

Minutes of the Belfast Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Private Meeting

Conor Room, City Hall
Monday 12th December, 2016

Political Members	Independent Members
Councillor John Hussey (Chair)	Susan Russam (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Janice Austin	Debbie Hammill
Councillor Matt Garrett	Mary Lambe
Councillor Brian Heading	John Loughran
Councillor JJ Magee	John MacVicar
Alderman Jim Rodgers	Michael O'Hara
Alderman Tommy Sandford	

Designated Organisations	
Harry Bradley, YJA	Bryan Nelson, H&SCT
Chris Fee, NIFRS	Chief Superintendent Chris Noble, PSNI
Jonathan Howarth, PSNI	Helen Russell, NIHE
Eithne McIlroy, PBNI	

Staff Present	Apologies
Lorna Somers, Safer City Assistant Manager	Councillor Nuala McAllister
Denise Smith, Safer City Coordinator	Carmel McKinney
Katharine McCrum, Partnership Support Officer	Anne-Louise Toal
Rachel Fulton, Partnership Support Officer	

1. Welcome and Apologies

- i. The Chair welcomed Members to the meeting and noted the apologies provided. Bryan Nelson from the Health and Social Care Trust was welcomed to his first meeting of the Partnership.

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 14th November, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct.
- ii. The Safer City Coordinator provided an update on the actions from the previous meeting;
 - Costs relating to NIFRS callouts to bonfire sites are to be obtained from headquarters through the Chair, Carmel McKinney,
 - A letter to the NIAS regarding resources has been sent,

- Malone College has been identified as the first school taking part in the School Pastors Project and all protocols are in place. Further schools are in the process of being identified,
- The first meeting of the Transient Youth Working Group has been held,
- The good practice visit to Manchester will be postponed until 23rd January, 2017, subject to confirmation from the hosts,
- The issue of funding and possible reallocation of funds would be covered as part of the agenda,
- Due to a bereavement, the Crimestoppers presentation will be postponed until a later date,
- A letter to the Justice Minister regarding scramblers has been sent,
- Further information on the drug misuse case management system employed by a North Belfast school will be brought to Members when available, and
- The PSNI had previously clarified that footage deleted from the PSNI's Body Worn Video system could not be retrieved.

4. Presentation from Crimestoppers

- i. As previously noted, the Chair advised that the Crimestoppers presentation would be postponed until a later date.

5. Presentation on the Youth Volunteer Academy

- i. Jonathan Howarth provided Members with information on the PSNI's Youth Volunteer Academy (YVA), a structured youth organisation run in partnership by the Police Service and NI Ambulance Service which was derived from the Patten Recommendation to establish a police cadet scheme.
- ii. Members were advised that the 4 objectives of the YVA were to;
 - encourage good citizenship, learning and development and the spirit of adventure;
 - provide young people with an opportunity to be heard and have their say;
 - promote a practical and positive understanding of the emergency services, criminal justice system and wider public services; and,
 - build community relations.
- iii. Mr Howarth advised that since starting in March 2016, over 40 young people aged between 13 and 17 had signed up, 31% from the Catholic/Nationalist/Republican community, 61% the Protestant/Unionist/Loyalist community. Of that, 44% were female and 56% male.
- iv. Members were advised that the young people were from North and West Belfast in areas considered to be of "multiple deprivation" and that a number of issues were being demonstrated including vulnerability to paramilitary groups, health issues, drink and drug abuse, domestic turbulence and other non-policing issues. The topics covered by the course included a first-aid course; role playing a criminal investigation; engaging in question and answer sessions with ambulance personnel, senior police and local policing teams; exploring equality, suicide prevention, and online safety; visiting fire, ambulance and police establishments; and, ongoing completion of an OCN.
- v. Mr Howarth advised that future developments of the course would include work with Age NI to discuss vulnerability and meetings with Officers to discuss scrambler use.

- vi. Members were advised that changes as a result of the Scheme had been observed in the young people and that this had also been reported through an independent review, however securing funding remained a challenge.
- vii. In response to a query regarding costs, the PSNI confirmed that each Scheme required approximately £15,000 per year to cover facilities, rent, transport and other costs.
- viii. Members questioned the methods used to attract participants, and whether the scheme would be extended into South and East Belfast. Members were advised that a number of community and voluntary groups had been engaged with in order to attract participants to the Scheme, as well as agency referrals. Mr Howarth added that the Scheme was initially designed to cover all corners of the City however referrals had only come from the North and West, but referrals from other areas were welcome.
- ix. In response to queries regarding the evaluation of the Scheme, Chief Superintendent Noble advised that this had been completed by an external company and would be presented to the Chief Constable on 14th December. He added that sustainability was the challenge for the Youth Volunteer Academy given the costs and volunteer hours required to operate the programme.

6. Chair's Update

- i. The Chair provided Members with the following update:
 - The Business Crime Forum is hosting a conference on cybercrime on 29th March from 9.30am – 1.30pm in Belfast. Members were asked to hold this date in their diary.
 - A 'My Syria' Exhibition will be held on 15th December in Belfast Central Library between 6-8pm.
- ii. Michael O'Hara provided Members with an update on a meeting held with a delegation from the Jammu and Kashmir region on 30th November. He advised that the group of journalists, academics and community activists were interested in the transformation which had taken place in Northern Ireland over the past 20 years, and the models that had been used to achieve this.

7. Update from Designated Partners

PBNI

- i. Eithne McIlroy provided Members with information on the number of clients being supervised by the Probation Board, and the type of orders being supervised. She asked Members to contact her if they wished to receive any other types of information.

NIHE

- ii. Helen Russell provided an update on a major recruitment process being undertaken to transform service delivery, and a recent street audit carried out to identify and case manage homeless and vulnerable people. She also advised that work was ongoing with the Simon Community to assist people to move from hostels into the private rented sector, thus freeing spaces for other people in need.

NIFRS

- iii. Chris Fee advised that the Fire and Rescue Service were focusing on the delivery of home fire safety checks to over 60's and vulnerable people. He also provided information on pilot projects with Strandtown PSNI and Bryson Energy in order to reach people at risk.
- iv. Members were provided with statistics on the number of major fires, deliberate ignitions, rescues, casualties and attacks on firefighters during November, 2016.
- v. A Member raised concerns at the number of attacks directed at blue light services, however Assistant Group Commander Fee noted that the number of attacks had dropped significantly over the last 5 years thanks to partnership working with communities and other agencies.

PSNI

- vi. Chief Superintendent Noble provided Members with an update on pertinent issues including drugs seizures and Operation Torus (which focuses on street level drug dealing), the seizure of counterfeit goods, work done by the Reducing Offending Unit, incidents of theft and anti-social behaviour and key sporting fixtures. He also provided information on Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) undertaken by Officers.
- vii. With regards to the PSNI's Christmas Operation, Members were advised that more Officers were now on the streets and that while security was one aspect of the operation, the safety of shoppers, retailers and residents was the key focus. Chief Superintendent Noble also welcomed feedback on the increased police presence.
- viii. Members were advised that violent crime and burglary figures were significantly lower when compared to the previous year, while anti-social behaviour and bike thefts were up. Chief Superintendent Noble noted that work regarding begging, particularly professional begging, was ongoing and the message being disseminated was to not provide people on the streets with money.
- ix. Chief Superintendent Noble made mention of an incident at the David Ervine Memorial, and advised that 2 arrests had been made. He also advised that investigations were ongoing regarding a video which had been released reportedly showing an AK47 and rocket launcher in the Ardoyne area.
- x. A Member asked if the bail conditions of those released at Christmas could be provided to key community representatives to assist communities in reporting breaches, given the impact that increased anti-social behaviour has over the holiday period. The negative impact of stop and searches when used at the wrong time or place was also noted.
- xi. Chief Superintendent Noble took both points on board, and noted that some groupings were intent on generating negative media regarding the use of stop and search powers.
- xii. Members discussed the case of a 91 year old man who had approximately £20,000 of money stolen over a 2 year period and noted that the recently launched Scamwise Campaign could help to raise awareness of such activity. Members were asked to 'like and share' the information which was available on the PCSP Facebook site.
- xiii. A Member questioned what work was being done to win the hearts and minds of communities and how the PSNI could more effectively highlight the message that they

were there to offer a service to communities. Chief Superintendent Noble advised that he welcomed the opportunity to discuss such issues with PCSP Members.

- xiv. With regards to the number of charges resulting from drug arrests, Chief Superintendent Noble confirmed that following tests and other evidence gathering, it is sometimes the case that charges cannot be brought and other methods of disposal are utilised.
- xv. A Member requested that additional resources were put in place to deal with the crowds attending rugby matches at the Kingspan Stadium given the impact on local residents in the Cregagh Estate. Chief Superintendent Noble advised that up to 40 Officers would be attending matches to direct traffic however this was not necessarily a good use of police time. He added that with fewer resources, priorities needed to be balanced.
- xvi. At the request of a Member, Chief Superintendent Noble clarified that if access or driveways were blocked, those responsible could be charged with obstruction however this would be following a graduated response with most cases resulting in the offending vehicle being moved without issue.

8. Safer City Update

- i. The Safer City Coordinator reminded Members of Belfast City Council and the PCSP's commitment to creating a Safe City and the steps that had been taken in order to achieve Safe City accreditation.
- ii. Members were advised that the Council's HR Department continued to work closely with Onus in order to develop a workplace policy on domestic violence and deliver training to employees.
- iii. Members noted the contents of the report.

9. (D)PCSP Action Plan Progress Reports and Financial Spend Update

- i. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised Members that Progress Reports from each of the (D)PCSPs were provided within the papers, as was a financial spend report. She advised that while £195,000 remained within the 'planned' column, and £51,000 was unallocated, no Partnership was declaring an underspend at this stage. She added that without declared underspends, the PCSP was not in a position to develop or reallocate funding to new projects and so it was possible that any emerging underspends would need to be diverted towards extending existing projects, should the situation arise.
- ii. Members were further advised that the 'planned' total included a number of quotations which had recently been issued, which if successful would reduce this figure by £50,000.
- iii. A Member advised that the West Belfast DPCSP had a number of developed projects which could be delivered if funding became available. It was suggested that other DPCSPs should be approached regarding similar projects in their areas and a list of priority projects developed.
- iv. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised that a number of Citywide Projects had been developed and were now included in each of the DPCSP Plans, however some would require a quotation process to be undertaken which would delay delivery.

- v. She outlined the new process for proprietary spend and advised that any underspends would be returned to the Joint Committee and may affect the funding provided to the Belfast PCSP in future.
- vi. Members noted the importance of quotation processes when utilising public funds but agreed that the timeframes involved were frustrating.
- vii. Members discussed the initial allocation of funds to DPCSPs which was based on population and need, and the good work being undertaken in areas that was often not being well resourced.
- viii. Following further discussion, a Member suggested that if the quotations discussed were not successful in securing project delivery, Chairs and Vice-Chairs could meet in early January to review the situation and discuss reallocation of funds.
- ix. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised that the closing dates for the quotations were 23rd and 29th December and so scoring would take place during the first week of January. She added that she would speak with each of the DPCSP Coordinators to ascertain if they had projects ready for delivery before the meeting of the Chairs and Vice-Chairs.
- x. Given the timeframe involved, Members were also asked to provide delegated authority to the Chairs and Vice-Chairs regarding the reallocation of funds. The Safer City Assistant Manager also requested a slight amendment to the proposal, to include the option to provide additional funds to existing projects.
- xi. In response to a query as to how the fair distribution of funds would be ensured, the Safer City Assistant Manager advised that the initial budgets were divided based on need however at this late stage a decision on how to spend the full budget was needed. She added that expanding on existing Citywide projects such as the Drug Dealers Don't Care Campaign and the Street Management Strategy allowed impact to be delivered both in the City Centre and locally.
- xii. Members approved the amended proposal as outlined by the Safer City Assistant Manager.

10. 2017/2018 (D)PCSP Action Plan Process

- i. Members were advised that the Joint Committee would require the 2017/2018 Action Plan by February, 2017. The Safer City Assistant Manager noted that a redesigned Plan was not expected, but instead further development and improvement of existing work and analysis of what was working well and what had not been so successful was requested.
- ii. Members were asked to approve the allocation of £3,000 towards several co-design workshops in order to look at some key themes for development.
- iii. A Member suggested that the theme of child safety would ensure parents and schools were more bought in to the delivery of projects.
- iv. The Safer City Assistant Manager took on board this comment adding that the Plan would need to be designed from an Outcome Based Accountability (OBA) outlook.
- v. Members approved the allocation of £3,000 towards the co-design workshops from Strategic Objective 1 of the Action Plan.

11. Programme for Government, Outcome 7 Consultation

- i. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised Members that an online consultation on the Programme for Government was currently available for comment however no key issues for the PCSP were evident. She noted that this may not be the case for other Members or Statutory Partners and so it was suggested that a response would be circulated via email for comment.
- ii. Members approved this course of action.

12. Any Other Business

Anti-Social Behaviour Public Event

- i. The Safer City Assistant Manager reminded Members that the PCSP would be co-hosting a public meeting alongside the NI Policing Board on 23rd January on the theme of Anti-Social Behaviour.
- ii. Members were advised that the suggested agenda for the day included information from Ryan Henderson on Anti-Social Behaviour Pilot areas, Belfast PCSP good practice and the launch of the scrambler billboard campaign.
- iii. A Member suggested that local best practice examples relating to community policing could be included as part of the agenda.

Belfast Agenda

- iv. Members agreed to host a joint briefing with DPCSPs in February in order to hear updates on the Belfast Agenda which was currently out for public consultation.

13. Date of Next Meeting

- i. The Chair reminded Members that the next meeting of the PCSP would be held on Monday, 16th January in the Lavery Room, City Hall.