

Minutes of the West Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Private Meeting

Conor Room, City Hall
Tuesday, 24th May, 2016

Political Members

Councillor Stephen Magennis (Chair)
Councillor Matt Garrett
Alderman Frank McCoubrey

Independent Members

Liz Groves (Vice-Chair)
Breige Brownlee
Claire Canavan
Eoin McShane
Lauren Slane

Statutory Designated Organisations

Sharon Beattie, NIHE
Tommy Boyle, H&SCT
Carol Carville, PBNi

Chief Inspector Norman Haslett, PSNI
David McComiskey, NIFRS
Patricia Muldoon, YJA

Locally Designated Organisations

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

Staff Present

Alan Wardle, Safer City Coordinator
Katharine McCrum, Partnership Support Officer

Apologies

Councillor Brian Heading
Karol McKee, Upper Springfield Community Safety Forum

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 20th April, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct.
- ii. With regards to the actions from the previous meeting, the Safer City Coordinator advised Members that;
 - PR opportunities to promote (D)PCSP funding for 2016/2017 were being explored,
 - NIHE representatives were in attendance to provide a presentation on social enterprise funding,
 - A 'Multi-Agency Responses' budget line had been added to the Action Plan,
 - St Galls GAA Club continued to be supported by the DPCSP,
 - A Meeting between PSNI and community/elected representatives had been scheduled,
 - The legalities of filming anti-social behaviour in Falls Park is being explored.

4. Presentation from NIHE

(Conor Smith and Paul Carland, NIHE, attended in relation to this item)

- i. Conor Smith presented Members with information on the Housing Executive's Social Housing Enterprise Strategy including details of the grants which had been awarded to groups during the first stage of funding. Grants range from small education and training awards to larger development grants.
- ii. Members were advised that the purpose of the Strategy was to break the chain of unemployment and deprivation by developing commercially viable activities to generate economic and social value for communities.
- iii. Members were further advised that a second round of funding would open in early July, 2016 with an increased budget of £500,000 and a simplified application process.
- iv. Mr Smith advised that in addition to this investment, maintenance contracts would in future include social clauses such as the establishment of apprenticeships and up-cycling options.
- v. Members provided NIHE representatives with examples of possible projects to which they were advised that officers would be happy to meet with groups to discuss ideas and signpost to other funding should the enterprise funding prove inappropriate.

5. Chair's Update from PCSP

Meeting with PSNI

- i. The Chair advised Members that prior to the meeting, he and other (D)PCSP Chair and Vice-Chairs had met with Chief Superintendent Chris Noble to discuss the number of recent shootings across the City, particularly in North and West Belfast. At this meeting Mr Noble advised that additional resources had been secured in order to have a more visible presence in these areas. The Chair added that the additional resources were likely to assist with the transient youth issues occurring in the Bog Meadows and Falls Park areas.
- ii. The Chair also advised that the Broadway/Lanark Way Working Group had recently held its first meeting and that discussions regarding unwanted bonfires were ongoing.

6. Statutory Partner Update

- i. The Chair invited the Statutory Designated Organisations to provide an update to the Partnership on any relevant issues.
- ii. Patricia Muldoon advised that the Youth Justice Agency continued to deliver the Impact Project within the Juvenile Justice Centre in reference to car crime incidents. She advised that those involved had acknowledged that the issues were more serious than in previous years as participants were now involved in more serious issues such as aggravated burglary.
- iii. Members were advised that a PCSP funded DVD focusing on the dangers of becoming involved in criminal behaviour would be launched during June, 2016 in City Hall. Ms. Muldoon added that a toolkit was being developed to accompany the DVD for delivery in schools and youth clubs.
- iv. Carole Carville advised that the Probation Board were working on a plan to manage the number of offenders who would be realised into the community during June and July. She advised that while they did not have any control over release dates, the public could be assured that they were monitoring those released.

- v. The Chair suggested that in future, written reports could be submitted in advance of the meetings to ensure that the Partnership was made aware of important issues and to allow this information to be disseminated to communities, taking confidentiality into consideration. It was agreed that reports would focus on common themes relevant to the DPCSP. The Safer City Coordinator advised that he would email each of the Statutory Partners to provide guidance in relation to these reports.
- vi. Tommy Boyle, H&SCT, advised that in terms of community contact, the Trust worked closely with social hubs and that the DPCSP was not always the most relevant body to report back to in these cases.
- vii. The Safer City Coordinator suggested that the partnership approach was beneficial for all and that reports would allow the DPCSP to broaden its knowledge of issues in West Belfast and consider the allocation of resources in the future. The Chair added that he hoped to move towards a more proactive approach and away from 'fire fighting'.
- viii. Sharon Beattie advised that the NI Housing Executive were concerned about intimidation of residents to which the Chair suggested that community support could assist with this important issue.

7. West Belfast DPCSP Action Plan 2016/2017 Progress Report

- i. The Safer City Co-ordinator reminded Members that the budget for the 2016/2017 Action Plan now totalled £157,740 and provided a breakdown of the progress to date against 7 Projects and DPCSP Small Grants, which accounted for £62,417 of the total budget.
- ii. In response to a query regarding how young people become involved in the Midnight Madness project, the Safer City Coordinator advised that he would circulate the project brief which contained additional information. He added that outreach work was planned in the hours before the event in order to gather a group of participants together.
- iii. It was suggested that an information leaflet would be useful in allowing parents and youth groups to know what resources were available. The Safer City Coordinator stated that he would contact Colin Glen Trust to discuss this suggestion.
- iv. The Safer City Coordinator also informed Members that he had circulated a project proposal form to Sally Gardens and had been exploring possibilities for similar diversionary projects in partnership with Saints Youth Centre/Lenadoon and Poleglass. He would update Members as future project progressed.
- v. A Member welcomed the Spanner in the Works school performances relating to anti-social behaviour and suggested that media opportunities should be used to promote the project and parents advised of its purpose.
- vi. The Safer City Coordinator advised that information had been circulated to the Forum for school Principals and leaflets sent home to parents advising of some bad language involved in the play. He also advised that the performances would be promoted via Facebook and other media sources. Members were informed that 4 schools had been confirmed and a further 4 would be booked, at which point invitations would be issued to Members. The Safer City Coordinator confirmed that performances would be held at assembly times and that feedback would be obtained from students.
- vii. Members noted the contents of the Action Plan Progress Report.

8. Annual Report

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that the DPCSP Annual Report for 2015/2016 was being developed and would hopefully be circulated for approval prior to the Partnership's next meeting in June.

9. Emerging Issues

- i. Paula Kerr, Upper Falls Community Safety Forum, commended the Neighbourhood Policing Team's actions in the Greater Andersonstown area following burglaries which had had a major impact on residents.
- ii. Chief Inspector Norman Haslett advised that he would look into concerns about recent finds of transparent 'bulldog' tables in the Colin area which were suspected to be methadone or heroin.

10. Date of Next Meeting

- i. The Safer City Co-ordinator advised Members that the next meeting would be held on 30th June.