

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

## Policing Committee Meeting

East Belfast Network Centre  
Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2016

### Political Members

Alderman Tommy Sandford (Chair)  
Councillor Aileen Graham  
Councillor Mairead O'Donnell

### Independent Members

Michelle Bryans  
David Geddis  
Lisa McMaster  
Steven McMillen

### PSNI Representatives

Chief Inspector David Moore

### Staff Present

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

### Apologies

Jonathan Currie (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor Sonia Copeland  
Councillor Carole Howard

## 1. Welcome and Routine Matters

- i. The Chair welcomed Members to the meeting and noted the apologies provided.

## 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 26<sup>th</sup> October, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct.  
Proposed: David Geddis  
Seconded: Councillor Aileen Graham

## 4. Local Policing Update

- i. Chief Inspector David Moore advised that figures relating to overall crime were down, particularly with regards to burglary (down nearly 40%) and offences against older people (down nearly 20%). He advised that both were still of concern and that Officers continued to be mindful of vulnerable people and hotspot areas.
- ii. Members were also advised that;
  - Crimes with a sectarian motivation were down by 60% however the outcome rate had also fallen,

- Incidents of anti-social behaviour remained largely stable,
  - Allegations of incivility and failure of duty were down by 14% and 47% respectively, and
  - The number of victim updates had increased by nearly 10%, to just under 83%, however the aim was to raise the overall figure to over 90%.
- iii. Chief Inspector Moore advised that across Belfast, the number of drug seizures had fallen by nearly 3% when compared with the previous year. He noted that community intelligence was needed to make a difference in this area and that drugs were now being transported via post more often which lead to investigatory difficulties in tracking perpetrators.
  - iv. With regards to a number of handbag snatches from elderly people within East Belfast, Members were advised that this had been deemed as a critical incident by the Area Commander for Belfast and as such a dedicated unit would be deployed to tackle the issue. Chief Inspector Moore advised that the PSNI were working with Age NI and the Post Office to warn of the dangers of making large cash withdrawals.
  - v. Michael Roberts, NIFRS, advised that the South Belfast DPCSP had funded a leaflet campaign to promote messages from the PSNI and NIFRS, and suggested that a similar campaign could be developed in East Belfast to deal with the points raised. He advised that NIFRS had then delivered the leaflets.
  - vi. The Safer City Coordinator agreed to explore such a project with the PSNI and NIFRS, and include leaflet drops in banks and Post Offices.
  - vii. Members noted that it was hard to change the outlook of older people who were used to dealing in cash and agreed that there was a need to keep an eye on vulnerable people, particularly at Christmas, as they were more likely to be targeted after visits to ATMs.
  - viii. A Member suggested that further information and support on the use of technology for older/vulnerable people may help them to move to more secure forms of payment.

## **5. Emerging Issues**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that the East Belfast DPCSP had supported a Barnardo's initiative and a report had been received regarding a resident (Barnardo's placement) in East Belfast who was concerned about an increased police presence in the area.
- ii. A Member questioned why this had concerned the resident, as most people welcomed increased patrolling. The Safer City Coordinator advised that ongoing issues of noise and anti-social behaviour had been worrying residents and that increased policing could raise fears amongst more vulnerable residents.
- iii. Chief Inspector Moore advised that following an incident at the David Ervine Memorial, 2 people had been arrested.

- iv. He also provided information on an incident at a primary school whereby a person attempted to remove a number of young people, asking for them by name. Chief Inspector Moore advised that the school followed the correct protocols and no children were at risk of harm, however the PSNI took the incident seriously and decided to make an arrest.
- v. In closing, Members were provided with an overview of the PSNI's Christmas Operation, which in East Belfast would include a focus on the Belmont and Ballyhackamore areas following the handbag thefts previously discussed.

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

- i. The Chair advised Members that the next meeting of the Policing Committee would be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> February.