnership. He added that he would like to reiterate on behalf of Belfast PCSP the brilliant work delivered by West Belfast DPCSP.

- viii. Debbie Watters, Vice Chair of the Northern Ireland Policing Board (NIPB) stated that it had been evident from the level of local community engagement that West Belfast DPCSP's Action Plan 2015/2016 had been delivered to a high standard. She recognised that this had been a difficult year due to the release of funding in two parts, however on behalf of the NIPB, she commended West Belfast DPCSP on their excellent work and how other (D)PCSP's could adapt how West DPCSP engage with the local community.
- ix. The Chair thanked Ms Watters for her attendance and for her positive comments. He further commented that it had been beneficial for the Partnership to have Cllr Matt Garrett Chair the PCSP and affectively represent West Belfast DPCSP.
- x. A Member reiterated the positive work undertaken by West Belfast DPCSP, in particular how it had engaged with the local community. He further commended the work undertaken by the Safer City Coordinator on behalf of the Partnership and highlighted the importance of the relationship being maintained between the Safer City Coordinator, the Partnership and the local community.
- xi. The Safer City Coordinator thanked Members for their comments and support. He went on to thank the staff team associated with the west Belfast DPCSP for their support in ensuring affective delivery of projects and community engagement over the last year.

## **5. March Public Meeting**

- i. The Safer City Co-ordinator advised Members that the West Belfast DPCSP Public Meeting of the Policing Committee would follow the same agenda in front of a public audience. He informed Members that a policing report would be delivered to the audience followed by an opportunity for members of the public to ask questions. He further commented that all questions raised would be through the Chair and that the theme of the Public meeting would be the fear of crime amongst vulnerable residents and in particular amongst older people.
- ii. Following a discussion, Members agreed that the next West Belfast DPCSP Public Meeting (date to be confirmed) be focused on the theme of home safety. Members also requested the next Public Meeting to be linked to any local community events.

## **6. DPCSP Action Plan Update 2015/2016**

- i. The Safer City Co-ordinator had previously given the Members an update on the Action Plan 2015/2016 during Item 4 (above).

## **7. Small Grants Awards Tranche 1 2016/2017**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with an overview of applications received for Small Grants Funding under Tranche 1 for 2016/17. He advised Members that 13 applications had been received, of which one application had been deemed ineligible and of the 12 remaining scored, six projects scored above a quality level of 50% with one application receiving the highest score across Belfast PCSPs.
- ii. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that, while other districts may be surfing a wave of discontent in regard to funding, that West Belfast DPCSP had received the highest number of applications across Belfast. He further commented that all of the applications awarded had been strategic in nature and commended the local community for the standard of applications received.
- iii. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with an overview of applications that had been deemed eligible for funding. He advised Members that applications totalling £20,042.50 had been recommended to Members for approval as set out below:

Organisation	Amount Requested
Feile an Phobail	£1,100
Footprints Women's Centre	£4,163
Poleglass Community Association	£4,672.50
Colin Neighbourhood Partnership	£2,415
Gleann ABC	£3,152
Holy Trinity Youth Centre	£4,450

- iv. Following a discussion regarding the applications received, Councillor Matt Garrett proposed for all applications to receive the funding requested. The proposal was seconded by the Vice Chair Liz Groves.
- v. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that as a result of the monies agreed to be allocated to Tranche 1 Small Grants 2016/17, West Belfast DPCSP had potentially £19,957.50 to allocate as part of Tranche 2, which would be release for applications in early May 2016.

## **8. PSNI Performance Update**

- i. The Chair welcomed Chief Inspector Norman Haslett to the West Belfast DPCSP Private Meeting.
- ii. Chief Inspector Haslett provided Members with an update on West Belfast's Performance against the Local Policing Plan up to March 2016. The following key points were noted as being achieved:
  - an increase of 0.3% in relation to overall crime outcomes;
  - an increase of 5.8% in relation to the outcome rate for sectarian hate crime;
  - an increase of 2.6% in relation to the outcome rates for crime with a domestic motivation;
  - a decrease of 1.8% in relation to the outcome rate for domestic burglary in which older people are victims;
  - a decrease of 1.1% in relation to the number of domestic burglaries; and,
  - an increase of 4% in relation to the number of anti social behaviour incidences.
- iii. Following a discussion regarding West Belfast's Performance against the Local Policing Plan up to March 2016, a Member asked what operations had the PSNI in place for the forthcoming Easter celebrations. Chief Inspector Haslett advised that the PSNI expected approximately 20,000 people to attend the Easter Sunday Celebrations. He informed Members that Neighbourhood Police Teams would be present in hotspot areas to ensure all celebrations run smoothly. He further commented that details of police operations for the Easter celebrations would be forwarded to the Safer City Coordinator for circulation to Members.
- iv. A Member highlighted ongoing concerns regarding anti social behaviour and large crowds gathering in both the Colin Area and Falls Park. Chief Inspector Haslett commented that the PSNI had been aware of the situation. He advised Members that the PSNI had some concerns in regard to the numbers of young people gathering and their potential vulnerability. He further stated that the issue seemed to be that they had been gathering in these areas as they had nowhere else to go.
- v. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that there had been a number of planned and joint operations over March involving Community Safety Officers, Park Wardens and staff, supported by the Police, to engage with and dissuade young people, who may be in possession of alcohol from entering in Falls Park. He further informed Members of details of the PCSP Transient Youth Project which had resourced a number of youth providers across the city in support of their engagements with large crowds of young people. He

further commented that more organisations had utilised this resource in west Belfast than other areas and that this was not necessarily an indication of a bigger problem, but a more strategic approach to the issue.

- vi. A Member commented that there had already been a level of engagement with young people in the local area. He advised that young people prefer to be outside in large groups. He further commented that precautions should be taken regarding how the community is kept safe from the perception of dispersed young people.
- vii. A Member highlighted that in order to address and improve youth engagement, buy in would be required from across the sector and key partners and that the Belfast PCSP should continue to strategically support citywide strategies to address the issues.
- viii. A member commented on recent media attention paid to the Lady Brook area, in regard to ASB and perceived drug use by young people. It was felt that the coverage was unfair and over exaggerated, giving an unfair portrayal of the area. Members agreed that the coverage was exaggerated as evidence from Council Officer and Police indicated otherwise.

## **9. Emerging Issues**

- i. No emerging issues were noted.

## **10. Dates of Next Meetings and Close**

- i. The Safer City Co-ordinator advised Members that the date of the next meeting would be confirmed and circulated to note.
- ii. The Chair thanked Members of the Partnership for attending and closed the meeting.