

Minutes of the South Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Private Meeting

Monday 18th September, 5pm
Conor Room, Belfast City Hall

Political Members

Councillor Donal Lyons
Councillor Geraldine McAteer
Councillor Jeffrey Dudgeon
Councillor Deirdre Hargey
Councillor Emmet McDonough-Brown

Independent Members

Richard Kennedy (Vice Chair)
Paul McDonnell
Aidan Hughes

Statutory Designated Bodies

Paul McCombe, NIHE
Deirdre Grant, PBNI
Yvonne McKnight, H&SCT
Anita Duff, EA

Chief Inspector Gavin Kirkpatrick, PSNI

Belfast City Council Staff

Suzanne Gowling, Safer City Coordinator (SCC)
Rachel Fulton, Partnership Support Officer

Apologies

Michael Boyle
Dermot Magorrian, YJA
SC Michael Roberts, NIFRS

1. Welcome & Routine Matters

- i. In the absence of the Chair, the Vice-Chair welcomed Members to the South Belfast DPCSP Private Meeting and noted the apologies provided.
- ii. The Vice-Chair then welcomed Councillor Donal Lyons to the Partnership in place of Councillor Declan Boyle.

2. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

- i. The Chair asked Members to declare any material interests which they may have in relation to any item of business to be considered during the meeting.
- ii. No conflicts of interest were declared.

3. Minutes and Matters Arising

- i. A Member requested an amendment to the Minutes from Private Meeting on Thursday 31st August to state that Paul McDonnell was in attendance.
- ii. Paul McCombe, NIHE also requested an amendment to the minutes.
- iii. The Minutes of the Private Meeting held on 31st Aug 2017, copies of which were previously circulated, were then agreed as correct.
- iv. A Member asked for an update in relation to Victoria Place Residents and the progress of including them within South West NRP group, to which SCC advised that the issue has been raised at the last meeting and the community groups would be in contact with residents.
- v. A Member stated that there is a need to include Victoria Place residents in a separate section within research that had been done to ensure their needs were heard.

- vi. The SCC advised that there would be a small cost involved in doing so but stated that it should not be an issue. Members agreed that this work should be undertaken as soon as possible.
- vii. In relation to funding request from Methodist College, the SCC advised that James Scott, BDACT and School teacher had met to discuss options going forward and Members would be updated on any decision they make at a future meeting.
- viii. The SCC requested that an Independent Member volunteer to act as an Independent Chair for PACT Public Meeting taking place on Tuesday 19th September.
- ix. The Vice-Chair volunteered to Chair the meeting.

4. Vice-Chair Update

- i. The Vice-Chair informed Members of a recent meeting he attended in Dungannon in relation to Fresh Start and tackling paramilitarism. He added that it was very beneficial to meet Members from various other PCSPs and finding out ideas of best practice.

5. Partner Updates

PBNI

- i. Deirdre Grant advised Members that the Aspire Project Launch had taken place at the beginning of September.
- ii. Ms Grant added that NIACRO had been appointed as community/voluntary sector organisation dealing with non-statutory referrals and stated that such referrals can be made by a wide range of agencies.
- iii. A Member asked for more information in relation to threats made to PBNI staff, to which Ms Grant advised that Cheryl Lamont, CEO would be meeting with PSNI later this month for clarity, but that staff remained vigilant and concerned.

NIHE

- iv. Paul McCombe updated Members about on-going issues with attacks on properties to let in the South Belfast area. He added that NIHE staff had further meetings with community reps in the area to discuss the situation.
- v. Mr McCombe further stated that they had also met with neighbouring community reps who were advocating a similar approach in their area, which was concerning.

Education Authority

- vi. Anita Duff informed Members of very successful summer schemes that had taken place. She then raised her concerns about issues in the Donegal Road and Donegal Pass areas.

H&SCT

- vii. Yvonne McKnight stated that adult-safeguarding issues were ongoing and they continue to try and raise awareness about adults at risk of harm.

PSNI

- viii. Chief Inspector Gavin Kirkpatrick updated the Members on the performance against the South Belfast District Policing Plan.
- ix. Members noted that:
 - a. Overall crime had increased by 2%;
 - b. ASB incidents had increased by 10.1%;
 - c. Incidents of racist hate crime had decreased by 23.4%; and,
 - d. Burglary had decreased by 16.7%
- x. Chief Inspector Kirkpatrick stated that Operation Torus was currently running and within the first two weeks there had been 25 arrests and 47 drug seizures worth an estimated value of £31,000.
- xi. Members were also provided with a Map of incidents of Bike thefts throughout Belfast City.
- xii. In relation to Fresher's week, Members were advised that the official PSNI operation begins tonight, Monday 18th, with specific crews detailed from 6pm to 3am each night in the university area.
- xiii. Following a question from a Member in relation to drug issues at Donegall Pass, Chief Inspector advised that resources are being put there every night.
- xiv. The SCC also advised that there had been a clean-up around Donegall Pass, with undergrowth being removed and numerous needles disposed of.
- xv. A lengthy discussion then took place around drug issues.

Questions

- xvi. In relation to a question around statistics of deaths related to drugs, Chief Inspector Kirkpatrick that the Coroners Officer and PHA were responsible for providing such information and added that there is a lengthy timescale for toxicology reports to come back to provide a clear picture of the cause of deaths.
- xvii. A Member questioned what lessons were being learned by the PSNI in relation to outdoor concerts and events such as T-Vital, adding that there were operational gaps.
- xviii. Chief Inspector Kirkpatrick advised that these events were managed by a promoter, who hire in security staff to work within the event site. He added that the PSNI operation for such events focuses more on traffic management and outside the event site.
- xix. He also stated that post summer period, PSNI have an overall review of their operations and could provide a summary of this at a future meeting.
- xx. After a lengthy discussion Members agreed to invite Patrick Cunningham, from BCC Licensing to come to the next Partnership Meeting to discuss outdoor events and concerts.

6. South Belfast DPCSP Action Plan Update

- i. The SCC advised Members of progress made within the Action Plan. Key details noted were:
 - Community Guardian Project - CM Works has been appointed to deliver the project.
 - Adults at Risk of Harm Project and Training for Young Leaders are both out for quotation for the second time – both opportunities will close on 29 September.
 - To date, 65% of partnership allocation has been committed to the value of £68,393.

7. Small Grants Tranche 2

- i. Members were informed of the projects that would be funded by South Belfast DPCSP through Tranche 2 of Policing and Community Safety Small Grants.
- ii. The SCC advised that the projects approved by a Members panel, made up of Independent Members were as follows:
 - Bardic Educational Arts and Media (BEAM)
 - Dreamscheme Northern Ireland
 - South Belfast Roundtable
 - Lower Ormeau Residents Action Group
- iii. Members were informed that the amount required to fund the successful projects is more that remains in the current small grant budget. However, as agreed at the August Partnership Meeting, the SCC reviewed the action plan spend to date and recommended that the budget lines in the report attached to Item Number 7 are reduced in order to fund all of the successful projects.
- iv. Members agreed to the following budget changes:
 - Police Led Projects – reduced from £3,500 to £1,500.
 - Bonfire Management/Safe Over The Summer – reduced from £11,000 to £9,500
 - Antisocial Behaviour Diversionary and Developmental Project – reduced from £10,000 to £8,000
 - Mentor/support Project for Ex-offenders with Complex Needs – reduced from £5,000 to £3,500
- v. A Member questioned what follow-up is given to groups who were not successful, to which the SCC advised that any group is offered feedback on their application and the opportunity for support for future applications.

8. Emerging Issues

- i. The SCC advised that The Northern Ireland Policing Plan has been published and contains five separate measures that require PSNI to work in collaboration with PCSPs in order to achieve particular objectives.
- ii. The SCC further advised that three questions in relation to each of the five objectives have been outlined, which will be used to contribute to an assessment of performance. They were named as follows:
 - What collaboration have PSNI undertaken with your PCSP Policing Committee and other designated organisations in order to achieve the stated objectives within your policing district?
 - What views have the Policing Committee recorded on how well this work was undertaken by PSNI?

- What difference has this work made within your policing district?
- iii. Members were informed that the report was for information at this time, however, it was proposed that at the next meeting there would be a particular focus on the policing plan.
- iv. Yvonne McKnight, H&SCT raised her concerns around the expectations and significant resource that it would take in order to deliver upon the new requirements for the policing plan for multi-agencies.
- v. Ms McKnight stated that there needs to be sign-up at senior level from each organisation in question.
- vi. The Safer City Coordinator confirmed that the role for South Belfast DPCSP's Policing Committee is to receive the update from the District Commander and answer the questions as detailed at 8. ii. It is the PSNI's responsibility to lead on the pieces of work.

9. Date of next meeting

- i. The SCC advised Members that the next South Belfast DPCSP's Private Meeting will be held at 5pm, on Tuesday 24 October in the Lavery Room, City Hall.
- ii. Members discussed options in relation to the next Public Meeting. After a lengthy discussion, it was agreed that the SCC and Anita Duff, EA would progress plan to have next Public Meeting in RADAR.
- iii. The SCC then advised that the Roadsafes Roadshow would be taking place in City Hall on Thursday 12th and Friday 13th October, with two South Belfast Schools attending.
- iv. The Chair thanked everyone for attending.