

Minutes of the North Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Workshop

Belfast Castle
Thursday, 15th December 2016

Political Members	Independent Members
Alderman Patrick Convery Alderman Guy Spence	Jennifer Cornell (Vice-Chair) Catherine Patrick
Designated Organisations	
Harry Bradley, YJA Chief Inspector Steven Burns Malachy McKinney, NIHE	Const. James Johnston Gabi Mornhinweg, H&SCT
Staff Present	Apologies
Richard McLernon, Safer City Coordinator Trevor McDonald, Antisocial Behaviour Officer Andrew Charles, Safer City Project Officer Rachel Fulton, Partnership Support Officer	Councillor Nuala McAllister (Chair) Alderman Gareth McKee Mark McBride, EA T/Detective Superintendent Gary Reid, PSNI Gerald Solinas

1. Welcome

Richard McLernon, Safer City Co-ordinator, welcomed all in attendance along to the Workshop on Underreporting.

2. Moving meeting day

- i. The Safer City Co-ordinator requested on behalf of Gerald Solinas that the day of the meeting be moved from a Wednesday.
- ii. It was agreed to look at the possibility of moving the meeting day, subject to the Council Meeting schedule and it being brought to the next meeting of the DPCSP.

3. Budgets

- i. The Safer City Co-ordinator discussed Action Plan expenditure and pressure over spending allocated budgets. Quotations were issued for four projects, with the closing date after Christmas.
- ii. A Member asked if a list of who the quotations were sent to could be shared. The Safer City Co-ordinator stated that he would need to take advice on this and send round if permitted.

4. Marrowbone proposal

- i. The Safer City Co-ordinator talked Members through the proposal.

- ii. It was agreed to fund the production of a video rather than leaflets.

5. Off Road Vehicle Signage

- i. The Safer City Co-ordinator discussed the proposal, which was originally brought before the Private Meeting in October.
- ii. Members had requested that further information be provided with regard to a contribution from Parks.
- iii. The Safer City Co-ordinator informed the Members that Parks were not contributing any funds towards the signage.
- iv. The Members agreed to proceed with the project.

6. Radio Link Scheme

- i. The Safer City Co-ordinator talked Members through the proposal, which had been developed in conjunction with the Crime Prevention Officer for North and West Belfast.
- ii. For 25 radio link contracts the cost would total £5,250.
- iii. After discussion Members requested that 10 radio link contracts be provided.
- iv. Chief Inspector Stephen Burns agreed to check with the Crime Prevention Officer if 25 businesses were interested in the scheme.
- v. It was agreed to look into the issue further and for a paper to be tabled at the January meeting.

7. WRAP Training

- i. Members were asked to consider supporting funding Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP) training for youth providers in North Belfast.
- ii. Members agreed to the project subject to the following:
 - That this would be a DPCSP Project if the Education Authority (EA) were not contributing anything, financially, to support the project
 - Clarification was sought over how Statutory Agencies were to be involved
 - Costings were clarified

8. Spanner in the works

- i. A discussion was had over the proposal with concerns raised over achieving the outcomes and ensuring maximum return.
- ii. It was asked how parents could be targeted and suggested that 15/16 year olds were the primary target.
- iii. The need to secure a suitable venue was also suggested in order to achieve the best outcomes.
- iv. The project was agreed with further information to be presented to Members at the January meeting on venues.

9. Schools Programme

- i. Following discussion it was agreed that more detail was required and for this to be tabled at the January meeting.

10. 'One pill can kill' proposal

- i. This proposal came from a Member who had had contact from the father of a victim.
- ii. The proposal to fund a campaign to highlight the dangers was discussed and it was suggested that contact was made with Hospitality N.I. or a drinks company to target key audiences.
- iii. A Member said that drugs were a major issue and that the issue should be prioritised for the 2017/18 Action Plan.
- iv. It was suggested that such a campaign could be piloted in North Belfast with the intention of expanding it Citywide.
- v. It was proposed that the project could be linked with the 'Spanner in the works', linking in with Schools.
- vi. The Members agreed to support the project and increase the budget from £1,000 to £2,000.

11. Skegoneill Bonfire Project

- i. After a brief discussion this proposal was deferred to the January meeting or the Working Group for further discussion pending more detail.

12. Underreporting of Crime

- i. Detective Inspector Gary Reid had been invited to attend this workshop but was unable to attend due to another commitment.
- ii. A discussion ensued by Members covering the following points:
 - Fear played a factor in reporting crime to the PSNI with people concerned about being labelled an ‘informer’
 - People should, preferably, go to the PSNI rather than Crimestoppers. However, Crimestoppers were available should people not feel they can speak to the PSNI
 - There was a need to raise awareness of the existence of Crimestoppers and the process they follow i.e. how calls are handled
 - There is an onus on the community to build a relationship with the PSNI as well as an onus on the PSNI to do the same
 - There was need for the Public Prosecution Service (PPS) to develop a role with the general public and explain their role and processes
 - It was pointed out that Social Services do not have a role in tackling ASB, but this was for the PSNI. However, cases where there are potential Child Protection issues should be reported via the Gateway Team
 - There is a need to be realistic in terms of outcomes with Statutory Agencies having to ensure that they comply with relevant legislation
- iii. The PSNI, in response, stated that:
 - Crimestoppers was useful, but those contacting them would not get feedback. Instead people can report incidents to the PSNI and request that Police do not call at house.
 - The Public can appeal a decision taken by the PPS if there are concerns
 - ASB represented a high proportion of calls to the PSNI, averaging 6.5k calls for each of the last two calendar years. People had high expectations and there was a need to manage these given the complexities of ASB cases
 - People can report issues to the PSNI via phone, 101 for non-emergency number, 999 for an emergency and online via Social Media. However, PSNI Facebook/Twitter accounts are not monitored 24/7. Email is also used and becoming popular, but again, this is not monitoring 24/7
 - On average there are 30 calls per shift/6 calls per car
 - All calls are prioritised according to threat, risk and harm
 - If the incident reported is likely to require more work in the long term it will be passed to the Neighbourhood Team
 - The call handling team review calls and attribute an action
- iv. The following actions were agreed by the Members in respect of underreporting:

1. Invite PPS to a future DPCSP Meeting
2. Run 'SORT IT, REPORT IT' Campaign
3. Host a Public Meeting on the issue of underreporting of crime
4. Use Social Media to encourage reporting
5. Promote Crimestoppers as a means of reporting where there is a fear
6. Encourage mediation as a means of resolving issues wherein and where appropriate