

Minutes of the Belfast Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Private Meeting

Lavery Room, City Hall
Monday 13th February, 2017

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	
Chris Fee, NIFRS	Inspector Kelly Moore, PSNI
Superintendent Melanie Jones, PSNI	Patricia Muldoon, YJA
Eithne McIlroy, PBNI	Helen Russell, NIHE

Staff Present	Apologies
Lorna Somers, Safer City Assistant Manager	Carmel McKinney
Denise Smith, Safer City Coordinator	Anne-Louise Toal
Katharine McCrum, Partnership Support Officer	Bryan Nelson, H&SCT
	Chief Superintendent Chris Noble, PSNI

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.
- ii. Debbie Hammill declared an interest in item 7.

3. PSNI's Public Protection Branch

(Detective Chief Superintendent George Clarke and Detective Chief Inspector Anne Marks, PSNI, attended in relation to this item).

- i. Detective Chief Superintendent George Clarke provided Members with information on the work of the PSNI's Public Protection Branch.
- ii. Members were advised that the Branch included a Rape Crime Unit, Child Internet Protection Team, Offender Management and Central Referral Unit. In addition, 5 Public Protection Units aligned with Health and Social Care Trusts tackle Child Abuse Investigations, Child Sexual Exploitation, E-Safety, Local Offender Management, Domestic Abuse and Adult Safeguarding.

- iii. Members were told that reports of sexual offences were up by around 40% when compared with previous years which may be in part due to changes in the law, process and an increase in historical reports.
- iv. D/Chief Superintendent Clarke noted that recidivism amongst sexual and violent offenders was low however management alongside the Probation Board was an important aspect of the Unit's work.
- v. With regards to Domestic Abuse, Members were advised that this accounted for 1 in 8 crimes reported to the PSNI and that underreporting was a recognised problem.
- vi. D/Chief Superintendent Clarke advised that his team were keen to work with and speak to all relevant groups regarding their work, and that the rollout of e-safety education for parents and young people was hoped for with the help of PCSPs.

Questions from Members

- vii. A Member questioned how victims and perpetrators from other countries were managed to which D/Chief Superintendent Clarke advised that if they had been sentenced outside of the UK, they would not sit within Public Protection arrangements. He noted that the PSNI worked with independent advisory groups to ensure that messages regarding how vulnerable people could protect themselves was distributed, as well as information about the law in Northern Ireland.
- viii. Superintendent Jones added that once a person was in custody, a database was consulted regarding all convictions which was then used to build a picture for possible deportation.
- ix. Members discussed the use of social media sites by primary school aged children, and questioned what the PCSP could do to promote online safety.
- x. D/Chief Superintendent Clarke advised that legally no child under 13 should have a social media account on the likes of Facebook, and that parents had an obligation to learn about online activity and to remain involved with such activities. He suggested that parents download the NSPCC NetAware App which provided a simple guide to the social media networks used by young people.
- xi. He advised that the PSNI would hope to work closely with PCSPs to distribute the e-safety message but that the positive points of social media also needed to be acknowledged.
- xii. Members discussed the use of social media further, questioning how often Facebook pages or Apps were hacked in order to gain access to children's accounts or cameras.
- xiii. D/Chief Superintendent Clarke advised that hacking was not a major issue and that in general the problem was much more simple with fake accounts being set up to be befriend young people, gain their trust and then exploit them. He also advised that one of the measures taken with offenders was to restrict their access to the internet.
- xiv. Members agreed to consider supporting e-safety campaigns through the 2017/2018 Action Plan.
- xv. The Chair thanked D/Chief Superintendent Clarke for the informative presentation at which point he and D/Chief Inspector Marks left the meeting.

4. Minutes

- i. The minutes of the Belfast PCSP Meeting held on 16th January, 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;
 - Underspends within the (D)PCSP budgets had been redirected towards the 'Drug Dealers Don't Care' and 'Beat the Burglar' Campaigns, as previously agreed by Members.
 - Further information regarding bail conditions would be provided by Inspector Moore.
 - Superintendent Jones advised that from the 51 Op Envemo deployments, 56 arrests had been made, 43 for drug offences. She advised that 411 wraps of heroin had been seized with a street value of around £10,500.
 - The PCSP Human Trafficking Event took place on 1st February.
 - A presentation from Crimestoppers would be scheduled at the March meeting.
 - Further information on the good practice visit to Manchester would be provided under Item 11 of the agenda.
 - Information regarding the drug misuse case management system was still outstanding.
- iii. Inspector Moore advised that carrying out bail checks was an essential multi-disciplinary task carried out by the PSNI's Reducing Offending Unit alongside arresting Officers. She advised that through Operation Seeker, a daily list of approximately 12 people were selected for checks and that these were carried out by a range of teams and then assessed the following day with any breaches reported for follow up and possible arrest.
- iv. Members were advised that G4S were also involved in monitoring offenders via electronic tags, however many of those released on bail did not have any conditions to check on.
- v. Inspector Moore noted that the process was not perfect and that Officers were looking at how to improve and tighten procedures. She added that a Northern Ireland wide corporate review of bail management was ongoing and that the procedures just outlined were specific to Belfast.
- vi. A Member advised that communities were frustrated when it came to bail, often questioning why it was granted at all.
- vii. Inspector Moore advised that the PSNI had input into a Court's decision on whether to grant bail, however it was the Court who made the final decision. Superintendent Jones confirmed that the procedures were largely similar to those used in the rest of the UK.
- viii. With regards to the reallocation of underspends, a Member questioned why the Lenadoon Project had not gone ahead. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised that underspends had been directed to agreed projects in order of priority as agreed by Members, and that no funds remained to deliver the 3rd project on the list.

5. Chair's Update

- i. The Chair provided Members with the following update:

- A Joint Briefing would be held following the meeting to review the Belfast Agenda and the public consultation which closes on 9 March 2017.
- The PCSP Conference 'Delivering a Difference' will be held on 8 March in Titanic Belfast from 9.30am to 3.30pm
- The Joint Committee would be initiating bi-annual governance meetings with the Chairs, Vice Chairs and Managers of PCSPs and DPCSPs beginning on the 21st February.

6. Update from Designated Partners

NIFRS

- i. Chris Fee reminded Members that the Fire and Rescue Service were focusing on the delivery of home fire safety checks to over 60's and vulnerable people and asked people to get in touch regarding referrals.
- ii. Members were provided with statistics on the number of major fires, deliberate ignitions, rescues, casualties and attacks on firefighters during January, 2017.
- iii. A Member commended the NIFRS on the prompt service recently provided following a request for a home fire safety check.

PBNI

- iv. Eithne McIlroy outlined the Probation Board's programme working alongside the Irish Football Association (IFA) and Reducing Offending in Partnership (ROP) to reduce offending through the medium of sport.
- v. Members were also advised that in partnership with Belfast City Council, the graffiti van service, whereby offenders will complete community service orders, would all being well be in operation in April, 2017.

PSNI

- vi. Superintendent Jones directed Members to the update provided which included information on the recent shooting of an Officer and shootings in West Belfast.
- vii. In response to a query as to the welfare of the Officer in question, Superintendent Jones advised that he was progressing well and had left hospital, however there was still a long path to recovery. She advised that the second Officer involved had returned to work.
- viii. Members passed on their best wishes to the injured Officer.
- ix. A Member queried why a forensic team had not visited the scene of the shooting until the following day. Superintendent Jones advised that given the size of the site, an effective search could not be conducted at night and so, following advice, it was carried out once light was sufficient.
- x. In response to a query regarding what else was found during heroin searches, Superintendent Jones advised that prescription drugs and so called 'legal highs' had also been recovered. The Member suggested that this information should be publicised as often the public viewed dealers differently depending on the types of drugs they sold. Superintendent Jones added that the PSNI were continuing to work with the Public Health Agency (PHA) on drug related issues.

7. (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.
- ii. Members noted the reports provided.

8. 2017/2018 (D)PCSP Small Grants

- i. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised Members that 36 PCSP Small Grant applications had been received for 2017 Tranche 1 and asked Members to consider approving a Small Grants budget of £20,000 for the 2017/2018 financial year. It was noted that given the current political situation, there was no certainty about when a letter of offer would be received, however this sum was in line with what had been agreed in previous years.
- ii. Members were also asked to nominate and provide delegated authority to a Member Panel of 5 to approve the applications on behalf of the Partnership.
- iii. The following Members agreed to take part in the Member Panel; Councillor Hussey, Alderman Rodgers, Susan Russam, John Loughran and Michael O'Hara. Members agreed to provide delegated authority to the Member Panel and to provide an annual budget of £20,000 as suggested.
- iv. It was agreed that the panel would meet prior to the PCSP Meeting on 13th March with an email being circulated to confirm a time and venue.

9. 2017/2018 (D)PCSP Action Plan Process

- i. Members were reminded of the agreed process for developing the 2017/2018 Action Plan and advised that SJC Consultancy had been contracted to facilitate the co-design workshops given their experience in other areas of Council.
- ii. Members were asked to advise of their availability to attend workshops on 24th February and 6th March and to pass on the invite to statutory partners on each of the DPCSPs.
- iii. A Member noted that attending meetings during the afternoon was difficult due to other work commitments to which the Safer City Assistant Manager advised that evening meetings were arranged where possible.
- iv. In response to a query from a Member, the Safer City Assistant Manager confirmed that no tender process was completed when hiring SJC Consultancy as the cost was below the necessary procurement threshold.
- v. Members noted the update provided.

10. Drug Dealers Don't Care Campaign – Budget Update

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that a redesigned 'Drug Dealers Don't Care' Campaign would be launched on 27th February, running for 4 weeks and focusing

on poly-drug use. She advised that additional money had been allocated to the Campaign as previously agreed, details of which were laid out within the paper.

- ii. Members noted the update and approved the amended overall budget to £55,487.50 to include underspends identified as follows;
 - Security Scheme £12,000
 - Transient Youth £8,700
 - Criminal Justice Awareness Raising £2,624.50
 - Administration (BCC) £2,168

11. Operation Challenger

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised that the good practice visit to Manchester had recently taken place and invited Members who attended to speak about what had been learnt. It was agreed however that more time than was available was needed to review the trip, therefore discussion regarding Operation Challenger was deferred until the next meeting.

12. Date of Next Meeting

- i. The Chair reminded Members that the next meeting of the PCSP would be held on Monday, 13th March in the Lavery Room, City Hall.