

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

**Working Group**

**Meeting Room AD2C 9 Adelaide St  
4pm Monday 26<sup>th</sup> June, 2017**

**Political Members**

Alderman Guy Spence

**Independent Members**

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

**Designated Organisations**

Janet McClinton, PBNI

**Staff Present**

Richard McLernon, Safer City Coordinator  
Andy Claydon, Partnership Support Officer

**1. Welcome**

- i. R McLernon welcomed Members to the working group and introduced Colin Robinson and Gary McMichael from ASCERT

**2. ASCERT Presentation**

- i. Gary McMichael from ASCERT delivered a presentation on the Drugs and Substance Misuse Project.
- ii. Gary reported that ASCERT held an initial meeting with Stakeholders at the end of March 2017 however, the process had felt incomplete due to the restraints of the financial year coming to an end. Gary also noted that several key Stakeholders had been missing from the process.
- iii. Gary explained that having fulfilled their brief in terms of getting the Stakeholder group together, it was now important to agree the function of the group and that ASCERT would be able to arrange the meetings, help to create the structure of the group and identify the key issues and see where that went.
- iv. Members were told that although the Stakeholder group needed structure, it could not be too rigid and would need to be representative of the communities it served, led by the Stakeholders and involving input from statutory agencies such as PSNI, Probation Board, Youth Justice and others as required.
- v. Gary informed Members that there was definitely room in North Belfast for a local group who addressed local issues but that an advocate for the group would be essential in promoting the services of the group.
- vi. A Member asked if the net (Invite list) could be cast any wider to which Colin (ASCERT) replied that the net was originally cast quite wide but that it was more a point of capturing the right people rather than more people.

### Item No.3a

- vii. A Member commented on gaps in the invite list and remarked on the lack of names from their North Belfast District. It was noted that most of the names on the invite list appeared to be from one area within the district. The Member expressed concern that people working with Drug and Substance abusers in North Belfast were seeing fellow workers from other districts getting help while their issues were neglected and getting worse. The Member suggested that if a list were drawn up of the areas with the bigger drug and alcohol problems and a list showing the areas that received the most funding the names on the lists would be very different.
- viii. A Member suggested that the stakeholder group was a very good idea, however it was important that the people on the ground needed to know where to go and who to talk to.
- ix. A Member agreed that problems are often unique to individual areas but that some areas in Belfast appeared to be ahead of the game. They continued to agree that the group was a good idea but questioned the remit of the group and noted that areas of North Belfast had significant problems with drug and alcohol abuse. They repeated the need for the invites to go out to more groups
- x. A Member highlighted the current gaps in service provision in North Belfast and admitted that although there were some great groups in operation there were nowhere near as many as were prominent in West Belfast. They suggested that the services would benefit from bringing people together.
- xi. Gary from ASCERT informed Members that information does exist regarding available services, namely online, an A3 service directory and he hopes that from the stakeholder groups, a situational roadmap that steers people with specific needs to the appropriate agencies could be developed.
- xii. A member commented that the people who need to know about these services don't know about them and that it was essential that these people are reached out to.
- xiii. Colin from ASCERT stipulated that as yet they were unsure of how to address the specific issues in North Belfast and that it would be the people of North Belfast that should be informing them of the issues that are most important to them and not the experts.
- xiv. A Member suggested that a Community audit of local services had never been done but would be helpful to disseminate details on the services available to the local community.
- xv. The Safer City Co-Ordinator suggested a meeting in September before the next Private Meeting and advised Members that he would distribute the invite list to them to add any parties they wanted to be added which could then be discussed at the next meeting.
- xvi. Colin from ASCERT responded to the question of a deadline for the invite list by informing Members that it would need to be confirmed by the end of July
- xvii. Colin from ASCERT then advised Members that free training was available to agencies and their workers as part of this process, and that Members should inform the relevant groups to enable them to avail of the opportunity. It was agreed that the offer of free training would be circulated.
- xviii. The Safer City Co-Ordinator thanked Gary and Colin for their presentation

**3. Project Approval**

- i. The Safer City Co-Ordinator explained to Members that there was a meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup> June for Chairs/Vice Chairs to sign off agreed projects and that their approval was required for three projects before they could be ratified at the meeting.
- ii. The Safer City Co-Ordinator confirmed that one project relating to Detached Youth had been approved already and continued to present the details of the three projects in question.
- iii. **Friendship Club** – The Safer City Co-Ordinator declared a change in the organisation delivering the work which would now be co-ordinated by Claudia Belloni with catering provided by the Council’s Cafe.  
The purpose of the project is to combat social exclusion and isolation and provide a safe place for people to be themselves.  
The Safer City Co-Ordinator asked that Members approve the release of £1020.00 to fund the project

Proposed : G O’Reilly  
Seconded: M Murray

- iv. **Dean Clarke Foundation** – The Safer City Co-Ordinator introduced this project which hopes to fund a summer project for youths with the PSNI to address the issue of Anti-Social Behaviour. The money is to be used to fund several diversionary events.

The Safer City Co-Ordinator asked that Members approve an award of £1921.00

Proposed : Ald. G. Spence  
Seconded : G O’Reilly

- v. **North Belfast DPCSP Self Delivery** – The Safer City Co-Ordinator introduced a project to support local Community groups to fund the accommodation and catering for their meetings. Groups would include Greater Shankill Community Safety Network, Thorndale Duncairn Kinnaird and Upper North Belfast CPLC.
- vi. A Member expressed concerns as to what would happen to unspent money based on previous years difficulties.
- vii. The Safer City Co-Ordinator confirmed that any unspent funds would go back into the budget and be used for like projects.
- viii. A Member informed the group about a model practised in America whereby local community group meetings are sponsored by local coffee shops, therefore saving on the catering costs. The Member explained how these savings, although minimal, could pay for extra diversionary activities.
- ix. A Member agreed that this would be worth considering as it would bring Business and the Community closer together.  
They also commented on the difficulties experienced by similar groups in getting the PSNI to attend their meetings due partly to the cut backs and the lack of resources and how this has had an impact on the funding of such groups and led to the erosion of good initiatives like a local Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.

**Item No.3a**

- x. The Safer City Co-Ordinator agreed to put the issue on the agenda for the next Private Meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup> August 2017
- xi. The Safer City Co-Ordinator asked that Members approve £1300 to fund the project discussed

Proposed : J Cornell  
Seconded : M Murray

**4. A.O.B**

- i. The Safer City Co-Ordinator suggested that Members meet before the next Private Meeting of the 30<sup>th</sup> August 2017 to discuss the Drug Awareness Issues raised in connection with ASCERT

**5. Date of Next Meeting**

North Belfast DPCSP Private Meeting, 30<sup>th</sup> August 2017 to follow Policing Committee in the Conor Room, City Hall at 17:15

**Actions**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Date Due</b>	<b>By Whom</b>
Circulate details of Free Training offered to agencies as part of the work being done by ASCERT	Next Meeting	Safer City Coordinator
Circulate Invite List to Members for additional recipients	End of July	Safer City Coordinator
Potential for private sponsorship of community meetings and the issue of police attendance at meetings to be added to the agenda of the DPCSP in August 2017	August 30 <sup>th</sup>	Safer City Coordinator