

North Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Policing Committee

9 Adelaide Street, Room AD1H
Wednesday, 25th April 2018

Political Members	Independent Members
Councillor Paul McCusker	Jennifer Cornell (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Mary Ellen Campbell	Gerard O'Reilly
Councillor Mary Clarke	Michael Murray
Alderman Guy Spence	
Designated Organisations	
Declan Davey, YJA	Davy McComiskey, NIFRS
Inspector Paul Noble, PSNI	Liam Gunn, NIHE
Gabi Mornhinweg, H&SCT	Alan Wilson, EA
Chief Inspector Kellie Moore	
Staff Present	Apologies
Alison Allen, Safer City Unit Manager	Davy Harbinson
Richard McLernon, Safer City Coordinator	Janet McClinton, PBNI
Alan Wardle, Safer City Coordinator	Alderman Frank McCoubrey
Saranne Gallagher, Partnership Support Officer	Catherine Patrick Gerald Solinas
Also in Attendance:	
Brenda Cairns, CJINI	

1. Welcome and Routine Matters

- i. The Chair, Councillor Paul McCusker welcomed Members to the North Belfast DPCSP Policing Committee Meeting.
- ii. The Chair welcomed Brenda Cairns, Inspector - Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland to the North Belfast DPCSP Policing Committee Meeting.
- iii. Brenda provided Members with an overview of the role and objectives of the Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland.

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

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised the Partnership that a Member had requested for the Minutes from the previous North Belfast DPCSP Policing Committee Meeting to be amended to reflect a discussion.
- ii. Members noted this request and agreed for the Minutes to be amended with the following additions:
 - x. A Member highlighted his concern regarding cuts to policing budget and how this could result in the Senior Management Team taking the decision to cut the Neighbourhood Policing team with in North Belfast.
 - xi. He also asked Chief Inspector Moore what the policies and procedures were for PSNI Officers wearing body worn cameras. He commented that concerns had been raised after an incident when a police officer became abusive to a member of the public and when asked by that member of the public to switch on his body worn camera the police officer refused to turn on the camera and became more abusive.
 - xii. The Member also raised concerns about the security cameras at Twaddell and asked if where they working and why they had not identified groups of youths sitting under the cameras for hours, getting involved in anti-community behaviour.
- iii. Accordingly, Minutes of the North Belfast DPCSP Policing Committee Meeting, which was held on 28th March, 2018, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct.

4. Area Commander's Update on Policing

- i. Chief Inspector Moore provided Members with an overview on police performance against the Local Policing Plan. Members noted that:
 - Overall crime had decreased by 1.9%;
 - The total number of anti-social behaviour incidents had increased by 2.5%;
 - The number of domestic motivation crimes had increased by 1.5%;
 - An increase of 0.7% had been recorded in relation to achieving a reduction in the total number of burglaries;
 - An increase of 16.3% had been recorded in relation to the total number of drug offences;
 - An increase of 15.5% had been recorded in relation to the total number of drug seizures;
 - An increase of 22.5% had been recorded in relation to the total number of drug arrests; and,
 - A decrease of 12% had been recorded in relation to the number of people seriously injured in road collisions.

- ii. Jennifer Cornell asked the Chief Inspector if there had been any element of crime linked to the recent death in Orient Gardens. The Chief Inspector confirmed that there had been no criminality linked to the recent death in Orient Gardens. She confirmed that the PSNI are continuing their investigations into this incident.
- iii. A Member advised the Partnership that there had been a recent burglary at PIPS. He commented that there had been groups of young people moving to various locations in North Belfast, and in particular to interface areas. He asked if the PSNI had been aware of young people gathering at interface areas and also if the PSNI had any extra resources that could be utilised in these areas.
- iv. The Chief Inspector advised the Members that the PSNI had no extra resources and a more coordinated approach would need to be adopted in order to address the issue of transient youth.
- v. A Member asked the Chief Inspector if she could provide the Membership with an overview of the PSNI's dedicated Officer regarding the impact of loan sharks. Chief Inspector Moore advised the Members that the role of this Officer would be to overview levels of criminality regarding illegal money lending.
- vi. A Member highlighted to the Partnership that a social media page had been developed and was currently being used by young people and adults to arrange large gatherings with the potential of organising fights.
- vii. Chief Inspector Moore commented that it is difficult for the PSNI to police social media sites such as 'WhatsApp'. She commented that this had been due to the sites being restricted to closed groups and encrypted.
- viii. The Education Authority representative agreed to forward details of the social media site to the Chief Inspector.
- ix. A Member asked if there had been any update regarding reports of people being intimidated from houses within the Westland area. A statutory Member commented that he would review this and provide the Partnership with an update at the next Meeting.
- x. Chief Inspector Moore advised Members that she would confirm a date for the Partnership to meet with the Local Policing Teams and that this would be circulated in due course.

5. Local Policing Plan 2018/2019

- i. Chief Inspector Moore provided Members with an overview of the 2018/2019 Local Policing Plan.
- ii. She advised Members of the three key themes of the Local Policing Plan;
 - Theme 1: Communication and Engagement;
 - Theme 2: Protection of People and Communities; and
 - Theme 3: Reduction in Offending.

- iii. She commented that senior Officers within the PSNI are keen to have one overarching Local Policing Plan for Belfast rather than district focused Plans.
- iv. Following a discussion, Members requested for the 2018/2019 Local Policing Plan to be circulated for comment and for any comments to be forwarded to the Chief Inspector for consideration.

6. Members Written Questions

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members of the written questions received and the answers provided by Chief Inspector Moore.
- ii. Chief Inspector Moore advised Members that one of the written questions received had been forwarded to the PSNI FOI team for response and once received the answer would be forwarded.

7. Policing Committee Applications

- i. No Policing Committee applications were received.

8. Emerging Issues

- i. The Chair introduced Alison Allen, Safer City Manager to the Partnership. He advised Members that Alison would provide the Partnership with an update regarding changes to the operational structure of the Community Safety Unit and DPCSP's.
- ii. The Safer City Manager advised Members that there had been recent changes within the Community Safety Unit and subsequently staff changes. She informed Members that following a review of the Community Safety Unit, it had been noted that the workload placed on the Unit had increased immensely over recent years.
- iii. She advised Members that following a recruitment process, Denise Smith had been appointed as the additional Safer City Assistant Manager to coordinate Council Operational activity alongside the existing Safer City Assistant Manager Lorna Somers who will coordinate Strategic Partnerships. She further commented that as part of the Unit review, it had been decided that the Unit would focus on two key areas of work;
 - Strategic Partnerships; and,
 - Council Operations.
- iv. The Safer City Manager advised Members of the new staffing structures within these new work streams. She further commented that Richard McLernon would now take up a role within the Council Operations Team and therefore advised Members that Alan Wardle, West Belfast Safer City Coordinator, would oversee the work of the North Belfast DPCSP going forward.

- v. A Member highlighted his concern that North Belfast would be merged with West Belfast and asked for reassurance that this would not be the case.
- vi. Members thanked Richard McLernon for all his work and continued support both to the North Belfast DPCSP and to local community groups.