

# West Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership

## Private Meeting

Lavery Room, City Hall  
Monday, 30th April, 2018

<b>Political Members</b>	<b>Independent Members</b>
Alderman Brian Kingston(Chair)	Breige Brownlee
Councillor Matt Garrett	Lauren Slane
Councillor Brian Heading	
Councillor Stephen Magennis	
<b>Statutory Designated Organisations</b>	
Harry Bradley, YJA	Inspector Alan Swann, PSNI
Nicola Coogan, PBNI	Chief Inspector Kellie McMillen, PSNI
Dave McComiskey, NIFRS	Clare McClelland, PSNI
<b>Local Designates</b>	
Michael George, CNP	Paula Kerr
<b>Staff Present</b>	
Alan Wardle, Safer City Co-Ordinator	<b>Apologies</b> Tommy Boyle, H&SCT
Lorna Somers, Safer City Assistant Manager	Liz Groves
Andy Claydon, Partnership Support Officer	Davy Harbinson, NIFRS
	Eoin McShane
	Paddy Kelly, NIHE
<b>Also in Attendance</b>	
Brice Dickson, NIPB	Aisling Heath, Professional Witness
Stephen Dolan, CJI	

### 1. Welcome and Routine Matters

- i. Cllr B Kingston welcomed Aisling Heath from the Professional Witness project and Brice Dickson from the Northern Ireland Policing Board.
- ii. The Chair welcomed Breige Brownlee as the new Vice Chair of the West Belfast DPCSP, following agreement with the other Independent Members.
- iii. The Chair noted the apologies provided.

### 2. Declarations of Interest

- 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. Two Members declared an interest in Item 10 on the agenda and agreed to leave the Meeting when the item arose.

### **3. Minutes & Matters Arising**

- i. The Minutes of the West Belfast DPCSP Private Meeting held on 21st March, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct.
- ii. In relation to actions from the previous meeting the Safer City Coordinator stated that:
  - a. There was to be an oral update on the Street Triage Project but as of yet no written report had been forthcoming.
  - b. (D)PCSP Action Plans were to be submitted within 5-10 days and would be circulated subsequently.
  - c. A breakdown of the £41,200 ring fenced for citywide projects was distributed.
- iii. The Safer City Assistant Manager updated Members on the new staffing structure within the Community Safety Unit, outlining the two distinct work streams and the appointment of a 2<sup>nd</sup> Safer City Assistant Manager, Denise Smith.
- iv. Members were informed that the Safer City Coordinators team had been split, with Alan Wardle now responsible for both the North and West DPCSP's and Glenn Thomas coordinating the South and East DPCSP's. Suzanne Gowling is now responsible for Performance Management and Finance and Richard McLernon moves away from the Partnerships to work with Denise Smith in an Operational role.
- v. The Safer City Assistant Manager continued by assuring members that these changes would not affect West Belfast projects but that there would be efforts to fund more shared projects with a wider impact.
- vi. Members expressed concerns with the added pressure this may put on to Coordinators. The Safer City Assistant Manager tried to allay these concerns by explaining how the new Operational team would be working on things that traditionally took Coordinators away from projects. The Safer City Coordinator added that due to the proactivity of the West Partnership, much of the planning work had already been completed which will lessen the pressure of taking on the Action Plan of a second partnership.

### **4. Update on Professional Witness**

- i. The Chair introduced Aisling Heath from the Project Witness programme to deliver an update on her work.
- ii. Aisling informed Members that she was enjoying her role which commenced in December 2017. She reported that she had dealt with a number of issues in her first months but they had largely been linked to Vehicle Crime.
- iii. Aisling spoke of her successful links with Youth Justice, PSNI, ASB Officers and resident groups.
- iv. Members were informed of some of the upcoming initiatives, including community sessions on the reporting of incidents, and Primary School sessions addressing Bonfires.
- v. The Safer City Coordinator congratulated Aisling on the progress she has made and commented on the Professional Witness model being used as a template to be rolled out to a wider area.

- vi. A Member also commented on the importance of the role and added how it had improved the levels of confidence amongst residents.
- vii. Aisling informed the Partnership that the best way for residents to meet her is for them to attend the clinics that are facilitated on Tuesdays at Falls Residents Association Premises.
- viii. Asked if she had any concerns or issues that she wished to raise with the DPCSP, Aisling spoke of the difficulties in communicating with the Neighbourhood Policing Teams.
- ix. The Safer City Coordinator informed Members that Aisling was welcome to attend future meetings as a designated Community representative and that the information and insight she would bring would be invaluable, however, she would have no voting rights.
- x. The Chair introduced Stephen Dolan from the Criminal Justice Inspectorate who informed Members that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Inspection of the (D)PCSP's would be completed after the summer.

## **5. Chairs Update from PCSP**

- i. The Chair relayed details of the PCSP Meeting of the 16<sup>th</sup> April to Members, including:
  - A presentation on the Bonfire programme and the subsequent request and approval for contribution of £15,000.
  - The Education Authority's update regarding the review of LAG's which is due to be completed in September, and the appointment of mental health youth workers.
  - The 5.6% cut to the (D)PCSP's budget based on deprivation and population resulted in a significant cut in the West Belfast DPCSP budget.
  - Proposals for Rough Sleepers and the Street Injection Support Services projects were presented to the PCSP and a decision was made to defer judgement pending further information being received by the Partnership.

## **6. Updates from Statutory Partners**

### NIFRS

- i. D McComiskey alerted Members to 'Gorse fire season', commenting on a particular recent incident in the Divis area. Members were urged to use their contacts to communicate the dangers of Gorse fires to young people.

### PBNi

- i. N Coogan commented on the ASPIRE project which is still running and informed Members that they have recorded reduced numbers of re-offending in the West.

### Youth Justice

- i. Harry Bradley thanked the ASB Officer for providing Beat the Burglar packs for Young people to assemble as part of their community hours.

- ii. Providing an update on the Community resolution orders, H Bradley confirmed that YJ had 20 people referred to them, some of whom had agreed to stay on and work with them. He reported that working with the parents of troubled young people was integral to the success of the programmes.
- iii. The Chair commented on the importance of parental involvement in relation to the Icelandic Model, on which a workshop had recently been delivered.
- iv. The Model was praised by Members, specifically in the approach to funding Young Peoples' leisure activities and its success in combatting Domestic Violence and dangerous driving.

### PSNI

- i. Chief Inspector Kellie McMillan informed Members that 2017/2018 statistics would be finalised in the coming weeks.
- ii. The Chief Inspector reported 14 arrests in the area in the last week, relating to assaults, dangerous driving and burglaries. Members heard of a likely 15 % decrease in burglaries in the West.
- iii. There had been a spike in ASB incidents at locations such as St Agnes Drive, Milltown Cemetery, Beechlawn, Glenburn Road and Kingsway Shopping Centre. The Chief Inspector assured Members that the PSNI were stepping up their efforts in combatting ASB.
- iv. Members were informed that the PSNI were working with Communities within the Turf Lodge area regarding ongoing tensions.
- v. A Member commented on the ongoing issue of the Railway Halt in Dunmurry and informed the Partnership that he had spoken to organisations nearby and together they would be addressing the issue with both the PSNI and Translink.
- vi. In relation to the ASB in Milltown Cemetery, a Member suggested that the incident had been aggravated considerably by the arrival of young people from outside the area.
- vii. The Member also alerted CI McMillen to incidents at Brook Activity Centre in which young girls had been verbally assaulted as well as a case of physical assault, with reports suggesting that the offenders could be members of the travelling community. Agreements had been made for the victims to be visited by the PSNI but unfortunately the victims did not attend followed up and the Member expressed his concern at the missed opportunity. The Member continued by reporting calls made to the PSNI by a concerned resident, in relation to incidents in Poleglass involving car racing and fires. The individual was told that he should contact the NIFRS and had the phone put down on him which suggests a failing in call management. CI McMillen thanked the Member for the information and assured him that she would seek to follow up the reports.
- viii. Inspector Alan Swann commented on the reluctance of residents to dial 101 as a citywide issue based on the preconception that the call will not be responded to. Inspector Swann suggested a visit to the call centre by Members could be beneficial as had been arranged by the North DPCSP.
- ix. A Member asked if it would be possible to receive some statistics on call centre staffing, including number of calls received and how long it takes for calls to be answered. CI K McMillen agreed to bring figures to the next meeting.

## **7. Draft PSNI Policing Plan**

- i. CI McMillen introduced the 2018/2019 Draft Policing Plan and outlined the new focus on a common approach for the whole city as opposed to the creation of 4 separate plans. The 4 areas will now concentrate on themes common to each of them, including Communication and Engagement, Hate Crime, and an increased focus on older people as victims of crime.
- ii. A Member noted the omission in regard to Mental Health being addressed to which CI McMillen suggested that there was the flexibility to add things as they arose and that she could provide updates regarding work the PSNI undertake with Mental Health in the area.
- iii. The report was noted by Members.

## **8. 2018/2019 Action Plan for Approval**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator introduced the 2018/2019 Action Plan, outlining the confirmed 5.6% cut in the budget resulting in a total budget of £129,892 for the West DPCSP.
- ii. The Partnership were informed of the committed projects accounting for £66,384 of the total budget to date, with a further £14,943 as planned expenditure:
  - Effectiveness & Public Meetings -£3,000
  - Professional Witness - £15,000
  - Community Safety Strategy (FCC) - £21,950
  - Community Safety Forum Support - £10,000
  - ASB Emerging Issues - £10,000
  - Small Grants Tranche 1 - £16,434
  - Policing Committee Grants - £5,000
- iii. A Member highlighted the importance of receiving feedback on the impact of Citywide schemes within West Belfast considering the £41,000 contribution the West DPCSP was making to such projects.
- iv. The Safer City Coordinator stated that a report would be included in Septembers Private meeting.
- v. Members approved the 2018/2019 Action Plan

## **9. Delegated Authority information**

- i. The Safer City Co-ordinator asked for Members to approve delegated authority for the Coordinator to approve expenditure up to £1,000 for the 2018/2019 term which had been agreed in previous years.

- ii. The Safer City Coordinator also asked Members to approve delegated authority to the Safer City Coordinator in conjunction with the Chair, Vice Chair, Safer City Manager and Safer City Assistant Manager as per the recommendations in the report presented.
- iii. Members agree to approve the delegated authority as per the recommendations.

#### **10. Quotation request for approval**

- i. Cllr Magennis and M George left the meeting after declaring an interest in the Item to be discussed.
- ii. The Safer City Co-ordinator introduced the potential quotation exercise designed to develop the Community Safety Strategy in West Belfast, namely Upper West and Colin areas, by commissioning a number of work streams to develop good practice with the aim of disseminating that information to the rest of West Belfast. He continued by suggesting that there were a number of organisations that the Partnership could work with on this quotation and that this approach was the next step in securing a model for West Belfast, and that once clearly identified and reported upon, the model could be rolled out to other Districts for duplication.
- iii. A Member commented on the apparent gap between Colin and Upper Falls areas and the rest of West Belfast and suggested that this quotation would help address the balance. He further commented that his colleagues on the Partnership have done great work which is largely unrecognised.
- iv. A Member asked for clarity regarding public liability and the possibility of volunteers getting injured whilst on duty. The Safer City Co-ordinator confirmed that the related Governance body would be the liable party and should have their own insurance in place.
- v. A Member requested clarity regarding the extra £19,950 to be pursued in September and asked if this was reliant on underspends in other Districts which was confirmed by the Safer City Coordinator.
- vi. Members agreed the recommendations and approved the associated expenditure.

#### **11. Emerging Issues**

- i. The Chair confirmed that the Partnership was not currently able to replace the independent Member they recently lost through resignation.
- ii. Brice Dickson of the NIPB confirmed their current situation regarding the vacuum left by the MLA's absence from the Board. He stated that while there was no Minister of Justice to request parties to nominate Members, it would be the Secretary of State that would need to action this. Mr Dickson continued, explaining that a new competition for NIPB Independent Members had been progressed as three of the nine current Board members were due to leave their positions next month.

**12. Date of Next meeting**

- i. The next meeting of the West DPCSP will be on the 29<sup>th</sup> May 2018 at 5.30pm in the Lavery Room, City Hall.