

Minutes of the Belfast Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Private Meeting

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

Designated Organisations

AGC Chris Fee, NIFRS
Superintendent Paula Hilman, PSNI
John McLaughlin, EA
Eithne McIlroy, PBNI

Patricia Muldoon, YJA
Helen Russell, NIHE
Cecil Worthington, H&SCT

Staff Present

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

Apologies

Councillor Stephen Magennis
Michael O'Hara
Anne-Louise Toal
Chief Superintendent Chris Noble, PSNI

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. Presentation from Street Pastors

(Trevor Betts, Street Pastors, attended in relation to this item)

- i. Trevor Betts provided Members with information on the Belfast Street Pastors and the work that they do, and invited Members to accompany volunteers during one of their patrols which operate between 10.45pm and 3am. He advised that the aim of the service was to provide a non-judgemental, caring and listening service to those in need and to provide much needed support and assistance.
- ii. Mr Betts stated that the number of volunteers had now risen to around 100 people coming from 50 different churches and that each volunteer undertook 40 hours of training before being able to take part in events.

- iii. He explained that over 280 schemes were operating across the UK and Ireland, 4 of which were in Northern Ireland with each ensuring that people got home safe and were referred to other support networks and services as required. Mr Betts suggested that the service was responsible for reducing anti-social behaviour and preventing a number of assaults. He added that with core funding support from the Council, the service could recruit additional volunteers and perhaps extend into parks and residential areas.
- iv. Members welcomed the positive contribution that Street Pastors were making to the safety and wellbeing of people enjoying the night-time economy of Belfast, and questioned what support other Council's were providing to their local schemes.
- v. Mr Betts advised that other Councils had provided around £15,000 to the Pastors in their area which in turn assisted in securing other external funding. He added that Belfast City Council had provided £8,000 when the scheme was first established and some further funding of between £1,000 and £3,000 had been provided by PCSPs. He advised that training and uniforms for each volunteer cost approximately £280 with additional costs for flip-flops etc.
- vi. In response to a query about the training process, Mr Betts confirmed that applicants completed an application form, attended 5 Saturdays or 10 evenings of training, had an Access NI check completed and took part in 2 supervised patrols before the training was fully complete.
- vii. With regards to the number of hours of volunteering provided, and the costs associated with the work, Mr Betts estimated that Pastors spent around 3,000 hours on the streets per month, not including training or preparation time. He advised that £18,000 of core funding would assist with coordination of the operations.
- viii. Mr Betts explained the links between the Street Pastors and other groups such as the SOS Bus, Welcome Centre and Community Rescue Service. He advised that local volunteers were ready to begin work in the Shankill area and there was the desire to begin operations in the Oldpark area, once the number of volunteers was sufficient, and with community buy in.
- ix. Members thanked the speakers for their presentation and again commended the good work undertaken by the Street Pastors. The speakers then left the room.
- x. Following further discussion, it was agreed that an Officer would meet with the Street Pastors in order to discuss possible financial support.
- xi. Members felt that there was benefit in the service but were mindful of the number of organisations delivering similar community work and so it was agreed that the proposal would need to link with such groups, and perhaps take the form of commissioning of services rather than core funding. Members also felt that other partners such as the PSNI, Trust, bars and hotels could be engaged to support future work.
- xii. It was agreed that 2 papers would be explored, one to look at short term support for the Street Pastors and a second to look at longer term support for volunteer networks.

4. Minutes

- i. The minutes of the Belfast PCSP Meeting held on 16th May, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct.

5. Chair's Update

- i. The Chair provided Members with the following updates:
 - The Begging for Change Campaign will launch on 20th June, invitations to which have been circulated to Members.
 - The Homeless Strategy is currently out for consultation.
 - Inspector Jocelyn Wise has asked to attend the PCSP Meeting on 14th November in order to discuss the Reducing Offending Unit. Members agreed to this request.
 - Tranche 2 of the PCSP Small Grants is currently open for applications, closing on 8th July, 2016.
 - The Chairs and Vice-Chairs will rotate in August.
 - Online promotion of PCSP and DPCSP activities continues to be done via the PCSP Facebook page.
- ii. A Member suggested that board members from Visit Belfast should be invited to the Begging for Change Campaign Launch as they were keen to support such initiatives. The Safer City Manager added that a paper regarding the Campaign would be brought to the City, Growth and Regeneration Committee in August, 2016.

6. Update from Designated Partners

- i. Superintendent Paula Hilman advised Members of the key priorities that the PSNI were focusing on given their reduced budget. She added that partnership working was key when dealing with lower level issues.
- ii. With regards to the rise in the misuse of prescription drugs, Superintendent Hilman advised that the long term solution was a multiagency response alongside health services in order to help those taking drugs. She added that the PSNI would continue with the enforcement of supply whilst bearing in mind that vulnerable people are at the centre of the issue. She also advised that a media campaign had recently been delivered in West Belfast to encourage people to discard unwanted/unused prescription drugs.
- iii. In response to a query regarding arrests following the shootings in Cranbrook Gardens, Glenkeen and drug seizures in East Belfast, Superintendent Hilman advised that no arrests had been made in relation to the shootings however investigations were ongoing. She added that the cooperation of the public and victims was required. With regards to the outcome of the drugs seizures, she advised that she would obtain an update for Members and include outcomes in future reports. She advised that the PSNI may release people on investigative bail while gathering additional information or waiting for forensic evidence, however it was the judiciary who approved bail once cases moved to Court.
- iv. Members noted the reports provided by the Education Authority and Health and Social Care Trust.

7. 2016/2017 PCSP Action Plan Progress Report

- i. The Safer City Manager drew Members attention to the 2016/2017 Belfast PCSP Action Plan Progress Report which detailed the work that had been carried out to date against each action/initiative.

- ii. Members noted the contents of the reports.

8. 2016/2017 (D)PCSP Action Plan Progress Reports

- i. The Safer City Manager drew Members attention to the 2016/2017 Belfast DPCSP Action Plan Progress Reports.
- ii. Members noted the contents of the reports.

9. ASB Strategy

- i. The Safer City Coordinator reminded Members that an Anti-Social Behaviour Service Delivery Workshop had taken place on 13th May, following on from the Economic and Options Appraisal carried out by RSM McClure Watters during the previous financial year.
- ii. She further advised that a number of Task and Finish Groups had been established as a result of the workshop, and that details of their progress would be brought to Members at the September meeting of the PCSP.
- iii. In relation to a question about how the range of anti-social behaviour would be captured, Superintendent Hilman advised that she would be chairing the group looking at understanding the issue of anti-social behaviour and so this question would be covered as part of the discussion. She also noted that it was necessary to use the Home Office definition of anti-social behaviour.

10. Joint Crime Prevention Campaigns/Scamwise Campaign

- i. Members were reminded that as part of the 2016/2017 Action Plan, Members had agreed to support a number of campaigns alongside the Northern Ireland Policing Board and PSNI.
- ii. As part of this discussion, Members agreed to use £5,000 of the previously allocated budget to support the launch of a Scamwise/Cyber Crime Campaign in September, 2016.

11. Orangefest Campaign

- i. The Safer City Manager advised Members that the PCSP had received a request to support a campaign being launched by the Belfast Orange Order around the issues of drinking and responsible behaviour during the Orangefest celebration called 'It's about the Battle, not the Bottle'. She noted that the campaign represented a significant and proactive approach on behalf of the Orange Order, and that OFMDFM and Public Health Authority were also providing funding. She also suggested that the £6,000 of investment requested offered a good opportunity to engage with the group in the future.
- ii. A Member welcomed the campaign but noted that enforcement of alcohol byelaws was the responsibility of statutory bodies.
- iii. A second Member suggested that the advertising and circulation of leaflets needed to begin as soon as possible in order to raise more awareness. He also noted that the

imagery and historical facts used could be altered to appeal to a wider audience, for example detailing the losses of all regiments involved in the Battle of the Somme.

- iv. The Safer City Manager advised that it was hoped that this campaign would form part of a longer term plan and that work was ongoing with bands in addition to the static advertising. She added that the campaign would be sent to the Council's Good Relations and Equality Units for approval and agreed to make a representation to the Orange Order regarding the suggestion to add further detail regarding the Battle of the Somme, as well as arranging a meeting with them to discuss plans for 2017.
- v. A Member suggested that as OFMDFM had already provided funding for the campaign all equality issues would be covered.
- vi. Superintendent Hilman added that the PSNI would be considering its alcohol seizure strategy in consultation with the Council whilst considering parades legislation and alcohol byelaws. She also noted that the press launch for the campaign had taken place during the previous week.
- vii. It was suggested that any campaign that aimed to improve the look of the City was to be seen as positive.
- viii. Members agreed to the actions suggested by the Safer City Manager and agreed to provide £6,000 of funding from the budget to address community safety issues linked to street drinking.

12. UK Placemaking Awards

- i. The Safer City Manager advised Members that the North Belfast DPCSP had been coordinating and supporting the Greater Ardoyne Tension Monitoring Group since 2013 and that recently one of their projects, the Bradley Manor case study, had been shortlisted for a UK Placemaking Award. The awards recognise outstanding examples of partnership working in regeneration and good practice from across the UK.
- ii. Members were asked to consider allocating £982 from underpends within the administrative budget to support 4 people attending the awards on 29th June, 2016.
- iii. A Member questioned why it was necessary to send 4 people, to which the Safer City Manager advised that one Council Officer was to accompany three representatives who came from the cross community network, however she would remove the Council Officer if Members wished.
- iv. Members agreed to fund the delegation of 4 representatives at a total cost of £982.

13. NPS Legislation

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that on 26th May the New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) Act came into law in Northern Ireland. She added that the DOJ had provided PCSPs with a briefing pack in order to raise awareness about the legislation.
- ii. Members were further advised that the PCSP would be leading a steering group involving the Public Health Authority and other relevant partners in order to determine

the best way to allocate the £15,000 PCSP budget, and that regular updates would be brought back to the Partnership on the development of this work.

- iii. Members noted the contents of the report.

14. Domestic Burglary DVD

- i. Members were reminded of the Domestic Burglary DVD funded during the 2015/2016 financial year which was developed to demonstrate the impact of burglary on victims.
- ii. The Safer City Coordinator advised that local victims and child actors had been used to produce both a 5 minute and 1 minute version (for the Big Screen) which would be launched during the summer, 2016.
- iii. Members noted the report.

15. 2015/2016 (D)PCSP Annual Reports

- i. The Safer City Manager advised that draft copies of the 2015/2016 PCSP and DPCSP Annual Reports would be provided to Members at the August meeting of the Partnership following their submission to the NI Policing Board on 29th July. These reports will cover the period from 17th August, 2015 to 31st March, 2016.
- ii. Members noted the update provided.

16. Any Other Business

- i. The Safer City Manager advised Members that the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the DPCSPs had met with Chief Superintendent Chris Noble on 24th May to discuss the number of shootings that had recently taken place in North and West Belfast.
- ii. The outcome of this meeting was an agreement that the community needed to be encouraged to report information to the police and so it was agreed that the rollout of the Crimestoppers campaign 'Not in the Face of Justice' could be used to build up this confidence in reporting.
- iii. The Safer City Manager advised that a budget of £15,500 was requested for the roll out of the campaign across North and West Belfast, however a more focussed campaign in a few key areas could be developed at a lower cost.
- iv. A Member suggested that a recent report stated that most paramilitary groups were still in existence, with 3 actively recruiting. A campaign leading to the demise of these groups would therefore be more appropriate, and perhaps more likely to build community confidence.
- v. The Safer City Manager suggested that a longer term conversation was needed, however this suggestion had come from Chief Superintendent Noble with the hope of encouraging witness and victim statements, the absence of which were currently impeding investigations.
- vi. A Member stated that he was keen to hear what work was currently going on as some recent messages from the PSNI had not been helpful. It was suggested that local

representatives needed to be included in discussions and that a media campaign should not be rushed into until further conversations were held with those on the ground.

- vii. Superintendent Hilman undertook to take Members comments back to Chief Superintendent Noble and arrange some kind of response as soon as possible.
- viii. Eithne McIlroy advised that a number of Probation Board clients were currently under threat or had been the victims of such attacks and so there was a high level of concern within the Board. She added that there was a challenge to advise communities of what happens after the release of offenders and the plans put in place.

17. Date of Next Meeting

- i. Members were advised that the next Private Meeting of the PCSP would be held on Monday, 15th August at 5.30pm.