

Minutes of the North Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Private Meeting

Lavery Room, City Hall
Wednesday, 27th September, 2017

Political Members	Independent Members
Councillor Paul McCusker(Chair) Councillor Mary Ellen Campbell Alderman Frank McCoubrey Councillor Mary Clarke	Jennifer Cornell (Vice-Chair) Michael Murray Gerard O'Reilly Gerald Solinas Teena Patrick
Designated Organisations	
Chief Inspector Steven Burns, PSNI Mark McBride, EA Harry Bradley, YJA	David McComiskey, NIFRS Malachy McKinney, NIHE Gabi Mornhinweg, H&SCT Janet McClinton, PBNI
Staff Present	Apologies
Richard McLernon, Safer City Coordinator Rachel Fulton, Partnership Support Officer	Alderman Guy Spence

1. Welcome and Routine Matters

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

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 made.

3. Minutes/Matters Arising

- iii. Minutes of the North Belfast DPCSP Private Meeting which was held on 30th August, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct.
- iv. The Safer City Coordinator recapped on the actions from previous meetings of the North Belfast DPCSP noting that:

Action
The Safer City Co-ordinator to provide further clarification on a deputy attending Belfast PCSP meetings.
In relation to an update on Criminal gangs and Paramilitarism, Michael McAvoy will provide a report at the next full meeting of the DPCSP.
Annual report had been modified to ensure that Members titles were removed and had been submitted accordingly
NIHE Peace Wall presentation to be scheduled for Private Meeting in October
PSNI, PPS and Coroner's Office would be presenting at the next Public Meeting on 12 th October
Evaluation Report on friendship club had been circulated to Members

- v. In relation to Vice-Chair attending PCSP Meetings, Gerald Solinas advised that a Member of the PCSP had raised the issue at the Private Meeting on 11th September 2017. He informed Members that the rationale given was to ensure that there was a political majority on the Principle Partnership.

4. Street Triage Initiative

- i. The SCC informed Members of a new Street Triage Initiative that would comprise of a team in the Belfast area consisting two police officers, a community psychiatric nurse and a paramedic who would be available to respond to people in emotional crises.
- ii. Members were given an outline of on the role of the team and informed of the benefits of such a model. He added that North Belfast DPCSP have an opportunity to support such an initiative and asked Members to agree £10,000 funding in principle to the initiative.
- iii. Gerald Solinas questioned how much funding other statutory agencies would be providing in support of the project, to which the SCC stated he would provide such detail at the next partnership meeting.
- iv. Councillor Mary Ellen Campbell raised her concerns around funding proposals being brought to the Partnership without sufficient information. She stated that in future all information in relation to a project is brought before a decision can be made.
- v. After a lengthy discussion, Members agreed in principle £10,000 to support the Street Triage Initiative.

5. Members North Belfast Priorities and Emerging Issues

NIHE

- i. Malachy McKinney informed Members that the biggest issues for their organisation over the summer period had been related to Bonfires. He added that there had been a lot of good work done, but plenty of lessons learned going forward.
- ii. Mr McKinney informed Members of concerning developments within Gainsborough Drive area with posters on windows displaying 'no foreigners welcome'.
- iii. In relation to Multi-storey flats in the New Lodge area, Members were advised of positive results around ASB and drug issues, which had been welcomed by all Members.

PSNI

- i. Chief Inspector Burns advised of an upcoming Operation 'Cordella' which is aimed at tackling burglaries. He stated that last night there were 11 incidents of burglaries in North Belfast.
- ii. Councillor Mary Ellen Campbell questioned what PSNI were doing in relation to 'Paedophile Hunters' and raised concerns about individuals/children who may witness incidents involving these groups.
- iii. Chief Inspector Burns stated that it was a complicated issue as these groups were not unlawful but could be seen as unhelpful. He added that the introduction of an intelligence and cybercrime unit should have an impact on this type of activity taking place.
- iv. Councillor Paul McCusker raised his concerns at figures released stating that there were 37 drug deaths to date this year, with 19 in North Belfast.
- v. Chief Inspector Burns stated that more people are dying from drugs than RTC's, however, there is a difficulty in policing the issue as the majority of deaths are taking place in individual's homes. He added that the PSNI alone cannot deal with this issue.
- vi. Councillor Paul McCusker stated that figures such as these need to be released into the public arena to raise awareness on the extent of the issue. He added that communities are becoming frustrated with the lack of movement/work being done to bring drug dealers to justice and therefore individuals were exposing them on social media platforms.
- vii. Chief Inspector stated that PSNI can only work on sufficient evidence produced and stated that he would try to arrange for the Chief Inspector leading the intelligence unit to come to a future meeting.
- viii. After a lengthy discussion, Members proposed that the Chair write a letter to the Chief Inspector, inviting him to attend the NBDPCSP Public Meeting on 12th October as a speaker.
- ix. Members then discussed the need to address the drugs issue in North Belfast, having been informed that only 1% of calls in a 6 week period were in relation to drugs or concern for safety as a consequence of drug mis-use.

- x. Teena Patrick stated that there is an issue of underreporting and that it would be worthwhile pushing one phone number to call for a drugs case, to which Chief Inspector Burns stated the most user friendly way would be to call Crimestoppers.
- xi. Alderman Frank McCoubrey requested that the next meeting would be dedicated to focusing on Drugs and asked that Chief Inspector Burns circulate report to Members regarding drugs.

NIFRS

- xii. David McComiskey informed Members that their current focus was Halloween. He stated that they are carrying out a lot of educational work in schools around fireworks and encouraging children to tell their parents where to apply for a fireworks license to get legal fireworks.

YJA

- xiii. Harry Bradley informed Members of a schools educational programme that was on-going and would continue until March 2018. He advised that the focus of each session with schools would vary dependent on emerging themes such as knife crime.

Independent Member

- xiv. Jenny Cornell advised Members of good work of the Greater Shankill Community Safety Network. She further advised that there would be an open meeting on Thursday 2nd November to discuss Bonfire safety, hate crime aspects and positive aspects to Bonfires.

H&SCT

- xv. Gabi Mornhinweg advised that most public consultations in relation to proposed cuts had taken place, all with varying attendances. She added that there is no guarantee that the board would accept recommendations from the meetings.

PBNI

- xvi. Janet McClinton informed Members of a strategic group that has been established to provide direction across reoffending within the criminal justice system.
- xvii. Members were also informed of funding that NIACRO had been awarded through Peace IV, which would enable them in partnership with PBNI to deliver upon a 3 stranded Hate Crime Project.

Education Authority

- xviii. Mark McBride advised Members that out of 11 fulltime fixed term posts within North Belfast for Youth workers, 7 have been extended to 31st March 2018 with 4 under review.
- xix. He further advised that within voluntary sector organisations, four had received lottery and Peace IV funding which would create additional jobs in the area.

6. Funding Proposals

- i. The SCC drew Members attention to three funding proposals that he asked Members to consider funding, namely;
 - New Lodge Arts- Lantern Festival-£1,000
 - No Hate Here initiative- £6,000
 - Support for vulnerable people- £7,500
- ii. Members agreed to fund projects with the amounts requested. However, Councillor Mary Ellen raised her concerns around potential management fee costs within the support for vulnerable people proposal.
- iii. The SCC advised that this would be addressed within the quotation process.
- iv. It was also agreed that in order to develop the no hate here campaign that the SCC would organise a meeting with Jenny Cornell, Gabi Mornhinweg and invite all Members to attend to discuss initiative in further detail.

7. Belfast Area Domestic & Sexual Violence and Abuse Partnership

- i. The SCC advised Members that the report was for information and proposals/project details on addressing current priorities would be tabled at the next Partnership Meeting.
- ii. Members noted the contents of the report.

8. PCSP Small Grants

- i. The SCC advised that the Members Panel had met and agreed that the following six organisations should be funded in tranche 2, having met the agreed baseline score of 50%, namely;
 - Ballysillan Amateur Boxing Club
 - Ballysillan Youth For Christ Community Drop In Centre
 - Ballysillan Youth For Christ Community Drop In Centre
 - Bardic Educational Arts And Media (BEAM)
 - Forthriver Bowling And Tennis Club
 - Redeeming Our Communities Northern Ireland (ROCNI)
- ii. Members were advised that the balance remaining from the existing DPCSP allocation is £2,437.60. The remainder required to fund the projects is £10,841.90. In order to fund all six projects the SCC recommended that £4,500 be reallocated from Bonfires to Small Grants, and that an additional £6,341.90 be reallocated from the Policing Committee Grants Budget to Small Grants. This would leave a total of £8,658.10 remaining in the Policing Committee Funding Budget, of which £2,000 has been spent to date.
- iii. Members agreed to reallocate monies to fund all six small grants in tranche 2. However, Councillor Mary Ellen Campbell raised her concerns around the lack of projects being funded in lower North Belfast. She added there is a need to raise the profile of when applications for grant funding are opened, with some targeted work to be done in that specific area.

9. Dates of next Meetings

- i. The Chair advised that the next Meeting would be a Public Meeting on Thursday 12th October in Girdwood Community Hub from 7-9pm.
- ii. Members were then advised that the next Private and Policing Committee Meeting would be on 25th October in the Conor Room, City Hall.