

Minutes of the East Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Private Meeting

Conor Room, City Hall
Tuesday, 27th September, 2016

Political Members	Independent Members
Alderman Tommy Sandford (Chair) Councillor Sonia Copeland Councillor Mairead O'Donnell	Jonathan Currie (Vice-Chair) Michelle Bryans David Geddis Lisa McMaster Steven McMillen
Designated Organisations	
Yvonne Cowan, H&SCT Chief Inspector David Moore, PSNI Jane Lappin, PBNI	Alison Methven, NIHE Michael Roberts, NIFRS Pauline Smart, EA
Staff Present	Apologies
Alan Wardle, Safer City Coordinator Katharine McCrum, Partnership Support Officer	Councillor Aileen Graham Councillor Carole Howard

1. Welcome and Routine Matters

- i. The Chair welcomed Members to the Meeting and noted the apologies provided. He also welcomed Alan Wardle, Safer City Coordinator, who was attending in the place of Glenn Thomas.

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.
- ii. No declarations of interest were declared at the outset of the Meeting.

3. Presentation on Body Worn Video

(Chief Inspector Rachel Shields, Chief Inspector Gary Smyth and Inspector Paul Jackson attended in relation to this item)

- i. Chief Inspector Gary Smyth provided Members with information on the PSNI's Body Worn Video equipment which would be rolled out across Belfast in late 2016.
- ii. Members were advised that the devices were capable of continuous recording for 8 hours during both day and night-time conditions and that the information was securely transferred via a docking station to a media storage facility and then deleted if not required as part of an investigation.
- iii. Members were informed of the evaluation findings from their use in Scotland, and the privacy implications that had been addressed as part of the PSNI's use of the system. The

Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) undertaken would also be published on the PSNI website.

- iv. Chief Inspector Smyth advised that trails showed that the public were reassured by the use of the cameras, and that the number of complaints against Officers reduced, however they were not a proven deterrent.
- v. Members raised the following queries in relation to the presentation:
 - a) Question: How long is footage stored for?
Answer: The PSNI will adhere to national guidelines which currently allow non-evidentiary data to be kept for 31 days before being wiped/deleted – this will be done automatically by the systems software. It footage is marked as evidential; it will be retained under Management of Police Information (MoPI) regulations.
 - b) Question: Can solicitors or complainants access the footage?
Answer: As part of a police interview the footage can be accessed and played alongside solicitors. It is hoped, and evidence would suggest, that this will lead to quicker justice outcomes.
 - c) Question: How is data transferred back to the station, and is the camera tamper proof?
Answer: When an Officer requests a Body Worn Camera from the system, the most suitable device (with full charge etc) will flash indicating that it should be used. Following use of the camera, it is returned to the docking station at which point the recordings are uploaded to the system and the camera is wiped. The uploaded recordings are then marked as evidentiary or otherwise.
The camera itself is tamper proof and encryption ensures that if lost or stolen, the data would not be of use as it must be returned to the docking station for information to be obtained.
 - d) Question: Will every Officer be issued with a camera?
Answer: The PSNI has purchased 2,200 units at a cost of approximately £750,000, under the estimated budget. This allows every on-duty Officer to have access to a camera over a 24 hour period. Efficient use of the system means that there is no need for a personal issue to each Officer.
 - e) Question: When will the cameras be used, and what happens if they are lost?
Answer: Cameras should be used to compliment the observations of Officers. The device will normally be off and an Officer will be required to make a professional judgement / assessment about when to activate it based upon guidance and training. Where possible, a warning that video and audio is now being recorded will be issued (this may not be possible in a public order situation). The device will be turned off once the incident has concluded. A light will also flash during filming.
The equipment itself is very robust and waterproof. If a device was to be lost, the footage could not be accessed by the public, and would only be lost to the PSNI.
 - f) Question: Can a member of the public ask for the camera to be switched on?
Answer: Yes, however it would be hoped that if a situation required it, the Officer would already have activated the camera. If the camera is not used where appropriate, questions would be asked of Officers.
 - g) Question: Can a witness ask for the camera to be switched off?
Answer: There may be occasions where the camera may need to be turned off however this would be at the discretion of the Officer who may feel the need to

decline the request. Statements from witnesses would most likely be obtained in a different setting than those anticipated in the use of body worn camera which are designed to help in evidence gathering during domestic violence incidents, stop and search and public disorder.

h) Question: Are Officers content with the deployment of Body Worn Video?
Answer: The cameras have been welcomed as they are useful in gathering evidence and supporting victims in cases. While not the reason for deploying the cameras, they can also assist when allegations made against Officers where little evidence often exists to support or refute the claims made. The footage will also be helpful to the Police Ombudsman, allowing investigators to see incidents from the perspective of Officers.

i) Question: Are other agencies or domestic violence groups receiving similar presentations from the PSNI?
Answer: This is being done, and further presentations can be arranged by contacting Chief Inspector Shields.

- vi. Members thanked the Officers for the presentation and welcomed the step in improving safety for Officers and the general public.
- vii. The Safer City Coordinator agreed to circulate the presentation on Body Worn Video to Members.

4. Minutes and Matters Arising

- i. In relation to actions from previous DPCSP Meetings, the Safer City Coordinator advised that efforts to establish a working group regarding the Exploring Identity and Change Project were ongoing and discussions were in progress with the East Belfast Drug and Alcohol Forum regarding the development of projects.
- ii. Minutes of the East Belfast DPCSP Private Meeting held on 30th August, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct.
- iii. Members discussed the previous agreement to hold alternate meetings in East Belfast venues. The pros and cons of City Hall meeting rooms were considered, as well as the costs associated with external venues. It was resolved that the next meeting would be held in the East Belfast Network Centre and other possible venues would be considered for future meetings. Michael Roberts, NIFRS, offered the use of the conference room at the Newtownards Road Fire Station.
- iv. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that the PCSP Public Meeting scheduled for 19th October had been cancelled, and that further information regarding a new date would be circulated in due course.

5. Updates from Statutory Partners

- i. Jane Lappin, PBNI, asked Members to contact her with any suggestions of churches, community centres or charities that could benefit from community service work that was commencing the PBNI clients.
- ii. The Partnership discussed the need for updates from the Statutory Partners, and whether these should be thematic, oral and written reports.

- iii. Several Designated Members advised that they would bring information to the DPCSP as it arose, and that the additional requirement of a written report was not preferable. They also suggested that it may be useful for each organisation to provide an overview of their work to the Partnership.
- iv. It was also suggested that Independent Members and groups who had received funding from the DPCSP should be asked to update the Partnership on a regular basis.
- v. The Safer City Coordinator agreed to pass on the comments made to the usual Coordinator for the Partnership in order to clarify and agree a process for partner updates.

6. East Belfast DPCSP 2016/2017 Action Plan Progress Report

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that an update on the delivery of the 2016/2017 East Belfast DPCSP Action Plan was contained within the papers.
- ii. Members noted the contents of the report.

7. Nexus NI Shout Up Project

- i. Members were asked to consider granting £2,950 of funding towards an educational project delivered by Nexus NI focusing on raising awareness among young people of childhood sexual exploitation.
- ii. Yvonne Cowan, H&SCT, suggested that the project should link with the Sexual Health Forum through EBCDA, as they too were dealing with child sexual exploitation.
- iii. Following discussion, Members agreed to fund the project as detailed within the report.

8. 2016/2017 East Belfast DPCSP Equality Scheme and Disability Action Plan

- i. The Safer City Coordinator drew Members attention to copies of the Equality Scheme and Disability Action Plan for the East Belfast DPCSP 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. Members approved the contents of the reports and agreed for them to be submitted to the Equality Commission.

9. Safe Churches Pilot Project

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that, in line with Belfast City Council's commitment towards achieving Safe City Status, Onus wished to carry out training and awareness sessions around the issue of domestic and sexual violence within Churches in North and East Belfast.
- ii. The East Belfast DPCSP was therefore being asked to support sessions within the area at a cost of £1,120.

- iii. Members reviewed the report and agreed to provide the funding as requested.

10. Small Grants Panel Update Report

- i. Members were advised that the Small Grants Panel met on 5th September and that 1 application had been recommended for funding, bringing the total funding to £11,603 leaving £28,397 within the Small Grants Budget.
- ii. Members discussed the low number of applications received, as well as the sometimes poor quality of submissions, and questioned what feedback and support was made available to groups interested in applying for funding.
- iii. The Safer City Coordinator confirmed that the number of applications received across the City were down by around 50%, with the exception of West Belfast. He advised that unsuccessful groups usually failed to meet the community safety criteria required and that marking was now more stringent to ensure that projects had an impact and a legacy within communities. He also confirmed that staff teams were happy to meet with groups to offer advice, and that other avenues of funding were available.
- iv. At the request of the Safer City Coordinator, Members agreed for a Change Control Application to be sent to the Joint Committee in order to move unallocated funds within the Small Grants budget into the Anti-Social Behaviour budget.
Proposed: David Geddis
Seconded: Councillor Sonia Copeland

11. PACT Update

- i. A Member advised the Partnership that a number of issues regarding community confidence in PACTS, Neighbourhood Watch and the PCSP had been raised at a recent meeting of the Inner East Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership which were being followed up by Glenn Thomas.
- ii. The Chair asked that the dates of such meetings were circulated so that Members were offered to opportunity to attend.
- iii. It was suggested that Members needed to have more say in Public Meetings, including the themes, dates and locations. The Safer City Coordinator agreed to pass these comments back to the East Belfast DPCSP staff team.
- iv. In reference to the comments made, a Member suggested that the lack of confidence and attendance at Public Meetings was an issue for the Members of the Partnership, not just staff.

12. Emerging Issues

Funding Application

- i. Members were advised that, in line with the delegated authority granted to the Chair, Vice-Chair and Safer City Coordinator, funding of £1,100 had been granted to the Walkway Community Association for a community event on 17th September.

- ii. Members agreed that the event was an excellent way to showcase the area which had experienced much negative publicity in recent months. It was noted that a community consultation took place at the event, the results of which would be useful to the DPCSP.
- iii. The Safer City Coordinator also advised that, if requested, the monitoring and evaluation documents for projects could be made available to Members.

Project Delivery

- iv. Members discussed Chief Inspector Moore's suggestion that packages of support could be brought to communities where specific community safety issues had been identified, whether by the PSNI, DPCSP, or other statutory bodies.
- v. Members were supportive of the proactive suggestion, adding that given the apathy towards the DPCSP, such pilot projects could act as positive PR opportunities.
- vi. In line with this suggestion, the Safer City Coordinator suggested that Members may wish to consider providing further delegated authority to staff, allowing for more flexibility and an expedited project development process. He noted that other DPCSPs had done this, with update emails were sent to Members advising them of progress on project development.
- vii. Members welcomed this suggestion, and so the Safer City Coordinator advised that he would ask for an email to be sent to Members in early October laying out the process, and asked that Members respond to this to confirm their approval.

Burglary, Drug Misuse and CCTV

- viii. In response to a Members query, Chief Inspector Moore advised that statistics relating to burglary were currently positive, particularly in relation to older people, however there were still around 9 per week with occasional spikes in the figures. He added that the PSNI were now working with the NIFRS to promote crime prevention, and Operation Cordella was ongoing.
- ix. Chief Inspector Moore advised that a number of handbag snatches from elderly people had been reported recently, however they did not appear to be linked. He noted that Facebook had been producing very good results in relation to these crimes with immediate information being provided to police.
- x. In response to a query about the perception that crime was on the increase, he advised that this was not the case but that several incidents in small area may make it appear this way. He also advised that those found to be committing offences were often found to be travelling from other areas of the City.
- xi. It was agreed that a presentation from the Reducing Offending Unit may be useful to help Members understand how prolific offending is managed.
- xii. A Member questioned a recent search which had taken place, which residents believed was linked to heroin. Chief Inspector Moore confirmed that it was drug related, but not heroin. He added that the heroin issue was moving around Belfast parks and was on the increase, however the PSNI quad bike was useful in tracking drug activity in less accessible areas.
- xiii. A Member advised that there was a possibility that the CCTV deployed in Orangefield Park would be redeployed to C.S. Lewis Square, Holywood Arches. The Safer City

Coordinator added that a quotation for the supply of CCTV was due to be released by the Community Safety Unit in the coming months.

- xiv. Members discussed the need to support older and vulnerable residents in the coming months to which the Safer City Coordinator agreed to circulate information regarding the Handy-Person Home Safety Check and Repair Service.

13. Date of Next Meeting

- i. Members were reminded that the next meeting of the DPCSP would be held on Tuesday, 25th October in the East Belfast Network Centre.