

# Minutes of the Belfast Policing and Community Safety Partnership

## Private Meeting

Lavery Room, City Hall  
Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November, 2017

### Political Members

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

### Independent Members

J MacVicar (V Chair)  
Susan Russam  
Michael O'Hara  
Mary Lambe  
Debbie Hammill

### Designated Organisations

Chris Fee, NIFRS  
Michael Heaney, YJA  
CS John Roberts, PSNI  
CI Melanie Jones, PSNI

Lynsey Braniff, EA  
Liz Arthur, PBNI

### Staff Present

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

### Apologies

Councillor Paul McCusker  
Patricia Muldoon  
Bryan Nelson, H&SCT  
Debbie Hammill  
Anne-Louise Toal

## 1. Welcome and Apologies

- i. The Chair welcomed Members to the meeting and noted the apologies provided.
- ii. Members were informed that no meeting had been rescheduled for the cancelled October meeting due to a significant restriction of available dates. It was confirmed that matters concerning project funding had been put to the Chair and Vice Chair.

## 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. Street Triage Project Proposal**

- i. The Safer City Manager updated members as to the progress of the Street Triage project, informing them that the project was ready to go and was due to be signed off in January 2018. In response to a query regarding the financing of the project, the Safer City Manager explained that it was very much a partnership approach, with the PHA funding the majority.

### **4. Minutes**

- i. The minutes of the Belfast PCSP Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> September, 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 NIFRS regarding the Firefighter attacks
  - A letter had been drafted in relation to the illegal rave at Hillview
  - L Branniff of EA has provided the partnership with a geographical breakdown of summer intervention funding
  - A report on the UR Zone cage to follow later in the agenda
  - Papers had been circulated before the commencement of the meeting
  - Paper had been circulated to Members outlining parameters of awarding small grants
  - 4 Parks have been identified for the Transient Youth Project

### **5. Chair's Update**

- i. The Chair commented on the '16 Days against Violence' initiative and the Domestic and Sexual Violence App.
- ii. The Chair commented on the Christmas Crime prevention and Safety event for which Members were requested to assist in 45 minute shifts at the PCSP stall. The Vice Chair volunteered to do the first shift.

### **6. Update from Designated Partners**

#### PSNI

- i. CS Roberts outlined the PSNI's current priorities as:
  - Drugs, including tackling Heroine use
  - Burglaries against the over 60's
  - ASB
  - Christmas Policing Operation
- ii. CS Roberts continued by alerting Members to significant events of note:
  - Christmas Policing Operation commenced on the 18<sup>th</sup> November
  - 2 Males arrested for GBH in East Belfast
  - Male arrested in connection with armed robberies in East Belfast

- Pipe Bomb and Petrol bomb incident in South Belfast
  - 2 arrests for drugs and other offences in East Belfast
  - Male arrested for burglary in North Belfast
  - 3 arrests in connection with burglary in East Belfast
  - Male arrested for attempted murder
  - 2 arrested for burglary in North Belfast
  - South Belfast Officer praised for his bravery in connection with violent altercation in the Royal Victoria Hospital
- iii. Members were informed of a bomb threat received by Holy Cross School via phone call this morning and that luckily, no students were present as it had been a training day at the school.
- iv. A Member commented on his disappointment at not receiving notification of the previous Chief Supt. Noble's departure and stated that it was important that Members are informed of changes in senior positions. CS Roberts explained that the opportunity had arisen very quickly and that an e-mail had been sent to inform parties of the change but that he was unaware who had received this communication.
- v. The Member also raised the issue of the recent Northern Ireland vs Switzerland match, at which a Police Officer had reportedly issued a warning to fans after considering them to be part of an arranged march. A Member commented that they were aware that fans had indeed organised a 'parade' and had publicised the event on social media and encouraged fans to bring flares and that this behaviour should not be tolerated as it led to significant disruption to traffic in the area. CS Roberts agreed to look into the incident.
- vi. A Member raised the events previously discussed relating to Anti-Social Behaviour in the Dunboyne area to which they hadn't received any update. Supt. M Jones agreed to provide an update which had been circulated, explaining how a male had been arrested in relation to the incidents.

### NIFRS

- i. AGC Fee informed Members of 4 significant fires and 8 further attacks on Firefighters. Members were told how Fire trucks can be out of action for 12 hours to be fixed after these attacks which can have an adverse effect on operations.
- ii. Members were told that the '2 Fast 2 Soon' car had been very effective at events where the NIFRS had used it.
- iii. AGC Fee informed the Partnership that the NIFRS are currently promoting their Christmas Fire Safety programme
- iv. A Member expressed concern at the reduction in the NIFRS budget with AGC Fee confirming that there were currently no planned closures of stations but that consideration had been given to removing 3 Fire Engines from service which would mean they might have to bring resources in from elsewhere for serious incidents
- v. A Member proposed that the Partnership send a letter to the Chief Fire Officer and the Permanent Secretary to keep pressure on regarding potential budget cuts. The proposal was agreed by Members.

- vi. A Member enquired as to the nature of the attacks on Firefighters and Fire Vehicles and suggested that the problem needed to be publicised. AGC Fee advised Members to contact their local PSNI and local community representatives to help resolve these ongoing issues.
- vii. The Safer City Manager informed Members that the Partnership had run campaigns to combat this type of behaviour in the past and proposed that a paper could be brought to Members at the next Private Meeting in January. This proposal was agreed by Members.

#### EA

- i. Lynsey Branniff reported to Members that she had forwarded the requested geographical breakdowns of summer funding. It was further explained that the Authority had tried to target areas who traditionally struggled to achieve funding but that it was a transparent system that is publically advertised.
- ii. Lynsey Branniff outlined current emerging issues for the EA:
  - Application for funding from Fresh Start
  - New Initiative, the Youth Voluntary Academy, EA in partnership with the NIFRS and PSNI to engage young people before they become offenders and to improve relationships with Authorities.
  - EA also involved in the Transient Youth Workshops
- iii. Members were informed that the programme would be run in Craigavon initially before being rolled out across the province.

#### PBNI

- i. Liz Arthur informed the partnership of an increased level of risk to staff reported in September. This had an adverse impact on service delivery in terms of Graffiti removal and house visits.
- ii. Liz Arthur introduced the Enhanced Combination Order to Members which is an alternative to short term prison sentences.

#### Youth Justice

- i. Michael Heaney told Members that Youth Justice are reviewing their direction with a view to directing Young People away from offending early on. He added that they were trying to find alternative solutions including Community Resolution Notices which can be a good alternative to a criminal record.
- ii. A Member requested that Patricia Muldoon be sent a 'get well soon' letter on behalf of the partnership.

## **7. 2017/18 PCSP Action Plan Progress report**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator introduced the Action Plan progress report including the areas where money was required to be moved:
  - £3000 moved from Bonfire Mgmt to Strategic Objective 1, operating effective partnerships
  - £2500 moved from Bonfire Mgmt to Strategic Objective 2, Domestic and Sexual Violence
  - £1500 moved from Handyman Project to Strategic Objective 2, ARCS funded Projects
  - £150 moved from Drug dealers don't care to Strategic Objective 2, Licensee training
  - £10500 moved from Handyman Project to Strategic Objective 2, Drug dealers don't care
  - £5000 moved from Bonfire Mgmt to Domestic Violence (£2500) and Effective Partnerships (£3000)
- ii. The Safer City Manager explained that the reduction of the Bonfire budget reflected the dwindling appetite in August Bonfires.
- iii. A discussion emerged regarding SHARPS and the quotation in place to deal with the issue, in particular, incidents in Castlecourt and Yorkgate.
- iv. Members agreed the recommended budget amendments

## **8. 2017/2018 DPCSP Action Plan Progress Reports**

- i. The Safer City Manager outlined the key issues in relation to the DPCSP Action Plans, in particular addressing Members concerns of substantial monies remaining in some districts budgets. The Chair requested an update regarding progress as soon as possible.

## **9. DPCSP Spend Update**

- i. The Safer City Co-ordinator informed Members of the DPCSP monies which were approved by the Chair, Vice Chair and Safer City Manager due to the cancellation of the October meeting:
  - North DPCSP - £10'990
  - East DPCSP - £3'198
  - West DPCSP - £12'448
- ii. The Safer City Manager asked Members to agree to increasing delegated authority from £1'000 to £3'000 which will help to progress projects during December when there will be no partnership meetings.
- iii. Further recommendations are:
  - To retrospectively approve the release of funding projects by the Chair, Vice Chair and Safer City Manager in the absence of the October PCSP meeting.
  - To approve the release of funding for the projects noted under the heading 'Additional monies requested & due diligence completed'

- To approve 'in principle' the funding of projects under the column heading 'Additional monies requested, Awaiting the completion of due diligence', and to delegate authority to the Safer City Manager/Assistant Manager to release these monies upon satisfactory completion of all governance.
- iv. A Member sought assurances that audit had been consulted regarding the recommendations and the Safer City Co-ordinator explained that all due diligence had been completed.
- v. Members agreed the recommendations.

#### **10. (D)PCSP Financial Spend Update**

- i. The Safer City Manager informed Members that overall, budgets were performing slightly better than last year, especially those of West and South.
- ii. Members noted the contents of the report.

#### **11. Citywide Domestic Violence Project proposal**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator introduced Members to 3 proposals for which they were asked to authorise the releasing of funds:
  - Masterclass with Laura Richards - £2'860
  - Emergency Packs for Hostels - £2'000
  - Research project - £7'000
- ii. Members discussed the merits of committing £7'000 to a research project and only £2'000 to fund the emergency packs, the general consensus suggesting a preference to contribute more money to the emergency packs which would have an immediate effect and less to a research project, the impact of which would not be seen this financial year.
- iii. Members agreed to authorise the first 2 proposals whilst deferring the 3<sup>rd</sup> in lieu of further discussions

#### **12. Retail Crime Proposal**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator introduced the proposal from Belfast City Centre Management to deliver a Retail Crimewatch project.
- ii. Members agreed to fund the full amount of £1'500

#### **13. Transient Youth Project Update**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator delivered an update in relation to the Transient Youth Project and confirmed the 4 areas that had been identified to receive the workshops.

- West – Falls Park
  - South – Walkway
  - North – Marrowbone Park
  - East – Orangefield Park
- ii. After a brief conversation regarding the cost of hiring venues owned by the Council, Members noted the contents of the report and agreed to fund the full £17'000

#### **14. UR Zone Cage Soccer Project Update**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator updated Members to the progress of the UR Zone Cage project, informing them that, as part of the recommended 'extensive market research' Officers had met with 2 organisations.
- ii. Following these meetings, only 1 of the organisations felt they had the capacity to deliver the UR Cage as per PCSP's wishes however both Parties felt that a financial package would be required to deliver the service.
- iii. Members were asked to consider the following options:
- Do Nothing – As no budget is allocated within this financial year.
  - Expression of Interest – No budget contribution from BCC. Delivery agent charges fee to customer to cover its costs
  - Quotation exercise
- iv. A discussion took place in which Members explored the merits of the options 2 & 3 and the question was raised as to whether the PCSP should be funding the project regardless of its effectiveness.
- v. Members agreed to implement Option 3 – Go out to Quotation.

#### **15. Dual Diagnosis Project Proposal**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator spoke of the successful Dual Diagnosis project that was funded last year in collaboration with Extern and recommended to Members that the PCSP fund a further project for this financial year. The resource implication for the PCSP would be £15'000
- ii. Members briefly discussed the merits of the selected areas for the project, one member suggesting that Donegal Place would be a more obvious choice than the selected area of Townsend Street. Another Member raised the issue of Castle Arcade/Castle Lane and suggested that it too would be an ideal venue for this project due to the problems both BHS and members of the public have had.
- iii. A Member raised the importance of not confusing Rough Sleepers with Drug Users and Anti Social Behaviour and stated that as a partnership, they should trust that Extern have selected Townsend Street for a good reason. A Member also stressed the importance of distinguishing those individuals who are on the streets by necessity from those who are there by choice as a means of making a living.
- iv. A Member expressed concern that the £15'000 award would be used to pay wages. Members from the West DPCSP and from East DPCSP stated that their partnerships

had indeed funded salaries for projects in the past, including the Professional Witness programme. Another Member attempted to clarify by suggesting that the PCSP role in the project was not as the employer but to commission the work from Extern, who in turn employ somebody to deliver the function.

- v. A suggestion was made to defer any approval of this funding until further investigation and it was agreed that the partnership would decide whether to defer by way of vote:
  - 6 Members vote for deferral
  - 5 Members vote against deferral
- vi. Members decide to defer the decision on funding the Dual Diagnosis project until the partnership receives clarification on the use of PCSP monies for salaries.
- vii. The Safer City Coordinator assured Members that she would seek further clarification and report back to the partnership which was agreed by Members.

#### **16. Night Time Volunteers group Proposal**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator introduced a proposal from the Night Time Volunteering Steering Group to support them in their engagement with homeless people, people in distress and users of the City during night time activities. The funding of £10'222 would be for a training programme to increase the skills and confidence of Volunteers to carry out their work and
- ii. Members agreed to fund the project £10'222 and to grant delegated authority to Senior Management to release funding on completion of all due diligence.

#### **17. Drug Dealers Don't Care Campaign Update**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator updated Members of the Drug Dealers Don't Care Campaign which was successfully funded by the partnership last year and now requires further award of £20'350 from the PCSP which will be added to contributions from other partnerships.
- ii. A Member commented on the effectiveness of the campaign, stating that it had been criticised last year for being dated and now, in its 4<sup>th</sup> year, could be a time for the partnership to rethink their approach to combatting Drugs and Drug use. The Member introduced the '1 Pill Will Kill' project which was increasingly effective at delivering an impactful message.
- iii. Members discussed the merits of the Drug Dealers Don't Care Campaign and the 1 Pill Will Kill Campaign and it was suggested that the message conveyed by the former was missing the main issue of the harm that drugs can do. Some Members expressed an interest in providing funding for 1 Pill Will Kill to help their Christmas campaign.
- iv. A Member informed the partnership that the PCSP could not fund an unconstituted body which was addressed by a suggestion that any monies awarded would be used to pay for imagery for their campaign (for example) rather than to the group itself.

- v. The Safer City Coordinator suggested a follow-up meeting with Corporate Comms to gain their opinion and it was further suggested that the Vice Chair and the City Solicitor and Finance Director also attend.
- vi. The Safer City Coordinator asked if Members were happy to continue with Drug Dealers Don't Care, but a Member requested that any approval be deferred pending talks. The Safer City Coordinator continued stated that a paper would be presented to Members in January to follow up

**18. Hate Crime and Fear of Hate Crime Report**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator informed Members that 2 of them were required to attend a meeting with the Hate Crime and Fear of Hate Crime Steering Groups on the 7<sup>th</sup> December.
- ii. Members agreed to respond to the Safer City Coordinator via e-mail to confirm attendance after receiving more detail about the meeting.

**19. Schools Project Progress Report**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator recommended that Members receive a presentation from Eye 4 Education at their February meeting to introduce them to their proposed model of delivery.
- ii. Members agreed the recommendation

**20. Car Simulator Project Update**

- i. Members noted the contents of the update provided and agreed to receive a further update in January.

**21. 2018/2019 Belfast (D)PCSP Action Planning Process**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator asked Members to agree that the costs of the OBA workshops would be taken from the Effective Partnership Working budget of the (D)PCSP's. This was agreed by Members.

**22. PCSP Small Grants Update**

- i. Members noted the addition of another question on the application form for the 2018/19 PCSP Small Grants, asking the organisation to identify the partnership from which they are seeking funding.

**23. (D)PCSP Vice Chair Attendance at PCSP Meetings**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator informed Members that the issue of (D)PCSP Vice Chairs attending PCSP meetings was still ongoing.

**24. Date of Next Meeting**

- i. The next meeting would be on the 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at 5.30pm in the Connor Room, City Hall.

