

East Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Policing Committee Meeting

**East Belfast Network Centre
Tuesday 29th August, 2017**

Attendees

CI D Moore (PSNI)
M Bryans (Vice Chair)
J Currie
Councillor C Howard
Councillor A Graham
Ald. T Sandford
L McMaster
D Geddis

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

Welcome and Routine Matters

- i. The Safer City Coordinator welcomed Members to the Policing Committee Meeting

Declarations of Interest

- i. No declarations of interest noted.

Minutes/Matters Arising

- i. Minutes were agreed as read.

Area Commanders Update

- i. Chief Inspector D Moore provided Members with an update on East Belfast's Performance against the Local Policing Plan. The following key points were noted:
 - Overall crime figures down.
 - Good figures recorded relating to burglaries in which Older People are victims
 - Drug seizure figures are up by 26.6%
- ii. A Member asked CI D.Moore if hate crime figures had increased in the East and was informed that although there were no specific numbers to relay, the figures are normally representative across the city and not largely diverse from what the PSNI would expect. CI D.Moore stressed the importance of not labelling every incident as 'Sectarian'.

- iii. A Member enquired as to the progress of PSNI's work with the bands. CI Moore confirmed that the bands were trying to work in conjunction with the PSNI and that parade organisers were listening to them and reporting back afterwards which was commendable and a sign that both parties were starting to see the situation from each other's perspective. CI Moore added that the bands representatives were critical of the behaviour of some young people at the parades.
- iv. A Member added that the reported bad behaviour was bad for the loyalist parades, who are often blamed for the activities of youths even though they are often the same young groups who cause trouble in places like Shaftesbury Square on the weekends. Another Member agreed that it was important to distinguish between the behaviour of the bands supporters and that of the hangers on.

Policing Committee Project Applications

Friends of Mullan Mews

- i. An application from Friends of Mullan Mews for a project titled 'Our Futures Together' was proposed.
- ii. 3 Elements of the project were outlined by the Safer City Coordinator
 - To prevent crime and increase awareness of safety
 - To build positive relationships between the police, older people and young people
 - To provide information on PSNI and allied professional roles
- iii. The proposal was approved by members

Ballymac Friendship Centre

- i. A funding application of £825 for a cultural and history awareness event was proposed.
- ii. The proposal was approved by Members.

Emerging Issues

- i. A Member enquired as to the effectiveness of online reporting of crime, and commented that it was a good alternative for people scared of contacting the PSNI directly. CI Moore informed Members that the online reports were approached with the same urgency as any other form of reporting.

Date of Next Meeting

Members were reminded that the next meeting of the Policing Committee would be on 30th October, Venue to be confirmed.

Summary of Actions

- Chief Inspector D Moore agreed to deliver an update in relation to the review of policing committees at the next meeting.