



Annual Report

April 2017 – March 2018



East Belfast DPCSP

**Belfast City Council
The Cecil Ward Building, 4 -10 Linenhall Street,
Belfast BT2 8BP**

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Chair's Report

As Chair of the East Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership (DPCSP) I am pleased to introduce the Annual Report which highlights the work of the Partnership during the period 1st April, 2017 – 31st March, 2018.

The East Belfast DPCSP is made up of Elected Members from Belfast City Council, Independent Members appointed by the Northern Ireland Policing Board and representatives from seven statutory agencies. It is this unique range of partners that continues to allow effective, collaborative work to be conducted both with our partners and in partnership with communities. This partnership approach and in particular working with communities is the key to success when endeavouring to address key issues relating to a wide spectrum of crime and anti-social behaviour.

In order to carry this work out the Members of the partnership work through a process of Outcomes Based Accountability that is designed to produce an effective Action Plan and one based on related statistics that evidence need. This process supports effective planning of work designed to address crime and other areas of concern. It also allows that work to be scrutinised through the effective monitoring of agreed outcomes and as such adds an additional layer of accountability to those groups funded by the East Belfast DPCSP to carry out work on its behalf.

Throughout my term in office I have enjoyed the support of all Members of the partnership as we strived to improve community safety and policing across all areas of East Belfast. We recognise that ASB and low-level crime remains an issue in certain areas and as such we know that there remains much work to be done. We continue the promotion of the need to report all crime to the Police so that they may effectively discharge their duties. It is worthy of note that our partnership financially supported over a dozen projects specifically aimed at improving community safety whilst providing an engagement at community level for police and that this type of engagement is only possible with the support from within those communities.

This Annual Report sets out how the East Belfast DPCSP has carried out its work in addressing issues as identified in its 2017/2018 Action Plan.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to commend the work of community groups and those volunteers who work tirelessly to improve the lot of those living in their areas. These groups and the volunteers within them help partnerships such as ours make a positive contribution to tackling local issues. This often requires the giving up of their time at weekends and evenings to support projects such as the DPCSP ASB commissioned work.

Councillor Mairéad O'Donnell
Chair East Belfast DPCSP
2017 - 2018

MEMBERSHIP OF EAST BELFAST DPCSP

ELECTED MEMBERS:



Councillor Mairead
O'Donnell (Chair)



Councillor Deirdre
Hargey



Councillor Sonia
Copeland



Councillor Carole
Howard



Councillor Aileen
Graham



Alderman Tommy
Sandford

INDEPENDENT MEMBERS:



Mr
Jonathan
Currie



Ms Lisa
McMaster



Ms
Michelle
Bryans



Mr
Steven
McMillen



Mr David
Geddis

STATUTORY MEMBERS

The following statutory organisations are represented on the East Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership:

- Education Authority
- Belfast Health and Social Care Trust
- Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service
- Northern Ireland Housing Executive
- Police Service of Northern Ireland
- Probation Board for Northern Ireland
- Youth Justice Agency of Northern Ireland

Strategic Objective 1 – To Successfully Deliver the Functions of the Policing and Safety Partnership

Action Plan and Local Policing Plan 2017/2018

During the reporting period 2017/2018, the East Belfast DPCSP has worked tirelessly to ensure that existing relationships have been built upon and new ones forged. Whilst the partnership recognises the need to support the work of community organisations in a partnership effort to address issues of crime and ASB they have also endeavoured to strike a balance between that support to smaller projects whilst building on the need to work in a more strategic manner supporting larger pieces of work. In order to achieve this the partnership has adopted the Outcomes Based Accountability (OBA) model which demands the evidencing of need and the application of agreed outcomes as a means of best ensuring effective delivery of work aimed at addressing that identified need. The police along with other strategic partners have played a key role in shaping work and that has ensured that a joined up approach has been adopted between the delivery of the Local Policing Plan, the East Belfast DPCSP Action Plan and the work of the other agencies in best ensuring mutually beneficial outcomes.

With specific regard to the Local Policing Plan, the East Belfast DPCSP were consulted by the Area Commander on the shape of the plan and changes made therein. The strategic priorities of the East DPCSP Action Plan remain aligned to the policing plan and as such, both are mutually supporting of each other.

A number of key outputs specific to the work of the East Belfast DPCSP are detailed below:

- The development of the East Belfast Action Plan for 2018-2019 embracing a continued multi-agency collaborative and strategic approach.
- Continued support to the shaping of citywide strategies through the attendance of both the Chair of the East DPCSP as well as input through the Chair of the PCSP who is a sitting Member of the East DPCSP.
- Financial support to a number of projects with a citywide footprint through the auspices of the Belfast PCSP.
- Submission to the Joint Committee of the draft 2018-2019 Action Plan for consideration and 2018-2019 Local Policing Plan for East Belfast.
- The further growing of partnership working through which all Members of the east DPCSP have an opportunity to contribute to conversations and shape the work of the partnership.
- Use of Facebook as a means of advertising forthcoming meetings of East DPCSP supported meetings such as PACT.
- The continued sharing of key pieces of information as a means of securing confidence in the work of the East Belfast DPCSP.

Engagement

Effective engagement remains a challenging area of work within the East Belfast DPCSP and in particular during times of perceived increased tensions over issues such as bonfires. Despite this sometimes challenging environment, the partnership worked hard engage with a wide range of audiences through both its support to the work of community groups as well as Members attendance at key groups and forums with the east of the city.

The partnership continues to support the East Belfast Tension Monitoring Group and the three PACTs that sit within east Belfast. This support (which includes the attendance of partnership Members at the various meetings across the city) has further strengthened relationships with groups, individuals and communities.

The East Belfast Tension Monitoring Group met monthly and the cross community nature of the group has allowed for positive conversations and effective information sharing to take place as a means of addressing emerging issues. As well as the attendance of East DPCSP Members, the group also has the support of the police and other elected Members who attend and input accordingly.

The PACT meetings met as detailed below:

- Titanic PACT - Met on five occasions
- Ormiston PACT- Met on four occasions
- Lisnasharagh PACT – Met on two occasions

Both of the aforementioned groups carry out sterling work and the PACTs in particular afford the Members of the DPCSP an opportunity to sit alongside key members of the community as well as members of the public in support of their efforts at addressing local issues. The East DPCSP also used one such meeting of the Titanic PACT in the Strand Cinema to have a public meeting at the start the PACT one. At this meeting a presentation was delivered by the police on the subject of drugs and Members of the partnership (including the Area Commander) where in attendance to discuss issues and field questions.

Additionally the East Belfast DPCSP also has representation on the following key groups which helps further ensure effective engagement across the east of the city and dealing with a wide variety of subjects:

- The Inner East Forum
- The East Belfast (EB) Youth Practitioners Forum
- The EB Drug and Alcohol Forum
- The Tullycarnet Neighbourhood Partnership
- Inner East Neighbourhood Partnership
- EB Parks Initiative
- EB Race Relations Forum

There follows a number of key outputs associated with the engagement undertaken by the East Belfast DPCSP:

- Increased public awareness of the work of the East Belfast DPCSP.
- Increased awareness across the voluntary sector of the work of the East Belfast DPCSP.
- The timely sharing of information with key partners in order to ensure effective, joined up responses to emerging issues
- Effective engagement with hard to reach groups such as older people sand young people through the auspices of partnership supported projects.
- Building of confidence amongst communities in East Belfast around the collaborative work of the East Belfast DPCSP, Police and Statutory Agencies.

- The attendance of Members at PACT meetings and the holding of public meetings has afforded members of the public opportunities to raise local issues directly with a variety of partnership Members.
- Presented opportunities for the timely sharing of information of crime statistics and trends through the auspices of the Policing Committee meetings and the Area Commanders bi-monthly report.
- Feeding into discussions at a local level on emerging issues through attendance of Members at a variety of community based meetings as well as established action groups and forums.
- Ensuring a footprint across all of east Belfast as well as feeding into conversations covering a variety of subjects as well as at all levels (strategic and operational).

Strategic Objective 2 – To Improve Community Safety by Tackling Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour – Theme: Local Delivery

East Belfast DPCSP commissioned a quotation exercise in order to commission work aimed at addressing ASB. Named the Youth Engagement Provision the work sought to address issues associated with the Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) throughout East Belfast through effective youth engagement, the employment of appropriate diversionary activities and putting in place projects that educate young people about the potential adverse effects of engaging in risk taking behaviours.

ASB Example Project

The East Belfast Community Development Agency (EBCDA) were awarded the work and they managed and delivered a highly effective, cross community and multi-faceted project over a number of months.

The project promoted cross community partnership work and the work included the following key components:

- A scoping exercise was conducted in order to identify and agree the areas within East Belfast that are experiencing a high incidence of ASB and which would benefit from this programme. The areas must be agreed with the Safer City Coordinator and Council's ASB Officer for East Belfast.
- Providing at over 30 targeted interventions with young people in the areas agreed above, refined through consultation with East Belfast DPCSP Members as directed by the Safer City Coordinator for East Belfast.
- Included a provision for a reactionary element to work delivery including a protocol (to be in place during the lifetime of the agreement) for initiating same.
- Linked in with council's Safer Neighbourhood Officers, ASB Officer and the police when required.
- Delivered a number of workshops to raise awareness amongst young people of the potential ramifications of engaging in ASB and other risk taking behaviours.
- Provided a number of diversionary programmes of activities (centred on key dates or times of increased tensions) for those deemed to be vulnerable to becoming involved in ASB and other risk taking behaviours or young people already engaged in such activities.

- Liaised with the other service delivery organisations that are commissioned by East Belfast DPCSP in order to identify opportunities for collaborative work.
- Liaised with the Street Pastors and other community voluntary organisations in order to deliver an all informed holistic approach to tackling ASB.
- Provided regular monitoring information tabled at the meetings of the East Belfast DPCSP.
- Provided a detailed written final report covering all activities and associated outcomes.

Drugs and Alcohol Example Project

Under Strategic Objective 2 the East Belfast DPCSP sought to address issues associated with the misuse of drugs and alcohol as well as supporting its partner groups in the delivery of appropriate educational packages. The Drugs and Alcohol Provision project delivered under by EBCDA sought to add value to the work of others in educating young people around the value of avoiding risk taking behaviours as well as diverting them from potential exposure to same.

EBCDA (working as an umbrella group for a number of other community groups) delivered a series of diversionary and intervention projects / pieces of work.

These projects/pieces of work were aimed at both complimenting the work of existing drug and alcohol services in East Belfast as well as adding value to the ongoing work of the East Belfast DPCSP in satisfying the requirements of its Action Plan. The work impacted in a positive and measurable way on the following key objectives and outcomes:

1. Confirmatory scoping exercise on drug and alcohol service provision in East Belfast.
2. A number of targeted youth interventions in areas (parks and open spaces) identified as being in need of such work through consultation with the police and the Safer City Coordinator for East Belfast.
3. Linked in as required and if appropriate with this council's Safer Neighbourhood Officers and the police.
4. Delivered a number of workshops (50% of which were delivered in partnership with other agencies such as the Police) designed to raise awareness amongst young children on the dangers of drug taking and alcohol consumption.
5. Provided a number of diversionary activities for those deemed to be vulnerable to risk taking behaviours.
6. Delivered 2 public events dealing with drug and alcohol issues.
7. Included a provision for a reactionary element to work delivery including a protocol for initiating same.
8. Provided monthly written updates for tabling at the meetings of the East Belfast DPCSP and the East Belfast Drugs and Alcohol Forum.
9. Met with the Belfast City Council Safer City Coordinator as required for the purpose of governance and reactive planning.
10. Provided a detailed written final report covering all activities and associated outcomes.

Domestic and Sexual Violence Project Examples

16 Days of Activism Seminar - This project was delivered by Belfast Domestic & Sexual Violence and Abuse Partnership and was a one day conference looking at stalking and the links with domestic

and sexual violence. It involved working in Partnership with the South Eastern Domestic Violence Partnership and included expert input from Laura Richards an international expert on domestic violence, stalking, sexual violence and risk assessment. She is the Founder and Director of Paladin, the world's first National Stalking Advocacy Service. Laura also developed the Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Harassment and Honour based violence (DASH 2009-2016) Risk Identification, Assessment and Management Model. The seminar saw over 80 attendees and was aimed at practitioners and those working in positions that would likely see them coming into contact with potential victims. The key aims of the day was to promote awareness and raise the profile of the issues discussed.

Onus - Onus Workplace on Domestic Violence empowers organisations and communities to recognise and respond to anyone affected by domestic violence or abuse. The Safe Churches project was delivered in 2 locations in East Belfast. Safe Place awareness sessions we hosted before each accreditation training session in order to encourage and enable all Churches to become Safe Places.

Young Enterprise NI (YENI) - YENI delivered its Quickstart programme to vulnerable young people aged between 14-18 years in the local communities of the Short Strand and Cregagh thus adding a cross community aspect to this project. YENI liaised with St Matthew's FC / Short Strand Community Forum and Cregagh Community Association in order to identify vulnerable young people who would be suitable for inclusion on the programme. This project will enabled vulnerable young people to take a product from initial concept through to market place. They used a hands-on methodology to learn about the different elements of business including the principles of marketing, finance, customer service. They attended a Trade Fair where they had an opportunity to showcase and sell their products to the general public. The project was designed to help boost the participants employability skills such as time keeping, team work, decision making, problem solving, communication and resilience.

ASB Signage- Signage for use in partnership with PSNI in and around identified hotspot areas in order to act as a deterrent and to also instil confidence within the community. A full audit of the various areas within east Belfast encountering high instances of ASB was carried out in order to best ensure that the signage was used in area based on a needs basis. The siting of these signs was designed to raise awareness on the issue of ASB as well as supporting both council and police in their efforts to combat it. The signs were sited (on occasion) in consultation with other groups to best ensure that their presence were promoted in a positive fashion.

Beat the Burglar - This project (adopted from a West Belfast DPCSP initiative) was designed to provide those most vulnerable of domestic burglary, particularly the elderly, a resource kit to provide crime prevention items for homeowners. The items are contained in kit-form and contains useful information and advice from statutory partners such as Police and NIFRS. The DPCSP worked in partnership with Crime Prevention Officers from the PSNI to ensure the affective distribution of the kits, identifying domestic burglary hotspots and engaging with local residents in order to best ensure that the resource was given to appropriate households.

East Belfast DPCSP Small Grants Programme

East Belfast DPCSP continues to promote the Small Grants process as an effective means of securing grass roots delivery of work. It does so, as work delivered by groups at the heart of their communities invariably adds value to the partnerships efforts to fulfil its obligations in satisfying the requirements of its Action Plan.

The following grants were made under Tranches 1 and 2:

PCSP Small Grants 17/18 Tranche 1			
Organisation		Project Title	Grant Awarded
Dreamscheme Ireland	Northern	Be More: Braniel	£4,569.50
Lisburn YMCA		Safer, Stronger East	£4,105.00
St Matthew's Football Club		Youth Diversionary Project Through Sport	£4,750.00
Cregagh Association	Communtiy	Young and Old	£2,108.00
Hanwood Centre		Hanwood Diverse Your Mate Project	£4,925.00

PCSP Small Grants 17/18 Tranche 2			
Organisation		Project Title	Grant Awarded
Bardic Educational Arts And Media (BEAM)		Cyber Safe - East Belfast	£4,558.00
Dreamscheme Ireland	Northern	Survive to Thrive (Braniel)	£4,676.00
St Matthew's Football Club		Youth Diversion Programme through Sport	£4,300.00
Ballymac Friendship Trust		Ballymac (Out & About)	£3,520.00
Cregagh Wanderers Youth Football Club		Play for the Community - Community Safety through Sport	£3,040.00

Strategic Objective 3 – To improve community confidence in Policing

Police performance has been monitored through the auspices of the Policing Committee meetings that were held bi-monthly. Members received the policing update report specific to East Belfast, one week in advance of the meeting in order to allow time for them to scrutinise it. At the meeting Members were afforded an opportunity to discuss the report and pose questions to the Area Commander. This sharing of information and the critical analysis of it has allowed Members to fully understand the story behind many of the headline statistics. The Area Commander has employed an open door policy to Members of the partnership and this willingness to engage at all times has allowed for the further positive development of relationships and afforded Members the ability (if required) to have context applied to emerging issues without the need to wait for the next meeting of the partnership.

East Belfast DPCSP Policing Committee Report for 2017/18

Report for the period: 1 April 2017 – 31st March 2018

How often has the Policing Committee met between 1 April 2017 and 31 March 2018?	The Policing Committee has met on six occasions
Did the Policing Committee receive a report from the PSNI District Commander at least twice during this period?	The Policing Committee received a hard copy report one week in advance of all meetings. A total of six reports were received. The Area Commander presented the report at each of the meetings.
Was the police report received at least a week in advance?	Yes
How was the report disseminated to the Policing Committee?	Through email, hard copy and presentation on the night by the Area Commander.
Was the report analysed and questions sent through to the PSNI District Commander in advance of each Policing Committee meeting?	The report was analysed and questions tabled at the meeting. No questions were raised in advance of the meeting.
During this period, did the Policing Committee ask for any additional reports from the District Commander on current or emerging issues?	No additional reports were sought.
When did the Policing Committee meet?	The Policing Committee met Bi-monthly and on conclusion of the Private Meeting of the DPCSP.
How were the Designated Members given the opportunity to comment on the topics considered by the Policing Committee?	Designated Members also receive the report a week in advance of the meeting. The Designated Members are invited to remain for the Policing Committee meeting on conclusion of the DPCSP Private meeting.
Has the Policing Committee held any public meetings during this period?	The Policing Committee held a themed Public Meetings dealing with the issue of Drugs. This

If yes, what was the theme?	meeting took place at the start of a Titanic PACT meeting (in order to best ensure an audience) and with appropriate permission from the Chair of that PACT.
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The East Belfast DPCSP continues to value the benefit of Policing Committee grants as a means of securing a platform of engagement for the police. As one of the essential criteria points in securing, a grant is the involvement of the police these projects have proven invaluable in helping to build confidence in policing within communities.

The following groups secured Policing Committee funding and delivered projects aimed at dealing with a variety of issues identified within the East Belfast DPCSP Action Plan:

- **Short Strand** - Summer Diversion Project worked with children, residents and 29 young people on 1 July. On 12 July, they 250 children and residents as well as 31 young women and 16 older women were engaged in the programme. There were no incidents at the Short Strand interface on these days and 20% of Short Strand Community Forum reported an appetite to work with PSNI on future events.
- **Lower Beersbridge Willowfield Residents Association** - Held an 11 July Celebration Party in Tamery Pass Car Park, attended by approximately 500 people. PSNI supported the group with advice on planning and traffic management. This acted as a diversionary project.
- **Gertrude Star** - Led an Inner East Cultural Cohesion Project which culminated in a parade which nearly 1500 people attended. PSNI met with the band in preparation for the event and follow up. EBCDA also supported the event by engaging with 70 young people in the night and undertaking a scoping exercise about youth engagement at parades.
- **Friends of Mullen Mews** - Led a project with 14 participants, 5 from St. Vincent's Primary and 9 older residents from Mullan Mews. This intergenerational project considered dementia awareness, a visit to the NIFRS, PSNI session with the dog squad and TSG, PSNI session about cyber bullying and an end of project session with St. John's Ambulance, a graphic artist and a drum workshop. 80% of the children and 100% of the older people reported an appetite to work with PSNI in future projects.
- **Ballymac Friendship Trust** - Held a cultural and historic awareness exhibit at the Ballymac Centre on 30 September to which 148 young people came and PSNI attended. 100% of the Ballymac Friendship Trust reported an appetite to work with PSNI on future projects.
- **Ledley Hall Boys and Girls Club** - Ran a PSNI Save Christmas project where officers from different teams including the dog squad met with the young people. The club ran a bike safe session at the local Halfords. Santa was brought to the Grotto in a Police vehicle (the snow was an added benefit).
- **Redcar Crafts** - Hosted the Crime Prevention Officer on 11 November with nearly 60 residents from Willowfield in attendance. All respondents reported that the event improved their confidence in policing and would make them more likely to report incidents to PSNI.

- **Dreamscheme NI and Braniel Community Association** - Ran an intergenerational Christmas Safety Night on 14 December attended by 50 people, 19 of whom were young people. 97% of respondents said the intergenerational Christmas Safety Night had improved their confidence in policing and they would all be more likely to work with PSNI on future projects.
- **Radius Housing Association** - Worked with residents to develop and promote the Ravenhill Shared Neighbourhood Winter Festival which had 150 participants. All of the respondents from both Cantrell Close and Global Crescent reported an appetite to work with PSNI on future projects
- **Connswater Community Greenway Trust** - Led the Eastside Christmas Market at CS Lewis Square on 14 December. Nearly 600 people came along and of the 20 questionnaire respondents 100% said that the project improved confidence in policing and they were more likely to report an incident to PSNI
- **St. Christopher's Church** - Led the Merry Across the Mersey project on 1 December attended by 300 people which included an intergenerational parade and light switch on. It seems to have improved relationships between PSNI, residents and partners with 82% reporting improved confidence in PSNI and 77% reporting an increased likelihood of reporting incidents to PSNI.
- **Hanwood Trust** - Ran Winter Twilight Soccer on Saturday evenings with a regular attendance of 25-30 young people each week. PSNI visited the young people throughout the project and YJA and IFA ran a workshop to stop racism. All of them reported an appetite to work with PSNI on future projects and that the project improved their confidence in policing.