

Minutes of the Belfast Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Private Meeting

Lavery Room, City Hall
Monday 15th May, 2017

Political Members	Independent Members
Councillor John Hussey (Chair)	Susan Russam (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Janice Austin	Debbie Hammill
Councillor Matt Garrett	Mary Lambe
Councillor Brian Heading	John Loughran
Councillor JJ Magee	Carmel McKinney
Councillor Geraldine McAteer	Michael O'Hara
Alderman Jim Rodgers	
Alderman Tommy Sandford	

Designated Organisations	NIPB Delegates
Chris Fee, NIFRS	Professor Brice Dickson
Liz Arthur, PBNI	Mohammed al Sayed
Patricia Muldoon, YJA	
Bryan Nelson, H&SCT	
Chief Superintendent Chris Noble, PSNI	
Helen Russell, NIHE	

Staff Present	Apologies
Lorna Somers, Safer City Assistant Manager	John MacVicar
Rachel Fulton, Partnership Support Officer	
Andy Claydon, Partnership Support Officer	

1. Welcome and Apologies

- i. The Chair welcomed Members to the meeting and noted the apologies provided.
- ii. The Chair introduced Liz Arthur as the new PBNI representative, as well as NIPB delegates Professor Brice Dickson and Mohammed al Sayed.

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.

3. Presentation- Orangefest "Its about the battle, not the bottle"

(Rev Mervyn Gibson Chairman of Orangefest, Cyril Moorhead and Billy Mawhinney, attended in relation to this item).

- i. In relation to "It's about the battle, not the bottle" Rev Mervyn Gibson provided Members with a presentation which outlined the significant advertising campaign that was implemented in 2016.

- ii. This included outdoor advertising on 90 buses and 5 billboards throughout the City. Rev Gibson stated that 25,000 beer mats were distributed in bars and nightclubs throughout the City and 23,000 labelled bottles of water were produced and distributed at Bonfires and on 12th July.
- iii. Rev Gibson stated the key successes of the Campaign included a reduction in the number of individuals consuming alcohol, more families attending the celebration which could be attributed to the strong message created by the Campaign. He also stated that the Campaign this year would mirror a similar message to last year in "It's still about the battle, not the bottle".
- iv. Rev Gibson advised that the launch of the evaluation report was taking place 24th May in the Lord Mayor's Parlour. He thanked members for their support in relation to last year's campaign and for the opportunity to make presentation at the meeting.

Questions from Members

- v. A Member commended Rev Gibson on the success of the Campaign and asked if there was any scope to expand the Campaign to address the issue of drug-taking to which Rev Gibson advised that there were no specific plans at the minute but organisers would be happy to work alongside the PHA to promote any of their messages.
- vi. Another member also commended Rev Gibson on the Campaign and questioned how they would build on it for this year and the years ahead. Rev Gibson stated that the message was getting stronger, more visible in communities, more buy in from bands and he hoped that would continue. He advised that the Campaign would like to bring about an attitudinal change so that in 5 years' time, the positive behaviours would be the norm.
- vii. The Chair thanked Rev Gibson for the informative presentation at which point he, Cyril Moorhead and Billy Mawhinney left the meeting.

Other

- viii. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised that no formal request for funding had been made to the Partnership but asked if Members wished to discuss funding the Campaign this year.
- ix. At this point two Members declared an interest, Alderman Rodgers and Alderman Sandford, both of which left the meeting for the discussion.
- x. After a lengthy discussion Members agreed to give delegated authority to Officers to develop a funding proposal up to £10,000 for Orangefest with approval via the Chair/Vice-Chair.
- xi. Delegated authority was also granted to Officers to develop a similar proposal regarding a campaign around 8th August Bonfires which would be presented to the Partnership at next meeting.

4. Minutes

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

- ii. The Safer City Assistant Manager provided an update on the actions from the previous meeting;
 - Three presentations outstanding (Reducing Offending Partnership, Crimestoppers and Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service) will be invited to present at Joint Briefing on 26th June, in the Banqueting Hall, City Hall at 7pm.
- iii. The Safer City Assistant Manager proposed that Members give delegated authority to officers to determine future presentations for Joint Briefings or PCSP Meetings.
- iv. Members agreed to give delegated authority to Officers in relation to future requests for presentations.

5. Chair's Update

- i. The Chair provided Members with the following update:
 - PBNI Report advising contact will be made with all PCSP managers.
 - Queen's research- PSNI Local Policing Model.
 - University of Ulster research into effectiveness of Policing Committees.

6. Update from Designated Partners

PBNI

- i. Liz Arthur advised that a Graffiti Service had recently been launched in partnership with Belfast City Council on the 5th April as a pilot until 31st March 2018, with a view of rolling out this service across Northern Ireland.
- ii. In response to a query regarding who to contact if graffiti is discovered, Liz Arthur advised that PBNI worked closely with BCC Cleansing Department to deliver the service and the best contact would be Jim Ferguson or a member of his team within cleansing.
- iii. Liz Arthur informed Members of a newly started initiative named 'Aspire Project' and welcomed the opportunity to present more detail on the project at a future meeting.
- iv. Members welcomed the opportunity to find out more information on the Aspire Project.
- v. A Member requested that the Partnership send a letter of thank-you to Eithne McIlroy, PBNI for her commendable work during her time as a Member of the Partnership.
- vi. Members agreed to this request.

NIFRS

- vii. Chris Fee advised Members that the NIFRS had attended 70 fires in April, 2017 which involved 2 rescues and 12 casualties. He further advised that there were 11 attacks on fire fighters during this period.
- viii. He also informed Members that there had been Joint Campaign with the PSNI, involving the distribution of leaflets with various important safety messages.

- ix. Chris Fee welcomed help from Members in desisting youth starting deliberate fires, due to the good weather.

PSNI

- x. Chief Superintendent Noble summarised the report provided noting that the PSNI had begun Operation Tanerg on 5th May to deal with youth related antisocial behaviour in Belfast. He advised that feedback in the first two weeks had been positive and welcomed any feedback from Members on the Operation and asked if Members would welcome a monthly report on the on-going Operation.
- xi. Members welcomed a monthly report on Operation Tanerg.
- xii. Chief Superintendent Noble also referenced a number of high profile cases across the City including a recent incident in Botanic Gardens, the capture of an absconder from HMP Prison Service and the arrest of a convicted sexual offender. He also noted upcoming events in June such as the General Election, Gran Fondo and Belsonic.
- xiii. A Member thanked the PSNI for additional foot patrols and stated that confidence in policing is growing due to increased visibility on the streets.
- xiv. A Member provided Chief Superintendent Noble with a list of written questions to be answered on behalf of a North Belfast DPCSP Member and requested answers.
- xv. Chief Superintendent Noble assured the Member that the questions would be answered and communicated back to the Member who made the submission.
- xvi. Another Member questioned PSNI/NIFRS in relation to an incident in Clara Street, to which the NIFRS confirmed that it was caused by a deliberate fire.
- xvii. Another Member welcomed collaboration between patrols and suggested that the Partnership request a report from the People and Communities committee regarding Council resources in relation to Parks and Open Spaces.
- xviii. Members agreed this request.

YJA

- xix. Patricia Muldoon, YJA advised Members of ongoing work throughout schools in relation to the consequences of involvement in crime and anti-social behaviour.
- xx. She further advised that funding was available for groups to provide early intervention programmes throughout the City.

Other

- xxi. A Member raised their concerns about ongoing transient youth issues throughout Belfast, stating that there had been an increase in arranged fighting in various areas with a lack of responsibility taken from landowners.
- xxii. The Member also stated her concerns around the lack of Education Authority representation at PCSP meetings.

- xxiii. Members requested that a letter be sent to the Permanent Secretary for the Department of Education, Derek Baker, regarding representation issues.
- xxiv. A Member commented on the need to have high level intervention on the issue of transient youth, requiring creative and innovative ideas.
- xxv. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised that the findings of the three pieces of work that the PCSP had commissioned in relation to transient youth during the 2016/17 financial year would be presented to the Partnership at its June Meeting.
- xxvi. A Member stated their concerns around the issue of prescription drug usage in the City to which the Safer City Assistant Manager advised Members of the PCSPs ongoing work with BDACT and their development of a Strategy which was due to be published in the near future. It was agreed that once available, Members would receive a presentation on this strategy from BDACT.

7. 2017/18 (D)PCSP Funding Model

- i. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised Members that indications from the Joint Committee conveyed that a budget cut of 4% was likely and therefore some savings would be necessary. She added that current uncertainty from Central Government was likely to delay receipt of a formal letter of offer meaning any interim spend would be 'at risk'.
- ii. Members were reminded that the budget was currently divided between each of the DPCSPs on the basis of a basic allocation (30%), population (45%) and deprivation (25%). Members were asked to agree the same funding model used in 2016/17 and to ring-fence £220,149 to the PCSP for strategic/city centre projects and citywide projects initiatives which have a local focus, with the remaining £560,000 allocated on a proportional basis to the four DPCSPs as previously outlined.
- iii. A Member raised their concerns around the 4% budget cut and requested that the Partnership send a letter to the Joint Committee.
- iv. Members agreed to send a letter to joint committee.
- v. A discussion took place around concerns of an equal cut across all DPCSPs. A Member was in disagreement with the recommended budget allocation model. However, after a lengthy discussion, Members approved the funding model and the allocation of £220,149 to the PCSP with remaining £560,000 allocated on a proportional basis to the four DPCSPs.
- vi. Members were reminded of issues with underspends in 2016/2017 and were asked to consider options to improve the PCSP's monitoring and performance roles. Members noted the three options for consideration outlined in the report.
- vii. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised Members that Option 3 was recommended. She explained that this Option would comprise of PCSP retaining overall budget responsibility, enabling the identification and reallocation of underspends more effectively. She commented that it places more emphasis on DPCSPs to progress the development of projects in a more timely and effective manner.
- viii. She further commented that Option 3 would give the PCSP authority to formally release payment of projects in stages, reducing financial risk, however any other decision making in respect of projects would remain with the DPCSPs.

- ix. Furthermore, Members were asked to grant delegated authority of up to £1,000 to the Safer City Assistant/Manager, PCSP Chair and Vice Chair to enable the release of funding in between PCSP meetings, with any spend to be reported retrospectively at the following PCSP meeting.
- x. Members were also asked to consider a further release of monies equating to £6,260 to the South Belfast DPCSP to continue projects, with assurances that all governance processes will be followed.
- xi. Members approved Option 3 and granted delegated authority, as well as approving the release of £6,260 to South Belfast DPCSP.

8. 2017/2018 (D)PCSP Action Plans

- i. A Member highlighted their concerns around transient youth issue city-wide and questioned whether any feedback had been provided from the research that had been commissioned in 2016/2017.
- ii. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised that this information would be brought to the next PCSP meeting in June.
- iii. A discussion took place around addressing the transient youth issue, to which a Member suggested that the Partnership arrange a meeting with School Principals to discuss the problems in more detail.
- iv. It was agreed that the Safer City Assistant Manager would organise partnership representation at a wider principals meeting to discuss issue of transient youth.
- v. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that all 2017/2018 (D)PCSP Action Plans had been submitted to the DOJ, but informed Members that an indicative budget allocation was expected from the Joint Committee within 10 days. She advised that once this budget indication was received, the budgets within the Action Plans would be amended to reflect any budget decrease and resubmitted to the Joint Committee for approval prior to the release of the PCSP Letter of Offer.
- vi. The Safer City Coordinator informed Members of progressions on two projects namely; Cybercrime training and Licensee Training Programme due to take place at the end of May and mid-June.
- vii. Following a short discussion, Members approved (D)PCSP Action Plans.

9. Unwanted August Bonfires Programme

- i. Members were reminded that funding of £10,500 had been agreed to provide support to groups delivering activity in relation to unwanted August Bonfires. The Safer City Assistant Manager asked Members to consider the following:
 - Funding up to £1,000 be provided to each of 7 groups funded through the 2016 Good Relations Bonfire Programme
 - Funding up to £1,000 provided to support any new groups identified by the respective DPCSP
 - The respective DPCSP to provide a maximum of £500 match funding per group
 - Post Summer 2017 an examination of funding process and engagement with relevant parties and community groups to develop future funding proposals

- ii. Members noted the contents of the report and agreed to all items proposed.

10. 2016/2017 Monitoring and Evaluation Reports

- i. The Safer City Assistant Manager reminded the Members that as part of the PCSP governance process each PCSP project must be evaluated to ensure that it has delivered the targeted outcomes. Accordingly, evaluation documentation for a number of 2016/2017 projects had been provided for Members to review.
- ii. Members noted the information provided.

11. Date of Next Meeting

- i. The Chair reminded Members that the next meeting of the PCSP would be held on Monday, 12th June in the Lavery Room, City Hall.

**Belfast PCSP Meeting - Summary of Actions
Private Meeting
Monday, 15th May, 2017**

Action Agreed	By When	By Whom
A Letter to be sent to Joint committee regarding 4% budget cut	12 th June	Safer City Assistant Manager
Letter of thanks to be sent to Eithne McIlroy, PBNI	12 th June	Safer City Assistant Manager
Letter to be sent to Permanent Secretary, Derek Baker regarding EA representation issues	12 th June	Safer City Assistant Manager
Future presentation on BDACT strategy to be arranged	TBC	Partnership Support Officer
Report on 3 transient youth projects/research to be provided	12 th June	Safer City Assistant Manager
Presentation on PBNI Aspire project to be arranged	TBC	Partnership Support Officer
Meeting with School Principals to discuss transient youth issue to be arranged	TBC	Safer City Assistant Manager

Request report from People and Communities committee re Council resources in relation to Council Parks and Open Spaces	12 th June	Safer City Assistant Manager
Actions from Previous Meeting	By When	By Whom
Crimestoppers, Reducing Offending Partnership and Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service to be invited to present to Members at Joint Briefing in June.	26 th June	Crimestoppers