

Minutes of the East Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Private Meeting

East Belfast Network Centre, Templemore Avenue, Belfast
Wednesday, 27th April, 2016

Political Members	Independent Members
Councillor Carole Howard (Chair)	Mr David Geddis (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Sonia Copeland	Mrs Michelle Bryans
Councillor Aileen Graham	Mr Jonathan Currie
Councillor Deirdre Hargey	Ms Lisa McMaster
Councillor Tommy Sandford	Mr Steven McMillan
Designated Organisations	
Gary Ballantyne, NIHE	Chief Inspector David Moore, PSNI
Jane Lappin, PBNI	Micheal Roberts, NIFRS
Dermot Magorrian, YJA	Pauline Smart, EA
Staff Present	Apologies
Glenn Thomas, Safer City Coordinator	Yvonne Cowan, H&SCT
Saranne Gallagher, Partnership Support Officer	

1. Welcome and Routine Matters

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

2. Declaration of Interests

- 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. No declarations of interest were declared at the outset of the meeting.

3. Minutes and Matters Arising

- i. Minutes of the East Belfast DPCSP Private Meeting held on Wednesday, 23rd March, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct.
Proposed: Mr David Geddis
Seconded: Mr Steven McMillan
- ii. Minutes of the East Belfast DPCSP Public Meeting held on Wednesday, 23rd March, copies of which had previously been circulated, a Member requested for his attendance to be noted on the Minutes. Subsequently, the Minutes were taken as read and agreed as correct.
Proposed: Councillor Aileen Graham
Seconded: Mr David Geddis

4. Chairs Update on Belfast PCSP

- i. The Chair provided Members with an update on the Belfast PCSP Meeting held on Monday 18th April.
- ii. The Chair informed the Partnership that Members of Belfast PCSP had received a progress report on the delivery of the Belfast PCSP Action Plan.
- iii. She further advised Members that a report would be circulated to the Partnership in due course in relation to the proposed Begging For Change Campaign.
- iv. The Chair also provided Members with an update on the Belfast PCSP Car Simulator. She commented that Belfast PCSP had hoped that the car would be completed by Friday 6th May.
- v. The Chair advised Members of the revised Code of Practice and asked Members to update their PCSP handbook accordingly.

5. PCSP/DPCSP Funding 2016/2017

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that at the Belfast PCSP Meeting on 18th April, it was agreed that DPCSP budgets would be divided on a proportional basis similar to the one used by the Joint Committee for PCSPs across Northern Ireland, meaning a 30% basic allocation to all DPCSPs and additional allocations based on population (45%) and deprivation (25%).
- ii. Members were therefore advised that the East Belfast DPCSP budget for 2016/2017 would be £140,032 which represented an additional £15,032 based on the previous year's budget.
- iii. The Safer City Coordinator suggested that Members allocated the additional funding to the following areas within the East DPCSP Action Plan:
 - SO2 – Hate Crime - £1,500;
 - SO2 – Fear of Crime - £1,250; and,
 - SO2 – Multi-agency responses - £12,282.
- iv. The Safer City Coordinator added that a further £6,000 previously allocated to Citywide projects had been released back to DPCSPs as the PCSP had ring-fenced its own funds for these initiatives, and so £21,032 of additional funding needed to be added to the existing East Belfast DPCSP Action Plan.
- v. A Member welcomed the additional funding from the Joint Committee, however commented that the Partnership would need to develop a strategy to ensure that it is not just the responsibility of Officers to identify projects.
- vi. A Member suggested if the additional funding could be allocated to support the delivery of projects that had been unsuccessful in securing funding through the Asset Recovery Community Scheme.

- vii. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members of the procedures the Partnership would have to adhere to when allocating additional funding to support the delivery of proposed projects. He advised Members that proposed projects would need to be submitted to East Belfast DPCSP for consideration.
- viii. The Chair commented that the Partnership should adopt a more proactive approach and encourage applications to be submitted to the East Belfast DPCSP.
- ix. Following a discussion, Members suggested for a Subgroup to be formed to review how additional funding could be allocated. (refer to Item 8 xiv for further information)
- x. Members noted the contents of the report.

6. Glentoran Community Trust Project

- i. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with an overview of the proposed Glentoran Community Trust Project.
- ii. He advised Members that the Glentoran Community Trust had been organising a community event to coincide with the 75th anniversary of the second major aerial bombing attack carried out by the Luftwaffe (German Air Force) during WWI on the night of 4/5th May 1941. To mark the 75th anniversary the Glentoran Community Trust had been organising an event to take place on the evening of the 4th May 2016 at 'The Oval' as darkness falls from 7pm – 10:30pm.
- iii. He informed Members that Glentoran Community Trust would work in partnership with other key statutory partners to ensure the project is delivered effectively.
- iv. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with an overview of the financial support requested.
- v. A Member suggested that East Belfast DPCSP support the proposed project. She further commented that the proposed project would be a good project to be delivered for the people of Belfast.
- vi. A Member asked if the proposed project had been a centenary project or a community safety project. The Safer City Coordinator advised the Partnership that the proposed project had a community safety theme built in and would be delivered in partnership with a range of statutory partners.
- vii. The Chair asked if local schools had been informed of the event. The Safer City Coordinator confirmed that all local schools had been notified of the event.
- viii. Members requested promotional material for the proposed project to be circulated for information.
- ix. A Member commented that although he had been supportive of the event that caution needed to be taken when funding one off events. He further commented that one off events might prove difficult to monitor outcomes.

- x. A Member highlighted the need for the provision of assistance to support local community groups with the completion of funding applications. A Member commented that there are services available in East Belfast that will assist with the completion of funding applications. The Member further commented that information regarding all services available needed to be circulated to local community groups.
- xi. Members approved the funding of £2,750.00 towards the Glentoran Community Trust Project.
Proposed: Councillor Tommy Sandford
Seconded: Mr David Geddis

7. East Belfast Bonfires Update

- i. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with an update on the East Belfast Bonfires highlighting the following areas of concern:
- ii.
 - Ballarat Street;
 - Avoniel;
 - Orangefield;
 - Trassey Close;
 - Mersey Street;
 - Pitt Park; and,
 - Bloomfield Walkway.
- iii. A Member advised the Partnership of concerns regarding anti social behaviour within the Avoniel area. She further advised Members that there had been ongoing engagement to try to resolve these issues.
- iv. A Member had requested for storage containers to be allocated to Trassey Close. The Safer City Coordinator commented that the request for containers would be forwarded to the Parks Department.
- v. A Member asked for an update to be provided in relation to the Council's Bonfire Programme. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that an update would be provided at the next East DPCSP Meeting.

8. East Belfast Local Policing Plan 2016 – 2017

- i. Chief Inspector David Moore provided Members with an update on the East Belfast Local Policing Plan 2016-2017.
- ii. Chief Inspector Moore advised Members that the East Belfast Local Policing Plan focused on the following areas:
 - Accountability;
 - Fairness, Courtesy and Respect; and,
 - Collaborative Decision Making.
- iii. A Member asked if the PSNI attend local schools to educate young people about the dangers of drug abuse. Chief Inspector Moore commented that the PSNI regularly attend local primary and secondary schools to highlight the dangers of drug/alcohol abuse.

- iv. A Member commented that a local school had contacted them to see how they could get involved in the work carried out by the East Belfast DPCSP. He thanked the Safer City Coordinator for his assistance with this.
- v. A Member asked if there had been any increase on drug crime since the review of public administration. Chief Inspector Moore commented that he didn't believe the increase in drug crime had been a direct result of the review of public administration and recent changes to the PSNI structure.
- vi. Following a discussion, Members agreed parents, as well as children need to be educated in relation to drugs abuse.
- vii. A Member commented that low-level drug dealing had a direct impact on confidence on police.
- viii. A Member suggested for the Partnership to review the drugs and alcohol abuse services available in East Belfast. She further commented that once the review had been conducted, the Partnership could identify gaps and develop interventions to address the gaps. Members welcomed this suggestion.
- ix. Following a discussion, the Safer City Coordinator suggested to allocate £15,000 of the additional funding to the theme of drugs and alcohol (as detailed in Item 5 of these minutes). He further suggested for the Partnership to commission a quotation exercise in order to invite interested groups to bid for funding aimed at adding value to the work of the partnership in trying to address issues around drugs and alcohol.
- x. A Member asked if budgets could be reallocated if needed to an alternative theme within the Action Plan at a later date should the need arise. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that budgets can be reallocated, however a change control application form would need be completed and submitted to the Joint Committee for approval.
- xi. A Member advised the Partnership of a project that had been delivered by the Byte Project in Tullycarnet. She commented that the project had produced a DVD that the Partnership could utilise to raise awareness of drug and alcohol abuse.
- xii. At the request of the safer City Coordinator Member agreed to forward a list of current alcohol and drug abuse services in East Belfast to the Partnership for information.
- xiii. A Member provided an update in relation to Belfast City Council's Anti Poverty Strategy. She suggested for Members to review the Strategy and identify how East Belfast DPCSP can assist with the delivery of it.
- xiv. Members noted this proposal and agreed to allocate £15,000 to the theme of drugs and alcohol. Members agreed to review where to allocate the remaining £6,000 at a future DPCSP Meeting.
Proposed: Ms Michelle Bryans
Seconded: Mr David Geddis

9. AOB/ Emerging Issues

- i. A Member highlighted his concern regarding incidents of begging that he had recently witnessed within East Belfast.
- ii. The Chair advised the Partnership that the issue of begging within Belfast had been raised at the last PCSP Meeting. She informed Members that concerns had been identified regarding the level of professional begging in Belfast City Centre.
- iii. Chief Inspector Moore commented that the PSNI had been aware of begging within Belfast City Centre but would need to review begging within East Belfast.
- iv. A Member requested for an update on levels of activity around interface areas in East Belfast. Chief Inspector Moore advised Members that the level of anti social behaviour on the Albert Bridge Road had settled down. He further advised Members that young people from other areas had been gathering in local bonfire sites as a hut had been built. He informed Members that the hut had been removed and that the PSNI hoped that this might discourage young people to gather at the site.

10. Date of Next Meeting

- i. Members were reminded that the next DPCSP Meeting would be held on Tuesday 31st May.