

Minutes of the West Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Private Meeting

Conor Room, Belfast City Hall
Wednesday, 24th May, 2017

Political Members	Independent Members
Councillor Brian Heading (Chair)	Claire Canavan
Councillor Matt Garrett	Liz Groves
	Eoin McShane
Statutory Designated Organisations	
Harry Bradley, YJA	John McLaughlin, EA
Carole Carville, PBNI	Inspector Alan Swann, PSNI
Staff Present	Apologies
Denise Smith, Safer City Co-Ordinator	Councillor Stephen Magennis
Katharine McCrum, Partnership Support Officer	Breige Brownlee (Vice Chair)
Andy Claydon, Partnership Support Officer	Sharon Beattie, NIHE
	Tommy Boyle, H&SCT
	Davy Harbinson, NIFRS

1. Welcome and Routine Matters

- i. The Chair welcomed Members to the Meeting and noted 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.
- ii. Liz Groves advised that she is the Chair of Falls Community Council and Harry Bradley advised that he was a member of the St Galls Senior Committee.

3. Presentation from Sport Changes Life

(Marc Mulholland and Gareth Maguire of Sport Changes Life attended in relation to this item)

- i. Marc Mulholland and Gareth Maguire provided Members with information on the work of Sport Changes Life and their E-Hoops programme which aims to raise the aspirations of young people through sport, community outreach and mentoring. Members were also advised of the work undertaken as part of the PCSP's transient youth work during 2016/2017.
- ii. Members welcomed the presentation and noted the positive engagement and research that had been produced through the transient youth work.
- iii. A Member questioned what further engagement had taken place with the young people who were engaged in the Riverdale area.

- iv. Mr Mulholland advised that they had been involved in reducing anti-social behaviour in the area and had gone on to assist a number of young people in gaining employment. He noted that this often meant they were unable to engage further with Sport Changes Life but this was seen as a positive as they had another positive focus and were often acting as peers for others in the area.
- v. A Member questioned how effective collaborative working was across the youth sector. He was advised that there could sometimes be issues as agencies felt that their work was being encroached on, however Sport Changes Life aimed to enrich existing work and encourage young people to become involved in pre-existing services.
- vi. A Member noted that areas within Falls Park had been identified for use by young people but associated projects had never taken off and so it was suggested that this may be worth revisiting alongside the West Belfast Community Safety Strategy and its tasking groups.
- vii. In response to a query regarding whether any work was undertaken with Queens University, Members were advised that this was beginning to be established, particularly because of the Belfast Classic Basketball Hall of Fame event on 1st -2nd December which would be a major event for the City.
- viii. Further discussion took place regarding the transient youth engagement work and the issues with other groups in the area which developed over the course of the project. The high visibility of some volunteers was noted as a possible negative from young people's perspectives.
- ix. John McLaughlin, EA, noted that the work being undertaken was admirable, and asked for further details regarding possible lack of cooperation with Education Authority staff for follow up. He also pointed out the need for volunteers to be visible in order to offer reassurance to young people.
- x. The Safer City Coordinator reminded Members that the establishment of a Youth Providers Forum was noted within the West Belfast DPCSP Action Plan and so this may offer an opportunity to scope out existing provision and bring providers together.
- xi. The Chair thanked Marc and Gareth for their presentation and they subsequently left the meeting.

4. Minutes & Matters Arising

- i. The minutes of the Private Meeting held on 26th April, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct.
Proposed: Councillor Matt Garrett
Seconded: Eoin McShane
- ii. With regards to actions from the previous meeting, the Safer City Coordinator advised that an email had been circulated to Members regarding a sub-group to discuss the West Belfast Community Safety Strategy and a date of 30th May agreed.
- iii. Following a query regarding Youth Worker posts in the Colin area, it was clarified that a Senior Youth Worker had resigned from their post on 31st March and that an internal trawl was underway to appoint a replacement. Two further posts were vacant due to one resignation and one post coming to an end, and again an internal trawl would hope to fill the vacancy by 1st June.

- iv. It was noted that if vacancies were due to resignations, the Education Authority should have time to recruit replacements during the notice period of the previous employee, thus avoiding a gap in service.
- v. Members were advised to contact Monica Meehan with any specific queries regarding provision in the Colin area.

5. Chairs Update from PCSP

- i. The Chair advised that the PCSP had approved a funding model for the 5 Partnerships for 2017/2018, further details on which were included under item 7 of the agenda.
- ii. He noted that the agreed model would include more closer monitoring of the spend of each DPCSP with each project being approved by the PCSP, which may in turn identify underspends that can be bid for at an earlier stage.

6. Statutory Partner Update

- i. No updates were provided.

7. 2017/2018 Funding Model

- i. The Safer City Coordinator drew Members attention to point 2.7 within the report which detailed the budget available for West Belfast based on the previously agreed model of providing a 30% basic allocation, 45% based on population and 25% on deprivation.
- ii. She also advised that the PCSP had agreed to allocate the full budget to each DPCSP in principle, but that funds would only be formally released once senior management had confirmed to the PCSP at their monthly meeting that projects had been put through the required governance processes.
- iii. Members were asked to consider additional papers, 7a-7d, seeking approval to progress a number of projects in order for the Safer City Coordinator to develop project briefs for approval by management and in turn, the PCSP, in line with the process detailed previously.
- iv. 7a – Rapid Drugs Bins, £1,000 - Members approved funding for the purchase and installation of 2 Rapid Drugs Bins at the Kennedy Centre and Spar on the Whiterock Road.
- v. 7b – Bonfire Management Project, £10,000 - Members agreed to allocate £10,000 as per the 2017/2018 Action Plan towards the management and coordination of the Unwanted Bonfire Sub-Group and the development and delivery of targeted interventions to reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and other community safety issues. Authority was provided to officers to develop an action plan to reduce anti-social behaviour over the August period.
- vi. 7c – Hannahstown Community Safety Fun Day, £520 - Members approved funding towards this Community Safety Fund Day from the diversionary/developmental projects budget within the 2017/2018 Action Plan.

- vii. 7d – West Belfast Community Safety Strategy, £15,000 - Members approved the allocation of £15,000 towards the continuation of the Professional Witness post from within the West Belfast Community Safety Strategy and the development of the necessary Single Tender Action documentation as identified by the Council’s Legal Department. It was noted that NIHE were also match funding the post for 6 months with the expectation that it would be embedded within a wider Community Safety Strategy.
- viii. Whilst acknowledging the importance of the Professional Witness, it was suggested that additional monies should be added to the Community Safety Strategy budget line so as to maintain the current level of resource whilst funding this post which was previously supported by the Divis Intervention Project.
- ix. The Safer City Coordinator agreed to look for possible underspends in other areas of the West Belfast DPCSP Action Plan in order to add an additional £15,000 to the Community Safety Strategy budget. She suggested that funds from within the Anti-Social Behaviour, Drugs and Policing Committee budget lines could be utilised as these elements would be addressed through the Strategy.
- x. Additional – Colin Glen Trust, £1,500 - The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that another project proposal had recently been received from the Colin Glen Trust seeking £1,500 to fund a ‘Blue Light Day’ involving a number of schools in West Belfast. Members approved the allocation of funds from the Anti-Social Behaviour budget and the Safer City Coordinator undertook to develop a project brief for approval by the PCSP.

8. DPCSP Audit and Governance Arrangements

- i. The Safer City Coordinator drew Members attention to the audit and governance arrangements in place for the Belfast PCSP and DPCSPs. She noted that some work within the West Belfast DPCSP Action Plan was above the tender threshold and so the appropriate protocols would need to be applied.
- ii. Members noted the contents of the report and supported its implementation.

9. West Belfast DPCSP Action Plan 2017/2018

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised that changes would be made to the West Belfast DPCSP Action Plan in line with recent discussions regarding the Community Safety Strategy (Item 7).
- ii. A Member noted the need to maximise the impact of the Action Plan and referenced recent discussions at the Council’s Strategic Policy and Resources Committee about a budget within the Parks Department for events that was not always utilised.
- iii. It was agreed that parks needed to be seen as a positive space used by all, and as such it would be useful if DPCSPs could bid for additional funding to support community safety projects. Issues at Lenadoon regarding fencing and events were used as an example that could do with linkages being made.

10. Monitoring and Evaluation Reports 2016/2017

- i. The Safer City Co-ordinator advised Members that a number of monitoring and evaluation reports relating to projects within the 2016/2017 Action Plan were included in the papers for Members to review.
- ii. Members noted the reports provided.

11. Unwanted August Bonfires

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised that this item had already been dealt with.

12. Emerging Issues

Dunmurry Halt

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that staff had been made aware of issues regarding the area of Dunmurry Halt and were working with the PSNI, Translink and Parks staff to monitor activity relating to alcohol consumption and safeguarding issues.
- ii. Members were asked to provide delegated authority to the Safer City Coordinator in conjunction with the Chair and Vice-Chair to initiate interventions should a reactive response be required.
- iii. A Member noted their concerns for young people in the area and the need to work collaboratively with other agencies regarding regeneration of the area which had passed to Council following the Review of Public Administration. It was noted that 2 planning requests to extend the park and ride facilities in the area had been rejected.
- iv. Members agreed to the delegated authority request and to keep the issue on the agenda.

RADAR

- v. Members were advised that the PSNI were hoping to engage young people from across West Belfast using area focused examples in the RADAR (Risk Avoidance Danger Awareness Resource) Safety Centre. It was agreed that the Partnership would hold their next meeting at the venue in order to see the facilities available with transport arrangements made to and from City Hall.

13. Date of Next Meeting

- i. The Safer City Co-ordinator advised Members that the next Private Meeting of the West Belfast DPCSP would be held on Thursday, 29th June, 2017 in the RADAR Centre.

**West Belfast DPCSP Meeting - Summary of Actions
Private Meeting**

Wednesday, 24th May, 2017

Action Agreed	By When	By Whom
Project briefs are to be developed for the following projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rapid Drugs Bins, • Bonfire Management Project, • Hannahstown Community Safety Fun Day, • West Belfast Community Safety Strategy, • Colin Glenn Trust Blue Light Day. 	2 nd June	Safer City Coordinator
The West Belfast DPCSP Action Plan is to be revisited in order to move an additional £15,000 into the Community Safety Strategy, possibly from the Anti-Social Behaviour, Drugs and/or Policing Committee budget lines.	29 th June	Safer City Coordinator
The RADAR Centre is to be used for the next meeting of the Partnership and appropriate transport arrangements put in place.	29 th June	Partnership Support Officer