

Minutes of the Belfast Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Private Meeting

Lavery Room, City Hall
Monday 14th May, 2018

Political Members

Councillor Carole Howard (Chair)
Alderman Brian Kingston
Councillor Claire Canavan
Councillor JJ Magee
Councillor Matt Garrett

Independent Members

John MacVicar (Vice Chair)
Debbie Hammill
Michael O'Hara
Mary Lambe
Carmel McKinney
Ann Louise Toal
John Loughran
Susan Russam

Designated Organisations

Harry Bradley, YJA
Supt. Norman Haslett, PSNI
Bryan Nelson, H&SCT

Jennifer Hawthorne, NIHE
Lynsey Branniff, EA
Liz Arthur, PBNI
AGC Chris Fee, NIFRS

Staff Present

Lorna Somers, Safer City Assistant Manager
Suzanne Gowling, Safer City Coordinator
Glenn Thomas, Safer City Coordinator
Andy Claydon, Partnership Support Officer

Apologies

CS John Roberts, PSNI
Councillor Lee Reynolds

Also Present

Wendy Osborne, NIPB
Kelly Gilliland, PHA

1. Welcome and Apologies

- i. The Chair welcomed Members to the meeting and noted the apologies provided from CS John Roberts (PSNI) and Councillor Lee Reynolds.

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 from Kelly Gilliland, PHA – Projects to Support People with Complex Needs

- i. Kelly Gilliland from the Public Health Agency (PHA) introduced two projects that had been running as pilot projects in 2017/2018; the pilot Street Injecting Support Service (SISS) and Dual Diagnosis - Rough Sleepers.

- ii. Ms Gilliland spoke of the partnership between Belfast Drug and Alcohol Coordination Team (BDACT) and the PCSP, outlining a focus on vulnerability and adults and young people with complex needs which had been addressed by a range of projects including:
 - SISS
 - Dual Diagnosis
 - Drug Dealers Don't Care and the West Belfast Drugs Panel
 - BDACT Connections Services joint working with District Policing and Community Safety Partnerships
 - Sharps Group
- iii. With regards to SISS, Ms. Gilliland explained that Extern staff operate the service to reduce drug litter in the city centre and engage with drug users to reduce harm.
- iv. Members were informed that the PHA were keen to continue the SISS project into 2018/2019 and had thus funded the programme from April to June so that the service would not need to be suspended. Members were invited to consider 2 options to fund the project for the remaining 9 months of the financial year:
 - To maintain the current operation at a cost of £9,000
 - To fund a dedicated post at a cost of £34,000
- v. With regards to the Dual Diagnosis - Rough Sleeper Project, Ms Gilliland explained that last year, the service had targets to work with 20 rough sleepers but had actually worked with 50; 30 of whom had no fixed abode.
- vi. Again, due to the success of the Dual Diagnosis, the PHA had provided funding from April to June and were hoping to secure funding for the remaining 9 months of the year from the PCSP which would require a commitment of £30,000. If required, Ms Gilliland informed Members that evaluation reports were available from last year.
- vii. A Member asked how the SISS programme knitted in with the work done by the needle exchanges at local chemists. Ms Gilliland explained that SISS was an outreach service which could be taken onto the street whereas the pharmacies were able to stay open all day at a single location.
- viii. Asked about the geographical boundary of the service, Ms Gilliland informed Members that the service was mostly based in the city centre but had also spilled out to areas of need, for example, Waterworks and Ballymacarrett and that the service generally tries to be as responsive as possible.
- ix. Ms Gilliland left the meeting at this point.
- x. Members agreed the Safer City Coordinator's request for approval to develop a final project proposal for the SISS Project
- xi. Members agreed that the Safer City Coordinator should present final project proposals for both the Dual Diagnosis project and Street Injecting Support Services to the June PCSP Meeting for final approval.

10. SOS Bus Proposal

- i. The Safer City Coordinator, Glenn Thomas, informed Members that he had received a request from SOS Bus in April which would provide funding to enable the organisation to retain its volunteers and to cover the shortfall from the previous financial year.

- ii. Members were informed that the SOS bus had thus far secured £129,000 in funding and were requesting a sum of £50,000 from the PCSP.
- iii. Members were asked to consider a potential financial allocation to this service in light of the budget already being fully earmarked for other projects and in the knowledge that any decision to fund the SOS Bus would be at the expense of a number of other worthwhile projects which have already been agreed using the OBA process.
- iv. Members were also asked to decide if they wished to progress the proposal through the governance process in order to allow a full project brief to be drawn up.
- v. The Safer City Assistant Manager continued by reminding Members how they had struggled to find the £15,000 to fund the Bonfire programme. The Safer City Assistant Manager suggested that this be considered as an unsolicited proposal that had already used considerable Officer time which could have been spent on the development of agreed projects.
- vi. A number of Members commended the work of the SOS Bus and the dedication of the volunteers; however they acknowledged that the PCSPs resources have been allocated and agreed for the 2018/2019 year.
- vii. The Safer City Assistant Manager suggested that there be a larger conversation with regards to future unsolicited proposals and how the Partnership should deal with them.
- viii. A Member expressed their concern at being asked to gap fund the organisation and questioned where the money went when so much of their service was conducted by volunteers.
- ix. Members agreed on the merits of the service but also declared reservations as to the lateness of the request and the fact that by funding it would mean dropping other important projects. It was also suggested that by merely having the discussion, the Partnership could be giving false hope to an organisation.
- x. The Safer City Assistant Manager indicated that previously, the PCSP may have been more flexible to consider such requests but owing to the adoption of the OBA process and the 5.6% cut in funding, the Partnership was not in a position to consider the request at this time.
- xi. Following discussion, whilst Members were unanimous in their recognition of the valuable work that the SOS Bus organisation does, they felt unable to support the proposal due to the previous issues which were discussed. Accordingly, the Members declined the proposal. Furthermore, the Safer City Assistant Manager agreed to provide a report to the June PCSP meeting in relation to Unsolicited Applications for Members consideration.

4. Belfast PCSP Minutes

- i. The Safer City Assistant manager advised members that it had been identified that a paragraph had been omitted from the March PCSP minutes. Furthermore, she explained that an error in relation to the April minutes had been identified after these were circulated to Members.
- ii. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised members that copies of both sets of minutes with the highlighted amendments were circulated to Members for their information.

- iii. Accordingly, the minutes of the Belfast PCSP Private Meetings held on 12th March and 16th April, copies of which has previously been circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct, subject to the aforementioned changes.

5. Chairs Update

- i. The Chair informed Members of the upcoming Policing Board Seminar for which they could book a place via e-mail.

6. Update from designated Members

PSNI

- i. Supt. Norman Haslett stated that he would go into more detail in the Policing Committee but informed Members of the suspicious device that had been discovered in Whiterock Orange Hall and had caused considerable disruption. Supt. Haslett suggested that the device had been designed as a deliberate hoax.

NIFRS

- i. Area Group Commander Chris Fee introduced the Fire Safety Audit Strategy focused on Houses of Multiple Occupation as a response to recent local events.
- ii. AGC Fee continued to explain the progress of STAR (Strategic Targeted Areas of Risk) which was continuing in Duncairn and Enler Super Output areas.
- iii. Members learnt of the 'Your Choice' road safe programme launch which utilised virtual reality headsets.
- iv. AGC Fee introduced the emerging issues as:
 - STOP Campaign
 - Promotion of 'People at Risk' strategy
 - Focus on Road Safety
 - Promotion of Business safety week (21st – 25th May)
- v. Members were informed of the latest statistics, including:
 - Major fires – 43
 - Secondary fires – 128
 - Rescues – 6
 - Casualties – 9
 - Attacks on Firefighters – 4

Education Authority

- i. Lynsey Branniff informed Members that the Education Authority had invited applications for the 'Together Building a United Community' and Summer Intervention funding which would help to address the problem of Young People in risk taking situations.
- ii. Ms Branniff continued to explain how the EA looked to fund groups in areas with specific needs but stipulated that due to difficulties in engaging with groups and young people over specific key dates, the suggested summer camps would not coincide with the key

dates. However, Ms Branniff also explained how groups conducting events on those key dates would score more highly.

7. 2017/2018 (D)PCSP Action Plan Final Progress Reports

- i. The Safer City Coordinator, Suzanne Gowling, advised Members on the completion of the 2017/2018 (D)PCSP Action Plans and explained that a finalised finance report would be available once monitoring had been completed.
- ii. The Safer City Assistant Manager addressed a Members query as to the level of underspends and stated that by the end of the process, she was not expecting much, if any, underspends, however this was difficult to identify given that there were £315,000 worth of accruals.
- iii. The Safer City Coordinator (S Gowling) explained how there is more detail in the 2018/2019 Action Plan and as such a more even spend profile should be achieved.

8. 2018/2019 PCSP Action Plan Progress Report

- i. The Safer City Coordinator (S Gowling) introduced the new Action Plan format to Members which has been designed to assist Members in tracking project progress and requested Members to agree the change in format.
- ii. Members agreed to the format change and thanked the staff for their work.

11. Orangefest Proposal

- i. The Safer City Assistant Manager explained to Members how M. Gibson had made contact with regards to funding but that no proposal had been sent in to support it. The Safer City Assistant Manager suggested that, should a proposal come in, the Partnership could consider it along with the report on Unsolicited Applications.

12. Safer Parks/Open Spaces Innovation Project

- i. The Safer City Assistant Manager explained that the Safer City Manager was currently working on this paper but that it had suffered a delay and was therefore withdrawn from the agenda.

13. Date of Next Meeting

- i. The next meeting will be on Monday 11th June at 6.00pm in the Lavery Room, City Hall.