

Minutes of the East Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Private Meeting

Hanwood Centre, Kinross Avenue
Wednesday, 22nd February, 2017

Political Members

Alderman Tommy Sandford (Chair)
Councillor Sonia Copeland
Councillor Aileen Graham
Councillor Deirdre Hargey
Councillor Carole Howard
Councillor Mairead O'Donnell

Independent Members

Jonathan Currie (Vice-Chair)
Michelle Bryans
David Geddis
Lisa McMaster

Designated Organisations

Yvonne Cowan, H&SCT
Jane Lappin, PBNI
Dermot Magorrian, YJA
Alison Methven, NIHE

Jane McKenna, PBNI
Chief Inspector David Moore, PSNI
Michael Roberts, NIFRS
Pauline Smart, EA

Staff Present

Glenn Thomas, Safer City Coordinator
Katharine McCrum, Partnership Support Officer

1. Welcome and Routine Matters

- i. The Chair welcomed Members to the meeting, in particular Jane McKenna, PBNI, who was attending her first East Belfast DPCSP Meeting.

2. Declaration of Interests

- 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 declared at the outset of the Meeting.

3. Minutes and Matters Arising

- i. In relation to actions from previous DPCSP Meeting, the Safer City Coordinator advised that;
 - Information on Domestic Violence Awareness Sessions had been circulated.
 - A meeting to review the Local Policing Plan had been held.
 - Working Groups had been established to review each Strategic Objective for the 2017/2018 Action Plan. Dates would be circulated to all Members for information.
 - There were no prosecutions for illegal dumping at bonfire sites in 2016.
 - A letter regarding the Partnership's concerns about early collection of bonfire materials had been drafted however on reflection it was agreed that it would not be sent at this time.

- ii. A Member questioned the information received regarding the number of prosecutions and pointed out that action was needed so as to deter people from fly-tipping again in the future. The Safer City Coordinator agreed to circulate the information received to the Member in question.
- iii. Minutes of the East Belfast DPCSP Private Meeting held on 30th January, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct.
Proposed: Lisa McMaster
Seconded: David Geddis

4. Chairs Update from the PCSP

- i. The Chair advised Members that, as previously agreed, the PCSP had allocated underspends within the (D)PCSP Budgets towards the 'Drug Dealers Don't Care' and 'Beat the Burglar' Campaigns. He reminded Members that the launch of the Drug Dealers Don't Care Campaign would be on 28th February and that the PCSP Conference was to be held on 8th March.
- ii. Members were advised that the Coordinator, Chair and Vice-Chair had recently met with the Joint Committee regarding finance and governance, and that these meetings would continue to be held twice per year. Members were further advised that a 90% budget for PCSPs was to be expected in the absence of a finalised budget from the Northern Ireland Assembly. The Safer City Coordinator added that the Partnership could begin to develop projects in preparation for a Letter of Offer from the Joint Committee, as working at risk was unlikely to be agreed by the Council.

5. Updates from Statutory Partners

Probation Board NI

- i. Jane Lappin advised that the Graffiti Bus was now operational and would be delivered alongside the Council. She advised that PBNI welcomed the opportunity to work with other groups and organisations to develop work placements for clients on an individual basis.
- ii. Members were further advised that cuts were expected to the PBNI budget in the year ahead and so it was likely that grant funding would be sought for some work in partnership with other organisations.

NI Fire and Rescue Service

- iii. Michael Roberts advised that the Fire and Rescue Service would be actively targeting the socially isolated across Belfast in order to carry out fire safety checks and to provide smoke alarms where appropriate.

NI Housing Executive

- iv. Alison Methven advised that NIHE's Community Cohesion Unit was continuing to engage with groups regarding bonfires and that some funding was available.
- v. The Safer City Coordinator asked that discussions were had with Council regarding NIHE work to ensure that both were aware of any work taking place at key sites.

Chair/Vice-Chair

- i. Statutory Partners were reminded about the 'the New Normal' drug and alcohol meeting on Wednesday, 1st March at 2pm in the East Belfast Network Centre.
- ii. The Chair advised that he and the Vice-Chair would be meeting with community groups to promote the work of the DPCSP once the Assembly Elections had taken place.

6. East Belfast DPCSP 2016/2017 Action Plan Progress Report

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that an update on the delivery of the 2016/2017 East Belfast DPCSP Action Plan was contained within the papers. He advised that the current £400 overspend detailed within the report was likely to reduce as projects declared underspends towards the end of the financial year. He added that the additional contributions made to Citywide Projects would have a local impact in East Belfast and urged Members to encourage groups to submit monitoring and evaluation paperwork as soon as possible.
- ii. The Chair thanked the Safer City Coordinator for the effort put into producing such a detailed report. The Safer City Coordinator agreed to pass this praise onto the Project Officer responsible.
- iii. Members noted the contents of the report and the progress to date.

7. Project Updates

- i. The Safer City Coordinator provided an overview of 2 projects which had been approved through the delegated authority previously provided to him alongside the Chair and Vice-Chair;
 - PCSP Schools Programme - £499.33
 - Rapid Drugs Bin - £400
- ii. He advised that further information on the Schools Programme would be circulated via email. With regards to the Drugs Bin, Members were advised that a site at Tesco Knocknagoney had been secured however given footfall at the site, a larger bin than the one currently owned by the Partnership was required.
- iii. Members noted the report and retrospectively approved the allocation of funds.
Proposed: Lisa McMaster
Seconded: David Geddis

8. Small Grants

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that 36 PCSP Small Grant applications had been received for summer 2017 and suggested that Members may want to consider allocating a budget towards the Grants once initial scoring had taken place.
- 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; Michelle Bryans, Pauline Smart, David Geddis, Jonathan Currie and Lisa McMaster. Members agreed to provide delegated authority to the Member Panel and to agree an annual budget at a later date.

9. PACTs Update

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that an invitation to a meeting of the Titanic PACT had been circulated however due to emerging problems, had since been cancelled. He explained that it became apparent that 2 pieces of agreed work had not been completed (at no fault of the PACT) and so to avoid denting confidence in the group, the difficult decision to postpone had been taken at the last moment.
- ii. He added that efforts would be made to complete the outstanding items of work and that it was hoped that the PACT Chair would continue in the role.
- iii. Members were advised that the Ormiston PACT would be meeting in mid-March and all being well the Lisnasharagh PACT would do the same.
- iv. With regards to the PACT survey, the Safer City Coordinator advised that 41 responses had been received to date, and Members were encouraged to further promote completion of the survey amongst communities and their own organisations/groups.
- v. A Member suggested that discussion regarding the Titanic PACT should be tabled at the Inner East Forum and Tension Monitoring Group in order to promote buy-in from partners of the previous Pottinger PACT. Partners around the table agreed to take forward these actions.

10. Emerging Issues

Murder of East Belfast Man

- i. The Chair noted the tragic news regarding the death of a young man from the Short Strand area of East Belfast and passed on his condolences to the family. A Councillor from the area thanked the Chair for his kind words which would mean a lot to the family. A Member noted that Mr Anderson was a student at Belfast Met and was very well thought of by both students and staff.

Bonfires

- ii. Following a query from a Member, the Safer City Coordinator confirmed that collection of bonfire material had begun at a number of sites in East Belfast. He advised that the Council was monitoring the situation but was not currently in a position to take action but staff would continue to engage with groups regarding each site.
- iii. Members discussed the possible installation of a container in the Cregagh Estate in order to store wood but it was confirmed that this was not as a result of Council funding. The negative publicity regarding such early collection of bonfire materials, tyres and associated anti-social behaviour was also discussed. The NIHE rep raised concerns regarding the placement of such a container and advised that she would pass on the information to the Community Cohesion Officer for the area.

- iv. A Member noted that the rules governing the Council's Bonfire Programme funding had changed since last year and suggested that a presentation from a Good Relations Officer may be useful. The Safer City Coordinator noted that changes in the rules may offer an opportunity to reengage with groups who did not take part in the Programme last year.

11. Date of Next Meeting

- i. The Chair reminded Members that the next meeting on the DPCSP would be an informal meeting on Tuesday, 28th March.
- ii. It was agreed that in future, informal meetings of the DPCSP would be chaired by the Vice-Chair.