

**Minutes of South Belfast District Policing and Community Safety
Partnership**

Policing Committee

Wednesday 25th January 2017, 5:00pm

1st Floor Conference Room, Cecil Ward Building, Belfast

Political Members

Councillor Geraldine McAteer (Chair)
Councillor Deirdre Hargey

Independent Members

Aleksandra Lojek-Magdziarz (VC)
Michael Boyle
Aidan Hughes
Richard Kennedy
Paul McDonnell

Statutory Designated Bodies

Christine Hunter, PBNI
Dermot Magorrian, YJA
Anita Duff, EA

Chief Inspector Robert Murdie
SC Michael Roberts, NIFRS
Gary Ballantyne, NIHE

Belfast City Council Staff Present

Suzanne Gowling Safer City Coordinator
Rachel Fulton Partnership Support Officer

Apologies

Councillor Jeffrey Dudgeon
Councillor Lee Reynolds
Councillor Declan Boyle
Councillor Emmett McDonough-Brown
Yvonne McKnight, H&SCT

1. Welcome and Routine Matters

- i. The Chair welcomed all Members to the Policing Committee Meeting of the South Belfast DPCSP and noted the apologies provided.
- ii. The Chair introduced Rachel Fulton as the new Partnership Support Officer.

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. No declarations of interest were declared.

3. Minutes/Matters Arising

- i. The minutes of the Policing Committee held on 24 October 2016 and 29 November 2016, copies of which had been previously circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct.

4. Progress against the South Belfast District Policing Plan

- i. Chief Inspector Robert Murdie updated the Members on the performance against the South Belfast District Policing Plan from 13/01/2017.

- ii. Members noted that:
 - Overall crime had decreased by 7.2%;
 - Outcome rate for burglary had decreased by 29.4%
 - Number of offences against older people had decreased by 13.4%;
 - Number of crimes with a racist motivation had decreased by 42.6%
 - An increase of 3.4% in relation to the number of anti-social behaviour incidents;
 - A decrease of 14% in relation to the number of allegations of failure in duty; and,
 - A decrease of 2.2% in the number of drug seizures.
- iii. Chief Inspector Murdie advised Members that the decrease in levels of crimes linked to racist motivation was concerning as it is being attributed to underreporting issues due to Brexit and fears around its occurrence for individuals. He commented further that it is a widespread trend across Northern Ireland with figures down 30-35% overall.
- iv. Chief Inspector also noted that a rise in Anti-social behaviour is attributed to an on-going issue of youths gathering in the Lagan Towpath area, with a focus of PSNI resources being deployed in that area to try and control the on-going issues occurring.
- v. The Chair commended the work of PSNI, youth workers and local residents for their work in addressing the on-going issues of ASB in the area.
- vi. The Safer City Co-ordinator proposed further discussions on this issue, reviewing what more could be done to try and address ASB on the Lagan Towpath.
- vii. Chief Inspector Murdie also advised Members that there was a Belfast wide decrease in drug seizures compared to numbers in 2015/16 which can be attributed to efforts made at the beginning of the year to combat Heroin issue which has impacted on the statistics. He further commented that there is an emerging issue around poly-drug misuse.
- viii. Chief Inspector Robert Murdie further commented that a working group has been set up and a pilot project has been established concentrating on a hostel in South Belfast to work on aspects of harm reduction, enforcement, raising awareness of drug mis-use, with an evaluation to be presented at the end of the pilot.

5. Emerging Policing Issues

- ix. Chief Inspector Robert Murdie provided Members with an overview of the South Belfast Local Policing Plan 2017/18.
- x. Key items discussed were;
 - 1. Theme 1-Communication and Engagement
 - 2. Theme 2- Protection of People and Communities, and that harm reduction would be included here

3. Theme 3- Reduction in Offending

- xi. A member questioned how engagements alone can increase confidence in policing and what measurements are in place to accurately demonstrate this.
- xii. Chief Inspector Robert Murdie outlined his model of increasing community confidence in policing. He alluded to five different elements;
 - 1. Police Effectiveness
 - 2. Officer Visibility
 - 3. Keeping public informed.
 - 4. Officer Behaviour
 - 5. Formal and Informal Engagements
- xiii. Following the Policing Plan report a discussion took place around transient youths. The Chair commented that the issue needs to be addressed as a Belfast wide problem and plans need to be put in place to deal with it as a major issue.
- xiv. Members to consider the proposed Local Policing Plan 2017/18 and advise of any changes they feel would be important

6. Question and Discussion

- i. No further questions/discussions took place.

7. Date of Next meeting

- ii. Members noted that the next South Belfast DPCSP Policing Committee Public Meeting would be held in March to focus on addressing policing and community safety issues identified by young people; it will likely take place in the RADAR Centre.

8. Close

- iii. The Chair thanked the Members for attending

South Belfast DPCSP Meeting- Summary of Actions Policing Committee Meeting Monday 25th January 2017

Action Agreed	By When	By Whom
Members to consider the proposed Local Policing Plan 2017/18 and advise of any changes they feel would be important	Next DPCSP meeting	All Members
Policing committee public meeting venue to be organised	Next DPCSP meeting	SCC