

Minutes of the Belfast Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Private Meeting

Conor Room, City Hall
Monday 12th February, 2018

Political Members	Independent Members
Councillor Carole Howard (Chair)	Debbie Hammill
Alderman Jim Rodgers	Susan Russam
Councillor JJ Magee	Michael O'Hara
Councillor Matt Garrett	Mary Lambe
Alderman Brian Kingston	
Designated Organisations	
Chris Fee, NIFRS	Lynsey Branniff, EA
Harry Bradley, YJA	Jennifer Hawthorne, NIHE
CS John Roberts, PSNI	Liz Arthur, PBNI
Staff Present	Apologies
Lorna Somers, Safer City Assistant Manager	John MacVicar (V Chair)
Denise Smith, Safer City Coordinator	Carmel McKinney
Suzanne Gowling, Safer City Coordinator	Alyson Anne-Louise Toal
Crompton, Safer City Project Officer	John Loughran

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 – Schools Project

- i. The Chair introduced the Director for Eye4Education, Darren Nixon and Safer City Coordinator, Suzanne Gowling who provided Members with an update and presentation in relation to the Schools Project.
- ii. Two staged surveys have been completed, with 68 Primary Schools responding (80% response rate) and 18 Post Primary Schools responding (60% response rate).
- iii. Stage 1 of the survey was created to assist with identifying which member agencies are or have been involved, key contacts in those agencies, school key contact for PCSP and frequency of delivery of any or all agencies.

- iv. Stage 2 of the survey assessed the quality of resources, reliability of agencies, ability of agencies to understand school needs and for the school to provide guidance on meeting needs.
- v. The key recommendations from the responses to the surveys were:
 - Menu of services offered by the PCSP to be created to consolidate the project and show consistency.
 - Review all partner organisation's delivery methods.
 - Review all partner organisation's training materials.
 - Menu of services has a defined link to curriculum for each programme offered by each respective partner.
 - Agree on a booking system and communications method i.e. Schools Coordinator or Coordinating Organisation

Questions from Members

- i. A Member asked how many Schools across Belfast are you involved with to which Mr Nixon replied currently 30 primary schools.
- ii. The Member asked what you want the PCSP to do in relation to this project. The Safer City Coordinator stated that the PCSP role was to get the key messages out to schools, with the important priorities identified to provide a long term approach across the City. This could be enhanced at a district level by the DPCSPs if required.
- iii. Another Member asked what is currently happening in the schools and what role do the PCSP want to play. The Safer City Coordinator replied that the survey had asked these questions and that the DPCSPs had specific priorities within the schools but there was nothing in place citywide. The focus would be on the PCSP community safety messages around Drugs and Alcohol, Cyber Safety, ASB etc.
- iv. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised that this Schools Project had been developed following an under spend at the end of the 2016/2017 financial year. She explained that the purpose of the Project was to enable the PCSP to promote their policing and community safety messages by linking with the school curriculum in key areas such as Cyber Safety and Drugs and Alcohol by pulling together the messages from key Partners to deliver in schools.
- v. A Member asked had Safe Bonfire Management/ Prevention/ Environmental Impact for school children been considered for inclusion in the project. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised that all work concerning Bonfires was on hold due to the Council's ongoing bonfire and that a report was due to be presented to Committee in March.
- vi. The Member asked had it been considered before the investigation, the Safer City Assistant Manager advised that the PCSP message would have been around policing and community safety messages such as ASB and Drug and Alcohol issues. The Chair remarked that environmental issues are important however the PCSP needed to focus on its core priorities such as ASB issues. Another Member remarked that regardless of the investigation the environmental impact of all bonfires should be considered. The Member who had asked the original question stated that schools are a good way of getting the message out. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised that Bonfire Education in relation to the environmental impact is being considered at a Northern Ireland level by the Northern Ireland Environmental Agency in conjunction with other Statutory Partners.

- vii. The Chair stated that covering all schools in Belfast was very important, however it appeared disjointed with regard to special needs schools, this is an important area to be considered with vulnerable young people who are easily led. Following discussion, the Chair and another Member stated that it was important to be inclusive for all schools and that we must be in a position to engage with special needs schools. The Safer City Coordinator agreed to look into this specific aspect of the Schools Project as it moves forward.
- viii. The Chair thanked Mr Nixon and the Safer City Coordinator for their update and presentation and they left the meeting.
- ix. A Member asked that prior to any future presentations could a report or more background information be circulated. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised that a report on the Schools Project was provided to Members at the PCSP's November Meeting at which time the PCSP had agreed to receive tonight's presentation. She agreed that moving forward a background paper would be tabled with any future presentations.

4. Minutes

- i. A Member asked if the Street Triage Project was slightly delayed or undergoing a review, the Chair remarked that it was disappointing that it had been put on hold. The Safer City Coordinator advised that it had been deferred within this financial year which the DPCSPs had found disappointing however clarity is being sought from the PHA on the next steps. CS Roberts advised that it will run in some other council areas which hopefully will let us gauge its benefit, the Chair asked that an update on the progress be provided.
- ii. A Member asked for clarity around the question previously asked, had there been any arrests in relation to ASB, involving a series of attacks on homes in the Dunboyne Park area which was included in the minutes of 14th August, 2017. CS Roberts advised that he would seek clarity and provide an answer at the next meeting.
- iii. The minutes of the Belfast PCSP Meeting held on Monday 15th January, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct.
- iv. With regards to the actions from the previous minutes, the Partnership were advised that:
 - Provide Staff Figures for Belfast Parks – this will be included in the update from the EA tonight.
 - Letter of concern to PHA re Street Triage Project – currently being drafted by Safer City Coordinator and the Chair.
 - Proposal re: SOS Bus on St Patrick's Day – SOS Bus will be deployed outside of the Holylands and the Alcohol Recovery Centre (ARC) will be deployed in the Holylands.

5. Chair's Update

- i. The Chair advised of upcoming events and workshops:
 - Responding to Injecting Drug Use – Tuesday, 20th February from 9am to 4pm in Elmwood Hall
 - Domestic & Sexual Violence Workshop – Tuesday, 20th February, in Dungannon
 - Antisocial Behaviour Workshop – Tuesday, 27th February in Dungannon

- Joint Briefing – Wednesday, 7th March from 5.30pm to 7.30pm in City Hall
 - Road Safety Workshop – Tuesday, 20th March in Dungannon
- ii. The Chair commented on the success of the recent engagement at Forestside of the newly arrived Syrian Refugees and the PSNI, who were excellent at reassuring the refugees about their arrival in a new country.

6. Update from Designated Partners

PSNI

- i. CS Roberts updated the Partnership on recent incidents including:
- Drug Deaths - in January and February there have been 8 deaths related to drugs.
 - Male arrested on the Dublin Road and charged with offences including possession of Class A & B drugs and possession of a firearm or imitation firearm with intent to cause fear or violence.
 - A male and a female have been charged with the murder of a man in East Belfast in January.
 - Three males arrested and charged for aggravated burglary in South Belfast on 6th January.
 - A male was arrested in South Yorkshire and was subsequently arrested for public order offences pertaining to Belfast, he was escorted to Belfast and charged to appear in Belfast Magistrate's Court in February.
 - Male arrested and charged with drug offences and resisting police.
 - Police Officers prevented a suicide attempt of a male in South Belfast, he was then arrested for his own safety.
- ii. CS Roberts informed the Partnership that no arrests had been made in relation to the robbery at McDonalds at Connswater and reported that additional Police resources had been deployed to that area due to increased incidents in the area.
- iii. A Member enquired as to how many drink drivers had been detected in the Belfast Area over the Christmas period, CS Roberts informed the Members that there had been 68.
- iv. A Member asked about alleged punishment beatings and the resulting arrests being small, how do we support these victims? CS Roberts stated that most of the victims will not or do not want to report and the community are loathe to provide statements. The police make considerable efforts to liaise with the victims and also aim to provide information to potential victims.
- v. A Member asked in relation to the attempted suicide in South Belfast why was the man arrested, CS Roberts replied that he would seek clarity but he was probably arrested under the Mental Health Act for his own safety.
- vi. A Member asked if there is a growing trend in drug related deaths and does the installation of drug bins for safe drug disposal help. CS Roberts replied that there does appear to be a growing trend, the majority of the drugs disposed of in the drug bins are prescribed drugs not illegal drugs. The Safer City Coordinator advised that BDACT and the PSNI have a joined up approach to the drug bin installation and maintenance and DPCSPs had previously funded a number of bins. The Safer City Assistant Manager stated that the majority of the bins in Belfast had been funded either by the DPCSP or the previous District Policing Partnership.

NIFRS

- i. AGC Fee informed Members of follow up and reassurance visits to residents of high rise accommodation following two recent fires in High Rises.
- ii. A Member asked if absenteeism amongst firefighters was high or low to which AGC Fee responded that he didn't know but would give details at the next meeting.

EA

- i. Lynsey Branniff reported on the Education Authority outreach/street work employees working in the parks in Belfast. There are currently 15 employees, they work seasonally by need and are reactive to map trends and community need.
- ii. Lynsey Branniff reported on the Fresh Start awards and the programme to promote lawfulness in schools. This would entail an educational programme for youths at risk of being tempted by paramilitarism and would involve working with voluntary groups to engage the community on behalf of EA. She also outlined training to be delivered to 30 volunteer/community organisations and 30 school teachers and a possible application to DOJ to increase staff at a local level.
- iii. The Local Advisory Groups Conference will be held on 10th March which will include planning for the future of the youth service.
- iv. A Member asked will there be engagement with Belfast City Council for local planning/community planning, Lynsey Branniff advised that there will be engagement with all partners.
- v. A Member asked if there is ASB with young people within a park do the EA staff withdraw, Lynsey Branniff replied that it depends on the situation, they would liaise with the police and try to contact parents.
- vi. A Member asked if it would be possible to have a list of the membership of each of the Local Advisory Groups (LAG) in each of the districts as it is currently unclear of the membership. Lynsey Branniff will provide the details of the membership of each district LAG at the next meeting.

7. 2017/18 PCSP Action Plan Progress Report

- i. The Safer City Coordinator introduced the Action Plan progress report and asked for any comments.
- ii. A Member asked about the Small Grants/Fresh Start award, only two successful applicants are these open to everyone. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised that these small grants are managed through the Council's Central Grants Unit and are publically advertised and open to all appropriately constituted groups.
- iii. In response to a question from a Member, the Safer City Assistant Manager advised that the PCSP link with Belfast City Centre Management (BCCM) with regard to Night-time Economy, Training, Cyber Crime and business seminars. We also liaise on a regular basis with the business sector and will continue to do so through BCCM.
- iv. A Member asked if a breakdown could be provided for the successful applicants in Small Grants awarded in Tranche 1 and Tranche 2. The Chair asked if there could be more

detail on the progress reports provided. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised that the details for Tranche 1 and Tranche 2 would be provided at the next meeting.

- v. The Members noted the content of the progress report.

8. 2017/2018 DPCSP Action Plan Progress Reports

- i. The Safer City Assistant Manager outlined the key issues in relation to the DPCSP Action Plans, in particular addressing Members concerns of substantial monies remaining in some district budgets.
- ii. A Member expressed concern over the North DPCSP underspend and deferred projects and also the problem with a lost application form from Ballygomartin Church. It was further stated that this is the 3rd year that underspend has happened in North and that the planning process needs to be better.
- iii. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised that she was unaware that an application form had been lost but advised that applications that were hand delivered would normally be brought to reception and a member of the Community Safety Unit would be contacted to collect it. She advised that a number of North's project proposals were deferred for a variety of reasons such as insufficient financial/project details, capacity to deliver within the time constraints etc. This is being addressed by a review of the planning process. She further advised that Community Groups should be encouraged to apply for grants of up to £5,000 through the Small Grants process.
- iv. Following discussion, Members agreed that the Safer City Manager should complete an investigation around the circumstances of the lost application form and report back to the next PCSP meeting.
- v. A Member expressed concern over the timeline of the Small Grants given that Tranche 1 is now closed and groups did not apply as they do not know staffing levels within their groups for the next financial year. The Safer City Assistant Manager explained that there are 13 different Grant Streams across Belfast, that follow the same application process, the timelines enable applicants to use the funding for a full 6 months each Tranche. She advised that a group can apply for funding and if successful can then turn the grant down if they do not have sufficient staffing levels to deliver the project.
- vi. The Members noted the content of the progress report.

9. DPCSP Budget Spend Update

- i. The Safer City Assistant Manager outlined the key issues in relation to the DPCSP Action Plans, in particular addressing Members concerns of substantial monies remaining in some district budgets. The Safer City Assistant Manager requested approval for the release of monies outlined in paper 9a as follows:
 - Additional Monies Requested and Due Diligence Completed
 - Additional Monies Requested Pending Due Diligence Completion
- ii. A Member asked what the budget line Confidence in Policing is, the Safer City Assistant Manager advised that it was another form of Grant – Policing Committee which must have police engagement/involvement within the project.

- iii. In response to a query regarding funding from East Belfast DPCSP to Radius Housing Association, the Safer City Assistant Manager advised that funding is available to constituted groups following a successful application subject to due diligence/governance checks. Members requested that a check on funding for this project be provided at the next meeting and that Officers report back on any other funding provided to Housing Associations by the (D)PCSPs since April, 2015.
- iv. The Members agreed to approve the release of funding as outlined in paper 9a as follows:

North DPCSP		Monies Released Pending Due Diligence	Additional Monies Requested – Due Diligence Completed
Alcohol & Drugs	North Belfast Drug Stakeholder Forum Action Plan	£10,000	
Feeling Safer	Domestic Violence Packs	£2,200	
Consult & Engage	Community engagement initiative	£2,000	
Feeling Safer	North Belfast Tension Monitoring	£5,000	
Feeling Safer	Ligoniel Improvement Association proposal	£2,814	
Feeling Safer	Star Neighbourhood Centre proposal	£780	
Feeling Safer	PIPS project proposal	£2,168	
Feeling Safer	White City ASB proposal	£2,980	
Feeling Safer	New Lodge Youth Club Proposal	£2,000	
Feeling Safer	Benview Community Centre		£1,000
South DPCSP		Monies Released Pending Due Diligence	Additional Monies Requested – Due Diligence Completed
Effectiveness	Radar event, PACT Meetings and DPCSP Meetings	£3,300	
Alcohol & Drugs	Drug Dealers Don't Care	£5,000	
East DPCSP		Monies Released Pending Due Diligence	Additional Monies Requested – Due Diligence Completed
Feeling Safer	Beat The Burglar 2nd Quote	£8,000	
Drugs and Alcohol	Drug Dealers Don't Care	£10,000	
ASB	ASB Signage	£10,000	
Confidence in Policing	Hanwood Centre		£2,000

West DPCSP		Monies Released Pending Due Diligence	Additional Monies Requested – Due Diligence Completed
Alcohol & Drugs	Drugs Panel Report		£3,000
Feel safer	St Galls St Patricks Day		£3,000
Feel Safer	Parks - St Patricks Contribution		£3,500
ASB	Additional ASB Signage budget	£4,000	
Feel Safer	Additional Beat the Burglar budget	£6,000	
Feel Safer	Dunmurry Interventions		£4,000

10. DPCSP Spend Update

- i. The Safer City Assistant Manager introduced the (D)PCSP spend update and explained that despite the money listed as remaining, Officers are working hard in the background to get projects off the ground and completed.
- ii. The Members noted the content of the financial spend update.

11. Icelandic Project Proposal

- i. The Safer City Coordinator informed Members of the opportunity to utilise some of the expected underspend to explore the Icelandic Model of prevention of alcohol and drug use in young people which has had dramatic results in the reduction in substance use.
- ii. The Safer City Coordinator reported that Officers were currently talking to the PHA regarding the delivery of this project in partnership with Belfast DACT and hoped that a workshop could be held in advance with no cost allocation required for speakers and any costs incurred being for the venue and hospitality.
- iii. Members agreed to approve funding.

12. 2018/2019 Belfast (D)PCSP Action Plan

- i. The Safer City Assistant Manager introduced the Draft Action Plan for 2018/2019 and the methodology of using Outcome Based Accountability to create it.
- ii. She advised that a series of workshops attended by PCSP and (D)PCSP Members enabled the highlighting of the following key projects fitting in with the following themes:
 - Confidence in Policing / Embedding a culture of Lawfulness
 - Small Grants/Policing Committee Grants
 - Education and Outreach programme for youth and community groups
 - Better understanding of work being done by PSNI's neighbourhood Policing Teams.
 - Embedding confidence in policing in the Schools Project
 - Feel Safer

- Preventative Safeguarding Project
 - Cyber Safety Project
 - Coordinated Services Project
 - Dual Diagnosis Project
 - Triage Project
 - Home Security Service
 - Christmas Safety Event
 - Post Primary School Project
- Drugs and Alcohol
 - Sharps Project
 - Drug Bins
 - BDACT Partnership working
 - Outreach and engagement workshops
 - Diversionary Activities
 - Antisocial Behaviour
 - Transient Youth Project
 - ASB Partnership Tasking Project
 - Youth Empowerment Scheme
 - Sexual Violence and Domestic Abuse
 - White Ribbon Project
 - Awareness raising sessions
 - Hostel Emergency Packs
- iii. With regards to the Action Plan for 2018/2019, the Partnership approved 'in principal' the draft plan and delegated authority to the Safer City Assistant Manager to finalise the Plan and to present to the PCSP meeting in March for final approval prior to submission to the Joint Committee.

13. “Drug Dealers Don’t Care! Do You?” Campaign

- i. The Safer City Coordinator informed the Members of the media plan for the campaign as well as the budget allocation from the other partners. The Members noted the content of the media plan.

14. Crash Car Simulator Update

- i. The Safer City Coordinator updated the Members on the use of the Crash Car Simulator during NIFRS Road Safety Week in November. The Members noted the content of the update.

15. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on the 12th March 2018 at 5.30pm in the Conor Room, City Hall