

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

## Private Meeting

Conor Room, City Hall  
Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2016

Political Members	Independent Members
Councillor Brian Heading (Chair)	Breige Brownlee
Councillor Matt Garrett	Claire Canavan
Councillor Stephen Magennis	
Statutory Designated Organisations	
Sharon Beattie, NIHE	John McLaughlin, EA
Chief Inspector Norman Haslett, PSNI	Patricia Muldoon, YJA
David McComiskey, NIFRS	Inspector Mike White, PSNI
Locally Designated Organisations	
Michael George, Colin Neighbourhood Partnership	
Staff Present	
Alan Wardle, Safer City Coordinator	Apologies
Katharine McCrum, Partnership Support Officer	Alderman Chris McGimpsey
	Liz Groves
	Eoin McShane
	Lauren Slane
	Micheal Donnelly, Greater Falls
	Carol Carville, PBNI
	Tommy Boyle, H&SCT
	Paula Kerr, Upper Falls Community Safety Forum
	Karol McKee, Upper Springfield C. Safety Forum

### 1. Welcome and Routine Matters

- i. The Chair welcomed Members to the Meeting and noted 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.
- ii. Michael George declared an interest in the Colin SNP, however the Safer City Coordinator noted that the paper referencing this was for information, not for approval during the meeting.

### 3. West Belfast DPCSP Minutes & Matters Arising

- i. The minutes of the Private Meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> November, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct.  
Proposed: Breige Brownlee  
Seconded: Cllr Stephen Magennis
- ii. A Member asked for an update on Body Worn Video to be provided as part of the Emerging Issues agenda item.

#### **4. Chair's Update from PCSP**

- i. The Chair advised Members that at the last Belfast PCSP Meeting, support for Belfast Street Pastors, Addiction Services Awareness Week and Domestic Violence Proposals were approved. He also advised that spend and progress reports for each of the DPCSPs were presented.

#### **5. Statutory Partner Update**

##### NIFRS

- i. David McComiskey advised Members that calls regarding Carbon Monoxide were a key issue at this time of year as open fires began to be lit. He asked people to encourage the use of CO Alarms and advised that the message was being publicised by NIFRS.
- ii. It was suggested that the PCSP could assist by sharing the message on its Facebook page.

##### NIHE

- iii. Sharon Beattie advised that work was ongoing in the Lower Falls and Divis area due to ongoing criminality and death driving. She added that the long term future of Ross Street and Corrib Flats was being considered as part of the Department for Communities 'Building Successful Communities' initiative.
- iv. She added that increased criminality, the murder in Colin and drugs issues were having a destabilising effect with a greater number of people presenting to the Housing Executive as homeless or requesting reallocation.

##### Education Authority

- v. John McLaughlin advised that the Education Authority was currently reviewing youth services and preparing a budget for a single scheme of assistance which would include outreach and detached youth work at targeted hotspots. He added that the additional budget previously provided for such work would finish during 2016/17 and so this provision would need to be funded through the existing Education Authority budget.
- vi. In response to a query as to whether the findings of the review would be circulated, Mr McLaughlin advised that the document was internal however consultation with a range of stakeholders was ongoing and Local Advisory Groups would receive plans in mid-January. He noted that EA was likely to move from providing services to purchasing services as most areas currently had a main-stream youth provider.

##### Youth Justice Agency

- vii. Patricia Muldoon advised that a number of young people had recently been involved in producing a mural for the Children's Hospital. She also advised that the No Harm Done DVD continued to be delivered in schools and a play on the topic of domestic violence, 'Mind Games' would be delivered to older youths and parents during January and February, 2017.

#### **6. 2016/2017 Action Plan Progress Report**

- i. The Safer City Co-ordinator provided Members with an update on the delivery and financial spend against the West Belfast DPCSP Action Plan 2016/2017.
- ii. He advised Members that to date the actual and committed expenditure totalled £128,699 with a further £13,018 of planned projects in the final stage of development, leaving £9,136 remaining to be allocated.
- iii. Members were provided with information on 5 projects which had recently been approved by the Chair and Vice-Chair;
  - Crimestoppers Citywide Scrambler Advertising Campaign - £5,000
  - Gleann Amateur Boxing Club 'Midnight Boxing' - £2,920
  - Suffolk Community Safety Christmas Event - £1,500
  - Saints Youth Club YJA Workshop - £1,120
  - Colin SNP Resource Kit - £700
- iv. Members were also advised that £42,980 worth of proposals had been received for consideration. It was noted that an additional £28,000 would be required to fund all proposals but it was possible that some could be progressed within the current financial year.
- v. A Member suggested that the proposals should be developed and passed to the PCSP who would be considering DPCSP underspends at their next meeting. The Chair added that he would continue to lobby for additional funds on behalf of the Partnership, should they become available.
- vi. Members noted the contents of the report and the Action Plan Progress Report and agreed to provide additional and final delegated authority to the Safer City Coordinator to allocate the remainder of the 2016/2017 Action Plan Budget.

## **7. City wide Project Proposals**

- i. Members were advised that Safer City Coordinators from each DPCSP had been asked to identify citywide projects that would benefit each area and ensure that budgets were fully utilised. Three projects were outlined;
  - Belfast PCSP Schools Programme - £12,000
  - No Hate Here Campaign - £10,000
  - Think How You Drink Drama - £20,000
- ii. Members were advised that a contribution of £10,000 was requested and that each project was due for delivery in the New Year.
- iii. Members approved the allocated budget as follows;
  - Belfast PCSP Schools Programme - £3,000
  - No Hate Here Campaign - £2,000
  - Think How You Drink Drama - £5,000
- iv. In response to a query regarding when the Scrambler signage would be displayed, the Safer City Coordinator advised that mapping had been finalised and a crew would be tasked to install the signs after 12<sup>th</sup> December, all being well. He added that there were some concerns regarding the Anti-Social Behaviour signage so this would be delayed until community consultation had taken place.

## **8. Emerging Issues**

- i. Chief Inspector Haslett provided an update on the use of Body Worn Video, noting that they had been in operation in Belfast for 2 weeks and that initial feedback was positive.
- ii. Members were also provided with an update on an incident of death driving in Divis which had been well documented in the media. Councillors were thanked for their concern over the welfare of Officers who were attacked when responding to the incident. Chief Inspector Haslett added that vehicle crime was down by 43% when compared to the previous year.
- iii. Members were advised that there had been a spike in burglaries in the Blackmountain area which, like the vehicle crime, could be linked to recently released offenders who had since been arrested.
- iv. With regards to the PSNIs Christmas Operation, Chief Inspector Haslett advised that policing would be more visible across the City with Divis being a key area for West Belfast, and that operation 'kanaroo' would run through to the New Year.
- v. A Member requested that the operational brief distributed during 2015 was circulated again, and it was suggested that information on support services such as a suicide awareness could be included. A Member also requested that local networks were used to disseminate information about particular incidents or Christmas releases in order to build confidence in communication.
- vi. Chief Inspector Haslett also spoke about the PSNIs Stop and Search powers and the negative publicity by some groupings which was used to deliberately portray the PSNI in a poor light and to dent confidence in policing. He added that since 29<sup>th</sup> September, 4 firearm incidents had taken place in West Belfast, and whilst the police understood the need for sensitivity and proportional use of Stop and Search, it was an important tool in terms of keeping the community safe.
- vii. Members noted that Stop and Search issues were being magnified by some sections of the community, however its negative impact was acknowledged, particularly on children.
- viii. Chief Inspector Haslett advised that the narrative on social media regarding some instances of Stop and Search were vastly different from reality and so it was hoped that the use of body worn video would assist in disproving these claims.
- ix. Members also discussed the impact of the media in demonising certain areas, and the impact that this had on communities. The good work done by Safer Neighbourhood Volunteers was also noted.
- x. A Member advised that a protest against policing had taken place at a recent Upper Falls Community Safety Forum Event however it was generally felt that if better publicised, the event would have been very successful. He advised that similar events would be held in the New Year in response to relevant incidents.

## **9. Additional Paper – Proposal for Community Safety Interventions**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that following a Belfast City Council Locality Planning Pilot in the Upper Springfield area, 3 themes had emerged, one of which the DPCSP had been asked to lead on; Community Safety.

- ii. As a result, a potential project has been developed to introduce affective community led coordinated interventions, including an initial baseline survey, community clinics and community referral protocols.
- iii. Members were advised that the 12 week project was supported by the PSNI and local Councillors and would cost £18,000. Members were further advised that £9,000 was remaining within the 2016/2017 Action Plan budget, and if approved, a further £9,000 could be refocused from the Beat the Burglar Campaign which instead could be delivered in early April, 2017.
- iv. Several Members welcomed the proposal but it was noted that, should the pilot identify further needs, a plan of how future work would be funded would need to be considered.
- v. The Safer City Coordinator advised that a final report would be produced and an action plan developed to present a more strategic investment for community safety.
- vi. Queries were raised about the cost of the pilot given the length of the project, and whether these were related to staff costs. A Member also suggested that many of the outcomes were those of Anti-Social Behaviour Forums and Family Support Hubbs.
- vii. The Safer City Coordinator advised that costs were project based and that the current Anti-Social Behaviour Tasking Group within the Locality Planning pilot was producing a very reactionary response to community issues which could not be said of Anti-Social Behaviour Forums. A Member agreed that the community led solutions were required in order to build confidence. The PSNI also underlined the positive outcomes from this operational group.
- viii. In response to requests for some of the Beat the Burglar kits to be produced, the Safer City Coordinator confirmed that some existing stock could be made available if needed.
- ix. Following further discussion, Members approved the allocation of £18,000 towards the delivery of the Community Safety Locality Planning support project.

#### **10. Date of Next Meeting**

- i. The Safer City Co-ordinator advised Members that the next meeting of the West Belfast DPCSP would be on Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2017. The Youth Justice Agency provided apologies in advance.