

## Minutes of the South Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership

### Private Meeting

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2017, 5pm  
Conor Room, Belfast City Hall

Political Members	Independent Members
Councillor Geraldine McAteer (Chair)	Aidan Hughes
Councillor McDonough-Brown	Michael Boyle
Councillor Jeffrey Dudgeon	Richard Kennedy
Councillor Lee Reynolds	Paul McDonnell

  

Statutory Designated Bodies
Chief Inspector Gavin Kirkpatrick
Paul McCombe, NIHE
Deirdre Grant, PBNi
Yvonne McKnight, H&SCT

  

Belfast City Council Staff Present	Apologies
Glenn Thomas Safer City Coordinator	Aleksandra Lojek-Magdziarz (VC)
Rachel Fulton Partnership Support Officer	SC Trevor McClurg, NIFRS

### 1. Welcome & Routine Matters

- i. The Chair welcomed the Members to the South Belfast DPCSP Private Meeting and noted the apologies provided.
- ii. She advised that the meeting would have a specific focus on drug and alcohol issues within South Belfast and Lisburn YMCA, BDACT and PSNI were in attendance to present on such issues.

### 2. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

- i. The Chair asked Members to declare any material interests which they may have in relation to any item of business to be considered during the meeting.
- ii. No Conflicts of Interest were declared.

### 3. Presentations

#### Lisburn YMCA

(Lisa McCloy, Jenny Magee, Nikki Taggart and Steven Boucher attended in relation to this item)

- i. Lisa McCloy provided Members with details into the background of the organisation, stating that Lisburn YMCA worked with high risk and young people to transform and empower them to create positive change in their lives and communities.
- ii. Members were informed of three different departments operating within the organisation, namely; youth development, community development and health and education.
- iii. Jenny Magee and Nikki McTaggart explained that they had won the quotation to deliver the drug and alcohol project in 2016/17, which builds on the targeted life skills

programme they are commissioned by PHA to deliver. The project worked with young people from inner south who are active along the Lagan Walkway, young people from Belvoir in outer south and young people in foster care from across south. Part of the project was to create videos to capture their experiences and for the learning to be shared with South Belfast DPCSP.

The two videos presented, focused on alcohol and substance misuse from vulnerable young people's perspectives and Members were advised of the positive feedback from those involved in the project.

- iv. Jenny Magee advised that a further DVD was being produced in relation to older teenagers on the Walkway and would be presented to the partnership once available.
- v. All Individuals from Lisburn YMCA thanked the partnership for the opportunity to present and welcomed any questions.

### Questions

- vi. A Member raised their concerns around the visibility of vulnerable young people's faces being shown on video and questioned where the video would be circulated and if informed consent had been obtained prior to the making of the video.
- vii. Jenny Magee, Lisburn YMCA stated that social workers had approved individuals participation in the video, appropriate risk assessments had been carried out and all participants wanted to take part. She added that the video would be circulated to a limited audience.
- viii. The Chair also raised her concerns at the age of participants in the video, their visible faces and the control measures in place around distribution.
- ix. Lisa McCloy, Lisburn YMCA advised that the video would not be distributed publicly.
- x. Members then thanked Lisburn YMCA for their work on this project, stating that they understood the concept and requested that they come back and present the Walkway video once complete.
- xi. Lisburn YMCA thanked the partnership for the opportunity to present and left the room.
- xii. Members continued to discuss their concerns around child protection issues associated with the video and the following actions were agreed:
  - 1. Safer City Coordinator to write letter of concern to Lisburn YMCA and state that no further action should be taken until relevant agencies have approved content within the videos.
  - 2. Approval and permissions to be sought from H&SCT professionals and legal before the launch of any of the videos.
  - 3. Prior to video launch, a report to be provided to the partnership detailing advice going forward and recommendations.
- xiii. Members also discussed the possibility of face pixilation and voice change as an option to ensure individuals identities remained anonymous.

## BDACT

- i. In relation to BDACT James Scott provided Members with a presentation which outlined the role of DACTS, their Membership consisting of statutory, community and voluntary organisations as well as the key priority areas for 17/18.
- ii. The four key priority areas were outlined as; injecting drug use, polydrug misuse, vulnerable young people and future search.
- iii. Members were then provided with information on DACT Connections, their role and regional events and initiatives detailed as follows:
  - Northern Ireland Alcohol Awareness Week (19<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> June 2017)
  - Polydrug Misuse Campaign in partnership with NIADA (Sept/Oct 2017)
  - Dry January (2018) leading to Feel Good February
  - Medicines Misuse Campaign (Ongoing)
  - RAPID (Ongoing)
- iv. Members were then shown valuable information and signposting resources that were available to them to distribute to their community contacts.
- v. Members thanked James for an informative presentation.

## Questions

- vi. A Member asked if there were any longer term services available for individuals dealing with trauma to which Mr Scott advised that the commissioner had drug and alcohol misuse on the agenda. He stated there was a recognition that abuse of such substances can come from traumatic experiences, therefore, a bigger push was required for such issues to become a higher priority.
- vii. Another Member questioned whether there was any type of analysis breakdown in terms of age and gender, to which Mr Scott advised that there were issues on reporting and identification of individuals but he would look for further detail.

## PSNI

- viii. Chief Inspector Gavin Kirkpatrick advised Members of PSNI performance against local policing plan. Key items noted:
  - Overall Crime reduced by 3%
  - ASB reduced by 4.3%
  - Race Crime reduced by 45%
  - Burglaries reduced by 16%
  - Residential Burglaries reduced by 33%
  - Crimes against older persons reduced by 68%
  - Drug Seizures increased by 15%
- ix. In relation to drugs, Chief Inspector Kirkpatrick advised that Heroin was an ongoing issue within the City Centre and stated that there had been an increase in the number of calls to Police in terms of:
  - Assaults amongst drug users
  - Begging

- Increase in ASB amongst Heroin users
  - Increase in persons carrying offensive weapons
- x. Chief Inspector Kirkpatrick informed Members of two key drug Operations namely; OP Envemo - an operation to target street level heroin trade and Op Torus.
- xi. In relation to OP Envemo, Members noted the following since its inception:
- 46 arrests
  - 443 wraps of heroin seized
  - 8 Members of Crime Gangs have completed custodial sentences
- xii. In relation to Op Torus which had taken place from 27<sup>th</sup> February to 26<sup>th</sup> March 2017, Members noted the following:
- 26 arrests- 4 charged
  - £35,762 worth of seizures made
- xiii. Chief Inspector Kirkpatrick provided Members with information on Alcohol related Crime and ASB and advised of Operation Tanerg, introduced to respond to an increase in ASB reports across the City that commenced on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2017. He provided a summary of the Operation thus far, detailing the following:
- 14 searches carried out- 13 people 1 vehicle
  - 112 items alcohol seized
  - 24 YDO referrals
  - 3 arrests for disorderly behaviour and common assault

#### Questions

- xiv. A Member questioned how many illegal drugs were coming through the postal system, to which Chief Inspector Kirkpatrick advised that changes in the way in which PSNI deal with importation issues were taking place, but at present percentages were unclear on what is getting through.
- xv. Members discussed the ongoing issue of prescription medication and its availability via the internet.
- xvi. A Member also questioned if GP dosages to patients were monitored, to which Yvonne McKnight, HSCT advised that GPs are under tight prescription controls and are closely monitored.

#### **4. Minutes and Matters Arising**

- i. The Minutes of the Private Meeting held on 24 May 2017, copies of which were previously circulated, were agreed as correct.
- ii. The Minutes of the Public Meeting held on 7 March 2017, copies of which were previously circulated required the following amendments; attendees to include Independent Members Richard Kennedy, Michael Boyle and Paul McDonnell.

#### **5. How to Address Drug and Alcohol Related Offending**

- i. Members discussed how the partnership would be best placed to address the issue. Key Items noted were:
  - 1. Belfast PCSP are supporting work on Transient Youth Issues on a Citywide level
  - 2. Campaigns such as Drug Dealers Don't Care are supported through (D)PCSPs
  - 3. Small Grants can provide opportunities for focused work in relation to the issue
  - 4. Merit in aligning Action Plan with key priority areas in BDACT Action Plan
- ii. The Safer City Coordinator informed members that there was an opportunity for a drug and alcohol forum to be established in South Belfast and work was ongoing in relation to this.
- iii. The Chair stated the importance of ensuring that Members of South Belfast DPCSP were included in the forum.

## **6. Meeting Schedule Discussion**

- i. A Member raised their concerns regarding the number of times the partnership met compared to other DPCSPs and requested that the Partnership agree to meet on a monthly basis.
- ii. A Member stated that rationale for bi-monthly meetings was to put more emphasis on sub-group work, however, they recognised a need for the partnership to meet more frequently.
- iii. After a brief discussion, Members voted 4 to 1 in favour of returning to Monthly Meetings from August onwards.

## **7. Partner Updates/Emerging Issues**

### PBNI

- i. Deirdre Grant advised that the Aspire Project, under the Fresh Start Agreement, was a key piece of work at the moment. She stated that a participant criteria was currently being designed and would present more detail on this at a future meeting.

### H&SCT

- i. Yvonne McKnight advised Members that an updated version of 'see something say something' cards were now available. She also stated that policy and procedures for adult safeguarding had been updated.
- ii. Ms McKnight requested funding support from the partnership to relay key messages in relation to the new policy and procedures.
- iii. Members noted the request. However, the Safer City Coordinator advised that any proposal would need to go through appropriate channels and stated that the next step would be to provide more detail to the South Belfast Safer City Coordinator to take the proposal forward.

### Other

- iv. The Chair advised that a meeting with Dr Jonny Byrne of Ulster University needed to be arranged, to which the partnership support officer advised that a date would be circulated to Members.
- v. The Chair also sought clarification on details regarding St Malachy's Youth Club, to which partnership support officer advised that further detail would be provided to her via email.

**8. Date of next meeting**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that the next South Belfast DPCSP's Private Meeting will be held on Thursday 31 August.
- ii. A Member informed the partnership that this was the last Meeting for the current Chair and thanked her for all her work in her role.
- iii. The Chair then thanked Members for their words and their attendance at the meeting.

**South Belfast DPCSP Meeting - Summary of Actions**

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2017, 5pm**

**Private Meeting**

Lisburn YMCA to provide Walkway DVD once complete	Once available	Lisburn YMCA
Letter of Concern to be written to Lisburn YMCA in regards to DVDs on Belvoir and ISF		SCC
SCC to contact Lisburn YMCA and advise that no further action should be taken until necessary checks have been carried out by relevant agencies in relation to DVDs		SCC
SCC to obtain DVD and seek approval from appropriate agencies namely, Belfast H&SCT, Education Authority and BCC to ensure child safeguarding measures are in place		SCC
PBNI to provide more detail on Aspire Project once available	Once Available	PBNI
H&SCT to provide PR funding proposal to SCC in relation to changes to adult safeguarding policy and procedures		H&SCT
PSO to organise meeting with Dr Jonny Byrne-UU in relation to effectiveness of Policing Committee Meetings. Date to be circulated to Members		PSO