

# Minutes of the Belfast Policing and Community Safety Partnership

## Private Meeting

Lavery Room, City Hall  
Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March, 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 MacVicar
Councillor JJ Magee	Carmel McKinney
Alderman Jim Rodgers	
Alderman Tommy Sandford	

  

<b>Designated Organisations</b>	
Davy Harbinson, NIFRS	Bryan Nelson, H&SCT
Eithne McIlroy, PBNI	Chief Superintendent Chris Noble, PSNI
Patricia Muldoon, YJA	

  

<b>Staff Present</b>	<b>Apologies</b>
Alison Allen, Safer City Manager	John Loughran
Denise Smith, Safer City Coordinator	Michael O'Hara
Katharine McCrum, Partnership Support Officer	Anne-Louise Toal
	Chris Fee, NIFRS
	Helen Russell, NIHE

### 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. PSNI's Reducing Offending Unit

- i. Members were advised that the Officer due to present was unable to attend and so the presentation would be rescheduled to the next PCSP Meeting.

### 4. Minutes

- i. The minutes of the Belfast PCSP Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> February, 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;

- Support for e-safety campaigns will be considered as part of the 2017/2018 Action Plan under the heading of Cyber Crime,
- The Small Grants Panel was due to take place prior to the PCSP meeting but due to lack of attendance, the recommendations would be discussed under item 9 of the agenda,
- An update on the good practice visit to Manchester would be provided under item 8 of the agenda,
- Crimestoppers will be invited to speak to Members at the PCSP Meeting in May,
- Further information on the drug misuse case management system used in a North Belfast School will be provided when appropriate.

## **5. Chair's Update**

- i. The Chair provided Members with the following update:
  - The PCSP Conference 'Delivering a Difference' was held on 8th March in Titanic Belfast.
  - The Drug Dealers Don't Care Campaign was launched on 27<sup>th</sup> February. Local events to compliment the Campaign would be held across the City during March.

## **6. 2017 Bonfire Programme**

(Margaret Higgins, Senior Good Relations Officer, attended in relation to this item)

- i. Members were provided with an update on the Bonfire and Cultural Expression Programme which had recently been agreed by Council.
- ii. Ms. Higgins reminded Members that £15,000 had been provided to support the Programme in the past and asked Members to consider increasing the current level of funding. Members were also asked to consider taking over the funding and administration of funds to groups who deliver activity associated with August bonfires as this element is not linked to positive cultural expression. Three options were presented to Members:
  1. PCSP to provide and administer funding of £10,500 towards August bonfire activity.
  2. PCSP to provide £5,500 towards August bonfire activity while Good Relations will continue to fund £5,000. Administration of funds to be carried out by the PCSP and all funding for the programme to be provided by the PCSP in 2018.
  3. Good Relations Unit continue to fund and administer activities relating to August bonfire activity with the PCSP taking on the responsibility in 2018.
- iii. It was noted that the budget for the Bonfire and Cultural Expression Programme was not yet finalised and that the associated work was 1 of 7 strategic work streams undertaken by the Council in relation to bonfire sites.
- iv. In response to a query regarding whether the £10,500 of funding for August activities covered all of the areas/groups previously involved, Ms. Higgins advised that only the Divis area was not involved as no requests had been received from this area.
- v. A Member welcomed the separation of July and August bonfire funding and proposed that Option 1 should be supported by the Partnership. It was also noted that August bonfires should be referred to as 'unwanted'. This proposal was seconded and agreed by all Members, as was the continuation of £15,000 of funding towards the Bonfire and Cultural Expression Programme.

## **7. Update from Designated Partners**

### NIFRS

- i. Davy Harbinson advised Members that the NIFRS had attended 42 major fires and 55 secondary fires during February, 2017 which involved 4 rescues and 11 casualties. He also advised that there were 2 attacks on fire fighters during this period.

### PSNI

- ii. Chief Superintendent Noble summarised the report provided noting that the PSNI was working with the NIFRS on a pilot project in East Belfast given the overlap in work. He also referenced a number of high profile cases across the City including the theft of a car containing 3 children and an arrest following handbag thefts in East Belfast. He also noted the work being undertaken with regards to St Patricks Day and advised that an update would be provided to Members after the event.

### PBNI

- iii. Eithne Mcllroy advised that the Probation Board had recently launched an App for Smartphones for use by clients. She advised that the App would provide advice and contacts for people on probation, including information on addiction and mental health issues.
- iv. In response to a query regarding whether the App was developed in partnership with the Health Trust and whether other agencies would be developing similar Apps, Eithne Mcllroy advised that PBNI worked closely with relevant agencies to deliver the App but she was not aware of their intention to develop their own.

## **8. Operation Challenger Study Visit**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that the good practice study visit to Manchester had taken place on 8<sup>th</sup> February and involved Belfast City Council staff, PCSP, NIHE and PSNI staff. She advised that the group met with senior police and elected representatives who explained the integrated approach, outcomes and challenges associated with information sharing, co-location and the capacity building approach used in tackling organised crime.
- ii. A Member who took part in the visit underlined the importance of data sharing and the relevant agencies being located in the one building. He also noted that Operation Challenger focused on wider issues than enforcement including community support packages which each partner had bought into.
- iii. It was noted that further exploration of the model was needed including how it could be adapted to suit Belfast.
- iv. The NIFRS noted their desire to be included in future discussions and/or practice visits.

## **9. 2017/2018 (D)PCSP Small Grants**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that the Small Grants Panel were unable to approve the Small Grants applications as the quorum of Members was not present.

The Vice-Chair was therefore asked to provide a summary of each application for consideration by the full Partnership.

1. Féile An Phobail, Us and Them – Challenging Perceptions and Attitudes - £5,000
2. Belfast Unemployed Resource Centre, Journeys – £3,536
3. Men’s Advisory Project, First Foot forward Project - £13,010

- ii. Following a summary of each project and advice regarding Officers suggestions, Members resolved to fund the Féile An Phobail Project and, subject to clarification regarding dates, the Belfast Unemployment Resource Centre Project. It was agreed that funding would not be provided to the Men’s Advisory Project given that the project was over budget, not within the timescale and was lacking detail.

#### **10. 2017/2018 (D)PCSP Funding Model**

- i. The Safer City Manager advised Members that indications from the Joint Committee were that 90% of the current funding would be made available during 2017/2018 therefore some savings would be necessary. She added that current uncertainty from Central Government was likely to delay receipt of a formal letter of offer meaning any interim spend would be ‘at risk’.
- ii. Members were reminded that the budget was currently divided between each of the DPCSPs on the basis of a basic allocation (30%), population (45%) and deprivation (25%). Members were asked to agree to the allocation of a basic 30% to each DPCSP equating to £37,800. The Safer City Manager advised that further discussion regarding the allocation of budgets would take place in May once further information was available from the Joint Committee.
- iii. A Member welcomed the contingency measures in place given the delay in receiving a letter of offer but noted that this seemed to be a recurring issue. It was noted that pressure needed to be put on the Joint Committee to deliver funding sooner rather than later given the number of groups commissioned to deliver services within the community.
- iv. Members approved the allocation of a basic 30% to each to the DPCSPs and the Safer City Manager agreed to speak with the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services regarding further funding should it be required.

#### **11. 2017/2018 (D)PCSP Action Plan Process**

- i. The Safer City Manager advised Members that 2 co-design workshops had been held with PCSP Members and statutory representatives from each of the DPCSPs in order to develop the 2017/2018 PCSP Action Plan using an Outcomes Based Accountability (OBA) approach.
- ii. Members were presented with the agreed themes and project areas for the PCSP using the common language agreed to at the co-design workshops:

Feeling Safer	Domestic and Sexual Violence
	Citywide Schools Initiative
	Security Scheme
	Crime Prevention and Safety Event
	Road Safety Road Show
Drugs and Alcohol	Keep Safe (Radar Programme)
	Education and Awareness Raising Campaign

Business/City Centre	Street Management
	Business Crime
Anti-Social Behaviour	Integrated Anti-Social Behaviour delivery model
	Transient Youth
Organised Crime	Human Trafficking
	Fraud Awareness
	Child Sexual Exploitation
	Modern Slavery
	Cyber Crime
Confidence in Policing	Support for Neighbourhood Watch
	Small Grants
	PSNI Crime Prevention Campaigns

- iii. Members were asked to approve the submission of a draft 2017/2018 Action Plan based on these themes and priorities with a detailed Plan to be brought Members in May for final approval.
- iv. Members noted the contents of the report and agreed for a draft Plan to be submitted to the Joint Committee by 31<sup>st</sup> March.

## **12. Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service Substance Misuse Court Pilot**

- i. The Safer City Manager advised that correspondence had been received from the Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service who were planning to commence the first Substance Misuse Court (SMC) in Northern Ireland in April, 2017. The pilot aims to link defendants with support services to help them with their substance abuse issues and offending through a problem solving approach.
- ii. Members agreed to invite the Programme Manager to the PCSP meeting in May in order to hear more about the project.

## **13. Date of Next Meeting**

- i. The Chair reminded Members that the next meeting of the PCSP would be held on Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> May in the Lavery Room, City Hall.