

Minutes of the North Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Policing Committee Meeting

Conor Room, City Hall
Wednesday, 25th January, 2017

Political Members

Councillor Mary Ellen Campbell
Councillor Mary Clarke
Alderman Patrick Convery
Alderman Guy Spence

Independent Members

Michael Murray
Catherine Patrick

PSNI Representatives

Chief Inspector Stephen Burns

Inspector Laura Kelly

Staff Present

Richard McLernon, Safer City Coordinator
Katharine McCrum, Partnership Support Officer

Apologies

Councillor Nuala McAllister (Chair)
Jennifer Cornell (Vice-Chair)
Gerard O'Reilly
Gerald Solinas

1. Welcome and Routine Matters

- i. In the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair, Councillor Mary Ellen Campbell chaired the meeting, noting the apologies provided.

2. Declarations of Interest

- 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. No declarations of interest were noted.

3. Minutes and Matters Arising

- i. With regards to actions from the previous meeting, the Safer City Coordinator advised that;
 - A letter had been sent to Councillor Nuala McAllister to congratulate her on the birth of her son,
 - Information on Connect Courses had been provided, and
 - Information from NIPB regarding bi-annual Policing Committee Reports would be circulated to Members.
- ii. The minutes of the North Belfast DPCSP Policing Committee held on 26th October, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct.

4. Update on Policing

- i. Members were provided with an update on key incidents relating to drugs, domestic abuse, hate crime, burglary, crimes against over 60's, vehicle crime, anti-social behaviour, robbery and significant policing operations.
- ii. Chief Inspector Burns also noted the PSNI's use of Social Media and reminded people that this was not the correct way to report incidents or report police attendance.
- iii. A breakdown of call types received by Tennent Street Police Station over a 24 hour period and some 'good news' stories were also provided. It was noted that 21% of calls related to missing persons/concerns and 16% to anti-social behaviour.

Attack on Police Officer in North Belfast

- iv. Members passed on the Partnership best wishes to the PSNI Officer who had recently been attacked and agreed to send a letter to this effect.
- v. Chief Inspector Burns thanked the Partnerships for their concern and advised that the investigation was ongoing. He provided Members with some further details regarding the incident and noted that as the garage was very busy, it was lucky that further injuries were not sustained by the PSNI or members of the public.

Suspicious Vehicles

- vi. Further to the update on crimes against the over 60's, a Member advised that reports of a blue transit van had been made to a local Neighbourhood Policing Team as residents had witnessed its occupants attempting to access a number of homes. It was noted that the issue could be affecting more areas than the one where it was reported.
- vii. Chief Inspector Burns agreed to publicise the reports on social media so as to disseminate the information to a wider audience.

Anti-Social Behaviour

- viii. Members questioned the use of scramblers in North Belfast, and the absence of Cavehill and Marrowbone in the update regarding Anti-Social Behaviour.
- ix. Chief Inspector Burns advised that a campaign regarding scramblers would be launched in February and that it would focus on hotspot areas. With regards to Anti-Social Behaviour in the areas mentioned, he advised that funding provided had been successful in reducing incidents.

5. Members Written Questions

- i. No written questions had been submitted.

6. Policing Committee Application(s) for Funding

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised that 3 applications had been received, all of which had been scored above the threshold for funding;
 - Alexandra Church, Bodybuilders Youth Club - £994
 - Dean Clarke Foundation, Working with Vulnerable Adults - £600
 - Dean Clarke Foundation, Kickstart - £1,000
- ii. Members reviewed each application and resolved to fund each of the projects, listed above.

7. Date of Next Meeting

- i. Members were reminded that the Public Event originally scheduled for 22nd February had been postponed until March and that the next Policing Committee Meeting would be held on Wednesday, 22nd March.