

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

## Private Meeting

East Belfast Network Centre  
Wednesday, 26th October, 2016

### 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

Dermot Magorrian, YJA

Alison Methven, NIHE

### Staff Present

Lorna Somers, Safer City Assistant Manager  
Glenn Thomas, Safer City Coordinator  
Katharine McCrum, Partnership Support Officer

### Apologies

Steven McMillen  
Yvonne Cowan, H&SCT  
Jane Lappin, PBNI  
Michael Roberts, NIFRS  
Pauline Smart, EA

## 1. Welcome and Routine Matters

- i. The Chair welcomed Members to the meeting and noted the apologies provided. The Safer City Assistant Manager, Lorna Somers, was also welcomed to the 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 Meetings, the Safer City Coordinator advised that:
  - The presentation on Body Worn Video had been circulated to Members,
  - The Meeting was being held in the East Belfast Network Centre as requested,
  - Statutory Partners would be asked to provide relevant updates at the meeting,
  - The Nexus Shout Up project had been put in touch with EBCDA as requested,
  - Future meetings of the 3 PACTS were currently being organised and the findings from the project evaluating PACTS would be applied to future work,
  - The evaluation from the Policing Committee funded Walkway project has not yet been received but will be circulated once available,
  - A report on extending delegated authority has been included within the papers,

- The PCSP has been in touch with the Reducing Offending Unit regarding a presentation to the (D)PCSPs,
  - The Age-Friendly Handy-Person Home Safety Check leaflet was circulated to Members,
  - The 'Exploring Identity and Change' Project Working Group had met and a report on the project was included within the meeting papers,
  - Projects had been developed on the topics of Drugs and Alcohol, and Anti-Social Behaviour, one of which was tabled for discussion during the meeting, and the other would be circulated for approval via email.
- ii. Minutes of the East Belfast DPCSP Private Meeting held on 27th September, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct.  
Proposed: Lisa McMaster  
Seconded: Councillor Sonia Copeland
- iii. In response to a query as to whether the Local Policing Chief Inspector was required in order to continue with the meeting, the Safer City Coordinator advised that this was not the case, but he would be required for the meeting of the Policing Committee.

#### **4. Chairs Update from the PCSP**

- i. The Safer City Assistant Manager was asked to provide Members with an update from the PCSP. She advised that at the last meeting, Members of the PCSP had been presented with a RAG Rated (Red/Amber/Green) Progress Report from each of the DPCSPs in order to clearly show which projects were complete (green), which were currently being delivered (amber) and which had not commenced or were not at a developed stage (red).
- ii. She noted that this had identified large underspends across the Districts and that staff had since met with Chairs and Vice-Chairs to discuss the financial situation of each of the Partnerships. She added that the PCSP was requesting an update from each area on how they would be utilising their budget and warned that claw-back of unallocated spend would be possible if evidence was not produced before late November or early December.
- iii. The Safer City Coordinator added that a number of projects were tabled during the meeting, and if approved would be changed from 'red' to demonstrate the progress being made. He also advised that the Partnership Coordinators were looking at the development of a range of Citywide initiatives should underspend be identified; however each of these would also have a local impact. He noted that much of the current underspend was due to fewer Small Grants applications than in previous years and 2 unsuccessful quotation exercises.
- iv. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised that if the PCSP were made aware of underspends, Citywide projects could be developed however if underspends were declared at a late stage, this would not be possible, and funding would be returned to the Joint Committee.
- v. Members questioned whether groups required more support in completing funding application forms and suggested that cash flow issues may result in fewer applications as groups only receive 80% of funding upfront.
- vi. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised that often applications were not suitable as they did not meet the community safety criteria, but were more appropriate for parks or events funding. She added that staff attended various Small Grants workshops to offer advice and were also available to meet with groups at any time. With regards to cash flow, Members were advised that more often groups did not utilise the full 80% provided and funding was often clawed back due to underspends. It was noted that some PCSPs in Northern Ireland

were choosing to end their Small Grants programs due to lack of uptake and/or poor quality applications.

- vii. The Vice-Chair provided Members with an update from discussions held at the Chair/Vice-Chair meeting held on 19th October:
  - To improve Small Grants Applications, Members were encouraged to call upon community networks to support groups through the project development process.
  - Utilisation of Statutory Organisations was encouraged, however it was noted that engagement at PCSP meetings was best in areas where multi-agency structures had not already been established in the past.
  - Members welcomed a less formal setting in order to best develop the role of Independent Members. Printing business cards for Members was suggested.
  - A day long PCSP conference would be held in the Titanic Centre on 8th February 2017 and would include information on Outcomes Based Accountability (OBA).
- iv. Members were also advised that a meeting took place between staff, Chairs and Vice-Chairs regarding ongoing issues in the Walkway area and as a result a number of actions were being worked on.

## **5. Updates from Statutory Partners**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised that input from the statutory partners was ongoing with regards to project delivery and community safety issues but perhaps this was not being well represented at DPCSP meetings.
- ii. It was suggested that knowledge of the various powers and work undertaken by each of the agencies was limited and so a 5 minute overview from each organisation would be useful. A Member added that information on emerging trends or what support was needed would be useful, particularly in a working group setting.
- iii. Members agreed that a time for open discussion would be useful, aside from the formality of DPCSP meetings, and so agreed to hold formal meetings every other month with themed workshops or project delivery discussions in the intervening months. It was suggested that housing issues would be discussed at the first informal meeting in November.
- iv. It was also suggested that all Members could be more actively involved in the work of the Partnership and so the Safer City Coordinator agreed to contact Members regarding visits to groups in order to observe and monitor the work being funded by the DPCSP.
- v. Proposed: Jonathan Currie  
Seconded: David Geddis

## **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 with each project RAG rated to demonstrate its level of progression.
- ii. In light of the earlier discussion regarding the need to progress a number of actions from red to green, Members were asked agree that the existing delegated authority be extended to allow delegated authority to the Safer City Coordinator, Chair and Vice-Chair for all Action Plan initiatives. The Safer City Coordinator confirmed that if time permitted, projects would be brought to Members in advance, and if not would be circulated via email for information.

He also advised that any underspends would be identified by the end of the month and an email would be sent to advise Members of this.

- iii. Members noted the contents of the report and agreed to extend the delegated authority to include all Action Plan spend.  
Proposed: Lisa McMaster  
Seconded: David Geddis

## **7. East Belfast Community Development Agency, Youth Practitioners Review Project**

- i. The Alderman Sandford, Councillor Graham and Jonathan Currie declared an interest in this item and subsequently left the room. David Geddis assumed the Chair.
- ii. The Safer City Coordinator asked Members to consider funding a planning and review day for the East Belfast Youth Practitioners Forum at a cost of £1,255. Members were advised that the Forum had representatives from a range of youth practitioners across East Belfast as well as a number of DPCSP Members and PCSP staff, making it an effective mechanism for the sharing of good practice, collaborative approaches and networking.
- iii. Members were further advised that the aim of the project was to enable support and learning across youth practitioners, share information and enhance understanding about current provision, and support collaborative working.
- iv. Following discussion, Members agreed to fund the project as detailed within the report.  
Proposed: Lisa McMaster  
Seconded: Councillor Carole Howard
- v. Alderman Sandford, Councillor Graham and Jonathan Currie returned to the room and were advised of the decision to award the funding.

## **8. Scrambler Project**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that following a death in July at Colin Glenn Forest Park, Members of the West Belfast DPCSP had been developing a response to the issue of scramblers and off-road vehicles, not just in West Belfast but across the city.
- ii. Members were further advised that police had confirmed that the use of scramblers in East Belfast was also an issue with them receiving between 10 and 15 reports a week about the illegal use of these vehicles and that under reporting was also a concern.
- iii. For these reasons, Members were asked to support the launch and installation of 50 signs in and around Council properties, such as parks and green spaces, warning offenders of the legislation in relation to off-road vehicles and to act as an educational tool to raise awareness and encourage reporting.
- iv. Members were advised that, in partnership with the PSNI, the West Belfast DPCSP had already developed a warning sign which had been approved by the Council's Corporate Communications and their police counterpart, and that a service agreement would be sought with various agencies to allow signs to be erected in other areas.
- v. In addition to the off-road vehicle signage, the Safer City Coordinator advised that Anti-Social Behaviour signs would be erected in areas experiencing high levels of incidents and that a Crimestoppers Campaign would support the signage with coverage on billboards,

adshels and buses. Examples of the signage and the Crimestoppers Campaign were circulated.

- vi. A launch event in December was suggested in order to prolong the effect of the Campaign as the West Belfast DPCSP would launch their campaign in late October.
- vii. While conscious of the remaining budget and time of year, several Members raised concerns at the cost of the project and whether there was a need for further signage in green spaces. It was suggested that the signs may increase fear of crime and that a different form of engagement was needed. The design and colour of the signage was also questioned.
- viii. Other Members felt that there were issues with off-road vehicles in East Belfast and noted that the signs were needed in order to act as a first warning to offenders and to allow the PSNI to take action.
- ix. Queries as to how this would affect NIHE land and how it would be enforced by the PSNI were raised, as was the issue of displacement.
- x. Members agreed that if the need existed and signage was required in order to take legal action the project should be funded, but it was suggested that the message should include dissuading people from buying off-road vehicles for Christmas, and that hot-spots should be looked at when considering where signs should be placed, rather than just Council land.
- xi. The Safer City Coordinator agreed to take these comments on board. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised that the sign size, wording and inclusion of the PSNI logo were necessary in order for the sign to be legally valid however this may not be the case for the background colour.
- xii. Following further discussion, Members agreed to progress with the project at a cost of £12,125, taking into consideration the comments made by Members, and the need to engage with communities regarding the placement of signs.  
Proposed: David Geddis  
Seconded: Lisa McMaster

## **9. Exploring Identity and Change Project - Amendment Request**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator reminded Members about their previous approval of the Exploring Identity and Change project and advised that a steering group assigned to develop the project had identified the need to hold 2 further workshops with older and younger audiences.
- ii. Members were therefore asked to consider granting a further £840 to the project in order to facilitate these workshops, bringing the project total to £4,189.68.
- iii. Members reviewed the report and agreed to provide the additional funding as requested.  
Proposed: Lisa McMaster  
Seconded: Jonathan Currie

## **10. Drug and Alcohol Project Proposal (Addendum)**

- i. The Alderman Sandford and Jonathan Currie declared an interest in this item and subsequently left the room.

- ii. Members were reminded that a quotation exercise seeking to procure services to address drug related issues in East Belfast was carried out in July/August, 2016. As no submissions were received, Members agreed to form a working group to seek out and commission the work from appropriate groups who had capacity to deliver the work.
- iii. The resulting draft project proposal is to be led by the East Belfast Community Development Agency (EBCDA) and delivered through the auspices of the East Belfast Drug and Alcohol Stakeholders Forum.
- iv. The Safer City Coordinator advised that the proposal was made up of three components, with further detail required on the 3rd;
  - The New Normal, Community Listening Exercise – Providing support and help to coordinate drug and alcohol work in the area through an action plan on the themes of Enforcement, Education and awareness and Services and support.
  - Drugs and Alcohol Community training Programme - Improving engagement with transient /vulnerable young people in the local area by providing awareness of tools commonly used to engage and support their existing work, enhance the existing knowledge of practitioners, and encourage the motivation to engage with existing support services where needed.
  - Training for Trainers OR Youth for Youth Resource – further detail on both proposals required.
- v. The Safer City Coordinator added that in the past Members had commented upon the lack of support for the East Belfast Drug and Alcohol Stakeholders Forum and so this project offered a good method for engagement and support.
- vi. Members were asked to consider the proposal and agree to grant £13,270 towards to project, subject to further detailed information being provided around the associated budgets.
- vii. Members reviewed the project and approved the funding as detailed within the report.  
Proposed: Councillor Aileen Graham  
Seconded: Lisa McMaster
- vi. Alderman Sandford, Councillor Graham and Jonathan Currie returned to the room and were advised of the decision to award the funding.
- vii. The Safer City Coordinator advised that a paper regarding an Anti-Social Behaviour Project, again developed due to no quotation submissions being received, would be circulated to Members for approval via email.

## **11. PACTs Update**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that the Anti-Social Behaviour Officer for East Belfast was currently arranging meetings for each of the PACTs, and that once confirmed, details would be circulated to Members.
- ii. Members noted the update provided.

## **12. Emerging Issues**

- i. A Member congratulated the PCSP staff on their work in retaining the Council's gold award in Onus's Workplace Charter on Domestic Violence.

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

- i. The Chair advised Members that the current meeting had been changed from Tuesday, 25th to Wednesday, 26th October at the request of a Member who was unable to attend meetings on Tuesdays. The Safer City Coordinator added that following this change, a number of Members had been in touch to advise of their availability and so it was apparent that no one day was suitable for the whole Partnership. He also advised that staff were required to avoid existing Council meetings which involved Members of the DPCSP.
- ii. Members agreed that rotating the days on which meetings were held was the best way to ensure that all Members were offered the chance to attend as often as possible. As it was previously suggested that every other meeting would be informal, the following schedule was agreed upon:
  - Tuesday 29th November – Information Meeting including discussion on housing
  - Tuesday 13th December – Private and Policing Committee Meeting
  - Monday 30th January – Informal Meeting
  - Wednesday 22nd February - Private and Policing Committee Meeting
  - Tuesday, 28th March - Informal Meeting
- iii. The Safer City Coordinator agreed to circulate these dates to Members via email.