

Minutes of the North Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Private Meeting

Conor Room, City Hall
Wednesday, 31st August 2016

Political Members

Councillor Mary Ellen Campbell
Councillor Mary Clarke
Alderman Guy Spence

Independent Members

Jennifer Cornell (Vice-Chair)
Michael Murray
Gerard O'Reilly

Designated Organisations

Harry Bradley, YJA
Liam Gunn, NIHE

David McComiskey, NIFRS
Inspector Kelly Moore, PSNI

Staff Present

Richard McLernon, Safer City Coordinator
Katharine McCrum, Partnership Support Officer

Apologies

Councillor Nuala McAllister (Chair)
Alderman Patrick Convery
Alderman Gareth McKee
Catherine Patrick
Gerald Solinas
Chief Inspector Steven Burns
Gabi Mornhinweg, H&SCT
Malachy McKinney, NIHE
Mark Nicholson, PBNI

NIPB Representatives

Wendy Osborne, Independent Member

1. Welcome and Routine Matters

- i. In the absence of the Chair, the Vice-Chair welcomed Members to the meeting and noted the apologies provided. She advised that the Chair was not in attendance due to the recent birth of her son and advised that she would be passing on the Partnership's best wishes to Councillor McAllister.

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 meetings of the North Belfast DPCSP noting that:
 - A letter of thanks to Inspectors Gavin Kirkpatrick and Roy Watton had been drafted and would be sent once signed,
 - A project proposal relating to Detached Youth and Diversionary Activity had been brought to the Private Meeting on 29th June and subsequently approved,

- Statutory Partners would be invited to attend Policing Committee meetings from now on,
 - The Good Relations Unit had been contacted regarding 'Ending Hate' Training,
 - Mark Nicholson had been added to the Drug and Substance Misuse Working Group,
 - A process for accessing the Community Engagement budget was currently being developed, and
 - A paper on the Youth Conference would be brought to the Partnership in October.
- ii. The Vice-Chair asked that the meeting relating to an online safety project involving Twitter/Facebook was placed back on the list of actions to be progressed.
 - iii. Members subsequently approved the minutes of the North Belfast DPCSP Private Meetings on 22nd and 29th June, copies of which had previously been circulated.
 - iv. At the request of Members it was agreed that in future, meetings of the Policing Committee would be held at 5.15pm followed by Private Meetings at 5.45pm, subject to review.

4. Chair's Update on the Belfast PCSP

- i. The Vice-Chair provided the following updates from the PCSP Meeting held on 15th August;
 - The Begging for Change Campaign Launch took place on the 20th June at Clifton House with the Lord Mayor in attendance. There was extensive media coverage for the two charities involved.
 - Equality Schemes and Disability Action Plans are currently out for consultation and will be submitted to the Equality Commission on 30th September.
 - The North Belfast DPCSP received two Place Making Awards for their work to support of the Greater Ardoyne Tension Monitoring Group – the NI Regional Award and overall UK Placemaking Team of the Year Award.
 - The 2 Fast 2 Soon Car Simulator has arrived and the DOJ have confirmed that they have sufficient underspend to fund the costs. Officers are currently working on a Service Level Agreement between the PCSP, PSNI and NI Fire and Rescue Service.

5. Members North Belfast Priorities and Emerging Issues

- i. Members condemned the recent attacks on the Fire Service and sought suggestions of how to engage with young people involved in anti-social behaviour. A Member reported increased verbal attacks, car crime, and attacks on emergency services and businesses in the New Lodge area.
- ii. A Member advised that community workers had in the past stepped in to defuse situations but as the previously utilised Mobile Phone Network was no longer in operation, this had fallen by the wayside to some extent.
- iii. David McComiskey, NIFRS, thanked Members for their comments adding that the Ambulance Service was also very much under attack, and that incidents were sporadic and had a knock on effect on emergency response. He added that NIFRS were always

keen to engage with young people and that while he was not aware of the Mobile Phone Network, if it was a useful tool he would welcome its use.

- iv. Harry Bradley, YJA, advised that the recently launched 'No Harm Done' DVD was being rolled out across schools in North Belfast and aimed to show the consequences of becoming involved in anti-social behaviour and criminality. He also made mention of a play delivered in West Belfast, 'Think How You Drink' which again demonstrated the consequences of drinking and anti-social behaviour. He also suggested that the LIFE Scheme operated by the NIFRS was a worthwhile course for young people.
- v. Liam Gunn, NIHE, updated Members on the loss of a property in the Shankill area following a bonfire, and thanked the NIFRS for their work at the site.
- vi. A Member advised that young people travelling across the City were becoming involved in anti-social behaviour and so a joint venture with interface workers could be useful. Social media's role in the organisation of prearranged fights was also discussed.
- vii. A Member suggested that interventions with primary aged children were important and that schools in areas beside anti-social behaviour hotspots could be targeted first.
- viii. At the Partnerships request a Member provided further information on the Mobile Phone Network and it was agreed that the DPCSP should consider supporting its reestablishment.

6. 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.
- ii. In response to a Member's question, Ms Osborne advised that she was not aware of any cuts to DPCSP budgets.
- iii. Members were reminded of the 4 Working Groups which were driving the delivery of the Action Plan and the 2 additional groups coordinated by the DPCSP Community Safety staff. The Safer City Coordinator added that if Members approved the Small Grants as suggested, an underspend of £10,000 would exist in this budget line that would need to be reallocated.
- iv. A Member suggested that the underspend could be put towards the continuation of detached youth work in the Upper Cavehill, Ballysillan and New Lodge areas.
- v. The Safer City Coordinator advised that detached youth work had been delivered in these areas on a short term basis and that a tender was currently being drafted to deliver longer term interventions. He added that the reactionary fund allowed for funding flexibility. The Partnership Support Officer reminded Members of the Change Control Process required by the Joint Committee when reallocating spend.
- vi. Members discussed the funds required to establish a project similar to the Mobile Phone Network and it was resolved that a workshop would be scheduled within the next two weeks with community groups, statutory agencies and DPCSP staff/Members with the aim of progressing an intercommunity communication project before Halloween.
- vii. Harry Bradley, YJA, advised that knife crime was becoming an emerging issue, and again something that would have an impact on the future employability of young people.

It was noted that the Heel and Ankle production funded by the DPCSP focussed on this issue and was a useful tool.

- viii. At the request of a Member, it was agreed that the times at which working groups are held would be staggered to ensure a range of Members could attend.
- ix. Members noted the Action Plan Progress Report.

7. North Belfast DPCSP Domestic Violence Initiative

- i. The Safer City Coordinator drew Members attention to a paper regarding the elements within the domestic violence quotation specification.
- ii. Members noted the report and approved the allocated £10,000 budget.

8. North Belfast DPCSP Small Grants

- i. Members were asked to grant delegated authority to a nominated 5 Member Panel which would be required to meet in early September to approve the scores allocated to PCSP Autumn Small Grants. Members were advised that a quorum of 3 Members was required.
- ii. Members agreed to grant delegated authority to be panel made up of the following Members; Councillor Mary Ellen Campbell, Michael Murray and Gerard O'Reilly.
- iii. Councillor Mary Ellen Campbell offered to host the meeting in the Deputy Lord Mayor's Parlour at 5pm on Tuesday, 6th September. The Safer City Coordinator advised that he would email all Members about the date to ensure that those not present had the opportunity to attend.

9. Date of Next Meetings

- i. Members were reminded that the next meeting of the North Belfast DPCSP would be a Public Event on Wednesday, 28th September; however a venue was still to be suggested.
- ii. In order of preference, the following venues were suggested; McCrory Church Hall - Duncairn Gardens, Fortwilliam and Macrory Church Hall - Antrim Road, New Lodge Youth Club, The Reccy - North Queen Street.
- iii. The Safer City Coordinator agreed to contact these venues and confirm the final arrangements with Members. He also reminded Members that the Public Event on 23rd November would be held at the North City Business Centre on the theme of online safety and business safety.