

**Minutes of the North Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership****Private Meeting**

**Conor Room, City Hall  
Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2017**

<b>Political Members</b>	<b>Independent Members</b>
Councillor Nuala McAllister (Chair)	Jennifer Cornell (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Mary Clarke	Michael Murray
Alderman Patrick Convery	Catherine Patrick
Alderman Guy Spence	Gerard O'Reilly
<b>Designated Organisations</b>	
Harry Bradley, YJA	David McComiskey, NIFRS
Chief Inspector Steven Burns, PSNI	Adrian Sloan, NIFRS
Inspector Laura Kelly, PSNI	Malachy McKinney, NIHE
Mark McBride, EA	Gabi Mornhinweg, H&SCT
<b>Staff Present</b>	<b>Apologies</b>
Richard McLernon, Safer City Coordinator	Councillor Mary Ellen Campbell
Rachel Fulton, Partnership Support Officer	

**1. Welcome and Routine Matters**

- i. The Chair welcomed Members to the meeting and noted the apologies provided.
- ii. The Chair thanked the Vice-Chair for all her work in her absence.

**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. No declarations were provided at the outset of the meeting.

**3. Minutes/Matters Arising**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator recapped on the actions from previous meetings of the North Belfast DPCSP noting that:

25<sup>th</sup> January, Private Meeting

- Further information on the Education Authority Youth Conference would be circulated via email

- An email had been sent to all members regarding how services were commissioned by Council,
  - A meeting to be set-up by Councillor Spence between a local committee in Lower Castle and DPCSP staff
  - The Education Authority advised that a request for information on the number of detached youth workers in North Belfast and their location would need to be put in writing to Head of Service-Arlene Keys
  - Information on Extern project to be circulated once available
  - NIHE to request representative to present on Peace Walls at next meeting
  - Planning Sessions had taken place in Feb/March and on agenda item 6 for discussion
  - The Safer City Co-ordinator advised that meeting dates to stay as scheduled on Wednesdays
- ii. Minutes of the North Belfast DPCSP Private held on 25<sup>th</sup> January, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct.
- iii. A Member requested that all members are named within minutes going forward. The Safer City Co-ordinator was asked to seek clarification and approval upon this request.

#### **4. Chair's Update on the Belfast PCSP**

- iv. The Vice-Chair advised members that she had not received any information regarding PCSP meetings to attend in the Chairs absence.
- v. The Safer City Co-ordinator agreed to follow up to ensure a DPCSP member is present at principle PCSP meetings.

#### **5. Members North Belfast Priorities and Emerging Issues**

##### **DPCSP Members**

- i. A Member raised concerns regarding the number of ASB complaints he had received and stated the need for better partnership working particularly around elderly and vulnerable persons.
- ii. A Member agreed with the increase of ASB incidents and raised his concerns on the lack of communication between police and members of the community. Furthermore, he stated that cutbacks within policing could increase intensify the issue, leading to a lack of confidence and underreporting.
- iii. Chief Inspector Burns stated the importance of officers engaging with the community and advised that there are additional officers in each neighbourhood team. He further commented that there is a need to do core policing, with 20-25% of calls related to crime.
- iv. Chief Inspector Burns also advised members of a current project 'Locate' that involves mapping local youth clubs with ASB hotspots.

- v. A member raised his concerns at the prospect of £20m budget cut to policing and the impact it would have to services.

NIFRS

- vi. Adrian Sloan, NIFRS advised of comprehensive plan around Bonfire Season to begin 1<sup>st</sup> June.

Education Authority

- vii. Mark McBride, EA advised members that they currently are working within a core budget and the impact of that on resources.
- viii. He further advised of changes in the way EA distribute funding and stated that from April 2018 it would be based on 50% population and 50% need as opposed to the current workings of 80% population and 20% need. Members noted that this could be beneficial to services in North Belfast.
- ix. Mark McBride also stated that his job role may change which leaves his role in the DPCSP as uncertain.
- x. The Chair asked Mr McBride if he could clarify who would be attending to advise on youth work in North Belfast, to which he stated his new remit is currently unknown.
- xi. A Member raised his concerns regarding the availability of funding to services that are available to youths when it is most needed. He requested that the partnership request a meeting to get clarity on this issue.
- xii. Members noted this request.
- xiii. Mark McBride then discussed a change in programme delivery, capital projects and arising issue of stay at home children. Members noted that the trend is leading to a decrease in social skills and an increase in mental health issues.

PBNI

- i. Janet McClinton informed members of an on-going corporate plan consultation. She also advised that a new app that has been launched that will help service users be signposted to useful information, advice and contacts to help with life on probation.
- ii. She also advised members of the launch of the 'Stay Onside' programme in partnership with the Irish Football Association, Youth Justice Agency and other agencies.

NIHE

- iii. Malachy McKinney advised of ongoing issues with certain individuals and stated that he would circulate a report on ASB in relation to this. He further commented that a significant number of people are coming through the system, with support in place. However, he raised his concerns that once tenancy had been given the support services were not available.
- iv. A member agreed with Mr McKinney, stating that vulnerable individuals are not supported.

Youth Justice Agency

- v. Harry Bradley advised of a reduction in the number of youths going through courts, enabling a concentration of resources on early intervention programmes.
- vi. He also advised on YJA role in the 'Stay Onside' programme which is leading to the integration of coaches back into the community, particularly with Limestone United.
- vii. Members were also advised of a more effective partnership with NIHE.
- viii. The Chair stated the importance of not stigmatising all youths on street corners as individuals involved in ASB.

Other

- i. A Member questioned if the PSNI would be carrying out alcohol checks in the summer, particularly within Taxi depots.
- ii. Chief Inspector Burns advised that there were designated licensing officers in North Belfast. He further advised in relation to taxi depots, that it was the responsibility of Taxi Licensers to monitor, which he believed included the involvement of HMRC.
- iii. A Member raised his concerns about the lack of police officer presence at licensing committee meetings, chaired by David Armitage.
- iv. Chief Inspector Burns agreed to follow up on this issue.
- v. A lengthy discussion took place around the Public Meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> March in Jennymount Methodist Church about Drugs. Members agreed that another meeting on this issue was required, inviting representatives from PPS, Judiciary, MLA's and National Crime Agency.
- vi. The Safer City Co-ordinator agreed to send out meeting requests to organisations mentioned before setting a meeting date. He also advised that notes from the public meeting would be circulated.

- vii. A Member also suggested that the partnership send a letter to Law Society, Lord Chief Justice and Barra McCrory.
- viii. Members noted this request and agreed that a letter be sent before the end of March.

#### **6. 2017/18 North Belfast DPCSP Planning Update**

- ix. The Safer City Co-ordinator advised members of the agreed priorities from the previous two planning sessions in Feb/March. The priorities agreed were as follows:
  - 1. Consultation and Engagement
  - 2. ASB-Education Focus
  - 3. Drugs-Education Focus
  - 4. Confidence Building
  - 5. Domestic Abuse
  - 6. Social Cohesion- Vulnerable people/Community Tensions/Hate Crime
  - 7. Mental Health
- x. Members agreed with priorities stated above. The Safer City Co-ordinator proposed having working group meetings around agreed themes on a date in April.
- xi. Members agreed to this proposal.
- xii. The Safer City Co-ordinator then requested delegated authority to submit a draft action plan by the end of March, which would be circulated to members in May.
- xiii. Members agreed to this.

#### **7. Small Grants Approval**

- i. The Safer City Co-ordinator advised of two projects recommended for funding through moderation panels. The projects were as follows:
  - 1. North Belfast Play Forum- £2,860
  - 2. Lisburn YMCA- £4,105
- ii. After a lengthy discussion, members were in agreement to defer the awarding of funding to projects until a budget has been agreed.

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**Actions**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Date Due</b>	<b>By Whom</b>
Further information on the Education Authority Youth Conference is to be circulated via email.	Next Meeting	Education Authority
A meeting is to be scheduled between a local committee in Lower Castle who are dealing with drug related issues and DPCSP staff.	Next meeting	Safer City Coordinator
The Safer City Co-ordinator to seek clarification and approval of naming all members in meeting minutes.	Next Meeting	Safer City Coordinator
The Safer City Co-ordinator agreed to seek clarification on a deputy attending principle PCSP meetings.	Next Meeting	Safer City Coordinator
Partnership to request a meeting with Education Authority to get clarity on funding issues.	Next Meeting	Safer City Coordinator
Safer City Co-ordinator to send public meeting invitations to PPS, Judiciary, MLA's and National Crime Agency.	Next Meeting	Safer City Coordinator
Safer City Co-ordinator to circulate notes from the public meeting to members.	Next Meeting	Safer City Coordinator
Information on the PCSP funded Extern project is to be circulated to Members when available.	April, 2017	Safer City Manager
Presentation regarding the NIHE Woodvale Peace Wall is to be provided at a future meeting.	May, 2017	NIHE