

Minutes of the North Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Private Meeting

Room 1C, 1st Floor, Cecil Ward Building
Wednesday, 29th June 2016

Political Members

Alderman Patrick Convery

Independent Members

Jennifer Cornell

Designated Organisations

Harry Bradley, YJA

Liam Gunn, NIHE

Mark McBride, EA

David McComiskey, NIFRS

Inspector Kelly Moore, PSNI

Gabi Mornhinweg, H&SCT

Mark Nicholson, PBNI

Staff Present

Richard McLernon, Safer City Coordinator

Katharine McCrum, Partnership Support Officer

Apologies

Alderman Guy Spence (Chair)

Councillor Mary Ellen Campbell

Councillor Mary Clarke

Councillor Nuala McAllister

Alderman Gareth McKee

Michael Murray (Vice-Chair)

Catherine Patrick

Gerald Solinas

T/Chief Inspector Gavin Kirkpatrick, PSNI

1. Welcome and Routine Matters

- i. In the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair, Alderman Patrick Convery 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/Matters Arising

- i. The Safer City Coordinator recapped on the actions from the previous meeting of the North Belfast DPCSP noting that:
 - A report on the work of the Ardoyne Tension Monitoring Group was contained within the papers,
 - Information regarding attending working group meetings had been circulated,
 - A meeting was being scheduled with the Vice-Chair to progress an online safety project involving Twitter and or Facebook,
 - Once a link to the Heel and Ankle Theatre Company project was made available it would be promoted via Facebook, and

- An extension to the Domestic Violence Consultation had been granted however a response was not submitted.
- ii. As requested at the previous meeting, Dave McComiskey, NIFRS, provided Members with information regarding the availability of home fire safety checks. He noted that advice would still be offered to all, however the provision of equipment would be limited to vulnerable and elderly residents.
 - iii. With regards to designated Members attending meetings of the Policing Committee, the Safer City Coordinator advised that he had not received a definitive response from the Joint Committee regarding his query. Members agreed that an invite should be extended to Designated Members and that it was for each Member to decide whether to attend or not.
 - iv. Members were advised that attendance figures would be sent to the NI Policing Board but would not be included within the Annual Report.

Additional Funding Paper

- v. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that a paper presented prior to the Public Meeting on 22nd June had been deferred pending further information, which was now provided. Members were asked to consider the paper, either at the meeting, or if they wished to have more time, before Friday, 1st July.
- vi. Mark McBride, Education Authority, declared an interest in the proposal and subsequently left the room.
- vii. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that the proposal, totalling £14,487, was for the provision of detached youth work and diversionary activities in 4 areas identified as requiring such services given ongoing and emerging anti-social behaviour. He also assured Members that the involvement of the PSNI would be requested as part of the Letters of Offer.
- viii. Members reviewed the proposals from each of the lead organisations and raised queries regarding the differing staff rates, existing youth provision and funding from other sources.
- ix. The Safer City Coordinator advised that costs differed between each organisation and that this had been accepted, however in future a flat rate could be considered.
- x. With regards to higher costs for one area, it was noted that the activity was for a longer 8 week period when compared to the other 2 week projects.
- xi. Several Members welcomed the proposal and felt that it offered a good return on investment. It was also noted that Youth Justice Agency Small Grants had previously funded such work but these were no longer available. It was however noted that the Education Authority also had a responsibility for funding such activity, and any further funding applications from the groups would need to be monitored.
- xii. Following further discussion, Members approved the project as outlined within the report. Mark McBride was then invited to rejoin the meeting.
- xiii. Members subsequently approved the minutes of the North Belfast DPCSP Private Meeting held on 27th April, copies of which had previously been circulated.

4. Confirmation of the Vice-Chair

- i. Members were advised that the Vice-Chair of the North Belfast DPCSP for the period of 17th August 2016 to 16th August 2017 would be Ms. Jennifer Cornell.

5. Chair's Update on the Belfast PCSP

- i. As the Chair was not in attendance, no update from the PCSP was provided. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that the PCSP funded Begging for Change Campaign had been launched on 20th June and was visible on billboards and adshels across the City.

6. Members North Belfast Priorities and Emerging Issues

- i. Members were provided with an update report on policing in North Belfast including a breakdown of call types received by Tennent Street Police Station over a 24 hour period and some 'good news' stories.
- ii. With regards to performance against the Local Policing Plan, Members were advised that the number of incidents of burglary had fallen by 34.4% while offences committed against the older people had fallen by 24.1%. Inspector Moore also reported positive trends with regards to crimes with a sectarian motivation, allegations of incivility and victim update statistics. She noted that anti-social behaviour had increased by 4.4% and that the number of drug seizures had fallen by 9.1% when compared with the same period last year.
- iii. Inspector Moore also provided an update on key incidents relating to drugs, domestic abuse, hate crime, burglary, anti-social behaviour, and significant policing operations. She noted that summer was a busy time for policing but operations had gone well so far with good communication between the police and communities.

7. 2016/2017 North Belfast DPCSP Action Plan and Progress Report

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that a progress report on the delivery of the 2016/2017 Action Plan was contained within the papers, and that this report would be brought to Members at each meeting.
- ii. Members noted the contents of the report.

8. North Belfast DPCSP Hate Crime Working Group

- i. The Safer City Coordinator outlined the recommendations developed by the Hate Crime Working Group and asked for endorsement from the Partnership to allocate the associated budget of £10,000 as follows:
 - No Hate Here Campaign - £1,000
 - North Belfast Friendship Club - £2,000
 - Just Us Project - £2,000
 - North Belfast Community Response Plan - £5,000

- ii. A Member provided an update on the development of the North Belfast Friendship Club, advising Members that the first meeting was scheduled for 2nd August in the Houben Centre after which the group would meet weekly from 7pm - 9pm, however initially organisers would be on site from 5pm to welcome newcomers and establish the group. Members were also advised that a parallel club may be held in the New Life Church, Northumberland Street, and that monthly joint activities had been suggested.
- iii. A Member suggested that if training was associated with the No Hate Here Campaign, costs may increase. The Safer City Coordinator advised that similar 'Ending Hate' training was delivered by Council's Good Relations Unit and agreed to make contact with them to find out whether this could be put in place before the Campaign was launched.
- iv. Following further discussion, Members approved the North Belfast Hate Crime Plan and to the allocation of funds as outlined within the report.

9. North Belfast DPCSP Drugs and Substance Misuse Working Group

- i. The Safer City Coordinator referred Members to a summary of discussions coming from the Drugs and Substance Misuse Working Group that had incorporated the issue of suicide prevention and resilience building, and asked for agreement to allocate £28,000 as per the Groups suggestion:
 - Resilience Programme - £6,000
 - Take 5 Initiative - £7,000
 - Suicide Prevention Training - £5,000
 - Drugs and Substance Misuse Quotation - £10,000
- ii. A Member commented that the projects appeared to be focused on suicide prevention rather than drug and alcohol misuse, and advised that while the two could be linked, it was not always the case.
- iii. Mark Nicholson, PBNI, remarked on the number of service users who had died as a result of drugs and alcohol during the past year and the issues experienced in accessing services. He asked to be added to the Working Group as the issue affected around 70% of Probation Board clients.
- iv. The Safer City Coordinator advised that the Working Group was working alongside external agencies to ascertain where the gaps were and that the quotation would involve developing more coordinated services.
- v. A Member noted that it was difficult to access information from GPs and so it would be useful to have this sector represented on the Working Group, however it was pointed out that this was unlikely and that the Public Health Agency was the most likely contact.
- vi. Following further discussion, Members approved the allocation of funds for the provision of drug and substance misuse services as outlined within the paper.

10. North Belfast DPCSP Project Proposals

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that 2 project proposals had been received by the North Belfast DPCSP for work supporting the delivery of the DPCSP Action Plan Outcomes;
 - Loughview Community Action Partnership (LCAP) – Shore Road Connect - £2,760
 - North Belfast Alternatives – Support for July Bonfires - £1,000

- ii. The Safer City Coordinator advised that the funding for North Belfast Alternatives was in addition to funding obtained under the Bonfire Management Scheme. It was noted that a detailed breakdown of costs was missing and that this was to be expected when requesting funding support.
- iii. Members discussed both applications and suggested that while it was difficult not to support projects where the work was needed, it was often hard to measure outcomes and determine value for money. A Member suggested that the Outcomes Based Accountability (OBA) model needed to be utilised, to which the Safer City Coordinator advised that PCSPs were now operating to this and so all projects would in turn be scored and evaluated in this way.
- iv. Members also discussed several bonfire sites in the areas which a range of agencies were involved with including Mount Vernon, Shore Crescent, Bogart Street and Grays Lane.
- v. Members resolved to approve funding for both applications whilst noting that further detail and targets would be developed as part of the DPCSP governance arrangements.

11. Greater Ardoyne Tension Monitoring Group Action Plan

- i. Members were reminded that £12,000 of the North Belfast DPCSP budget had been allocated to support the work of the Greater Ardoyne Tension Monitoring Group, whose Action Plan was included within the papers for approval.
- ii. A Member questioned the need for further diversionary work in the Lower Oldpark area given the applications recently approved and cautioned against double funding and duplication of effort.
- iii. It was suggested that the work previously approved would not involve the same range of areas and that DPCSP Officers would be able to monitor the work being carried out to avoid duplication.
- iv. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that the Greater Ardoyne Tension Monitoring Group, in partnership with North Belfast DPCSP, had recently won the Northern Ireland Regional Award and the overall UK Placemaking Team of the Year Award at the Planning and Placemaking Awards in London. The award was in recognition of their work in supporting the development of Bradley Manor, a major nursing home complex close to the interface in Ardoyne.
- v. Following discussion, Members approved the allocation of funds as laid out within the Greater Ardoyne Tension Monitoring Action Plan for 2016/2017. Typing errors regarding the plan were pointed out to the Safer City Coordinator for amendment.
- vi. The Safer City Coordinator reminded Members that as part of the Policing Committee application, the Twaddell Woodvale Residents Association had also requested a further £1,000 from the Tension Monitoring Budget.
- vii. Members approved a further £1,000 of funding towards the Twaddell Woodvale Residents Association's £2,000 project.

12. North Belfast DPSP Community Engagement

- i. The Safer City Coordinator reminded Members that the DPCSP supported community engagement and consultation costs through the Action Plan, including the provision of meeting costs for the following interagency groups:
 - Greater Shankill Community Safety Network - £700
 - Upper North Belfast CPLC - £120
 - Thorndale Duncairn Kinnaird Interagency Meetings - £600
- ii. He advised that continuing to fund these groups would leave £3,980 for other community based engagement and consultation, £2,000 for the annual Community Safety Youth Conference and £1,000 for the annual North Belfast Area Project Residential.
- iii. It was noted that the funding available to cover meeting costs was not advertised and so the Safer City Coordinator agreed to look at developing a process or criteria by which other groups could access funding. It was also agreed that those currently receiving the money would continue to do so during 2016/2017 but would be informed that certain criteria would soon be put in place regarding future funding.
- iv. Members agreed to revisit the decision to fund the Youth Conference at a later date.

13. North Belfast DPCSP Annual Report 2015/2016

- i. The Safer City Coordinator directed Members to the draft North Belfast DPCSP Annual Report for 2015/2016. He noted that once finalised, the report would be sent to the Joint Committee and published online. Members were advised that the report contained a summary of the work carried out by the Partnership as well as selected case studies.
- ii. Members approved the contents of the report.

14. Date of Next Meetings

- i. Members were reminded that the next meeting of the North Belfast DPCSP would be held on Wednesday, 31st August.