

Minutes of the West Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Private Meeting

Room 1C, Cecil Ward Building
Wednesday, 20th April, 2016

Political Members	Independent Members
Councillor Stephen Magennis (Chair)	Breige Brownlee
Councillor Matt Garrett	Claire Canavan
Councillor Brian Heading	

Statutory Designated Organisations	
Sharon Beattie, NIHE	David McComiskey, NIFRS
Carol Carville PBNI	Patricia Muldoon, YJA
Chief Inspector Norman Haslett PSNI	Inspector Alan Swann, PSNI

Locally Designated Organisations	
Paula Kerr, Upper Falls Community Safety Forum	Michael George, Colin Neighbourhood Partnership

Staff Present	Apologies
Alan Wardle, Safer City Coordinator	Eoin McShane
Katharine McCrum, Partnership Support Officer	Lauren Slane
	Tommy Boyle, H&SCT

1. Welcome and Routine Matters

- i. The Chair welcomed Members to the meeting of the West Belfast DPCSP and noted the apologies provided.

2. Declarations of Interest

- 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.
- ii. No declarations of interest were noted.

3. West Belfast DPCSP Minutes & Matters Arising

- i. The minutes of the Private meeting held on 24th March, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct.
- ii. The Safer City Coordinator advised the Members that, due to an administrative error, their approval of the 2016/2017 Action Plan had not been recorded in the minutes of the meeting on 27th January.
- iii. For the purposes of the minutes, Members reaffirmed their approval of the West Belfast DPCSP Action Plan for 2016/2017.

4. Chair's Update from PCSP

DPCSP Budget Allocation

- i. The Chair 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 West Belfast DPCSP budget for 2016/2017 would be £157,740 which represented an additional £32,740 based on the previous year's budget. The Chair 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 £38,740 of additional funding needed to be added to the existing West Belfast DPCSP Action Plan.
- iii. Members commented on the proven track record of the Partnership to deliver effective projects and to utilise its full budget allocation.
- iv. Members agreed to allocate this additional budget to a new budget line 'Multi-agency Responses'. The Safer City Coordinator confirmed that budget lines could be realigned, if needed, through the Joint Committee's Change Control process.
- v. At the request of Members, the Safer City Coordinator agreed to look for possible PR opportunities to promote the (D)PCSP funding, which following cuts to the 2015/2016 allocation, represented an increase for all Partnerships.

Statutory Partner Updates

- vi. The Chair advised Members that 'Statutory Partner Updates' would become a regular agenda item in the future, and invited reports from the representatives present.

Youth Justice Agency (YJA)

- vii. Patricia Muldoon advised that the Youth Justice Agency was re-establishing the Impact Project within the Juvenile Justice Centre in reference to recent car crime incidents. She advised that the programme had in the past included an early intervention strand in schools and it was hoped that this would be delivered with a 'younger siblings' group in the future. She also provided information on 2 educational plays which had recently be delivered to 3 groups in West Belfast – Think How You Drink, and Ctrl Alt Delete.

NI Housing Executive (NIHE)

- viii. Sharon Beattie advised that the NI Housing Executive had realigned its boundaries on 4th April in line with Local Government Reform, and information letters had been issued to advise groups of this change. She also suggested that Members receive a presentation on NIHE's development of social housing enterprises and social entrepreneurs funding.

Probation Board (PBNI)

- ix. Carole Carville advised that the Probation Board were intensifying efforts in relation to the supervision of repeat offenders involved in burglaries. She advised that the Reducing Offending Unit, which involved various partners including the PSNI and YJA, was currently focusing on 25 prolific offenders, many of whom were not currently in the community.

- x. In reference to the work that goes on behind the scenes within the criminal justice system, she advised that PBNI could not always publicise the work that it did in supervising or recalling offenders to prison.
- xi. Members were advised that due to limited resources, prisoners were being released without appropriate programmes being completed and so PBNI and YJA were trying to put in place intensive plans following release in order to reduce the risk of reoffending.

5. Public Meeting, March 2016

- i. The Safer City Co-ordinator thanked staff and Members for their input and attendance at the Public Meeting on 24th March. He advised that the event had been delivered successfully with a good number of people in the audience including students from the University of Ulster.

6. West Belfast DPCSP Action Plan 2016/2017

- i. The Safer City Co-ordinator advised that, in line with the agreement of Members under item 4, an additional £38,740 would be added to the 2016/2017 Action Plan provided under 'Multiagency Responses'.
- ii. Members noted the contents of the Action Plan.

7. Revised Code of Practice

- i. Members noted the revised Code of Practice for the Exercise of Functions by PCSPs and DPCSPs, as provided within the meeting papers.

8. St Galls GAA Family Club Day

- i. The Safer City Co-ordinator advised Members that following a number of anti-social behaviour incidents in and around Falls Park, a number of joint operations had been delivered which were successful in deterring young people from the site. However, this had the adverse effect of displacing the young people to other areas including Bog Meadows and St Galls GAA Club.
- ii. Members were further advised that meetings had taken place between Belfast City Council, PSNI and St Galls in an attempt to support and reassure the Club of the ongoing commitment to tackling anti-social behaviour.
- iii. The Safer City Coordinator advised that as part of these engagements and the identified need to build relations with St Galls, the DPCSP had been asked to support a family event at St Galls on the 8th May which it was hoped would involve both the PSNI and NIFRS.
- iv. Members agreed to provide £750 of funding to support the event, and suggested that further support should be offered to the Club. Members also felt that the event offered an opportunity for the DPCSP to engage with the community and so the Safer City Coordinator agreed to explore this suggestion.
- v. Members discussed at length the issues within Falls Park and the initiatives that had been put in place by the Council, DPCSP and PSNI. It was agreed that parents needed to be

educated about the anti-social behaviour and criminality taking place in order for changes to occur.

- vi. At the request of a Member, the Safer City Coordinator agreed to look at the legalities of filming the activity as a way on demonstrating to parents what is happening once they drop young people to the Park.
- vii. Chief Inspector Haslett advised that large groups of people would be challenged by officers and resources would be made available to engage with young people. He added that he did not wish to criminalise young people, the vast majority of whom were using the park to socialise, but agreed that those involved in anti-social behaviour and criminality needed to be dealt with. He also cautioned that media attention, as well as being negative for the area, may draw more people to the park.
- viii. Members welcomed the PSNI stance on engaging with large groups of people and advised that confidence in the service was damaged when calls were not followed up upon. At the suggestion of a Member, Chief Inspector Haslett advised that arrangements could be made for community and elected representatives to meet with Local and Neighbourhood Policing Teams to discuss their roles.
- ix. Members discussed the use of CCTV and the possibility of a campaign focusing on the social cost of anti-social behaviour. The Safer City Coordinator advised that many of the points raised were likely to form part of the Transient Youth Project if agreed by Members.

9. Delegated Authority

- i. Members were requested to approve delegated authority to the Safer City Coordinator to progress project development and spend in regard to both the Unwanted Bonfire and Emergency Issue budget lines in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair. Members were also asked to consider approving delegated authority for the additional £38,740 not currently within the West Belfast DPCSP Action Plan.
- ii. Members were advised that this would ensure speedy delivery of the Action Plan and that reports on each initiative would be brought to the full Partnership for retrospective approval.
- iii. Members agreed to provide delegated authority for project development and spend for the 3 budget lines as requested.

10. Unwanted Bonfire Builder Engagement Project Update

- i. The Safer City Co-ordinator reminded Members that £2,950 of additional funding had been provided to the West Belfast DPCSP by the Belfast PCSP in 2015 in order for the Blackie River Community Group to engage with bonfire builders in the Beechmount area. He advised that due to a clash with other activities, several elements of the proposed project could not be delivered and so £2,150 had not been spent.
- ii. As funding cannot be transferred between financial years, Members were asked to approve the allocation of £2,150 from the 2016/2017 Unwanted Bonfire budget line in order to continue to support the community group to complete the project.
- iii. Members approved the request and granted £2,150 to Blackie River Community Group from the current 2016/2017 budget.

- iv. Sharon Beattie advised that work was progressing at Divis Street for the development of the new Radio Failte site.

11. Emerging Issues

PCSP Facebook Page

- i. The Safer City Co-ordinator drew Members attention to cards with a QR code linking to the Belfast PCSP Facebook Page. He encouraged Members to 'Like' the Page in order to view information about the Community Safety Resource Packs that had recently been distributed by the West Belfast DPCSP.

Burglary

- ii. A Member commended the PSNI for their quick response to community reports of theft and burglary in the Riverdale area which had resulted in 5 arrests. However, he advised that more work was needed and suggested St John the Baptist and Upper Falls Community Safety Forum hold a Community Safety event?
- iii. The Safer City Coordinator advised that the resources developed as part of the anti-burglary campaign delivered by the PSNI and (D)PCSPs could be re-printed to support such community safety events.
- iv. He also advised Members that the West Belfast DPCSP had allocated personal and home security items to each of the Community Safety Forums, and that a number of bin locks were also available. A Member advised that the PCSP was developing a 4-Tier Security Scheme alongside PSNI Crime Prevention Officers which offered crime prevention and security items to the victims of crime.

12. Date of Next Meeting

- i. The Safer City Co-ordinator advised Members that the next meeting would be held on 24th May.