

Minutes of the West Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Policing Committee Meeting

Conor Room, City Hall

Wednesday, 24th August 2016

Political Members	Independent Members
Councillor Brian Heading (Chair) Councillor Matt Garrett	Breige Brownlee (Vice-Chair) Claire Canavan Eoin McShane
PSNI Representatives	
Chief Inspector Norman Haslett PSNI Inspector Alan Swann	
Staff Present	Apology
Alan Wardle, Safer City Coordinator Katharine McCrum, Partnership Support Officer	Liz Groves Councillor Stephen Magennis Alderman Frank McCoubrey Lauren Slane

1. Welcome and Routine Matters

- i. The Chair welcomed Members to the Policing Committee Meeting and noted the apology 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. Training Session (Amanda Mulholland, NI Policing Board)

- i. Amanda Mulholland, NI Policing Board thanked West Belfast DPCSP for the opportunity to attend the Policing Committee Meeting.
- ii. Amanda provided Members with an overview of the:
 - Northern Ireland Policing Board Partnership Committee;
 - Roles and responsibilities of the Policing Committee;
 - Engagement to date between the Partnership Committee and the Policing Committee; and,
 - How the Partnership Committee can support the Policing Committee.
- iii. Amanda informed Members that legislation does require both Political and Independent Members to be represented on the Policing Committee.
- iv. She highlighted to Members that the Board had noted that the format varied among (D)PCSP's of how Policing Committees monitor police performance. She commented that the Board had identified the need to address this to ensure consistency among DPCSP's.

- v. Amanda highlighted the importance of ensuring that Policing Committees are fit for purpose and also advised Members of the role DPCSP's would play in relation to Community Planning.
- vi. She made Members aware that the Board had reviewed the Annual Reports submitted by DPCSP's and a new Annual Report template would be circulated in due course.
- vii. Amanda advised Members that the Board would be requesting DPCSP's identify their top three area priorities.
- viii. A Member asked what the procedure had been for DPCSP's to highlight issues to the Policing Board. Amanda advised Members of the relevant Development Officers within the Policing Board that Members could contact if needed. She further advised Members that information can be brought to the Joint Committee by the Chairs/Vice Chairs of the (D)PCSP's.
- ix. A Member commented that, following the publication of the CJI Report, he disagreed with some of the recommendations from the report. He commented that he disagreed with the recommendation that Statutory Representatives should attend the Policing Committee. Amanda advised the Partnership, that it was the responsibility of how (D)PCSP's demonstrate to the Board how Statutory Organisations are updated on Policing Committee Meetings.
- x. Following a discussion, the Safer City Coordinator suggested for a separate meeting to be held with the PSNI to review how the PSNI's update report is presented at the Policing Committee and how the report can be amended to allow for the Statutory Organisations to compliment it. Chief Inspector Haslett welcomed this suggestion.
- xi. The Chair commented that all Partners should adopt a collaborative working approach.
- xii. The Chair thanked Amanda for her attendance at the West Belfast DPCSP Meeting and for her informative presentation.

4. West Belfast DPCSP Minutes & Matters Arising

- i. The Minutes of the West Belfast DPCSP Policing Committee Meeting held on 24th May, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct.
- ii. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

5. Area Commanders Update/Summary

- i. Chief Inspector Haslett provided Members with an update on West Belfast's Performance against the Local Policing Plan up to June 2016. The following key points were noted as being achieved:
 - An increase of 29.4% in relation to burglaries involving older people;
 - An increase of 3.5% in relation to offences committed against older people;
 - An decrease of 4.3% in relation to the outcome rates for crime with a sectarian motivation; and,
 - A decrease of 4.3% in relation to the number of anti social behaviour incidences.
- ii. He advised Members that there had been no information available in relation to the number of allegations of incivility/failure on duty. He further advised Members that there had been no specific details for West Belfast for the number of victim updates carried out, but commented that for Belfast an increase of 27.2% had been achieved in relation to this target.

- iii. A Member commented that it was important for PSNI statistics that were not available for circulation at this DPCSP Meeting, are presented to the Partnership when they are available.
- iv. Chief Inspector Haslett provided Members with an overview on local initiatives:
 - (a) Burglary – He advised Members that local officers had been distributing PCSP anti burglary leaflets to residents in high crime areas, in particularly Court West and Blackmountain areas. He further commented that in addition, officers had been working with Crime Prevention Officers and PCSP Members to visit vulnerable victims of crime providing support and guidance.
 - (b) ASB – He advised Members that the PSNI had been working with Belfast City Council, local schools, residents groups and St Galls GAA each weekend in order to deter crowds gathering in areas such as the Falls Park, Stewartstown Road and Finaghy Road North. He further advised Members that during this quarter Court West, Collin and Blackmountain neighbourhood officers have been proactively targeting known ASB hotspots, making a number of arrests for public order offences ranging from disorderly behaviour to riotous behaviour. Chief Inspector Haslett informed Members that neighbourhood officers were recently involved in a large scale test purchase operation into the illegal sale of alcohol. He commented that as a result, alcohol valued in excess of £2,000 had been seized and 2 males arrested and reported to PPS.
- v. Chief Inspector Haslett provided Members with an update regarding ongoing issues with prescription drugs. He further commented that following a recent robbery attempt on a local pharmacy, a meeting had been scheduled to take place with a local pharmacy to discuss attacks on chemist staff.
- vi. Chief Inspector Haslett updated Members that further reports had been received regarding scramblers and off road vehicles being driven recklessly around West Belfast. He commented that urgent work was needed to be put in place in order to review the registration requirements for off road vehicles.
- vii. A Member asked if there had been any scramblers/off road vehicles seized in West Belfast. Chief Inspector Haslett advised Members that there had been a few vehicles seized. He advised Members that he would provide accurate figures regarding the number of off road vehicles seized at the next DPCSP Private Meeting.
- viii. The Chief Inspector congratulated all partners involved in the management of the 8th/9th August Bonfires. He commented that this year had been a success and commended Belfast City Council for the removal of a large number of pallets and tyres from across West Belfast.
- ix. Chief Inspector Haslett also provided Members with an update regarding the implementation of body worn cameras by PSNI Officers. He advised Members that PSNI Officers would be wearing body worn cameras from November. He further commented that Chief Inspector Rachel Shields would be attending a future DPCSP Private Meeting to brief Members on the body worn cameras.
- x. A Member commented that reports had been received regarding young people gathering on the Black Staff Building Site and requested for the PSNI to monitor the area. Inspector Swann advised Members that he would notify the Neighbourhood Police Team of the reports received and monitor the area as requested.

- xi. A Member requested that the PSNI notify the Partnership on an ongoing basis of when and where burglaries were occurring. He commented that this would be useful information to relay back to the local community.

6. Emerging Issues

- i. A Member commented that there had been a number of incidents reported at the Colin Valley Golf Course. He requested the PSNI to monitor the area.
- ii. Inspector Swann advised Members the Neighbourhood Police Team, for the area, had been aware of the incidents at the Colin Valley Golf Course and would continue to monitor the area.