

# Minutes of the Belfast Policing and Community Safety Partnership

## Private Meeting

Lavery Room, City Hall  
Monday 18th April, 2016

<b>Political Members</b>	<b>Independent Members</b>
Councillor Matt Garrett (Chair)	Debbie Hammill (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Janice Austin	Mary Lambe
Councillor Declan Boyle	John Loughran
Councillor John Hussey	John MacVicar
Councillor JJ Magee	Michael O'Hara
Councillor Stephen Magennis	Susan Russam
Alderman Guy Spence	

  

<b>Designated Organisations</b>	
Davy Harbinson, NIFRS	Patricia Muldoon, YJA
Superintendent Paula Hilman, PSNI	Chief Superintendent Chris Noble, PSNI
Eithne McIlroy, PBNI	Cecil Worthington, H&SCT

  

<b>Staff Present</b>	<b>Apologies</b>
Alison Allen, Safer City Manager	Councillor Carole Howard
Lorna Somers, Safer City Assistant Manager	Alderman Jim Rodgers
Katharine McCrum, Partnership Support Officer	Carmel McKinney
	Anne-Louise Toal
	AGC Chris Fee, NIFRS
	Helen Russell, NIHE

### 1. Welcome and Apologies

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

### 2. Declarations of Interest

- i. The Chair advised Members that they were required to declare any material interests that they may have in relation to any items on the agenda.

### 3. Minutes

- i. Alderman Spence requested that the minute of the PCSP Meeting on 7th March be amended to include his apologies for not attending the meeting.
- ii. Notwithstanding this amendment, the minutes of the Belfast PCSP Meeting held on 7th March, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct.

#### **4. Chair's Update**

- i. The Safer City Manager advised Members that a request had been received from the Street Pastors asking to make a presentation to the Belfast PCSP. Members agreed to hear this presentation at the PCSP Meeting on Monday, 13th June.
- ii. Members were advised that letters had been sent to groups who were unsuccessful in receiving Assets Recovery Community Scheme (ARCS) funding from the Department of Justice, and details of these groups had been emailed to Members.
- iii. While the Safer City Manager was not in a position to confirm who had received funding, she confirmed that £45,000 had been awarded to 3 organisations within Belfast.
- iv. At the request of Members, the Safer City Manager agreed to seek information on the allocation of ARCS funding across Northern Ireland. Members were advised that the total value of funding awarded was not known but was usually in the region of £250,000.

#### **5. Update regarding Statutory Designated Partners**

- i. The Chair advised Members that written update reports from the PSNI and PBNI were provided within the papers, and invited further comments or questions from Members.
- ii. In response to comments about the lack of good news stories publicised by the PSNI, Chief Superintendent Noble advised that these were published on social media and provided to other news outlets however police could not ensure that these stories are picked up, and in general papers did not opt for positive coverage.

#### **6. 2015/2016 Action Plan – Final Progress Report**

- i. The Safer City Assistant Manager drew Members attention to the final PCSP Progress Report for the 2015/2016 Action Plan.
- ii. Following a query about underspends within the Anti-Social Behaviour budget lines, she confirmed that any underspends had been redistributed to other areas within the budget and/or to the District PCSPs. Members were advised that the full budget provided by the Joint Committee had been spent.
- iii. Members noted the contents of the report.

#### **7. 2016/2017 Funding Allocation**

- i. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised Members that the Belfast PCSP, through an indicative budget from the Joint Committee and Belfast City Council contributions, had £780,149 of funding available for project costs during 2016/2017.
- ii. Members were asked to consider how this funding would be allocated across the 5 Partnerships with the following recommendations:
  1. To continue to benefit from economies of scale, the Belfast PCSP would ring-fence £80,149 to facilitate Citywide projects and initiatives with a local focus,

2. 1/5th of the remaining £700,000 budget (£140,000) would be allocated to the Belfast PCSP for delivery of the 2016/2017 Action Plan, and
3. Funding would be allocated to the DPCSPs using one of the following funding models:
  - a) Divide the remaining funding (£560,000) equally between the 4 DPCSPs,
  - b) Allocate monies on a proportional basis based on a similar funding model used by the Joint Committee for the PCSPs. This model provides a (30%) basic allocation equally to all DPCSPs and then additional allocations based on (45%) population and (25%) deprivation,
  - c) Allocate monies using a similar model to the Council's current funding model in relation to its Area Working Groups whereby the monies are allocated on a proportional basis based on the number of DEAs within each of the PSNI Districts, or
  - d) Use a similar model to the Council's current funding model in relation to its Area Working Groups whereby the monies are allocated on a proportional basis based on the number of Electoral Wards within each of the PSNI Districts.
- iii. Members were reminded that the boundaries used in respect of the funding models reflected the new Belfast Council area and PSNI boundaries within this area.
- iv. Members agreed to recommendations 1 and 2, and discussed in detail the options within recommendation 3.
- v. Several Members felt that the equal division of funds was the fairest option, while others felt that following the model used in allocating PCSP funds across Northern Ireland was the most suitable way to divide the budget. It was noted that Belfast had benefited from an increased budget due to the inception of this model.
- vi. In response to a query about duplication of projects, the Safer City Assistant Manager assured Members that each (D)PCSP Plan was reviewed by Officers to avoid this, and that they were also presented to the PCSP for approval and regular review. She also advised that the reason for ringfencing a budget to facilitate Citywide projects was to ensure projects were not duplicated across the areas.
- vii. Members discussed the population figures and how these may not take into account certain groups such as students, ethnic minority groups, or other transient populations. Members also raised concerns that the levels and severity of crimes were missing from the population and deprivation calculations, as was education.
- viii. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised that the statistics had been taken from the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency, and that the deprivation measure included a range of indicators including income, employment, health, education, environment, service provision and crime. Members were also reminded that the PCSP had agreed to lead on City Centre issues and so DPCSP budgets would not be used to tackle such issues.
- ix. The Partnership discussed the possibility that DPCSPs could bid for additional funds if required as it was noted that some areas did not always utilise their full budget.

- x. The Safer City Assistant Manager reminded Members that quarterly performance reports on the work of the DPCSPs were brought to PCSP Meetings for consideration. The importance of reviewing these reports was underlined and Members were advised that the Chair would be meeting regularly with Officers and DPCSP Chairs to discuss emerging underpends.
- xi. Following further discussion about the merits of each option and the use of small grants, the Chair advised that a vote would be required to come to a decision on the funding model.
- xii. The Safer City Manager advised that the Statutory Designated Bodies were not eligible to vote, and that the 2 proposals made by Members would be voted upon as follows:
  - 1. Divide the funding equally between the 4 DPCSPs (Proposed by Councillor Boyle and seconded by Alderman Spence)  
For: 6  
Against: 7
  - 2. Allocate monies on a proportional basis based on a similar funding model used by the Joint Committee for the PCSPs. This model provides a (30%) basic allocation equally to all DCSPs and then additional allocations based on (45%) population and (25%) deprivation (Proposed by Councillor Magennis and seconded by Councillor Austin)  
For: 7  
Against: 5  
Abstained: 1
- xiii. The Safer City Manager advised that the proposal to use the Joint Committee's proportional model had been carried.
- xiv. Due to the sensitive nature of the vote, each of the Vice-Chairs were asked to advise their Partnerships of the lengthy discussions that had taken place in arriving at this decision, and that should additional funds be required, they should make contact with the PCSP.

## **8. Begging Campaign**

- i. The Safer City Manager advised Members that in line with the agreement to support work relating to homelessness, rough sleeping and begging through the 2016/2017 PCSP Action Plan, agreement was being sought to allocate £15,000 towards a 'Begging for Change' Campaign.
- ii. Members were advised that this campaign was being developed following an increase in street begging, most of which is thought to be arranged 'professional begging' by those who were not homeless. The aim of the Campaign would be to encourage members of the public to think about the potential damage they could be causing to vulnerable people, for example those with drug and alcohol issues, by providing them with money.
- iii. The Safer City Manager advised that Officers were aware of the sensitivities and complexities attached to running such a campaign, and would bring all messages before the PCSP before moving forwards.

- iv. A Member stated that given that the majority of those arrested for begging were not homeless, it was concerning that these people would be taking away from the needs and concern directed to those who are genuinely homeless.
- v. It was agreed that it was important to differentiate between the organised groups who were making money from public sympathy and those who needed support from appropriate organisations.
- vi. A Member suggested that enforcement action needed to be taken against those organising the begging, not just those on the streets, and that consultation with a wide range of support organisations was needed, above and beyond those listed within the report.
- vii. Following a query about the outcome for those who are arrested for professional begging, Superintendent Hilman advised that this was a matter for the Courts however the information could be obtained. She added that the PSNI worked with partner organisations to support those found to be vulnerable.
- viii. Members discussed the need to separate begging from the other complex issues involved, and the need to provide another option for those who wished to support the homeless, rather than handing out money on the streets. It was also noted that the solutions devised by organisations were not always suitable for the people concerned.
- ix. Members were reminded that the campaign was just one element of a Street Management Strategy and that the report was for notation at this point and that further information would be brought to future meetings.
- x. Members noted the report and agreed to hold a Joint (D)PCSP Briefing for all Members on all of the issues (homelessness, outreach work, drugs and alcohol, begging and the proceedings following arrests) following the PCSP Private Meeting on 16th May.

## **9. 2FAST2SOON Car Simulator Update**

- i. The Safer City Manager advised Members that the Belfast PCSP had received Assets Recovery Community Scheme (ARCS) funding during 2014/2015 for the delivery of a Road Safety Car Crash Simulator '2FAST2SOON', and that due to delays in production, the Department of Justice (DOJ) had agreed for this funding to be transferred to the 2015/2016 financial year.
- ii. Members were further advised that while delivery began during this period, additional delays with the contractor have resulted in a completion date of May, 2016.
- iii. Following contact with DOJ regarding these delays, it was confirmed that all ARCS funding for 2016/2017 had been allocated and so they were not in a position to carry forward the funding offer for another year.
- iv. Given these issues and the continued links of the project to PCSP objectives, Members agreed to allocate £35,000 from the current PCSP budget towards the delivery of this project. The Safer City Manager advised that Officers would attempt to reclaim the money from the DOJ should slippages within the ARCS budgets emerge.

**10. Revised PCSP Code of Practice**

- i. Members noted the revised Code of Practice for the Exercise of Functions by PCSPs and DPCSPs, as provided within the meeting papers.

**11. Date of Next Meeting**

- i. Members were reminded that the next Private Meeting of the PCSP would be held on Monday, 16th May at 5.30pm.