

Minutes of the Belfast Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Private Meeting

Lavery Room, City Hall
Monday 11th September, 2017

Political Members

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

Independent Members

Carmel McKinney
Susan Russam
Michael O'Hara
Mary Lambe

Designated Organisations

Chris Fee, NIFRS
CI Norman Haslett, PSNI
CI Kellie McMillen, PSNI
Harry Bradley, YJA
Helen Russell, NIHE

Bryan Nelson, H&SCT
Lynsey Braniff, EA

Staff Present

Denise Smith, Safer City Coordinator
Alison Allen, Safer City Manager
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
Liz Arthur, PBNI

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. Presentation from Belfast Area Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse Partnership (BADSVAP)

- i. The Chair introduced Noelle Collins and Kelly Andrews from the Belfast Area Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse Partnership.
- ii. Noelle Collins outlined the structure of BADSVAP and the common interest of partner agencies in improving services and support for all victims of domestic and sexual violence and abuse.
- iii. Members heard how the Partnership utilise the shared expertise, knowledge and resources of their members to:
 - Provide an integrated service
 - Develop effective interventions to support adults and children
 - Raise awareness around the issues of domestic and sexual violence
 - Lobby for initiatives that hold perpetrators to account
- iv. Noelle Collins informed Members that the BADSVAP action plan is in line with the priorities set out in the 'Stopping Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse Strategy', raising awareness on a variety of issues, including Coercive control.
- v. Noelle Collins thanked Members for their support to develop the DV App from the 2016/17 Action plan. The App will be launched in November and is designed to offer support for victims of violence within intimate partner relationships.
- vi. Members also heard how BADSVAP promote domestic and sexual violence workplace policies
- vii. Members watched a short video about the effects of Coercive Control and how to identify it.
- viii. The Chair opened up the floor for questions on completion of the presentation and began by requesting booklets for PCSP members to disseminate to their own partnerships.
- ix. The Chair enquired as to how the new App would be launched. Kelly Andrews informed Members that the App would be officially launched at an event on 27th November where there will be a demonstration of the App. Kelly continued to explain how the event would be promoted on the websites of all the partnering organisations.
- x. A Member congratulated BADSVAP on their good work and commented on their visit to Nexus last year. Although highly impressed by their work, the Member expressed dismay at the waiting list for victims.
- xi. A Member enquired as to the incidents of violence where women were the perpetrators. Noelle Collins responded by explaining that although the figures are significantly less, there are instances where men are victims but that figures could be skewed by examples where men are victims of violence in same sex relationships or by a brother or father, for which there are no statistics. Noelle informed Members that they work closely with MAP in regards to male victims.
- xii. The Chair informed the partnership that according to the helpline, 94% of victims are women.

- xiii. The Safer City Coordinator thanked the guests for their presentation and suggested that if DPCSP's were looking to address domestic violence in the future they could look to BADSVAP for collaboration.
- xiv. This suggestion was agreed by Members

4. Minutes

- i. The minutes of the Belfast PCSP Meeting held on 14th August, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct.
- ii. With regards to the actions from the previous, the Safer City Coordinator advised that:
 - A letter had been sent to P Muldoon
 - A letter had been sent to Chief Fire Officer condemning attacks on Firefighters
 - The small grants panel had convened prior to tonight's meeting
 - Monthly updates for the Car simulator and the UR Zone cage will be delivered later in tonight's meeting
 - Equality scheme comments had been received and the document had been agreed by Members.
 - CI Haslett informed Members with regards to the Hope Street coach fires that no evidence has been recovered and no arrests made
 - CI Haslett also commented on the ASB in the Dunboyne Area, reporting that there had been an increase in the number of patrols but no arrests made. CI Haslett said that a further update would be delivered at the next private meeting.

5. Chair's Update

- i. The Chair commented on the OBA awareness training which had now been completed for all partnerships.
- ii. The Chair informed Members that training had also been completed for the new Chairs and Vice Chairs.

6. Update from Designated Partners

NIFRS

- i. AGC Chris Fee informed Members that the NIFRS were working collaboratively with the Housing Executive HMO unit following a number of fires in HMO's.
- ii. AGC Fee also commented on the collaborative work with BCC Licensing in relation to events held in unlicensed premises
- iii. Members were reminded of Fire Safety Week which will be launched on 2nd October

- iv. AGC Fee reported an increase in major fires across the city for August and also a continuing trend of Firefighter attacks with 12 recorded in August.
- v. A Member expressed their concerns over the attacks on Firefighters.
- vi. The Chair suggested that Members take these concerns back to their own partnerships in order to tackle the mind set of young people with regards to their views of the emergency services. The Chair also suggested a letter be sent to the NIFRS to show appreciation for their work.
- vii. AGC Fee suggested that the attacks were not solely perpetrated by youngsters and that there were also grown adults who were responsible.
- viii. A Member thanked the NIFRS for their help in regards to the illegal rave event at the Hill View interface, reporting that the premises was not fit for purpose and that there had been no medical facilities provided at the event. AGC Fee explained the frustration felt by the NIFRS due to being unable to empty a venue being used illegally even if the venue has been prohibited from staging an event.
- ix. The Member continued to report that although representatives from BCC, PSNI and NIFRS were present, none of them had the power to shut the event down. Members were told that the event was officially regarded as a house party as no money was being taken at the door and that the organiser was well aware of this loophole but was negligent.
- x. The Chair proposed to send a letter to the relevant Minister and the Chief Constable with regards to the loophole that saw this event transpire.
- xi. A Member commented that on a positive note, the surrounding community down played the event so well that the second and third nights were very poorly attended.

PSNI

- i. CI Norman Haslett informed members of current priorities being the tackling of heroine use, burglaries against the over 60's and general Anti-Social Behaviour.
- ii. CI Haslett delivered an update to Members of recent events of note:
 - 2 Arrested for drugs offences following a seizure of heroine outside Newry
 - Male arrested for public disorder in Markets area
 - Male charged with GBH
 - 2 arrests in relation to a serious assault in Park End street
 - 3 men arrested under the terrorism act in relation to 2 paramilitary style shootings
 - Male arrested for robbery on Old Park Road
 - 3 people charged with drug trafficking offenses.
- iii. A Member enquired as to the figures available on which drugs are the most prevalent. CI Haslett responded by informing the Member that there were no statistics that broke down the types of drugs seized by area, but that cannabis was the most seized drug although there had been significant amounts of cocaine powder seized recently.

- iv. A Member asked the PSNI representatives how the PSNI manage to maintain services when their Police Vehicles were being used as ambulances, making reference to the 20% cuts faced by the service. CI Haslett answered that there was an ongoing partnership with the Health Service in relation to a triage service. CI Haslett explained how he considered Belfast to be one area and so resources were not limited to parts of the city and were utilised with a Belfast wide approach. In relation to 999 calls, CI Haslett assured Members that resources were dispatched immediately.
- v. CI Kellie McMillen offered a recent example concerning a suicidal person which highlighted the difficulties faced when utilising PSNI resources.
- vi. A Member asked 2 questions of the PSNI representatives; how many Land Rovers covered the Belfast area, and in terms of 999 reporting, why the process took so long when lives could be at risk. CI Haslett responded to the first question by informing Members that the PSNI had a fleet of 30 vehicles which can be deployed in its entirety during the peak times of weekends or special events. In response to the second query, CI Haslett told Members that there was certain information operators were duty bound to obtain for the safety of responding officers but that the responders would be on their way as the information was being taken and in the event of a true 999 call the process should be speeded up.

EA

- i. Lynsey Branniff reported to Members that the EA Youth Intervention Funding and the Executive Office Youth Intervention Funding had been assessed and distributed to some EA and Voluntary Youth providers across Belfast for delivery of programmes between July and September 2017.
- ii. L Branniff informed Members that the EA had met with the Executive Office and BCC, Good Relations to review and align current outcomes of Intervention funding and to avoid funding duplication.
- iii. Members were also informed that a meeting had taken place with Denise Smith and Alyson Crompton with a view to engaging in a joint project for transient youth.
- iv. A Member requested a geographical breakdown of Summer Intervention funding, which Lynsey Branniff agreed to provide before the next meeting.

7. 2016/2017 PCSP Action Plan Progress report

- i. The Safer City Coordinator outlined the spend to date for the three agreed strategic objectives:
 - Strategic Objective 1 : £3,664
 - Strategic Objective 2 : £10,264
 - Strategic Objective 3 : £6,827

- ii. The Safer City Coordinator informed Members of the various commitments that would appear as monies were paid.
- iii. A Member asked if the monies committed to the central PCSP budget were separate from those of the DPCSP's to which the Safer City Coordinator confirmed that they were separate budgets.

8. 2017/2018 DPCSP Action Plan Progress Reports

- i. The Safer City Manager outlined the key issues in relation to the DPCSP Action Plans, alongside item 12 on the agenda, the DPCSP spend update.
- ii. The Safer City Manager informed Members that there has been an effort to collaborate between partnerships to achieve an increased citywide result, however Officers have found that quotations are often coming back unsuccessful. The Safer City Manager continued by highlighting the difficulties in finding suitable partners with whom to achieve the objectives of the partnerships.
- iii. The Safer City Manager asked Members to agree to the requested drawdown of funds required to action projects in the DPCSP's that had undergone due diligence. This was agreed by Members.
- iv. The Safer City Manager outlined 3 pieces of work
 - South DPCSP, Guardians Project - £3000
 - South DPCSP, Training for Young Leaders - £4000
 - East DPCSP, Quotation Exercise - £15,000

Funding was agreed by Members.

9. Street Triage Project Proposal

- i. The Safer City Coordinator introduced the Street Triage Initiative to Members. They explained how the model involves a multi-faceted team incorporating a mental health nurse working alongside a police officer as part of a mobile unit.
- ii. The Safer City Coordinator outlined the suggested role of a Street Triage team based on models that already run in 9 other areas of the UK.
- iii. Members were informed that the PHA were currently confirming the cost implications but that it was anticipated an investment of £50,000 from the PCSP for the first year with a commitment for a further 3 years would be required.
- iv. The Safer City Manager further explained that the project had developed from the concerns of elected members and that it also highlights that the PCSP are strategically linked to the concerns of communities.
- v. Members heard how the project was proven to reduce the likelihood of people offending whilst ensuring that individuals receive the best and most appropriate care possible.

- vi. The Chair commended an interesting report and offered their support of the project.
- vii. A Member asked which parts of the UK had the pilots been conducted and after some brief research, the Safer City Manager was able to inform the Members that the pilots had been conducted in Sussex, Thames Valley, Derbyshire, Devon & Cornwall, London, Yorkshire.
- viii. The Chair asked if there were any timescales for implementation, to which the Safer City Coordinator commented that they were hoping to commence the project as quickly as possible and if they received commitment from all parties it was hoped that it could be launched later this financial year.
- ix. CI Haslett commented that this scheme was a good example of 'thinking outside the box' and multiagency collaboration which would be required to manage the 20% budget cuts.
- x. The Safer City Manager, responding to the Chairs query, informed members that relations with Street Pastors had already been established in relation to collaborative working.
- xi. The Safer City Manager clarified that the scheme would be allocated an annual allocation of funds but that it would need to be subject to the continued existence of the PCSP's and the effectiveness of the service.
- xii. Members agreed to the funding of the project.
- xiii. A Member noted that the Chief Executive of the SOS Bus had stepped down and suggested a letter be written to him on behalf of the DPCSP's to acknowledge his outstanding contribution.

10. PCSP Small Grants Tranche 2

- i. The Safer City Manager presented the 2 small grant applications that received a score of over 50% to Members:
 - ASCERT – Preventing drink or drug driving initiative - £5,000
 - Feile an Phobail – Moving On...A new era of policing in West Belfast - £2,500
- ii. Addressing concerns of why the application from Feile was submitted to the PCSP, the Safer City Manager explained how if a proposed project sought to reach more than one area of the city, it would be considered by the PCSP.
- iii. The Safer City Manager explained how the value of all successful applications from Tranches 1 and 2 totalled £16,034, leaving a shortfall of £1,034.
- iv. Members agreed to adjust the budget to fully fund the Tranche 2 applications.

11. Transient Youth Project

- i. The Safer City Coordinator updated Members on the progress of the Transient Youth project and informed Members of a meeting scheduled in the first week of

October with the PSNI and the EA to discuss the proposed workshop. They continued to explain that there would be discussing what good practice exists that could be adopted, what resources are available and the possibility of involving the Parks Department.

- ii. A Member highlighted point 2.6 of the paper, and commented that they would prefer to see four parks across the city, ideally one per area rather than the three parks suggested in the paper, all of which appeared to be in one area of the City. The Safer City Coordinator agreed to look into this.
- iii. The Safer City Coordinator confirmed that the £17,000 budget would be reserved for the follow up work and that any money spent on the workshop would be minimal.
- iv. The Safer City Coordinator confirmed that invites would be circulated to Members regarding the Transient Youth workshop.
- v. Members noted the contents of the report.

12. DPCSP Spend update

- i. As discussed in agenda item 8.

13. Car Simulator Progress Report

- i. The Safer City Coordinator informed Members that they had met with the PSNI to discuss the use of the simulator and that a number of purchases had been recommended that would enhance its future delivery:
 - Gazebo
 - Jackets (To soften impact of PSNI delivery)
 - A Cover to protect the vehicle
 - A trickle charger to ensure the battery is maintained.
- ii. Members agreed to fund £1,500 to purchase these items.

14. UR Zone Cage Deployment Progress Report

- i. The Safer City Coordinator informed Members that Officers had met with Legal and Procurement departments and that the suggestion of Legal was to undergo an extensive market engagement campaign.
- ii. The Safer City Manager outlined the importance of finding a suitable partner and suggested a local provider would be the preferred option although it was important to ensure the utilisation of the cage reached all communities.
- iii. A Member commented on the frustration felt by Community Organisations at the inability of the PCSP to deliver the resource and asked for a timeframe as they were being approached frequently.

- iv. The Safer City Manager apologised for the delay and agreed to return with a decision before Christmas.

15. A.O.B

- i. A Member asked if a Vice Chair of a DPCSP could attend the PCSP meetings in the absence of their Chair.
- ii. The Safer City Manager explained that legislation stipulated that there must always be one more political member on the PCSP and as the Independent members do not have political status they could not be invited to take an active role.
- iii. The Safer City Manager agreed to explore the possibility of independent members attending the meetings in an informal role.

16. Date of next meeting

- i. The next meeting would be on the 16th October 2017 at 5.30pm in the Lavery Room, City Hall.