

Minutes of the East Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Private Meeting

East Belfast Network Centre
Monday, 30th October, 2017

Political Members	Independent Members
Councillor Mairead O'Donnell (Chair)	David Geddis
Councillor Carole Howard	Lisa McMaster
Councillor Aileen Graham	Jonathan Currie
Councillor Deirdre Hargey	
Alderman Tommy Sandford	
Designated Organisations	
Dermot Magorrian (YJA)	Chief Inspector David Moore, PSNI
Pauline Smart (EA)	Yvonne Cowan (H&SCT)
Gary Ballantyne (NIHE)	
Also Attending	
Det Supt Bobby Singleton (PSNI)	
Staff Present	Apologies
Glenn Thomas, Safer City Coordinator	Councillor Sonia Copeland
Alyson Crompton, Project Officer	Michelle Bryans (V Chair)
	Jane Lappin (PBNI)

1. Welcome and Routine Matters

- i. The Chair welcomed Members to the meeting and noted the apologies provided. Apologies were also received from Councillor Sonia Copeland, Michelle Bryans and Jane Lappin.
- ii. A Member advised the partnership that Councillor Copeland was unavailable due to the loss of her Mother in Law. The partnership extended their condolences to Cllr Copeland on the passing of her Mother in law.
- iii. The Chair also welcomed Detective Superintendent Bobby Singleton from PSNI who was attending in order to present on Tackling Paramilitaryism.

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. Approval of Minutes/Matters Arising

- i. The Safer City Coordinator outlined the d actions emerging from the August meeting and what had been done to address them.
- ii. Paragraph 15: IV was amended and agreed by the partnership, proposed by Councillor A. Graham and seconded by Alderman T. Sandford.

- iii. The bullet points from the Chairs brief have been circulated.
- iv. The EA questionnaire has not been circulated.
- v. Invites have been issued to P. Smart and Y. Cowan to attend the Domestic Violence Awareness Sessions.
- vi. Compile rationale for Youth projects positioning within strategic objectives, after discussion it was agreed that the YENI project was in the correct strategic objective.
- vii. The monitoring and evaluation documents from the YENI project 2016-17 have been circulated.
- viii. Unable to contact NICRC to issue invite to present to partnership.
- ix. An invite has been extended to the Paramilitary Crime Taskforce to give a presentation on the Fresh Start Agreement, which will be presented tonight.
- x. Letters of congratulation on behalf of the partnership are to be sent to the four groups who were awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary service.
- xi. Minutes of the East Belfast DPCSP Private Meeting held on 27th September, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct proposed by D. Geddis and seconded by Councillor A. Graham.

4. Fresh Start Agreement Presentation (Detective Superintendent R. Singleton PSNI attended in relation to this)

- i. The Chair welcomed Detective Superintendent Singleton PSNI to the meeting
- ii. Detective Superintendent (DS) Singleton introduced the Fresh Start Agreement to Members and explained the nature of the work of the new dedicated Paramilitary Crime Taskforce. The taskforce is led by the PSNI and incorporates staff and resources from the Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) and the National Crime Agency (NCA).
- iii. DS Singleton outlined the Executive Action Plan for Tackling Paramilitarism, Criminality and Organised Crime which was developed following the report from the independent Fresh Start Panel. The four long term outcomes which are related to each other are to ensure:
 - 1. The public support and have increasing confidence in the justice system.
 - 2. We all live in safer and more confident communities.
 - 3. Support is available for those who want to move away from paramilitary activity and structures.
 - 4. Paramilitarism has no place
- iv. The Vice Chair opened the floor to Members for questions.
- v. Y Cowan asked if groups working with ex-paramilitary offenders are linked in. DS Singleton responded that support is available for those who wish to move away from paramilitary activity and structures.

- vi. Y Cowan asked how the intelligence gathering was received. DS Singleton replied that information came in from many strands, that it is easy to report anonymously, however to use in a prosecution there needs to be supporting evidence.
- vii. A Member felt that there is a void in the community as there is a need for community police on the street to manage criminal behaviour. The Member asked how members of the Loyalist Community who previously had links to paramilitary groups, but who have moved away from these connections and are doing valuable work in their Community would be affected by the Fresh Start Agreement. DS Singleton replied that strand 3 of the agreement covers this, only those who are still involved in paramilitary activity would be a target of the Criminal Taskforce.
- viii. A Member asked are there any specific East Belfast challenges that the Criminal Taskforce have identified that the DPCSP can help with. DS Singleton replied that there may be opportunities to encourage businesses to come forward with any concerns about extortion demands etc. especially small businesses, this information can be provided anonymously.
- ix. A Member asked how to get across to community workers, who have a past, who are now doing good work in the community that they are not a target. DS Singleton reiterated that the Criminal Taskforce will target Paramilitary Criminal Activity not the community workers who are legitimately involved within the community.
- x. A Member inquired will organised crime involving Eastern Europeans be targeted. DS Singleton confirmed that there is a significant presence in Belfast and that there is a specific focus on a cross border element involving close liaison with the Garda. The Criminal Taskforce however will only become involved or investigate if there is a link to paramilitary activity. The Member asked is there a link with paramilitary groups. DS Singleton replied that there is a small link.
- xi. A Member stated that specific to the conflict legacy that BCC People & Communities Committee have identified priority areas across the city which will be filtered through the PCSP to the DPCSP. To instil confidence in the community they are encouraging engaging with women, recommending community police officers build a rapport and become known to their community and to build confidence in the police.
- xii. G. Ballantyne asked is loan sharking an area for the Criminal Taskforce. DS Singleton replied that yes illegal money lending is being looked at.
- xiii. A Member queried a statement contained in the Long Term Prevention section of the Fresh Start Presentation. "For politicians, the pledge of office that all must sign before taking up their duties has been amended to include a pledge to challenge Paramilitarism and associated criminality." Another Member stated that this would apply moving forward when new Councillors are elected.
- xiv. The Chair thanked the DS Singleton for his presentation.

5. Updates from Statutory Partners

Health and Social Care Trust

- i. Y. Cowan informed Members of the budget limitations enforced which will have an impact on specialist medicines and waiting lists for surgery and diagnostic tests.

Northern Ireland Housing Executive

- i. G. Ballantyne informed Members that there had been a number of families rehoused in Cantrell Court and Ravenhill. Transition is proving difficult in some areas.
- ii. A Member asked if housing allocation consultations require signing off by the Executive, G. Ballantyne confirmed that they did.
- iii. Another Member remarked about the good job on the reroofing of houses in Cappagh Gardens.
- iv. Another Member asked about the situation regarding existing high rise properties in Cregagh and Braniel. G. Ballantyne stated that no decisions on high rise buildings would be made until after the Grenfell report was published.

Education Authority

- i. P Smart gave an update on the questionnaire to assess Youth Provision Services with an excellent 591 returns in East Belfast. Members were informed that there would be conferences for young people in March 2018 around mental health.
- ii. Y .Cowan remarked that it would be valuable if info from the EA report could be fed into the Mental Health Community of Interest.

Youth Justice Agency

- i. D. Magorrian informed Members of the Reduce Offending Partnership, which works to identify young people at risk to try and prevent them coming into the system.

6. 2017/2018 Action Plan Update

- i. The Safer City Coordinator introduced the updated Action Plan to Members. Addressing the progress to date, the Safer City Coordinator alerted Members to the following activity:
 - Domestic/ Sexual Violence – possibility of a project with Onus Safe Churches.
 - Improve how safe Older/ Vulnerable people feel – Beat the Burglar area based events.
 - Hate Crime – Developing a citywide approach to Hate Crime and Fear of Hate Crime.
 - Business crime – Project officer attending the Retail Crime Seminar in Lisburn. Development of a project for East Belfast with Ballyhackmore and Holywood Arches Retailers
 - Drugs & Alcohol - £10,000 planned for Street Triage, £5,000 for Drug Dealer's don't Care and £15,000 for the quotation.
 - ASB Supporting Interagency work & diversionary projects – Quotation 4 strands up and running from 03 November, this project is being used as a Best Practice example for the NI Policing Board.
 - ASB Reactionary Fund - £3,000 not allocated
 - Policing Committee Small Grants - £40,552 allocated across 10 projects.
 - Policing Committee Applications – £6,486,50 allocated across 5 projects. £8,852.22 remaining, applications out with 7 groups.
- ii. Members agreed the contents of the report as delivered.

7. Delegated Authority

- i. The Safer City Coordinator outlined the details of the request for approval of a delegated authority process, explaining this was in order to progress the spend in regard to the current East Belfast Action Plan.
- ii. The Safer City Coordinator continued by informing Members that the delegated authority progress will require all governance / due diligence processes to be fully completed prior to project approval being sought and granted. The Chair, Vice Chair and Safer City Manager will approve the spend when due diligence and governance has been met. The Safer City Coordinator will then progress the expenditure and report back to the Members retrospectively at the next scheduled Private Meeting.
- iii. Members were asked to approve delegated authority to the Safer City Coordinator to allow expenditure, with approvals from the Chair and Vice Chair, up to £1,000 for the remainder of the Partnership's 2017/18 term.
- iv. Members were asked to approve delegated authority to the Safer City Coordinator to allow expenditure, with approvals from the Chair and Vice Chair along with the Safer City Manager, up to £3,000 for the remainder of the Partnership's 2017/18 term.
- v. The Members granted approval for both proposals as listed above and contained in the report.

Proposed: Ald T. Sandford
 Seconded: L. McMaster

8. Hate Crime and Fear of Hate Crime

- i. The Safer City Coordinator gave Members an overview of Hate Crime and the Fear of Hate Crime in Belfast as contained in the report. East Belfast have a Hate Crime Response Plan in place, however there is no agreed coordinated Belfast wide approach to addressing hate crime or fear of hate crime.
- ii. The Safer City Coordinator explained to Members that the Hate Crime and Fear of Hate Crime Steering Groups from North and South Belfast DPCSPs along with representatives from East Belfast DPCSP met in September to discuss North Belfast DPCSP's No Hate Here project and to consider Citywide roll out. They will meet again on Thursday 07 December at 10am to discuss the way forward.
- iii. The Safer City Coordinator recommended that Members agree:
 - Two Members to attend the meeting on 07 December
 - Members support the request to escalate the challenge to address hate crime and the fear of hate crime to Belfast PCSP to encourage the development of a coordinated Belfast wide approach.
 - Explore the potential to revisit the Response Plan to ensure its future effectiveness.
- iv. It was agreed that two Members would contact the Safer City Partnership Support Officer or Project Officer to confirm attendance at the Meeting on 07 December.

9. Drugs and Alcohol Quotation Update

- i. The Safer City Coordinator informed Members that the £15,000 quotation exercise had been re-advertised, with the closing date for submissions being Friday 03 November 2017.

10. ASB Forum

- i. The Safer City Coordinator removed the ASB Forum (Oral report) from the Agenda.

11. Planning Process 2018/2019 Belfast Policing & Community Safety Partnership

- i. The Safer City Coordinator reminded the Members that the Belfast Policing & Community Safety Partnership (PCSP) and the four District PCSP's (DPCSP) are required to submit 2018/2019 Action Plans to the Joint committee by 09 February 2018.
- ii. The Safer City Coordinator outlined the development of the Action Plans using the outcomes based accountability (OBA) method. To help facilitate the development of the Action Plans 5 OBA Planning Workshops have been organised:
 - Wednesday 25 October – Building Confidence in Policing and Embedding a Culture of Lawfulness
 - Thursday 02 November – Feeling Safer
 - Wednesday 15 November – Drugs and Alcohol
 - Wednesday 22 November – Antisocial Behaviour
 - Wednesday 29 November – Sexual Violence
- iii. The Safer City Coordinator requested that Members note the dates of the workshops and attend as many as possible, to aid the planning process in early 2018. Members were also asked to agree that the costs of the process be split between each of the DPCSPs allowing £200 approximately from East Belfast DPCSP
- vi. The Members approved the report as listed above and contained in recommendation section of the paper.

Proposed: D. Geddis

Seconded: Cllr C. Howard

12. Emerging Issues and Open Floor Discussion

- i. The Safer City Coordinator informed Members that the Partnership is required to hold a Public Meeting and asked for recommendations on a venue and a theme.
- ii. A Member stated that the Network Centre is an excellent venue and that recent PACT meetings have been well attended, perhaps it would be possible to have a joint PACT and DPCSP Public meeting. Further discussion suggested a Shopping Centre for evening or Saturday engagement, the Safer City Coordinator pointed out that a Public Meeting must be a proper meeting. It was agreed that any suggestions for a venue be submitted to the Safer City Coordinator, Partnership Support Officer or Project Officer.
- iii. It was agreed that the theme for the Public Meeting would be Drugs including One Pill Can Kill and misuse of prescription drugs

13. Date of Next Meeting

- i. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 28 November venue to be confirmed.