

Minutes of the Belfast Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Policing Committee

Lavery Room, City Hall
Monday 12th June, 2017

Political Members

Councillor John Hussey (Chair)
Councillor Matt Garrett
Councillor Brian Heading
Councillor JJ Magee
Alderman Jim Rodgers
Alderman Tommy Sandford

Independent Members

Susan Russam (Vice-Chair)
Debbie Hammill
Mary Lambe
Michael O'Hara
Carmel McKinney

PSNI Representatives

Chief Superintendent Chris Noble

Staff Present

Denise Smith, Safer City Coordinator
Rachel Fulton, Partnership Support Officer

Apologies

John MacVicar
Councillor Janice Austin

1. Welcome and Apologies

- i. The Chair welcomed Members to the meeting and noted the apologies provided.

2. Declarations of Interest

- i. The Chair advised Members that they were required to declare any material interests that they may have in relation to any items on the agenda.
- ii. No declarations of interest were recorded.

3. Minutes

- i. The minutes of the Belfast PCSP Policing Committee Meeting held on 13th March, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct.

4. Update from PSNI Representatives

- i. Chief Superintendent Noble provided Members with an update on policing across the District noting the following key points:
 - After incidents in London and Manchester the PSNI were operating at the same threat level. He advised that more uniformed officers would be present around high profile sites across the City engaging with members of the public.
 - Operation Tanerg continues to operate at weekends, with positive results being shown. He added the objective of the operation is to ensure street-level early intervention by police and support organisations to Confront, Interact and Assert in the face of youth related anti-social behaviour across public spaces in Belfast.
 - Operation Torus ran from 27th February-26th March, which led to £36,000 worth of seizures, 26 arrests and 4 individuals charged.

- A number of arrests had been made in relation to driving and drug offences across the City
 - #1PILLWILLKILL campaign continues to be supported
 - A number of upcoming festival events and parades would require significant amount of Police resources
- ii. In relation to performance, Chief Superintendent Noble informed Members on the following:
- Reduction of 2,500 crime incidents
 - Drug seizures increased by 8%
 - Burglaries reduced by 26.7%
 - Reduction 632 incidents of assault
 - Increase in bike thefts across the City

Members Comments

- iii. A Member raised his concerns regarding upcoming festival events such as Belsonic that would attract significant crowds into a controlled space in light of incidents in Manchester and London. He sought assurances that Police presence would be stepped up.
- iv. Chief Superintendent Noble advised that 20% cuts to overtime would have an impact, however, there would be visible Policing at events such as Belsonic and as strong a footprint as possible would be deployed.
- v. A Member questioned the cost of a Hygiene clean-up operation in Musgrave Street to which Chief Superintendent Noble advised that work was still on-going and it had not been costed as yet.
- vi. A discussion took place regarding 20 million budget cut to PSNI and how this would impact on services provided. Chief Superintendent Noble stated that resources would have to be put where priorities are.
- vii. A Member highlighted that the PCSP would need to play a key role to ensure confidence in policing was maintained and asked how the partnership could best support this, to which Chief Superintendent Noble advised that an education focus was required so that there was better awareness on what PSNI can and cannot do.
- viii. A Member alluded to the 8% increase in drug seizures and requested that a full breakdown is provided at the next meeting to which Chief Superintendent Noble agreed to provide.
- ix. In relation to a recent Police Federation Meeting, Members raised their concerns at issues and problems that emerged from Police Officers in terms of staff morale, pay and human resources. Chief Superintendent Noble stated that he met regularly with Police Federation and there were positive conversations on-going.
- x. A Member stated that the PCSP need to ensure that Police Officer concerns are heard, as well as commending Officers who are supporting Ambulance Services daily.
- xi. A discussion took place on co-responding between blue light services, with a Member suggesting that the NIFRS could provide more input into their on-going work in relation to this at the next meeting.

- xii. Members welcomed more information in relation to co-responding.

5. PCSP Policing Committee Bi-Annual Report 2016/2017

- i. Members were asked to note and approve content of report to be submitted to Northern Ireland Policing Board.
- ii. Members approved contents of the report.

6. Date of Next Meeting

- i. Members were advised that the next meeting of the Policing Committee would be held on Monday, 11th September.
- ii. Members were also advised that a date would be circulated for a focus group meeting with Dr Jonny Byrne, to assess the effectiveness of policing committees.
- iii. A Member requested that a report could be produced on human trafficking at the next meeting as it appeared to be an emerging issue in the City.
- iv. Members noted this request.
- v. The Chair thanked all for attending.

**Belfast PCSP Meeting - Summary of Actions
Policing Committee Meeting
Monday, 12th June, 2017**

Action Agreed	By When	By Whom
Breakdown of Drug Seizures to be provided	11 th Sept	PSNI
Update on Co-responding to be provided	11 th Sept	NIFRS
Report to be provided on Human Trafficking	11 th Sept	PSNI