

Minutes of the North Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Private Meeting

Room 1C, 1st Floor, Cecil Ward Building
Wednesday, 27th April 2016

Political Members

Councillor Mary Ellen Campbell
Councillor Mary Clarke

Independent Members

Michael Murray (Vice-Chair)
Jennifer Cornell
Gerald Solinas

Designated Organisations

Harry Bradley, YJA
T/Chief Inspector Gavin Kirkpatrick, PSNI
David McComiskey, NIFRS
Malachy McKinney, NIHE

Gabi Mornhinweg, H&SCT
Mark Nicholson, PBNI
Alan Wilson, EA

Staff Present

Richard McLernon, Safer City Coordinator
Katharine McCrum, Partnership Support Officer

Apologies

Alderman Guy Spence (Chair)
Alderman Patrick Convery
Councillor Nuala McAllister
Alderman Gareth McKee
Catherine Patrick
Mark Nicholson, PBNI

1. Welcome and Routine Matters

- i. In the absence of the Chair, the Vice-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 were provided at the outset of the meeting.

3. Minutes

- i. The Safer City Coordinator recapped on the actions from the previous meeting of the North Belfast DPCSP noting that:
 - All information requested had been emailed to Members,
 - A progress report on the work of the Ardoyne Tension Monitoring Group is still to be provided to Members,
 - Belfast City Council does not currently use a system for tracking young people's progress through youth services but is looking at best practice examples.

- ii. A Member asked the Safer City Coordinator to see what encouragement the DPCSP could give to the Council to adopt the Ardoyne model of youth service tracking.
- iii. The minutes of the North Belfast DPCSP Private Meeting held on 21st March, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct.

4. North Belfast Interface Programme Overview

(John Chittick and Barbara McAtamney, DOJ, attended in relation to this item)

- i. Barbara McAtamney advised that government had 4 strategic commitments to removing interface barriers;
 - Programme for Government 68 – to actively seek local agreement to reduce the number of peace walls;
 - Community Safety Strategy 2012-2017 – to seek agreement with local communities to reduce the number of interface structures;
 - TBUC – to create a 10-year Programme to reduce, and remove by 2023, all interface barriers and create a support package; and
 - Fresh Start – to contribute to the conditions that will allow the removal of peace walls and the creation of a shared future through delivery of confidence and relationship building measures.
- ii. She advised Members that the Department of Justice (DOJ) was responsible for delivering these commitments through cross-departmental and joint statutory body working, and that the first meeting of the newly established Interface Programme Board was held in February.
- iii. John Chittick advised that engagement was ongoing to achieve these strategic commitments, and outlined 5 projects in Belfast funded as part of the International Fund for Ireland's Peace Walls Programme;
 - Greater Whitewell Community Surgery
 - Twaddell/Ardoyne/Shankill Environmental Improvements
 - Duncairn Community Partnership Shared Services
 - Blackmountain Shared Space
 - Lower Oldpark/Cliftonville Regeneration
- iv. He also advised Members that a further tranche of funding would be available for existing and new bids for the period of 2017-2020.
- v. The Vice-Chair thanked the speakers for the information, and they retired from the meeting.

5. Chair's Update on the Belfast PCSP

- i. As the Chair was not in attendance, no update from the PCSP was provided.

6. Members North Belfast Priorities and Emerging Issues

- i. Partnership Members were invited to provide an update on any emerging issues.
- ii. A Member advised that long delays when using the PSNI non-emergency number 101 had been reported at the Upper North Belfast CPLC, with reports of call handlers refusing to put callers through to specific officers. Complaints were ongoing regarding illegal parking in the Cavehill area.
- iii. T/Chief Inspector Kirkpatrick advised that no call handling issues had been reported and agreed to feed these reports back. With regards to parking, he advised that written warnings had been issued and repeat offenders identified. He added that often the cars were those of residents.
- iv. Station Commander David McComisky, NIFRS, undertook to circulate information regarding the availability of home fire safety checks to Members as the checks were now focusing on elderly and vulnerable clients.
- v. A Member commended the fire service for their assistance with vulnerable people near the Stella Maris Hostel.
- vi. Malachy McKinney, NIHE, advised that reports of racist graffiti in the Tigers Bay area had been received however on inspection, it appeared that residents had removed this themselves. It was suggested that the PSNI should congratulate the local residents for taking the lead via their Facebook page.
- vii. Mr McKinney also advised that a bonfire site at Grays Lane was now clear after reports of tyres being burnt during the previous week. Mr McComiskey added that the NIFRS would be keeping an eye on key sites in the run up to summer and was concerned by the early collection of materials as this led to an increased risk of early ignition. He also thanked the PSNI for their assistance in obtaining community contacts regarding the storage of bonfire materials.
- viii. In relation to discussions at the Policing Committee meeting prior, Superintendent Hilman advised that the use of body worn cameras would be rolled out across Belfast by the PSNI during August/September, 2016.

7. Code of Practice Update

- i. Members were asked to note the revised Code of Practice for the Exercise of Functions by PCSPs and DPCSPs, as provided within the meeting papers.
- ii. In response to a query regarding what changes had been made to the Code, the Safer City Coordinator advised that comments from various statutory partners had been incorporated and errors corrected.
- iii. A Member drew attention to item 2.5 which stated that 'Each PCSP shall operate a Policing Committee, comprising of its Political and Independent members, with Designated members strongly encouraged to attend', and suggested if this was done, time would be saved for the PSNI.

- iv. A Member advised that the meetings had remained separate due to the sensitivities discussed during meetings of the Policing Committee.
- v. The Safer City Coordinator agreed to seek clarification regarding designated members attending Policing Committee meetings, and issue invitations as appropriate.
- vi. With regards to item 4.4, 'Engagement...may include consultation, attendance at community meetings, facilitating or attending public events', a Member suggested that it was important that information was made available to the public to demonstrate the work undertaken by Members above and beyond attendance at DPCSP meetings. It was also noted that many multi-agency responses came about as a result of DPCSP Meetings.
- vii. The Safer City Coordinator agreed to give thought to how DPCSP Members' involvement in working groups, other community safety partnerships and engagement events can be appropriately demonstrated.
- viii. He added that it had been brought to his attention that the DPCSP papers and structure may be too formal and so Members may wish to look at alternatives.

8. 2016/2017 North Belfast DPCSP Action Plan

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that the 2016/2017 Action Plan was contained within the papers, and as it had now been reviewed at several meetings, Members were likely to be familiar with the content.

Working Groups and Priorities

- ii. He reminded Members of the number of Working Groups established by the DPCSP (Hate Crime, Domestic Violence, Youth, and Communications and Engagement) and agreed to circulate a list to enable Members to volunteer to sit on these groups. Councillor Mary Ellen Campbell volunteered to sit on the Domestic Violence Working Group.
- iii. Members discussed the 3 other priorities within the Plan; Domestic Burglary, Anti-Social Behaviour and Drugs and Substance Misuse, and resolved to develop a Drug and Alcohol Working Group given the suspension of FASA services. Members were reminded that the Belfast PCSP would be taking the lead on burglary.
- iv. Members agreed that the Public Event on the topic of suicide awareness held in March was very successful, and suggested that it could be replicated in other areas of North Belfast. Members also agreed to keep the topic as a priority for the year ahead.

Budget

- v. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that at its April meeting, the Belfast PCSP agreed to allocate money to the DPCSPs on a proportional basis based on a similar model used by the Joint Committee for the allocation of PCSP monies across

Northern Ireland. Using this model, each DPCSP receives a basic allocation (30%) and additional allocations based on population (45%) and deprivation (25%).

- vi. Members were therefore advised that the budget for the North Belfast DPCSP would be increased by £28,020 to £153,020 for the 2016/2017 financial year.
- vii. Members were further advised that as the Belfast PCSP had agreed to ring fence a budget for Citywide initiatives, the £6,000 allocated within the North Belfast DPCSP budget for these projects was no longer required, and so this would need to be reallocated.
- viii. Following discussions about meeting with Facebook and/or Twitter to develop an online safety project, Members agreed to allocate this additional £34,020 to respond to emerging policing and community safety issues and to add Internet Safety to the list of North Belfast DPCSP priorities.
- ix. Members were reminded that there were existing resources available on the topic of internet safety including the Ctrl Alt Delete play by the Spanner in the Works Theatre Company, and the Heel and Ankle Theatre Company DVD. A Member suggested that the DVD should be promoted via the PCSP Facebook page.

Friendship Club

- x. An update on the establishment of a North Belfast Friendship Club was provided. Members were advised that concerns had been raised about the initial venue of the 174 Trust, and following investigation of several other locations, the R City Coffee Shop within the Houben Centre, Crumlin Road, had been chosen as the most suitable. Members were further advised that the owners were keen to encourage a cross community meeting space for all ages and were happy to host the Club at no cost.

9. Domestic Violence Consultation

- i. The Safer City Coordinator drew Members attention to a DOJ Consultation seeking views on preventing domestic violence and abuse.
- ii. Due to the tight turn around, Members requested that the Safer City Coordinator seek an extension to the deadline for responses.

10. Date of Next Meetings

- i. Members discussed the schedule of Public Meetings for the year and agreed to the following:
 - 22nd June – Theme: Hate Crime – Venue: Girdwood Hubb
 - 28th September – Theme: Suicide Awareness
 - 23rd November – Theme: Focus on the business community – Venue: North City Business Centre
 - 22nd February – Theme: Policing Performance

- ii. In closing, the Vice-Chair congratulated Councillor Mary Ellen Campbell on her election to the position of Deputy Lord Mayor.