

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

## Private Meeting

East Belfast Network Centre  
Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2017

<b>Political Members</b>	<b>Independent Members</b>
Councillor Sonia Copeland Councillor Aileen Graham Councillor Deirdre Hargey Councillor Mairead O'Donnell Councillor Carole Howard	Jonathan Currie (Vice-Chair) Michelle Bryans David Geddis Lisa McMaster
<b>Designated Organisations</b>	
Suzanne Fleming, NIFRS Pauline Smart (EA) Jane McKenna (PBNi)	Chief Inspector David Moore, PSNI Yvonne Cowan (H&SCT) Dermot Magorrian (YJ)
<b>Also Attending</b>	
M McAvoy (DOJ)	
<b>Staff Present</b>	<b>Apologies</b>
Suzanne Gowling, Safer City Coordinator Andy Claydon, Partnership Support Officer	Alderman Tommy Sandford (Chair)

### 1. Welcome and Routine Matters

- i. The Vice-Chair welcomed Members to the meeting and noted the apologies provided. He also welcomed Ms Moni Wilson from Belfast Street Pastors.

### 2. Declaration of Interests

- 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 at the outset of the Meeting.

### 3. Minutes and Matters Arising

- i. Minutes of the East Belfast DPCSP Private Meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> May, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct subject to the addition of P Smart's apology.

### 4. Street Pastors Presentation

(Moni Wilson, Belfast Street Pastors, attended in relation to this item)

- i. M Wilson introduced herself and the Street Pastors organisation and explained the nature of their work. Members heard how teams of volunteers would go to selected areas, be it

in town or to Parks to spend time with young people and intervene potential incidents of Anti-Social Behaviour.

- ii. Moni highlighted the Street Pastors relationship with the PSNI and their responsibility to pass on any relevant information that they deem necessary.
- iii. M Wilson informed Members that Street Pastors were trained to recognise symptoms of different drugs which enables them to respond accordingly
- iv. Members were told of a number of incidents where Street Pastors had played an important role in helping to alleviate potentially difficult situations
- v. A Member asked how well East Belfast engages with the Street Pastors and Moni informed Members how she had pushed to work outside of the City Centre. Street Pastors had been invited to work in the East due to issues of Anti-Social behaviour involving over 70 youths.
- vi. M Wilson told Members about the work the Street Pastors have done in the Parks in East Belfast, approaching groups of youths in mixed teams, spending time with them and trying to instil some sense into them before they become nuisances.
- vii. A Member commented on the fantastic work that the Street Pastors did and expressed her wish for them to have a presence in Orangefield Park and enquired as to the existence of a referral process. M Wilson informed the Member that the Street Pastors did respond to referrals which sometimes were forwarded by the PSNI.
- viii. The Member asked M Wilson if there was any follow up mechanism against repeat offenders and M Wilson informed Members that they currently do not have a process or relationships in place in east Belfast to achieve this.
- ix. A Member asked if Street Pastor had the resources to get the people they found when out and about home safely, particularly from the City Centre. The Safer City Coordinator clarified that the SOS Bus provided this service and joint working would make the best of the limited resources available.
- x. M Wilson informed Members that the average age of the youths they were working with in the parks were between 14 and 18 but that some were as young as 10. She added that the underage drinkers were able to obtain alcohol as there were often older youths around who would be happy to provide it.
- xi. The Chair suggested that the two quotations for Drugs & Alcohol and Anti-Social Behaviour should liaise with Street Pastors to achieve the best impact for East Belfast

## **5. Updates from Statutory Partners**

### H&SCT

- i. Y Cowan spoke to Members about the Belfast Recovery College run by the Trust, which offers courses to Carers as well as the general public and agreed to circulate the e-mail to Members who could relay the message to relevant parties.

### EA

- i. P Smart reported that due to restraints on their budget, the Youth department currently had funding in place until 31<sup>st</sup> July and was hopeful that this would be extended. Funding for their Summer Intervention schemes has been slow in coming due to the lack of a finalised budget which has created difficulties in getting them up and running but that the monies had now started to come in.
- ii. The Vice Chair read a letter from the Department of Education, addressed to a Member in response to a query regarding the lack of youth provision funding. The letter sought to assure the Member that despite there being no final budget agreed for 2017-18, the EA had received a cash allocation that has ensured the continuity of youth services in East Belfast.

## Department of Justice

- i. M McAvoy informed Members that the DOJ gave an annual figure of £4.5Million to the PCSP's and that they were currently attempting to attend meetings across the province.
- ii. M McAvoy commented on the reduction of funding to 96% of last year's amount but reported that the DOJ had assured an amount of 90% from the outset to enable groups to plan ahead.
- iii. Members were informed of the plans to move their monitoring system to an outcome based model and that this method would indicate whether anyone is better off from the work that they do. M McAvoy commended the partnerships for reflecting this move in their action plans

## **6. 2017/2018 Action Plan**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator explained that the 4% cut in East Belfast's DPCSP's budget meant a reduction of £4,641.68 and recommended to Members that the money be cut from the Small Grants element of the Action Plan as historically there are not as many small grants awarded in Tranche 2 and allows the PCSP to maintain control of action plan delivery.

Members approved the action.

- ii. The Safer City Coordinator requested Members to approve the increase in Policing Committee grants from £1k to £2k due to the number of applications being received requesting over £1k.

Members approved the action.

## **7. East Belfast DPCSP 2017/18 Action Plan Progress Report**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator introduced the progress report to Members.
- ii. A Member queried the release of the drug and alcohol and the asb quotations as the update indicates that the quotations had been let; which is not the case. The Safer City Coordinator informed Members that she would follow the query up and e-mail Members.
- iii. Members noted the contents of the report.

## **8. Emerging Issues**

- i. A Member commented on the issue of Bonfires and their frustration at a lack of resolution to related issues surrounding the Walkway.

- ii. The Vice Chair suggested the Partnership prepare a statement of support for community activists in the East who have been working tirelessly to mitigate the negative impact of some bonfires and the associated antisocial behaviour. Members commented on the sense of lawlessness that surrounds some of the bonfire sites due to the ongoing illegal activity and stressed the importance of the Statutory Organisations to stand up.
- iii. A Member discussed the Review of the bonfire programme and the new cultural programme which was being reviewed; she noted that it was not getting to the rights or wrongs of bonfires.
- iv. The Vice Chair requested updates on the progress of the bonfire programme review.
- v. In light of Members' frustrations, the Safer City Coordinator suggested that a working group be established in the partnership to consider the best way to address some of the issues raised. The Vice Chair highlighted that the emphasis should be focused on hearing from local residents and the working group should explore ways in which to do this in the context of the reviews noted above.
- vi. 4 Members agreed to be part of a bonfire sub group, they will meet to develop some terms of reference for the work to be discussed and agreed at the next meeting

**9. Date of Next Meeting**

- i. Members were reminded that the next meeting of the DPCSP would be on Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> August.

**East Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership  
Private Meeting – Tuesday, 30<sup>th</sup> May, 2017**

**Actions**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Date Due</b>	<b>By Whom</b>
Progress the drug and alcohol, and asb quotations as soon as possible	29 <sup>th</sup> August	Safer City Coordinator
Prepare statement of support for community activists in East who are working to mitigate the negative aspects of bonfires	29 <sup>th</sup> August	Safer City Coordinator
Progress update re. Review of Bonfire Programme	ongoing	Safer City Coordinator

Bonfire programme working group to meet	29 <sup>th</sup> August	Safer City Coordinator
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