

Minutes of the South Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Private Meeting

Wednesday 18th April, 2018, 5.00pm

AD1H, 9 Adelaide

Political Members	Independent Members
Councillor Geraldine McAteer	Richard Kennedy (Vice Chair)
Councillor Jeffrey Dudgeon	Michael Boyle
Statutory Designated Bodies	
Chief Inspector Gavin Kirkpatrick, PSNI	Melissa Spence, PBNI
Sergeant Local Policing Team	Anita Duff, EA
Belfast City Council Staff	
Suzanne Gowling, Safer City Coordinator (SCC)	Councillor Lee Reynolds
Saranne Gallagher, Partnership Support Officer	Paul McCombe, NIHE

1. Welcome & Routine Matters

- i. The Vice Chair welcomed Members to the South Belfast DPCSP Private Meeting and noted the apologies provided.
- ii. He advised Members that Aiden Hughes, Independent Member had resigned from South Belfast DPCSP. The Vice Chair on behalf of the Partnership thanked Aiden for his support and commitment to the work of the Partnership.
- iii. The Vice Chair also welcomed Stephen Leonard, Environmental Health Manager, Belfast City Council to the Meeting.

2. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

- i. The Chair asked Members 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 conflict were noted.

3. Presentation – Houses of Multiple Occupancy.

- i. Stephen Leonard, Environmental Health Manager provided Members with an overview on the transfer of Houses in Multiple Occupation from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive to Local Government.
- ii. He advised Members of the steps surrounding the transfer of HMO regulations and the procedures undertaken by Belfast City Council in relation to this.
- iii. A Member asked where the transfer of this legislation sat within Council. Stephen advised the Partnership that this detail still had to be confirmed.
- iv. Following a discussion, the Vice Chair thanked Stephen for his informative presentation.

4. Minutes and Matters Arising

- i. The Minutes of the Private Meeting held on 20th March, copies of which were previously circulated, were agreed as correct.
- ii. The Vice Chair introduced Lorna Somers, Safer City Assistant Manager to the Partnership. He advised Members that Lorna would provide the Partnership with an update regarding changes to the operational structure of the Community Safety Unit.
- iii. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised Members that there had been recent changes within the Community Safety Unit and subsequently some 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.
- iv. She advised Members that following a recruitment process, Denise Smith had been appointed as an additional Assistant Safer City Manager. She further commented that as part of the Unit review, it had been decided that the Unit would focus on two key areas;
 - Strategic Partnerships; and,
 - Council Operations.
- v. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised Members of the new staffing structures within these new work areas.
- vi. She advised Members that Suzanne Gowling, South Belfast Safer City Coordinator would no longer be the lead officer for South Belfast as she would be moving to a more specific role focusing on Performance Management within the Strategic Partnership Team. She informed Members that Glenn Thomas will be the Safer City Coordinator who will oversee the South Belfast DPCSP.
- vii. The Vice Chair and Members thanked Suzanne for all her work, dedication and commitment to South Belfast DPCSP.
- viii. A Member requested for an update to be provided to the Partnerships regarding the structural and staff changes within the Community Safety Unit.

5. Chairs Update

- i. Apologies were noted from the Chair and subsequently no Chair update was provided.

6. Update from Statutory Partners

PSNI

- i. Chief Inspector Gavin Kirkpatrick provided Members with an overview on crime figures to date.
- ii. Members noted that:
 - Overall crime had decreased by 0.9%;
 - Burglary had decreased by 7.8%;
 - Number of racist hate crimes had decreased by 16.3%;

- An increase of 10.9% in relation to the number of anti-social behaviour incidents;
 - An increase of 31.2% in the number of drug seizures;
 - An increase of 32.9% in the number of drug offences; and,
 - An increase of 33.2% in the number of drug arrests
- iii. Chief Inspector Kirkpatrick provided Members with an overview of the Local Policing Plan 2018-2019.
- iv. He 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.
- v. He commented that senior officers within the PSNI are keen to have one overarching Local Policing Plan for Belfast rather than district focused Plans.
- He reassured the Vice Chair that performance reports would still be made available for South Belfast, to enable the DPCSP's Policing Committee to properly scrutinise local performance.
- vi. Following a discussion, Members requested for the Local Policing Plan 2018-2019 to be circulated for comment and for any comments to be forwarded to the Chief Inspector for consideration.

7. Funding Model 2018/19 Update

- i. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with an update of the Funding Model 2018/2019.
- ii. She advised Members that at the last Partnership Meeting, Members were advised that the Joint Committee had indicated that the 2018/2019 funding allocation to Belfast PCSP for its administration and operational costs will be reduced by 10% in comparison to the 2017/2018 year.
- iii. She further advised Members that since the March PCSP meeting the Joint Committee has confirmed that the Secretary of State has set out the 2018/2019 resources and capital allocations for NI Departments. The DOJ and the NIPB had to absorb a reduction of 2% in their overall budgets. The Joint Committee has however decided to protect the overall budget for 2018/2019.
- iv. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that due to this, South Belfast DPCSP budget for 2018/2019 had subsequently increased by £4,737.
- v. Following a discussion, the Safer City Coordinator suggested for Members to allocate the additional funding now added to the South Belfast DPCSP 2018/2019 to be reprofiled in to Small Grants Tranche 2.
- vi. Members noted the content of the report and agreed to reallocate the additional budget to Small Grants Tranche 2 in 2018 - 2019.

8. (D)PCSP Audit and Governance Arrangements

- i. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with an overview of the governance arrangements in place for the Belfast (D)PCSP's.
- ii. She asked Members to note the content of the report and support its implementation.
- iii. Members noted the content of the report as requested.

9. Emerging Issues

- i. No emerging issues were discussed.

10. Date of next meeting

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that the next South Belfast DPCSP Private Meeting would be held on Wednesday 30th May.
- ii. The Vice Chair thanked everyone for attending.