

Minutes of the Belfast Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Private Meeting

Conor Room, City Hall
Monday 14th August, 2017

Political Members

Councillor John Hussey (Chair)
Councillor Brian Heading
Councillor JJ Magee
Councillor Janice Austin
Alderman Tommy Sandford
Alderman Jim Rodgers

Independent Members

Susan Russam (Vice-Chair)
Debbie Hammill
Michael O'Hara
John MacVicar
Mary Lambe

Designated Organisations

Chris Fee, NIFRS
Liz Arthur, PBNI
Harry Bradley, YJA
Helen Russell, NIHE
Superintendent Melanie Jones, PSNI

Bryan Nelson, H&SCT
Lynsey Braniff, EA

Staff Present

Denise Smith, Safer City Coordinator
Lorna Somers, Safer City Assistant Manager
Andy Claydon, Partnership Support Officer

Apologies

Councillor Matt Garrett
Carmel McKinney
John Loughran
Anne-Louise Toal

1. Welcome and Apologies

- i. The Chair welcomed Members to the meeting and noted the apologies provided.
- ii. The Chair introduced Members to Michael McAvoy who attended on behalf of DOJ.
- iii. A Member suggested that in the prolonged absence of Patricia Muldoon of Youth Justice, the Partnership draft a letter to offer their support during her illness.

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. Confirmation of Appointment of Vice Chair

- i. The Chair confirmed the appointment of John McVicar as the new Vice Chair of the Belfast PCSP.

- ii. The Chair announced that the incoming Chair of the partnership, whilst not yet known, would be from the Alliance Party.

4. Minutes

- i. The minutes of the Belfast PCSP Meeting held on 12th June, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct.
- ii. With regards to the actions from the previous, the Safer City Coordinator advised that:
 - The BDACT Action Plan had been circulated via e-mail
 - Meeting of Chair/Vice Chair took place on the 4th July
 - The Transient Youth Sub-Group Meeting took place on the 19th June
 - The current contract for the SHARPS contract has been extended
 - The Specification for the Homelessness Strategy has been drawn up

5. Chair's Update

- i. The Chair reminded the new Vice Chair of the upcoming induction training for all incoming Partnership Chairs and Vice Chairs.

6. Update from Designated Partners

PSNI

- i. Supt. Melanie Jones advised Members of the PSNI's current priorities and gave a brief overview:
 - Drug Crime, including tackling heroin use.
 - Burglaries against the over 60's, noting a downward trend in incidents.
 - ASB and the work of Operation TANERG
 - Parades
- ii. A Member raised a query about an incident in which two coaches from overseas had been set alight in the Hope Street area in the centre of Belfast and enquired if anyone had been apprehended for the crime. Supt. Jones, whilst unaware of any particular action, assured the Member that she would follow up on his concern and circulate a response.
- iii. The Member then commented on the unrest in the Markets area of the City, in particular Stewart Street and raised concerns relating to the insurance implications for those who had had cars damaged. Supt. Jones assured the Members that a thorough investigation was underway.
- iv. Supt. Jones reported to Members a number of significant recent events, including:
 - The seizure of over 54,000 cigarettes, a number of high value items, including two vehicles and approximately £70,000 in cash
 - The sentencing of a West Belfast man for terrorist related offences.
 - The sentencing of a female for manslaughter.

- The Internment Parades, which were the subject of a dynamic PSNI operation and produced 1 arrest. Unrest reported in Divis, New Lodge and the Markets area has since subsided.
 - The Apprentice Boys march passed off without incident.
- v. A Member reported an incident they had witnessed in which a group of youths wearing masks had been allowed to push a trolley of pallets across Dunbar link, stopping traffic as they proceeded to the Divis area. The Member enquired as to the legislation to prevent this type of activity and Supt. Jones responded by telling Members that the PSNI do not have the appropriate powers to intervene. Supt. Jones added that the only legislation the PSNI would have in their favour would be if the pallets were considered to be stolen.
 - vi. A Member continued by highlighting the difficulty in identifying the owners of the Pallets and suggested a database for companies to declare their own pallets and that the onus should be on these companies to dispose of their own supply. The Member asked if there had been any arrests made of youths caught using hospital trolleys to transport pallets. Supt. Jones informed Members that the PSNI has taken action against youths but that the response has to be proportionate and arrests cannot be made on the likeliness that the pallets and trolleys are stolen.
 - vii. A Member asked Supt. Jones about PSNI actions in relation to a recent illegal rave in North Belfast. Supt. Jones confirmed that PSNI resources were deployed but that their response was targeted mainly towards the illegal use of the property rather than the event itself due to a lack of legislation. The Member asked if Belfast City Council had any powers available to prevent such an event to which the Chair responded by saying the Council would have powers with regards to licensing which would apply.
 - viii. A Member discussed a series of attacks on homes in the Dunboyne Park area of West Belfast, committed by gangs of 20-25 youths and questioned the perceived lack of Police visibility in that particular area. They continued by suggesting that the hard work that Community workers and the Police had invested in this area was being eroded due to the lack of Police resources despite CCTV confirming that this area required significant attention. Supt. Jones confirmed that she would look into these incidents.
 - ix. A Member raised the criticism aimed at the PSNI by a District Judge in relation to the erroneous release of a prisoner from a Police Station. Supt. Jones highlighted to Members that this matter was a one-off incident that had been dealt with as a performance matter as it had been an incident of human error.

EA

- i. Lynsey Braniff introduced herself to Members as the Interim Deputy Head of Youth Services for Belfast.
- ii. Lynsey Braniff informed Members of the EA's priorities, including, the development of community safety programmes for young people, and diversionary projects to reduce levels of antisocial behaviour.
- iii. Lynsey Braniff commented on the funding that had been distributed across Belfast for youth work over the summer months including £400,000 given out for prevention work. She added that significant funding had been distributed to a number of EA and voluntary youth providers to deliver cross community camps.

- iv. A Member asked if Lynsey Braniff was aware of any youth clubs being closed between July and August. Ms Braniff informed Members that some of the part time clubs could be closed over the summer months depending on funding. The Member questioned whether the Immaculata Youth Club had been closed at all over the summer to which Lynsey Braniff responded by informing Members that the club had not been closed and if it had been it would have been to allow for annual leave.
- v. A Member commented that it was good to see a representative from the EA as they had perceived a lack of engagement with the Council.

NIFRS

- i. Chris Fee informed Members that the Fire Service had endured a very busy 11th night during which, at one point, every fire truck was deployed.
- ii. Chris Fee reported an increase in the number of attacks on fire fighters.
- iii. A Member suggested that the Partnership write to the Chief Fire Officer to condone these attacks and to thank the NIFRS for their efforts throughout a difficult period. The Member commented on the youths who commit these attacks, blaming bad parenting leading to a lack of control.
- iv. A Member personally thanked the NIFRS for their assistance at the scene of a recent car accident they were involved in and commended the service for the diverse nature of incidents they attend other than fires.

7. 2016/2017 Final PCSP Monitoring and Evaluation Reports

- i. The Safer City Coordinator briefly outlined the three attached reports:
 - Belfast City Centre Management – Night Time Volunteering Steering Group.
 - Extern – Supportive Staff Debriefing Service
 - BD & SVP – Domestic Violence App
- ii. A Member observed that the Extern report did not appear to declare any PSNI involvement. The Safer City Coordinator informed Members that in relation to the training, the PSNI did not feel the need to be involved, but assured the Member that their concern had been noted and that she would look into the matter.

8. 2016/2017 ARCS Projects

- i. The Safer City Coordinator introduced the reports for 2 projects and informed Members that there was a 3rd report that would be brought to the partnership at the next meeting:
 - Extern NI – Moving Forward Moving On
 - SOS NI – SOS Response Teams
- ii. A Member agreed that a presentation from these groups would be beneficial to the partnership and the Safer City Coordinator agreed to make the necessary arrangements.

- iii. Supt. Melanie Jones commented on the work of the SOS Bus and informed Members that during one night that she spent with them, they dealt with 85 people that otherwise would have been dealt with by the Police.
- iv. Members noted the contents of the report.

9. 2017/2018 PCSP Action Plan Progress Report

- i. The Safer City Coordinator introduced the Action Plan report to Members.
- ii. A Member asked how the Partnership can be certain that the money is spent on what it should be, to which the Safer City Coordinator responded by explaining the rigorous governance that is put in place to monitor project spend. The Safer City Coordinator explained how a series of visits to funded organisations are undertaken as part of this process.
- iii. A Member asked the Safer City Coordinator if groups had ever had money taken from them for failure to do as they had planned, to which the Safer City Coordinator explained that groups sometimes fail to deliver within agreed timescales and would also occasionally ask to re-align funds but that ultimately they must provide receipts before they receive any money.
- iv. A Member confirmed the rigorous nature of the BCC monitoring visits by commenting on the checks undertaken by BCC staff in relation to a project being delivered by their own group.
- v. Members noted the contents of the report.

10. 2017/2018 DPCSP Action Plan Progress Reports

- vi. The Safer City Coordinator updated Members on the progress of the 2017/2018 Action Plan and the spend to date of each of the Partnerships.
- vii. Members noted the contents of the report

11. DPCSP Spend Update

- i. The Safer City Assistant Manager presented the spend update to Members and asked that Members agree to the release of funds for three projects for which due diligence had been completed:
 - South DPCSP, Guardians Project - £3000
 - South DPCSP, Training for Young Leaders - £4000
 - East DPCSP, Quotation Exercise - £15,000
- ii. Funding was agreed by Members

12. Transient Youth Project

- i. The Safer City Coordinator introduced three pieces of work commissioned by the Belfast PCSP to address issues of Transient Youth:
 - An engagement exercise with organisations who work with and have a knowledge of Transient Youth.
 - A desk based analysis to identify best practice in regards to the needs of Transient Youths.
 - A direct engagement exercise with young people at two hotspot areas in the city.
- ii. The Safer City Coordinator explained that the PCSP has allocated £17,000 to fund the work and it was recommended that a Workshop be undertaken for frontline staff with the costs limited to venue hire, catering and facilitation.
- iii. Members approved funding for the Workshop.

13. Car Simulator

- i. The Safer City Coordinator informed Members that the Car Simulator was being housed by the Police at Sprucefield Station and presented four options for the future deployment of the simulator:
 - Option 1 - Self Delivery
 - Option 2 - Police Delivery
 - Option 3 - Expression of Interest with 3rd Party Organisation
 - Option 4 - Joint BCC/Police Delivery
- ii. Members were informed that the option recommended was Option 4 as it would prove most cost effective.
- iii. A Member commented that they were disappointed that the car simulator hadn't got off the ground and that it would be worth monitoring progress by receiving regular monthly updates. The Safer City Coordinator agreed to provide monthly updates.

14. UR Zone Cage Deployment

- i. The Safer City Coordinator presented four options in how best to deploy the cage football equipment:
 - Option 1 – Self Delivery
 - Option 2 – Loan System
 - Option 3 – Expression of Interest with 3rd Party Organisation
 - Option 4 – Procurement of external supplier to deliver the UR Zone Cage
- ii. The Safer City Coordinator recommended Option 3 to Members
- iii. A Member asked how long it would take the selected process to be rolled out and expressed their concern at the length of time the Cage had been in storage when there are groups who would have used it over the summer holidays. The Safer City Coordinator agreed that the process could prove to be lengthy and that Option 4 could also be considered but that it would have cost implications.

- iv. The Safer City Coordinator suggested that this project be combined with that of the Car Simulator and be monitored on a monthly basis.
- v. Members agreed to approve the recommended option.

15. PCSP Small Grants, Tranche 2

- i. The Safer City Coordinator reported on the launch of the Autumn Small Grants.
- ii. Members were informed that applications would be scored and moderated by senior members of the Community Safety team, before being passed to a Member Panel for consideration.
- iii. Members were advised of the recommendation to form a Member Panel to which 5 of their number would be nominated. The quorum for this panel would be 3 Members
- iv. Members nominated are:
 - Michael O'Hara
 - Ald. Jim Rodgers
 - Bryan Nelson
 - Susan Russam

16. 2016/2017 DPCSP Annual Reports

- i. The Safer City Coordinator presented the Annual Reports that will be forwarded to DOJ
- ii. Members noted the contents of the reports.

17. PCSP Equality Schemes

- i. The Safer City Assistant Manager introduced the Equality Scheme to Members and asked for any questions.
- ii. The Safer City Assistant Manager agreed to allow Members to take the Equality document away for 1 week to allow them to properly consider its contents before its approval.

18. Date of Next Meeting

Date of next meeting is Monday 11th September at 5.30pm Conor Room City Hall

- i. The Chair reminded Members that the next meeting of the Partnership would be in the Lavery Room, on Monday 11th September and would be followed by a Policing Committee meeting.

**Belfast PCSP Meeting - Summary of Actions
Private Meeting**

Monday, 14th August, 2017

Action Agreed	By When	By Whom
Letter to be sent to Patricia Muldoon, re. Get well soon	ASAP	Phyllis Safer City Coordinator
Respond to query relating to Hope Street Coach fires	11 th Sept	Supt. M.Jones
Respond to concerns regarding ASB in Dunboyne Park area	11 th Sept	Supt. M.Jones
Address query relating to PSNI involvement in Extern project	11 th Sept	Denise Safer City Coordinator
Invite ARCS Extern Project deliverers to present to Partnership	16 th Oct	Denise Safer City Coordinator
Monthly Updates for Car Simulator and UR Zone Cage (Inc. update on expression of interest discussions with procurement)	11 th Sept	Phyllis Safer City Coordinator
Letter to be sent to Chief Fire Officer to condemn increased attacks on Firefighters and thank them for their work throughout the Period of July/August Bonfires.	ASAP	Phyllis Safer City Coordinator
Transient Workshop	11 th Sept	Denise Safer City Coordinator
Deployment of Car Simulator to Fire Open Day	11 th Sept	Phyllis Safer City Coordinator
Small Grants Panel	11 th Sept	Phyllis Safer City Coordinator
Equality Scheme Comments	11 th Sept	Phyllis Safer City Coordinator