

Minutes of the Belfast Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Private Meeting

Lavery Room, City Hall
Monday 15th January, 2018

Political Members

Councillor Lee Reynolds
Alderman Jim Rodgers
Councillor JJ Magee

Independent Members

J MacVicar (V Chair)
Susan Russam
Michael O'Hara
Carmel McKinney
Debbie Hammill
Anne-Louise Toal
John Loughran

Designated Organisations

Chris Fee, NIFRS
Harry Bradley, YJA
CS John Roberts, PSNI
CI Melanie Jones, PSNI

Lynsey Branniff, EA
Jennifer Hawthorne, NIHE

Staff Present

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

Apologies

Councillor Carole Howard (Chair)
Councillor Paul McCusker
Alderman Brian Kingston
Councillor Matt Garrett
Patricia Muldoon
Mary Lambe

1. Welcome and Apologies

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

2. Declarations of Interest

- i. The Vice Chair declared their interest in the upcoming discussion regarding the 1 Pill Will Kill proposal.
- ii. No further declarations of interest were recorded.

3. Minutes

- i. A Member requested that their apology for the previous meeting be recorded on the minutes. Another member stated that they had been in attendance at the meeting on

27th November and requested the minutes be amended to reflect this. The minutes of the Belfast PCSP Meeting held on 27th November, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct.

- ii. With regards to the actions from the previous minutes, the partnership were advised that:
 - Following an investigation, PSNI did not believe that the gathering on Tates Avenue after the NI v Switzerland match could be considered a parade.
 - SI Jones stated that the Members query regarding ASB in Dunboyne had been addressed at a previous meeting.
 - AGRS Fee informed the Partnership that funds had been released to relieve pressure on the Fire Service and 25 trainees had been recruited with plans for more to follow. No cuts in the number of vehicles were required as had been previously suggested.
 - In relation to the UR Zone Cage, it had been confirmed that Antrim had not carried out an evaluation of their service so the Safer City Coordinator was hoping to investigate other organisations.
 - The Safer City Manager clarified the partnerships stance on funding salaries in relation to the Dual Diagnosis Project proposal which had been deferred due to Members concerns. The Safer City Manager confirmed that the (D)PCSP's role was to fund the service provider rather than the post and to introduce a policy which refused this would create a significant shift in approach and complicate the process of financing projects.
 - Following the above clarification, Members agreed to release monies for the Dual Diagnosis Proposal.
 - The Safer City Coordinator informed the Partnership that £109,718 was received by the Drug Dealers Don't Care Campaign last year.
 - A meeting had taken place with the Vice Chair in relation to the 1 Pill Will Kill Campaign.
 - 2 Members had attended the Hate Crime meeting on the 7th December.

4. Chair's Update

- i. The Vice Chair offered his condolences to the Chair who had recently suffered a bereavement.
- ii. The Vice Chair commented on the success of the Christmas Safety Event at the City Hall.
- iii. At this point, Jennifer Hawthorne (NIHE) left the meeting.

5. Update from Designated Partners

PSNI

- i. CS Roberts updated the partnership on recent incidents including:
 - The success of the Christmas Policing Operation
 - The large fight in West Belfast involving bottles and knives. No witnesses engaged with the on scene officers and no injuries were reported.
 - The investigations into incidents of dangerous driving in the Oldpark and Ardoyne areas

- Reports of the Police being tasked to assist with the Ambulance Service which has a significant impact on their service.
 - 3 individuals charged relating to speeches made at an anti-terrorism rally in Belfast.
 - Arrests made for burglaries and robberies
 - 71 year old man sentenced to 7 years in prison for a string of robberies
- 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. The Vice Chair enquired as to 2 deaths involving a bad batch of drugs, however, CS Roberts was unable to confirm if this had been the cause of the deaths.

NIFRS

- i. AGC Fee informed Members of 5 further attacks on Firefighters in December as well as 2 fires in High Rises. AGC Fee assured Members that the alarms deployed in these buildings were designed to be silent to avoid the widespread panic of residents.
- ii. A Member asked if any arrests had ever been made for attacks on firefighters to which AGC Fee responded that it was difficult to identify individuals as it was often groups of people that committed the attacks..

EA

- i. 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.
- ii. A period of stakeholder engagement was undertaken from October to December in which the EA engaged over 11,000 young people and parents to help design new regional assessment needs. New plans should be published in April 2018.
- iii. A Member requested figures for the number of EA staff situated in each of the Parks across Belfast after reporting that there were issues ongoing in several of them. Lynsey Branniff agreed to provide the figures for the next meeting.

6. 2017/18 PCSP Action Plan Progress report

- i. The Safer City Coordinator introduced the Action Plan progress report and highlighted point 2.3 :
 - £3,000 for 1 Pill Will Kill is from Drugs and Alcohol Interagency Working (£2,000) and the August Bonfire Budget (£1,000)
- ii. The Safer City Manager informed Members that the Street Triage project had been deferred whilst negotiations are ongoing. Despite this, there remains a commitment to support this project however it would likely result in underspends this year due to the money already committed. The Safer City Manager explained that Officers were

currently looking at other means to spend the money and requested that a letter of concern be sent to the PHA in response to the project deferral.

Members agreed to this action

- iii. The Safer City Manager sought to address some of the underspend by requesting agreement to work on a proposal for a project with the SOS Bus around St Patricks Day. This proposal was agreed by Members.

7. 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 Safer City Manager requested approval for the release of monies outlined in paper 8a.

Members agreed to the release of monies requested.

8. DPCSP Spend Update

- i. The Safer City 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.

9. DPCSP Financial Spend Update

- i. In reference to North Belfast, whose underspends were highlighted by a Member, the Safer City Manager informed Members that the North DPCSP had a meeting last Wednesday to ratify a number of projects however an amount still remains unallocated and they are not confident that those funds agreed for release will be completed. The Safer City Manager informed representatives from the other (D)PCSP's that this underspend could be re-allocated to other partnerships by way of expression of interest.
- ii. The Safer City Manager requested delegated authority to move monies between Partnerships.
This was agreed by Members.

10. 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

11. Citywide Domestic Violence Project proposal

- i. The Safer City Coordinator spoke of the previously discussed project proposal and informed Members that the Masterclass would commence on the 21st March.
- ii. It was confirmed that due to a delay, the £7,000 research element would be deferred to 2018/19 and that the funding for the emergency packs would be increased from £2,000 to £5,000 as approved by Members.

12. Cybercrime Project Proposal

- i. The Safer City Coordinator requested Members support for a proposal from Belfast City Centre Management to deliver a Cyber Crime Project for the benefit of the Belfast Business Community. The proposal is to fund 2 seminars to increase the awareness of risk and identify how to mitigate those risks.
- ii. Members agreed to fund the requested amount of £10'500

13. One Pill Will Kill Project Proposal

- i. The Vice Chair leaves the meeting after declaring an interest in the project proposal.
- ii. The Safer City Coordinator informed Members that although it was late in the year to fully support the campaign, a proposal had been made to fund a facilitated away day to support the group in achieving their goals. A further recommendation was made to explore the inclusion of the 1 Pill Will Kill campaign in next years Drug dealers Don't Care campaign.
- iii. Members agreed to release £2,995 from Strategic Objective 2 of the PCSP budget for the delivery of the Away day.
- iv. Members agreed to run the Drug Dealers Don't Care Campaign.

14. 2018/19 PCSP Small Grants

- i. The Safer City Manager updated Members to the progress of the Small Grants programme, informing them that the application period for Tranche 1 2018/19 closed on the 12th January and that letters of offer would be sent in March to enable projects to commence in April 2018.
- ii. The Safer City Manager requested that Members agree a value of £15,000 per partnership for Summer Small Grants. Members agreed the allocation as recommended.
- iii. The Partnership were asked to nominate 5 Members to make up the Small Grants Panel, the following Members volunteered:
 - Michael O'Hara
 - Jim Rodgers
 - Debbie Hammill
 - John MacVicar

- Susan Russam

15. 2018/2019 Belfast (D)PCSP Action Planning Process

- i. The Safer City Coordinator from the South (D)PCSP introduced the Draft Action Plan for 2018/19 and the methodology of using Outcome Based Accountability to create it.
- ii. 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. In response to a query about the unwanted Bonfire situation, the Safer City Coordinator for the South informed Members that the related projects were included in the Action Plan by way of diversionary activities.
- iv. With regards to the Strategic Plan for 2019-2023, the Safer City Coordinator for South Belfast advised Members that a Strategic Assessment of Need was required and asked for approval for up to £20,000 for consultation to inform the planning process. This was approved by Members.

16. Date of Next Meeting

- i. The next meeting would be on the 12th February 2018 at 5.30pm in the Conor Room, City Hall.