

Minutes of South Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Policing Committee

Wednesday 24th May 2017, 6:45pm

Lavery Room, Belfast City Hall

Political Members

Councillor Geraldine McAteer (Chair)
Councillor McDonough-Brown
Councillor Jeffrey Dudgeon

Independent Members

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

Statutory Designated Bodies

Gary Ballantyne, NIHE
Deirdre Grant, PBNI
Christine Hunter, PBNI
Dermot Magorrian, YJA

Chief Inspector Gavin Kirkpatrick
Superintendent Robert Murdie
Anita Duff, EA
SC Trevor McClurg, NIFRS

Belfast City Council Staff Present

Suzanne Gowling Safer City Coordinator
Rachel Fulton Partnership Support Officer

Apologies

Aidan Hughes
Yvonne McKnight, H&SCT
Councillor Deirdre Hargey

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 thanked Superintendent Robert Murdie for his work during his time in the partnership and welcomed his replacement, Chief Inspector Gavin Kirkpatrick

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 7 March 2017, copies of which had been previously circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct.
- ii. The SCC advised that an email had been circulated to all Members regarding a lunchtime seminar series that Northern Ireland Policing Board were hosting in relation to numerous policing issues.

4. Progress against the South Belfast District Policing Plan

- i. Chief Inspector Gavin Kirkpatrick updated the Members on the performance against the South Belfast District Policing Plan from previous 7 weeks.
- ii. Members noted that:
 - Overall crime had decreased by 0.3%;
 - Burglary had decreased by 16%
 - Number of offences against older people had decreased by 10.8%;
 - Number of crimes with a racist motivation had decreased by 5%
 - An increase of 1.4% in relation to the number of anti-social behaviour incidents; and,
 - An increase of 2% in the number of drug seizures.
- iii. Chief Inspector Kirkpatrick then advised Members of upcoming events that would require a significant amount of police resource.

5. Questions and Discussion

- i. A Member welcomed optimistic results around burglary and hate crime.
- ii. Another Member questioned if Operation Torus involved the seizure of prescribed drugs.
- iii. Superintendent Murdie advised that prescribed drugs were amongst seizures made, acknowledging that cannabis was still the most popular drug and proposed that full breakdowns of Op Torus are brought to the next meeting.
- iv. A Member asked if there was potential for Operation Torus to focus on prescribed drugs only, to which Superintendent Murdie referred to BDACT and their ongoing work, making a suggestion that Chief Inspector Kirkpatrick could bring an update on their work to the next meeting.
- v. The Chair stated that it may be useful to get pharmacists perspectives on the issue to which it was agreed that there would be a themed agenda for the next meeting to focus on broader agency working on the issue of prescribed drugs.
- vi. A Member asked how many cycle thefts had taken place, to which Superintendent Murdie advised that there had been a 38% increase in Belfast, with a concern around Belfast Bikes.
- vii. Superintendent Murdie further advised of an on-going cycle awareness programme and various other schemes, to include CCTV at docking stations. However, he stated that there was a lot more work to be done on this issue.

6. Policing Committee Bi-Annual Report 2016/17

- viii. The Safer City Coordinator asked Members to note report provided and agree its content. She advised that the policing board will be providing a new reporting template, but has not been circulated as yet.
- ix. Members approved the contents of the report to be submitted to NI Policing Board.

7. Date of Next Meeting

- x. Members noted that the next South Belfast DPCSP Policing Committee Meeting would be held on Thursday 31 August in the Conor Room, City Hall.
- xi. A Member requested that Bi-monthly meetings are put on the next private meeting agenda for discussion.

8. Close

- xii. The Chair thanked the Members for attending

**South Belfast DPCSP Meeting- Summary of Actions
Policing Committee Meeting
Wed 24th May 2017**

Action Agreed	By When	By Whom
PSNI to provide breakdown of returns from Op Torus	Next Meeting	PSNI
PSNI to provide update on BDACT in relation to drugs	Next Meeting	PSNI
SCC to deliver a themed agenda to highlight broader agency working	Next Meeting	SCC
SCC to include Bi-Monthly Meetings as an item on next Private meeting agenda	19 June	SCC