

# Minutes of the East Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership

## Policing Committee Meeting

Hanwood Centre, Kinross Avenue  
Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> 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

### Statutory Partners

Chief Inspector David Moore, PSNI

Michael Roberts, NIFRS

### 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. No apologies were noted.

#### 2. Declaration of Interests

- i. Members were reminded of the need to declare any material interests which they may have in relation to any item of business to be considered during the meeting.

#### 3. Minutes, Actions and Matters Arising

- i. The minute of the East Belfast DPCSP Policing Committee Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> December, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct.
- ii. With regards to the action from the meeting, the Safer City Coordinator advised that the PSNI and NIFRS had met to discuss the production of a leaflet. A safety leaflet from NIFRS was circulated.

#### 4. Local Policing Update

- i. Chief Inspector David Moore provided Members with an update on performance against the Local Policing Plan, advising that when compared with the previous year;
  - Overall crime was down by 4.1%
  - Burglary offences were down by 37%
  - Offences committed against older people were down by 17.3%
  - Outcome rates for these 3 measures were stable

- Crimes with a sectarian motivation were down by 57% however the outcome rate was also down by nearly 1%
  - Anti-Social Behaviour incidents had increased by 3% but work was ongoing to reduce this.
- ii. Chief Inspector Moore advised that the PSNI would aim to engage with people at bonfire sites but would not be involved in the removal of bonfire materials. He noted that the PSNI had a role to play in dealing with reports of anti-social behaviour and criminal behaviour at bonfires however a partnership approach was needed when considering the wider issues.

## **5. Members Questions**

### Transient Youth

- i. A Member questioned whether the incident at Belmont Park involving large numbers of young people was a one off and linked to half term school holidays.
- ii. Chief Inspector Moore advised that this was suspected and that there had been smaller scale reoccurrences over the holiday period. He advised that parents had been contacted regarding their children and this seemed to have largely solved the problem. He advised that the issue was not a high priority in policing terms but had been assigned as a priority locally.
- iii. Members discussed the use of Facebook and other social media sites in arranging such large scale gatherings, and in some cases organised fights.
- iv. The Vice-Chair noted that the PCSP had funded 4 additional street based youth providers to engage with young people across Belfast. Members also discussed resources for young people, centre based verses detached youth provision and the lack of a suitable place for young people to congregate.
- v. A Member noted that in the previous financial year the DPCSP had funded projects to engage specifically with young women who were seen as a hard to reach group, and suggested that this should be looked at again as part of the 2017/18 Action Plan.
- vi. Uncertainty regarding funding for youth workers was raised by a Member who noted the invaluable work that they provided.
- vii. Members discussed a range of models used in other cities such as youth shelters and designated car parks for use after hours, but noted the negative as well as positive attributes of each.

### Building Site Thefts

- viii. A Member asked for an update following criminal damage at a construction site on Templemore Avenue. Chief Inspector Moore advised that he had no further information but confirmed that considerable damage had been caused. The Member voiced further concern given the number of building/renovation projects planned for the area.

### Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NHT)

- ix. A Member advised that when trying to arrange a meeting with NHT Officers, she had been advised that no one was available as there were no Officers on duty that day. Chief Inspector Moore confirmed that this became an issue when restructuring resulted in just one NHT for East Belfast. He advised that from April onwards he would be reducing these gaps by operating the NHT as two smaller teams. He also advised that if there was a need for police to attend a meeting, Local Policing Teams could be sent or alternative arrangements made with NHT Officers.
- x. Chief Inspector Moore noted that Superintendent Darrin Jones had now left Belfast to take up the position in Ballymena.

### **7. Date of Next Meeting**

- i. The Chair advised Members that the next meeting of the Policing Committee would be held on 26<sup>th</sup> April.