

Minutes of the East Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Private Meeting

East Belfast Network Centre
Tuesday, 29th August, 2017

Political Members

Councillor Aileen Graham
Councillor Carole Howard
Alderman Tommy Sandford

Independent Members

Jonathan Currie
Michelle Bryans (V Chair)
David Geddis
Lisa McMaster

Designated Organisations

Suzanne Fleming, NIFRS
G Ballantyne (NIHE)
J Lappin (PBNI)

Chief Inspector David Moore, PSNI
Yvonne Cowan (H&SCT)

Also Attending

SAFER Campaign Representatives: S Green,
B Duffin, J Magee, K Scott

Staff Present

Glenn Thomas, Safer City Coordinator
Andy Claydon, Partnership Support Officer

Apologies

Councillor Mairead O'Donnell
Councillor Sonia Copeland
Councillor Deirdre Hargey
Dermot Magorrian (YJ)
Pauline Smart (EA)
Michael Roberts (NIFRS)

1. Welcome and Routine Matters

- i. The Vice-Chair welcomed Members to the meeting and noted the apologies provided. They also welcomed guests from the SAFER campaign.

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. Chair / Vice Chair Appointment

- i. The Safer City Coordinator introduced the incoming Chair and Vice Chair to Members and thanked the outgoing Chair / Vice Chair for their support throughout the year.

4. **SAFER Campaign Presentation**

(S Green, B Duffin, J Magee and K Scott attended in relation to this item)

- i. The Vice Chair welcomed representatives of the SAFER Campaign to the meeting
- ii. Members were shown a promotional video from the SAFER Campaign highlighting the difficulties faced by the bereaved after a suicide.
- iii. S Green introduced the SAFER Campaign to Members and explained the nature of their work in campaigning for improvements to the Mental Health Service.
- iv. S Green explained the importance of proper post-bereavement support and outlined several problems identified with the current bereavement model:
 - Difficulties with referrals
 - Lack of available information on support
 - Lack of referral for those who die in hospital
 - Time delays in receiving support
- v. S Green introduced the desired solutions to some of these issues which are being pursued by SAFER, primarily being:
 - Automatic referral for the SD1 (Sudden death) process
 - A newly formulated referral process for deaths in hospital following a suicide attempt.
- vi. The Vice Chair opened the floor to Members for questions.
- vii. Y Cowan congratulated the Campaign on their work and asked if they had been in contact with H&SCT in relation to their work in hospitals. S Green responded that she had been in contact with the Bereavement Officer.
- viii. Y Cowan asked what the East DPCSP could do to further support the SAFER Campaign. S Green replied that any official support from the partnership would be welcome in lieu of a letter that has been sent to the PSNI.
- ix. B Duffin outlined their intention to spread their work throughout Northern Ireland and used his own experience to extoll the virtues of the SOS group in East Belfast who helped him cope during his own bereavement. He continued to stress that many communities in the province do not have access to this level of support.
- x. A Member asked the panel what they identified as the main barriers to their goals to which S Green replied, stating that they needed to build more political and PSNI support. She continued by informing Members of a scheduled meeting with Claire Sugden to discuss their propositions but also welcomed any suggestions from Members as to how they might achieve more political support.
- xi. J Magee from SAFER suggested that a big problem with the current system is that help is offered in the first instance from the Police, often at the scene, and this presents obstacles because people can be wary of Police and often they are not in the right frame of mind to accept any offer of help. K Scott added that in her experience, help was offered by the Police but it was done half-heartedly.
- xii. Members were told by S Green that it's in the days and weeks after such an incident that they ideally need help, for funeral arrangements, for assistance with benefits and housing.

- xiii. S Green outlined to Members how a new process would see automatic referrals as opposed to referrals being 'divided out', and also families should be contacted within 48 hours of a suicide death. Members were informed that the take up for referrals using the current process was 50% according to the results of an FOI request but this number didn't include those people who were never offered any help.
- xiv. Chief Inspector D. Moore stated that he would be in favour of removing the responsibility from the Police, and suggested that the process driven nature of PSNI operations was not conducive to offering the bereaved the kind of help they required.
- xv. S Green suggested that cultural changes within the coroners office have had a detrimental effect on the good work done by Liaisons Officers who are no longer employed. No-one has stepped into their roles which has caused a void in the service. Members heard how in Australia, specially trained teams contact bereaved families as part of an automatic system and that rarely do people refuse help and this is a system that SAFER would like to see replicated in Northern Ireland.
- xvi. A Member suggested that SAFER be invited to a Council night to present to all 60 Councillors to garner the necessary political support. The Safer City Coordinator agreed to look into this proposition.
- xvii. The Vice Chair thanked the Panel for their presentation

5. Minutes and Matters Arising

- i. Minutes of the East Belfast DPCSP Private Meeting held on 28th June, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct subject to the addition of G Ballantynes attendance.
- ii. The parting Chair expressed their gratitude for the support received by the partnership

6. Chairs update on PCSP

- i. The outgoing Chair was unable to attend the last PCSP meeting of the 14th August so was unable to present an update.

7. Updates from Statutory Partners

H&SCT

- i. Y Cowan spoke of the cuts to the Health Service budgets and invited all Members to attend the Public Consultation event at the Network Centre on the 20th September.
- ii. Members heard how the budget cuts would be particularly hard hitting to the elderly as a result of cuts to domiciliary care

8. East Belfast DPCSP 2017/18 Action Plan Update

- i. The Safer City Coordinator introduced the progress report to Members and informed them that much of the spend highlighted in red was for projects that were in the pipeline.
- ii. Members noted the contents of the report.

9. Update on Small Grants

- i. The Safer City Coordinator introduced Members to Addendum 1 and delivered an update on the progress of the Small Grants tranche 2 stating that letters of offer would be distributed to groups in September to enable their activities to commence in October.
- ii. The Safer City Coordinator informed Members that 5 Volunteers were required to establish a Small Grants Panel to consider moderated applications. The volunteers are:
 - David Geddis
 - Michelle Bryans
 - Jonathan Currie
 - Lisa McMaster

A decision was made to name a fifth member of the panel after referring to those Members who were not present at the meeting.

- iii. The Safer City Coordinator proposed to transfer unspent moneys from the Bonfire Budget to Small Grants and for delegated authority to be granted to the panel.

Proposed – Jonathan Currie
Seconded – Ald. Tommy Sandford

10. Final Draft East Belfast DPCSP Annual Report 2016/17

- i. The Safer City Coordinator presented the Annual report to Members.
- ii. A Member commented on the quality of the report and thanked the Safer City Coordinator for compiling it.
- iii. Members noted the contents of the report.

11. Short Strand Environmental Project update

- i. The Safer City Coordinator updated Members to the Short Strand Environmental Improvement Project and highlighted some of the good work achieved by partner agencies such as DOJ, St Matthews Housing Association and NIHE.
- ii. The Safer City Coordinator suggested that the model had been successful and would be good to export to other projects and also commended the work of the Project Officer who had managed the project.

12. ASB Quotation Update

- i. The Safer City Coordinator informed Members that they had received 1 submission for £25'000 which has not yet been scored but would be brought to Members when all governance had been completed.

13. Drugs and Alcohol Quotation Update

- i. Members were informed that the deadline for submissions was 1st September but that there had been none received to date.

14. Domestic Violence

- i. A brief oral report was delivered informing Members that Y Cowan had worked alongside the Project Officer for East DPCSP on projects that had been temporarily 'shelved' and were to be considered as citywide prospects.

15. Emerging Issues

- i. Y Cowan commented on last weeks' PACT meeting and informed Members that significant momentum was being gathered due to a new community of people getting involved.
- ii. A Member requested that another PACT meeting be held at Titanic before Christmas. The Safer City Coordinator informed the Members that there was no limit on PACT meetings and suggested that there should be one more meeting at the Network Centre in order to consolidate interest before moving the meetings around locally.
- iii. The Safer City Coordinator commended the work of J Currie, M Bryans and Y Cowan in getting the PACTs back up and running.
- iv. G Ballantyne assured Members that it was not the policy of NIHE to re-home ex-prisoners within the Cregagh estate as had been suggested by a Member.
- v. The Safer City Coordinator drew Members attention to Addendum 2 regarding the Disability Action Plan for East Belfast, the consultation period for which, ended on the 31st August. Members were informed that following consideration of the comments from the Equality Commission, suggested amendments had been incorporated into the new Equality Scheme.

16. Date of Next Meeting

- i. The next meeting will be a public meeting, held on the 27th September at Cregagh Youth and Community Centre.

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Actions

Action	Date Due	By Whom
Explore potential for SAFER to present to Council	27 th September	G Thomas Safer City Coordinator
Y Cowan to send E-Mail to G Thomas re. Public Consultation on 20th Sept	ASAP	Y Cowan/ G Thomas
Identify and book accommodation in Cregagh area for public meeting	27 th September	Partnership Support Officer