

Minutes of the Belfast Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Private Meeting

Lavery Room, City Hall
Monday 12th September, 2016

Political Members	Independent Members
Councillor John Hussey (Chair)	Susan Russam (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Janice Austin	Mary Lambe
Councillor Matt Garrett	Carmel McKinney
Councillor Brian Heading	Michael O'Hara
Councillor JJ Magee	
Councillor Geraldine McAteer	
Alderman Jim Rodgers	
Designated Organisations	
Harry Bradley, YJA	Michael Roberts, NIFRS
Eithne McIlroy, PBNI	Helen Russell, NIHE
Chief Superintendent Chris Noble, PSNI	
Staff Present	Apologies
Alison Allen, Safer City Manager	Councillor Nuala McAllister
Denise Smith, Safer City Coordinator	Alderman Tommy Sandford
Katharine McCrum, Partnership Support Officer	Debbie Hammill
	John MacVicar
	Anne-Louise Toal
	Patricia Muldoon, YJA
	Chris Fee, NIFRS
	Cecil Worthington, H&SCT

1. Welcome and Apologies

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

2. Declarations of Interest

- i. The Chair advised Members that they were required to declare any material interests that they may have in relation to any items on the agenda.

3. Minutes

- i. The minutes of the Belfast PCSP Meeting held on 15th August, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct.

4. Street Management Strategy

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that the aim of the strategy was to develop a collaborative plan of action aimed at tackling issues relating to on-street drinking, drug misuse, begging and anti-social behaviour in Belfast City Centre.

- ii. She advised that the following actions had been agreed upon and were being progressed with a range of stakeholders;
 - The establishment of a City Centre Enforcement Policy between the PSNI, Belfast City Council and other relevant agencies,
 - Engagement with rough sleepers and street users to link them with drug and alcohol services,
 - Engagement with young People who socialise in Belfast City Centre to provide relevant advice and support services,
 - Undertake a crime prevention mapping exercise of the City Centre to help identify hotspots and community safety problems and solutions,
 - Develop a positive publicity campaign aimed at promoting Belfast as a safe city,
 - Review current alcohol enforcement powers and explore the possibility of introducing new seizure powers for the PSNI and Council Officers,
 - Work with Night-time Volunteer Groups to establish a programme of engagement and development,
 - Maximise street outreach provision in the City Centre,
 - Facilitate the Begging for Change Campaign, and
 - Create a process for the removal of drug related sharps/needles and litter.
- iii. Members were asked to agree the next steps for the Strategy, namely its review, further development of the links with key stakeholders, the examination of good practice models, and the exploration of the long term vision for the Strategy.
- iv. In reference to the mention of 300 lifts of drug related sharps/needles and litter, a Member questioned how many of these related to needles, and over what period the figures related to.
- v. The Safer City Coordinator confirmed that all 300 reports dealt with the collection of needles/sharps or Drug paraphernalia. She agreed to confirm the time period in question.
- vi. Members noted the contents of the report and agreed that Officer would further develop the following projects which would be brought back to the October meeting for formal approval:
 - Night-time Volunteers Training and Practical Support Programme - £6,000
 - Rough Sleepers Multi-Disciplinary Support & Outreach Project - £18,000
 - Begging for Change – Research Project - £4,000
 - Good Practice Visit to Dublin looking at City Centre Management - £1,100
 - Drug & Alcohol Support Project with Hostels - £15,000

5. Chair's Update

- i. The Chair advised Members that the Policing Board wished to hold a public meeting alongside the PCSP on the theme of anti-social behaviour, and that they would fund the venue and catering costs.
- ii. While an alternative date was initially requested by a Member, the Chair confirmed that the only evening available for the Chief Constable is the 19th October and so Members agreed to the request.

- iii. The Chair advised that an invitation had been received from the PSNI Rape Crime Unit inviting all PCSP's to attend a half day event at Garnerville Training Centre on the 9th November in order to give an insight into a 'Day in the Life Of' the Unit.
- iv. Carmel McKinney volunteered to take one of the two places and it was agreed that an email would be circulated requesting a second representative.
- v. The Chair advised that Crimestoppers wished to give a presentation to the Partnership around the work of the charity. Members agreed to schedule the presentation at either the December, 2016 or January, 2017 meeting.

6. Update from Designated Partners

PSNI

- i. Chief Superintendent Noble provided Members with information on significant events of note, including drug searches across the City, incidents involving scramblers, an attempted murder in Brittons Parade, and a recent death in the City Centre which was now being investigated by the Police Ombudsman. He noted that such incidents highlighted the range of complex issues dealt with by the PSNI and their involvement with vulnerable people.
- ii. In reference to a query about a hit and run incident on the Lisburn Road on the previous Saturday evening, Chief Superintendent Noble advised that the investigation was ongoing, and while he was unable to provide specific details, a possible suspect had been identified.
- iii. A Member passed on community concern about the large numbers of TSG Officers involved in drug searches, particularly in North Belfast, and questioned whether these Officers could be used to counter the lack of Neighbourhood Officers.
- iv. Chief Superintendent Noble advised that his feedback from the community regarding drug searches had been largely positive and that the availability of TSG Officers was as a result of planning and bidding for resources in advance. He advised that, as with local policing, TSG numbers had been reduced, and noted that the decision to increase or decrease the resources made available to the PSNI was a political one. Members were also advised that the challenges facing policing were more than just local on the street issues as more and more crimes were being committed online.
- v. Members commended the actions of a postman who intervened in the theft of a handbag on the Sandown Road. Chief Superintendent confirmed that there was no further update available on the case.
- vi. In reference to the increased use of scramblers, a Member requested that the Chair write to the Minister for Justice and Minister for Infrastructure to underline the need for a mechanism of registration for scramblers, mopeds and similar vehicles.
- vii. The Safer City Manager agreed to draft this letter and advised that Council and the People and Communities Committee were also discussing these issues. Chief Superintendent Noble confirmed that the relevant contact within the PSNI was Chief Inspector Norman Haslett.

- viii. Following a query from a Member, Chief Superintendent Noble stated street level drug dealing referred to lower level, neighbourhood dealers rather than multi-national, organised crime gangs.

PBNI

- ix. Eithne McIlroy, PBNI, advised Members that they were currently planning a new initiative to work with the perpetrators of offences against older people and would be launching the 'Accepting Differences' initiative on 6th October which works with the perpetrators of hate crime. Members were asked to contact PBNI for more information or if they wished to attend the launch.
- x. Members were advised that work had begun on the Fresh Start Action Plan recommendation to develop an initiative focusing on young men at risk of involvement in paramilitary activity.

7. Safe City Status Progress Report

- i. The Safer City Coordinator reminded Members that £15,000 from the Action Plan was allocated towards the aim of achieving 'Safe City Status' for Belfast.
- ii. Members were further advised that in working alongside the Local Domestic Violence Partnership, 2 strands of work had been agreed upon; raising awareness of domestic and sexual violence across the community sector and the collation of the work being done by various agencies working towards Safe City Status.
- iii. Members noted the report and agreed the proposed work strands.

8. Drug Dealers Don't Care Campaign Progress Report

- i. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with an overview of the Drug Dealers Don't Care Campaign which was delivered in February/March, 2016.
- ii. Members were advised that the Campaign had included 3 elements; Enforcement, Education and Reporting, and that an external facilitator had been brought in to assist in a review of the Campaign, including how it had impacted local communities.
- iii. She reported that the findings of this review had been largely positive and that those involved were keen to see the Campaign run again. However, it was noted that it needed greater connectivity with local communities, the education element needed to be delivered as this had been missing to date, and key statements needed to be agreed.
- iv. In response to query regarding why Cool FM and Downtown Radio had not been used to advertise the Campaign, the Safer City Manager confirmed that the Council's Corporate Communications Unit were used when delivering such campaigns and so the relevant procurement rules and procedures had been followed. She added that with reduced costs, social media was likely to feature more in future campaigns.
- v. Members asked that street level dealing and drug users were included in the refocused Campaign, to which they were advised that the PSNI and PHA would be involved to look at specific enforcement and health messages, complimenting the community safety aspects.

- vi. It was noted that social media was just one method of communication and would not necessarily reach all members of the community. The Safer City Coordinator agreed and noted that Officers would look at the target audience and tailor the Campaign's delivery methods as a result.
- vii. A Member questioned what preventative work was taking place in schools, noting that drug dealing was taking place on school grounds in some areas.
- viii. The Safer City Manager advised that she was aware of some good practice in a North Belfast school and suggested that she would contact the staff to ask for information on the case management system that they had employed locally.
- ix. Following further discussion, Members noted the report.

9. 2016/2017 PCSP Small Grants, Tranche 2

- i. The Safer City Manager advised that the Small Grants Member Panel (Councillor JJ Magee, Debbie Hammill and Susan Russam) had met on the 7th September and approved funding of £4,998 for a Substance Misuse Awareness Project for students run by ASCERT.
- ii. In response to a query regarding the low level of applications received, the Safer City Manager advised that this was an issue across the Council and an internal review of the Small Grants process was planned to ascertain what aspects were off-putting to groups.
- iii. A Member asked if schools or a consortium of schools could apply for a Small Grant. The Safer City Manager advised that ordinarily only constituted groups were eligible to apply, however exceptions could be made if there was a clearly identified need demonstrated and this need was not being met by another organisation. She added that there were also other opportunities to support groups outside of the Small Grants process.
- iv. Members noted the report and agreed to reallocate the remaining £5,002 within the Small Grants budget.

10. 2016/2017 PCSP Equality Scheme and Disability Action Plan

- i. The Safer City Manager drew Members attention to copies of the Equality Scheme and Disability Action Plan for the Belfast PCSP which had, until 31st August, been on the Council website for public consultation.
- ii. Members were advised that as public authorities under the Justice Act (2011), the PCSP and each of the four DPCSPs were required to submit an Equality Scheme and Disability Action Plan to the Equality Commission by 30th September.
- iii. The Safer City Manager advised that 2 responses had been received following the consultation, one requesting an easy read version which had been produced, and one with comments to be incorporated into the documents, which again had been completed.

- iv. Members approved the contents of the reports and agreed for them to be submitted to the Equality Commission.

11. Date of Next Meeting

- i. The Chair reminded Members that the next meeting of the PCSP would be held on Monday, 10th October.