

Minutes of the North Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Policing Committee Meeting

Lavery Room, City Hall
Wednesday, 31st May, 2017

Political Members

Councillor Mary Clarke
Alderman Guy Spence

Independent Members

Jennifer Cornell (Vice-Chair)
Michael Murray
Gerard O'Reilly
Gerald Solinas

Designated Organisations

Harry Bradley, YJA
Inspector Laura Kelly, PSNI
Inspector Paul Noble, PSNI

David McComiskey, NIFRS
Malachy McKinney, NIHE
Gabi Mornhinweg, H&SCT

Staff Present

Richard McLernon, Safer City Coordinator
Rachel Fulton, Partnership Support Officer

Apologies

Councillor Mary Ellen Campbell
Chief Inspector Steven Burns, PSNI
Janet McClinton, PBNI
Councillor Nuala McAllister(Chair)

1. Welcome and Routine Matters

- i. The Chair welcomed members to 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;
 - An email had been sent to injured police officer, and a letter was with the Chair for signature.
 - Chair and Vice-Chair to liaise with safer city coordinator to arrange a date to attend Tennent Street Station to visit injured officer, adding that a date would be circulated and any member would be welcome to attend.
 - Safer City Coordinator advised that he would liaise with PSNI regarding St Patricks Day Operational Costs and feedback; and
 - Safer City Coordinator stated that an operational debrief was taking place next week and a report on this would be circulated to Members

- ii. The minutes of the North Belfast DPCSP Policing Committee held on 22nd March, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct.

4. Update on Policing

- iii. Inspector Laura Kelly updated the Members on the performance against the North Belfast District Policing Plan, relating to year end- March 17.
- iv. Members noted that:
 - a. There were reductions in the number of burglaries, crimes against older people, ASB incidents and number of allegations of incivility.
 - b. Hate crime remained the same with an increase in amount of drug seizures and a slight increase in number of allegations of failure in duty.
- i. Members were provided with information in relation to the new policing plan for North Belfast which included key priorities such as domestic violence, road safety and a city wide approach to ASB.
- ii. Inspector Kelly advised that current performance in April and May had indicated an increase in drug seizures and a reduction in burglaries.
- iii. Inspector Kelly asked Members to consider a proposal from Crime Prevention Officer, Kathy Latcham, in relation to funding hospitality to the sum of £150 for an event on 14th June.
- iv. Members agreed to fund hospitality for event.
- v. Alderman Spence stated the importance of DPCSP members attending such events.

5. Members Written Questions

- i. A member requested answers to a list of questions detailed below:
 - a. After the cowardly attempted murder of the police officer on the Crumlin road, at the Maxol Garage, how many officers have been offered or received counselling after this incident, furthermore have the bushes facing the garage where this attack was launched from, have they been removed from this ambush site?
 - b. Are the current G36 weapons suitable for night use, what is the percentage of officers trained in the G36, furthermore are the G36 weapons zeroed to individual officers? Are there zeroing readers available to officers?
 - c. What is the total percentage of officers in the North Belfast DPCSP Area who are probationers?
 - d. Is there currently enough police resources in the North Belfast DPCSP to deal with the current demand for policing?
 - e. Why are police officers from North Belfast being used in other Districts (Divis/Carrickfergus) when they could be deployed in North Belfast?

- f. Is it true that young probationers are being sent from Garnerville without a being qualified as a police driver, furthermore do some new officers go to their first stations without even having a driving licence?
 - g. After speaking with the Chief Inspector who runs Calls Handling and having his assurance that you can provide the information on how many outstanding calls in a average day do officers come on shift to?
 - h. Are officers in North Belfast receiving breaks during their 12 hour shifts?
 - i. How effective is the DEA car, is this being used for neighbourhood duties or is this car being used for something else?
 - j. Are police officers being used as ambulance staff, when no ambulances are available?
 - k. Are police officers being used as mental health service staff sitting in hospitals for their entire shifts? Is this the best use of resources and what approaches have been made to the health and social services boards to provide more mental health services which would free up these police officers?
 - l. After the discussions on the 27th March 2017 when the Chief Inspector of Call Handling told officers that if they can't multitask they are the wrong job and should get another one, have there been any further discussion between LPT Officers and the Senior Leadership Team to repair these relationships. This statement is similar to the Chief Constables previous statement "dry your eyes" is this the type of management style the PSNI is projecting to their officers?
 - m. How many police officers on average are in a section, of those officers how many are available on a day to day basis, what is the minimum numbers for a section to be operational and have they ever fell below the minimum numbers required for operation use?
 - n. How much does it cost for the lunch boxes given to officers during big events, parades, what is provided and who provides them?
- ii. The document circulated to members provided answers to questions above.
 - iii. Gerald Solinas highlighted his concerns around the lack of clarity on answers provided by PSNI and stated that he would be escalating them to Chief Constable for further detail, as well as requesting a meeting in the near future to discuss policing issues in North Belfast.

6. Date of Next Meeting

- iv. Members were reminded that the next Policing Committee Meeting would be held on Wednesday, 30th August.

**North Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership
Policing Committee – Wednesday, 31st May, 2017**

Actions

Action	Date Due	By Whom
A letter is to be sent to the recently injured PSNI Officer offering the best wishes of the Partnership.	Next Meeting	Safer City Coordinator
Chair/Vice Chair to agree date to visit Tennent Street Station and circulate	Next Meeting	Safer City Coordinator & Chair/Vice Chair
PSNI/BCC to provide overall cost of St Patricks Day operation	Next Meeting	PSNI/ Safer City Coordinator
A report to be circulated on St Patricks Day Operation	Next Meeting	Safer City Coordinator