

# Minutes of the Belfast Policing and Community Safety Partnership

## Policing Committee

Lavery Room, City Hall  
Monday 13th June, 2016

### Political Members

Councillor Matt Garrett (Chair)  
Councillor Janice Austin  
Councillor Declan Boyle  
Councillor Carole Howard  
Councillor John Hussey  
Councillor JJ Magee  
Alderman Jim Rodgers  
Alderman Guy Spence

### Independent Members

Debbie Hammill (Vice-Chair)  
Mary Lambe  
John Loughran  
Carmel McKinney  
Susan Russam

### PSNI Representative

Superintendent Paula Hilman

### Staff Present

Alison Allen, Safer City Manager  
Denise Smith, Safer City Coordinator  
Katharine McCrum, Partnership Support Officer

### Apologies

Chief Superintendent Chris Noble, PSNI  
John MacVicar  
Michael O'Hara  
Anne-Louise Toal

## 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.
- ii. No declarations of interest were recorded.

## 3. Minutes

- i. The minutes of the Belfast PCSP Policing Committee Meeting held on 18th April, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct.

## 4. Matters Arising/Chairs Business

- i. Superintendent Paula Hilman provided information on the outcomes of Operation Cordella across the 3 policing areas, an update on disturbances in Orangefield Park, and confirmed that statistics on bonfire related incidents were not readily available. She also advised that 10 firearm searches took place between April and May, 2016 compared to 3 between January and March, 2016.

- ii. With regards to social media sites operated by the PSNI, Members were advised that there were 5 Facebook sites for Belfast with 51,000 followers, while the PSNI Twitter page had 19,000 followers. Superintendent Hilman advised that some Officers were very proactive online and that they were trying to promote this across all areas. She added that social media was just one tool for engaging with the public however it offered an excellent way to get information into the public domain quickly.

## **5. Update from PSNI Representative**

- i. As the PSNI report had been delivered during the previous Private Meeting of the Partnership, the Chair invited questions and comments from Members.

### Building Confidence in Policing

- ii. A Member commented upon the messages disseminated by the PSNI in order to build confidence amongst communities. He suggested that to obtain a positive outcome, communities needed to be included at the planning stages and involved throughout the process.

### Additional Resources in North/West Belfast

- iii. A Member advised that a text had been sent to elected and community representatives during the previous weekend to advise that resources had been removed from West Belfast to assist with a band parade. He noted that this appeared to eliminate the additional resources that had recently been added to the area and so he suggested that clearer communication on the issue was needed.

### Euro 2016 Fan Zone

- iv. In response to a request for feedback on the Euro 2016 Fan Zone, Superintendent Hilman advised that over 10,000 people attended during the Northern Ireland Vs Poland match on Sunday which was more than expected. She advised that a few low level incidents had occurred involving alcohol however PSNI Operational Planning Teams were in regular contact with organisers. She noted that fewer numbers were expected for the match that evening however all 3 matches scheduled for Saturday, 18th June, were to be shown and so large crowds were expected.
- v. A Member made note of recent tragic events around the world and suggested that the public needed to be vigilant at large scale events.
- vi. Superintendent Hilman added that the PSNI were aware of both national and international crime and continued to work with colleagues in other police forces. She also advised that operational planning had begun for the Belfast Pride parade in August.

## **6. (D)PCSP Policing Committee Reports**

- i. Members were advised that reports on the operations of the (D)PCSP Policing Committees for 2015/2016 were contained within the papers.
- ii. With regards to spend by the South Belfast DPCSP, the Assistant Safer City Manager advised that the Partnership had invested in initiatives rather than providing Policing Committee Grants, and that she would ask for further detail on this to be provided within the report.

- iii. In response to a query regarding Officers attending the events listed within the reports, the Assistant Safer City Manager confirmed that as part of governance procedures, Officers both attended events and requested evidence of activity such as sign in lists, pictures and evaluation reports.

**7. Date of Next Meeting**

- i. Members were advised that the next meeting of the Policing Committee would be held on Monday, 12th September.