

# Minutes of the Belfast Policing and Community Safety Partnership

## Private Meeting

Conor Room, City Hall  
Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January, 2017

<b>Political Members</b>	<b>Independent Members</b>
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
Councillor Geraldine McAteer	Carmel McKinney
Alderman Jim Rodgers	
Alderman Tommy Sandford	
<b>Designated Organisations</b>	
Chris Fee, NIFRS	Chief Superintendent Chris Noble, PSNI
Eithne McIlroy, PBNI	Helen Russell, NIHE
Patricia Muldoon, YJA	Chief Inspector David Shanks, PSNI
Bryan Nelson, H&SCT	
<b>Staff Present</b>	<b>Apologies</b>
Alison Allen, Safer City Manager	Councillor Nuala McAllister
Denise Smith, Safer City Coordinator	Michael O'Hara
Katharine McCrum, Partnership Support Officer	Anne-Louise Toal

### 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 12th December, 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;
  - A meeting of the Chairs and Vice-Chairs took place on 11<sup>th</sup> January at which projects were ranked in order of priority should underspends be identified.
  - Discussions had taken place with a consultant regarding co-design workshops and meeting dates would be circulated to Members in the coming weeks.
  - Information on the Programme for Government had been circulated.
  - A Joint Briefing had been arranged after the Private Meeting on Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> February in order to hear updates on the Belfast Agenda.

- A presentation from Crimestoppers would be rescheduled to take place in February or March 2017, agenda permitting.
- Several Members had indicated interest in attending the good practice visit to Manchester. The date of the visit was still to be confirmed, likely between 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> February.
- Information was still outstanding from the North Belfast School regarding the drug misuse case management system.

#### **4. Chairs Update**

- The Chair provided Members with the following update:
  - The NIPB/PCSP Public Meeting will be held on Monday 23rd January in the Banqueting Hall, City Hall at 7pm. Members were asked to circulate invites to community contacts that would be interested in attending. Designated organisations were asked to confirm if they wish to take a stand at the event.
  - The PCSP will host a Joint Briefing on Monday 13th February at 7pm in the Reception Hall. The purpose of the briefing will be to advise all DPCSP Members about the latest information on the Belfast Agenda and the public consultation which closes on 9 March 2017.
  - PSNI's Public Protection Branch will be making a presentation to the PCSP at its meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> February.

#### **5. (D)PCSP Action Plans – Progress Reports and Financial Spend Update**

- The Safer City Manager advised Members that Chairs and Vice-Chairs had met on 11<sup>th</sup> January to discuss (D)PCSP Actions Plans and the reallocation of possible underspends. She advised that Members had agreed to direct any underspends towards the following 3 projects in order of priority;
  - Beat the Burglar Project (Citywide)
  - Drug Dealers Don't Care Campaign (Citywide)
  - Lenadoon Park Youth Provision (West Belfast)
- Members were advised that of the £780,149 operational budget, £482,712 was either spent or committed, leaving £297,437 in planned activities. The Safer City Manager noted that up to £64,000 of these 'planned' activities were not at a progressed stage and so there was some concern as to whether these could be delivered within the timeframe available.
- Members were therefore asked to consider providing delegated authority to the Safer City Manager in order to deliver to capacity each of the 3 previously approved projects should further underspends become apparent.
- Several of those present at the Chair/Vice-Chair Meeting noted that a preference for Citywide Projects had been agreed, and that the Lenadoon Park project could offer useful outcomes for the Citywide Transient Youth Project.
- A Member questioned at what point the decision would be made to provide further funding to these projects, and why there had been a delay in issuing letters of offer to (D)PCSP projects.

- vi. The Safer City Manager advised that developing projects and making contacts with relevant stakeholders could take time. She added that she would be asking each of the (D)PCSP Coordinators to have letters of offer issued by the end of the week, at which point any unassigned budgets would begin to be reallocated.
- vii. In response to a query regarding whether a 4<sup>th</sup> project could be considered, the Chair advised that (D)PCSPs had previously been asked to submit project proposals for consideration and that the list of options had been agreed and ranked by the Chairs and Vice-Chairs.
- viii. A Member noted that the RAG rated Action Plans had been useful in allowing Members to clearly see how work was progressing and suggested that such reports were provided quarterly from now on.
- ix. The list of project proposals was welcomed, and a Member suggested that stakeholders involved in the Lenadoon Park project should be invited to make a presentation to the PCSP as part of its evaluation.
- x. Following further discussion, Members approved the next steps regarding the (D)PCSP 2016/2017 budgets which were recapped by the Safer City Manager as;
  - (D)PCSP Coordinators will be advised of the deadline for sending out Letters of Offer relating to £64,000 of 'at risk' planned expenditure.
  - After this time, unassigned budgets will be reallocated as underspends.
  - Underspends will be allocated to the 3 projects previously approved by the Chairs and Vice-Chairs (Beat the Burglar Project, Drug Dealers Don't Care Campaign and Lenadoon Park Youth Provision)
  - Delegated authority to progress these steps is provided to the Safer City Manager.

## **6. Update from Designated Partners**

### NIFRS

- i. Chris Fee advised that the number of fire calls during December was down when compared to previous months, with a peak in calls coming at Halloween.
- ii. With regards to costs associated with July bonfires, Members were advised that costs were notional as crews were operating on a 24 hour, 7 days a week basis. The Area Group Commander advised that between 27<sup>th</sup> June and 10<sup>th</sup> July, 28 call outs were made at a cost of £105,000 and between 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> July, 13 call outs were made at a cost of £42,000. He added that these had no effect on the overall NIFRS budget.

### PBNI

- iii. Eithne McIlroy advised that the PBNI Graffiti Van would be launched at the end of March in partnership with Belfast City Council. She added that the Van would be staffed by probation officers and those on community service orders.

### PSNI

- iv. Chief Superintendent Noble provided Members with an update on significant events including recent drug related deaths, heroin operations, crime prevention work including bicycle crime and the PSNI's Christmas Operation.

- v. He also advised that bail conditions were becoming an emerging issue and so Members may wish to hear more information about this at a future meeting.
- vi. In response to a query regarding the number of under 25 year olds who had collapsed or died over the Christmas period, Chief Superintendent Noble advised that between 23<sup>rd</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> December, 4 young people had died and whilst poly-drug use was suspected as the cause, this conclusion was subject to Coroners inquests.
- vii. Following a question about the number of people charged or in custody following heroin operations, Chief Superintendent Noble agreed to obtain this information for Members.
- viii. Members were advised that crime statistics were showing a positive trend with an 8.9% reduction in overall crime, 21.0% reduction in domestic burglary, 25.5% reduction in robbery and 7.4% reduction in violence against the person.

## **7. DePaul Research Project Proposal**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that the working group who developed the Begging for Change Campaign continued to meet, and that the requirement for additional research to direct future campaigns had been identified.
- ii. She added that DePaul were working with a consultant in Dublin who they were keen to engage with in Belfast and that best practice options were being investigated. Members were reminded that £5,000 had been allocated to this work and advised that an update on its progress would be provided at a future meeting.
- iii. Members noted the update provided.

## **8. Domestic Violence App**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised that due to project contributions from the DPCSPs, the PCSP had not yet fully allocated its budget for tackling Domestic Violence. She advised that the Domestic Violence Partnership had proposed the development of an App which would be used by victims and front line staff in order to increase access to support services.
- ii. Members were advised that the App would cost £8,500 and could be developed before the end of the financial year.
- iii. Members considered the report and agreed for a quotation to be issued in order to develop the App at a cost of £8,500.

## **9. Supporting Hostels Update**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator reminded Members that the budget initially allocated to raising awareness of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) had been aligned to support staff in hostels and children's homes dealing with drugs issues. Following discussions with these groups, a call for 'expressions of interest' was issued along 3 themes; addressing health needs of clients, providing social and recreational alternatives, and staff development and/or self-care for staff.

- ii. Members were advised that 7 expressions of interest had been received and each would be developed at a total cost of £5,695 with the condition that any learning was shared between the organisations involved.
- iii. Members approved the budget and agreed to provide delegated authority to Officers to progress with the allocation of funds.

#### **10. Human Trafficking Event Proposal**

- i. The Safer City Manager reminded Members that the PCSP, in partnership with the Department of Justice, previously ran a Human Trafficking awareness event for front line staff. Members were asked to approve funding of £1,000 towards a 2<sup>nd</sup> event on 1<sup>st</sup> February at the request of the Human Trafficking Engagement Group.
- ii. Members noted the contents of the report and approved the budget of £1,000.
- iii. The Safer City Manager confirmed that both statutory and community front line staff would be encouraged to attend and that invites would be sent to (D)PCSP Members to disseminate.

#### **11. Date of Next Meeting**

- i. The Chair advised Members that the next meeting of the PCSP would be held on Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> February in the Lavery Room, City Hall.