

Minutes of the Belfast Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Policing Committee

Lavery Room, City Hall
Monday 11th September, 2017

Political Members

Councillor Carole Howard (Chair)
Councillor Brian Kingston
Councillor JJ Magee
Councillor Janice Austin
Alderman Matt Garrett
Alderman Jim Rodgers

Independent Members

Carmel McKinney
Susan Russam
Michael O'Hara
Mary Lambe

PSNI Representatives

CI Norman Haslett, PSNI
CI Kellie McMillen, PSNI

Staff Present

Alison Allen, Safer City Manager
Denise Smith, Safer City Coordinator
Andy Claydon, Partnership Support Officer

Apologies

Councillor Paul McCusker
Councillor Lee Reynolds
Councillor Mairead O'Donnell
John MacVicar (Vice Chair)
Debbie Hammill
John Loughran
Anne-Louise Toal

1. Welcome and Apologies

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

2. Declarations of Interest

- i. The Chair advised Members that they were required to declare any material interests that they may have in relation to any items on the agenda.
- ii. No declarations of interest were recorded.

3. Minutes

- i. The minutes of the Belfast PCSP Policing Committee Meeting held on 12th June, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct.

4. Update from PSNI Representatives

- i. Chief Superintendent Haslett provided Members with an update on policing across the District noting the following key points:
 - As part of continued efforts to reduce the flow of drugs into Belfast, a man and Woman were arrested for drug offences in Newry.
 - A man was charged with public disorder for an incident in the Markets area.
 - A man was charged with GBH for an ear biting incident in Belfast City centre.
 - Several arrests were made under the Terrorism Act after property searches in relation to paramilitary style shootings. Cash and Phones were seized as part of the operation.
 - A man was arrested for the robbery of a shop in Oldpark Road.
 - 3 People charged with drug trafficking offences.
- ii. In relation to performance, Chief Superintendent McMillen informed Members on the following:
 - Reduction in overall crime of 1.8%
 - Drug offences increased by 19.5%
 - Small reduction in Burglaries
 - Robberies reduced by 20.8%
 - ASB incidents increase by 5.5%, however no increase reported in North

Members Comments

- i. A Member enquired if all of the Safer Neighbourhood Officers would be deployed in the Holylands during Freshers week. The Safer City Manager informed Members that they understood the frustration of other communities during this week but that unfortunately, the team was very small and the resource was not sufficient to maintain business as usual.
- ii. A Member commented on Operation Taurus and the frustration that from 26 arrests, there had been only 4 people charged. They continued by suggesting that Royal mail had a part to play in reducing the flow of drugs. CI McMillen told Members that PSNI were aware of the Royal Mail being used to transport drugs and spoke of routine operations on mailed drugs which they are unable to report on. CI Haslett spoke of the rise of prescription drugs such as Lyrica.
- iii. The Chair suggested a presentation by Royal Mail to highlight how they tackle mailed drugs.
- iv. CI Haslett mentioned the Hydra Minerva training and asked if Members would be interested in taking part.
- v. A Member enquired as to any arrests in relation to the Belfast Bikes in response to reports that one third of the fleet was off the road due to vandalism. CI McMillen informed Members that the problem had been discussed at a recent meeting and the matter was being taken very seriously.

5. Date of Next Meeting

- i. Members were advised that the next meeting of the Policing Committee would be held on Monday, 27th November 2017.
- ii. The Chair thanked all for attending.