

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

## Policing Committee Meeting

East Belfast Network Centre  
Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2017

### Political Members

Alderman Tommy Sandford (Chair)  
Councillor Sonia Copeland  
Councillor Carole Howard

### Independent Members

Jonathan Currie (Vice-Chair)  
Michelle Bryans  
David Geddis  
Lisa McMaster

### PSNI Representative

Chief Inspector David Moore, PSNI

### Staff Present

Suzanne Gowling, Safer City Coordinator  
Katharine McCrum, Partnership Support Officer

### Apologies

Councillor Aileen Graham  
Steven McMillen

## 1. Welcome and Routine Matters

- i. The Chair welcomed Members to the meeting and noted the apologies provided.

## 2. Declaration of Interests

- i. Members were reminded of the need to declare any material interests which they may have in relation to any item of business to be considered during the meeting.

## 3. Minutes, Actions and Matters Arising

- i. The minute of the East Belfast DPCSP Policing Committee Meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> February, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct.

## 4. Policing Committee Bi-Annual Report

- i. Members were provided with a draft copy of the Policing Committee Bi-Annual Report for East Belfast.
- ii. Members reviewed the suggested responses within the document and agreed to submit the Report to the Policing Board.

## 5. Update on Local Policing

- i. Chief Inspector David Moore provided Members with an update on performance against the Local Policing Plan, advising that when compared with the previous year;
  - Overall crime was down by 4.6%

- Burglary offences were down by 31.5%
  - Offences committed against older people were down by 44.7%
  - Crimes with a sectarian motivation were down by 55% however the outcome rate was also down by 1.1%
  - Anti-Social Behaviour incidents had increased by 3.2% but there was little change in figures from year to year
  - Allegations of incivility and failure of duty had been reduced by 25.9% and 12.3% respectively
  - The number of victim updates carried out were up by 11.6%
  - Drug seizures were down by 2% however a lot of work was being done in this area including the interception of bulking materials which are not classed as drug seizures.
- ii. He also advised that end of year figures would be available in late May and that the Local Policing Plan (LPP) for 2017/18 would be circulated once available. Members confirmed that they were content with the template of the report and the information provided.
- iii. In addition to items on the LPP, Chief Inspector Moore advised that working with PACTs was a key issue for policing in East Belfast and that while transient youth was less of an issue, he would be inputting into the citywide plan.

#### Crimes against the Elderly

- iv. In response to a query regarding 2 recent handbag thefts from elderly victims, Chief Inspector Moore advised that an arrest was made following a number of similar incidents which had been classed a critical incident. He advised that the recent crimes would be compared to previous offences that did not appear to be perpetrated by the previous suspect and progress from there. He advised that this appeared to be an issue for opportunists in East Belfast, particularly in the Kings Road area.

#### Suspicious Vehicles

- v. A Member questioned what residents should do if they had suspicions about white vans or other vehicles. Chief Inspector Moore suggested that concerns should be reported to the PSNI as crews could be tasked to areas if necessary.

#### Prescription Drugs

- vi. A Member informed the group about a recent incident of staff in a pharmacy being threatened by people wanting to obtain drugs without a prescription, and the lack of CCTV within the premises. Chief Inspector Moore advised that PSNI Crime Prevention Officers could visit premises to advise on a range of crime prevention measures. He noted that CCTV was very useful in pursuing prosecutions.
- vii. Members discussed the onward sale of prescription drugs and questioned how to dissuade people from making money in this way by promoting the dangers and advising that it is against the law. It was pointed out that GPs should also be made aware of their responsibilities should they notice prescriptions being refilled too often.

- viii. The Safer City Coordinator suggested that concerns should be raised with the East Belfast Drug and Alcohol Forum.

**6. Emerging Issues**

- i. The Chair asked Chief Inspector Moore to provide a briefing on plans for parades and events over the summer period at the next meeting.
- ii. He also encouraged Members to visit the new exhibition space at City Hall which offers a journey from the city's past to present across 5 themed zones.

**7. Date of Next Meeting**

- i. The Chair advised Members that the next meeting of the Policing Committee would be held on 28<sup>th</sup> June.

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**Actions**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Date Due</b>	<b>By Whom</b>
Chief Inspector Moore to provide a briefing on plans for parades and events over the summer period at the next meeting.	30 <sup>th</sup> May (Private Meeting)	PSNI