



## **Annual Report**

**April 2017 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018**

**North Belfast District Policing & Community Safety  
Partnership**

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

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## **North Belfast DPCSP**

North Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership was established under the Justice Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 and is responsible for:

- engaging and consulting to help improve policing and community safety
- working in partnership with local communities, partners and agencies
- monitoring our performance and being transparent about what we have achieved, and
- encouraging cooperation with, and inspiring confidence in, the justice system and, in particular the police

This inauguration of North Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership was constituted in August 2015; the Chair is currently the Right Honourable Lord Mayor Councillor Nuala McAllister and the Vice Chair is Independent Member Jennifer Cornell.

North Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership is made up of elected and publically appointed independent members; with statutory designated officers from PSNI, Probation Board, Youth Justice Agency, Fire and Rescue Service, Education Authority NI, Belfast Trust and NI Housing Executive. Each PCSP is chaired by an elected Member, with the vice chair position held by an independent Member.

North Belfast DPCSP has developed an understanding of policing and community safety priorities within our designated boundaries using a range of appropriate consultation and engagement techniques; then we developed an annual action plan in order to address the identified issues. North Belfast DPCSP has been funded by the Department of Justice (DOJ) to deliver the action plan.

This annual report reflects progress from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 until the 31 March 2018.

### **We identified our local priorities in North Belfast to be:**

#### **To promote**

- Better partnership working
- Providing local leadership
- Supporting local delivery

#### **We have delivered a range of projects to tackle**

- Antisocial behaviour
- Fear of crime
- Drugs and alcohol
- Hate crime
- Supporting community confidence in policing

North Belfast DPCSP is supported by Belfast City Council and overseen regionally by the Department of Justice and the Northern Ireland Policing Board.

“PCSPs receive annual funding (£4.25m in 2018/19) from the Joint Committee (the Department of Justice and NI Policing Board) with a legislative aim to work with their local community to help address crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour issues.

There have been many examples of good practice highlighted to Joint Committee by PCSPs throughout the 2017/18 year which showcase the good work being carried out on the ground. Joint Committee has also

provided support to PCSPs to use an Outcomes Based Approach (OBA) as a more consistent and better means of measuring impact and improving transparency and accountability in the delivery of their work in local communities.

Whilst still early days, PCSPs are now routinely using all aspects of OBA in their work, with an action plan being completed using indicator and performance measure information; a project card template being used for each initiative and thematic report cards being submitted to Joint Committee every quarter from a governance perspective.

To support PCSPs in their transition to this new way of working, the Joint Committee developed PCSP planning guidance which incorporates the following:

- Information on the OBA process
- An action plan template which includes a review and summary synopsis to capture the rationale for continuing, amending or not progressing projects from one year to another;
- A set of agreed performance measures for generic projects;
- A project card template to be completed for each initiative;
- A thematic report card template to be used to help highlight impact at a more strategic level; and
- A framework showing how the work of PCSPs and their use of OBA supports the common Programme for Government Outcome 7 - We have a safe community where we respect the law and each other.

The NI Audit Office has also recognised the good work that PCSPs are doing with regard to using OBA and has included PCSPs as one of two case studies within the recently launched Performance Management for Outcomes good practice guide for public bodies – published on 15 June 2018.”

Kind regards

On behalf of Joint Committee

## Membership of North Belfast DPCSP

### Elected Members



Alderman Guy  
Spence



Councillor  
Nuala  
McAllister



Councillor Mary  
Ellen Campbell

Alderman  
Frank  
McCoubrey

Councillor Paul  
McCusker  
(Chair)



Councillor Mary  
Clarke

**Independent Members**



Michael Murray



Catherine Patrick



Jennifer Cornell  
(Vice-Chair)



Gerard Solinas



Gerald O'Reilly

## **Designated Statutory Partners**

- Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service (NIFRS)
- Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE)
- Probation Board for Northern Ireland (PBNI)
- Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI)
- Youth Justice Agency (YJA)
- Education Authority for Northern Ireland (EANI)
- Belfast Health and Social Care Trust (BHSCT)

## **Chairperson and Vice Chairperson's Report**

We are writing this report as the current Chair and Vice Chair of North Belfast DPCSP, which was formally constituted in August 2015, and we welcome this report about our activity from April 2017 until the end of March 2018.

Members of the North Belfast DPCSP remain committed to providing a fair and equitable service for all communities. Our partnership is comprised of elected and independent members, Council officers and representatives of statutory bodies including the Police Service of Northern Ireland, the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, NI Fire and Rescue Service, Youth Justice Agency, Probation Board, Education Authority NI and Belfast Health and Social Care Trust.

Much time has been invested by North Belfast DPCSP in understanding the challenges we face and agreeing how we will address them going forward. The diverse and unique nature of North Belfast means that we need to be flexible in the approaches that we take and we look forward to identifying opportunities for collaborative problem solving in year ahead.

You can see from this report that North Belfast DPCSP, by working in partnership with communities and statutory groups, was able to deliver practical improvements at a local level and I would commend everyone for their hard work. In our roles as Chair and Vice-Chair, we have sought to highlight the issues of concern to communities in North Belfast and influence what the citywide Belfast Policing and Community Safety Partnership did this year and has planned for in 2018/19.

We would like to thank all the Partnership members, and particularly the publicly appointed Independent Members who volunteer their time to improve policing and community safety in North Belfast.

**Councillor Paul McCusker**  
**Chair, North Belfast DPCSP**

**Jennifer Cornell**  
**Vice Chair, North Belfast DPCSP**

## **Safer City Coordinator's Report**

North Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership spent over £100,000 improving community safety during 2017/2018.

The Partnership continues to show leadership by bringing different groups and agencies together so they can play their part in developing real solutions to community safety priorities. This is most widely seen at public meetings, which have attracted more than 100 members of the public; topics have included Youth Engagement and Drugs and Substance Misuse in North Belfast.

The Partnership is further strengthened by the work it undertakes at a local level, often working with community and voluntary groups to understand the pertinent issues and develop the most appropriate response together. Small grants allow communities to design their own solutions and North Belfast DPCSP has supported a range of community safety projects this year.

It is significant that in North Belfast a number of local, community driven interagency groups exist who deal with problems that affect local people. Their work has to be acknowledged and we hope that we can continue to work in partnership with these groups in dealing with issues within the District.

I would like to thank all the DPCSP members for their insight, participation and leadership over the last twelve months and wish them every success in future.

**Richard McLernon**  
Safer City Coordinator

## Action Plan Report 2017/18

### Strategic Objective 1

**To Successfully Deliver the Functions of the North Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership; To ensure that North Belfast DPCSP operates effectively and in keeping with its statutory obligations.**

#### DPCSP meetings

North Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership was constituted in August 2015 and since that time members participated in several training sessions to enable them to operate successfully. The Partnership developed its Action Plan for 2017/18 and the North Belfast Local Policing Plan for the same period.

#### Supporting Belfast PCSP

We supported the Citywide PCSP to the benefit of North Belfast at the Christmas Crime Prevention and Safety Event in City Hall, which gave the public an opportunity to find out more about community safety in Belfast as well as the support available.

#### Support relevant policing and community safety networks (Greater Shankill Community Safety Network)

Last year we supported this group with meeting costs that would allow them to facilitate meetings between local residents and statutory bodies responsible for community safety in their areas.

The North Belfast Team also attended a range of other local interagency groups including:

- Ardoyne Interagency Group;
- New Lodge Safer Streets;
- Intercomm multi agency meeting;
- Lower Shankill PACT;
- Tigers Bay PACT;
- Ligoniel Community Cohesion Group;
- Lower Oldpark Interagency Group.

North Belfast DPCSP supported the establishment of a Site Management Process for the Girdwood Community Hub and undertook community impact assessments to support the identification of risks and actions to address them.

North Belfast DPCSP also supported the ongoing work of the Greater Ardoyne Tension Monitoring Group, and the establishment of the North Belfast Tension Monitoring Process.

### Strategic Priority 2

**To Improve Community Safety by Tackling Crime and Antisocial Behaviour (ASB); Work with DPCSP Members and community stakeholders to address policing and community safety issues across North Belfast to help people feel safer**

#### Small Grants

During 2017/18 North Belfast DPCSP invested £20,896.90 in 6 small grants:

Ballysillan Amateur Boxing Club	Ballysillan and Shankill - Ringside to Dugout Project	£3,971.00
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Ballysillan Youth For Christ Community Drop In Centre	Relate	£2,531.00
Ballysillan Youth For Christ Community Drop In Centre	Better Together	£3,059.40
Bardic Educational Arts And Media (BEAM)	Cyber Safe - North Belfast	£4,558.00
Forthriver Bowling And Tennis Club	Halloween half term street soccer	£3,290.00
Redeeming Our Communities Northern Ireland (ROCNI)	Safe Streets Project	£3,487.50

### **Anti-Social Behaviour**

North Belfast DPCSP funded 6 initiatives to address anti-social behaviour at North Belfast hotspots:

- **Enhanced Youth Outreach at Hotspots – Ardoyne Youth Enterprises**
- **New Lodge Outreach – New Lodge Youth Centre**
- **Benview ASB initiative – Benview Community Centre**
- **Whitecity ASB initiative – Whitecity Community Development Association**
- **Limestone United Project**
- **Dean Clarke Foundation – Youth Intervention Grove Park**

Whitecity Community Development Association said:

“Following on from the grant awarded by Belfast City Council DPCSP to Whitecity Community Development Association has be very welcome. The grant has enabled us to work with families in the community that have been causing ASB among themselves, which leads to young people getting involved also in ASB. So we started and programme with the local neighbourhood PSNI and the community organisation to address the issues. There were visits to the PSNI stations and sport events coached by the PSNI were at all the activities there was a talk about ASB in the community.

The adults used to avoid each other in the street or at the local school in fear one or other might say something and it would all start off again. So we brought in North Belfast Alternatives to do some mediation with them. This has now worked out well as all the parents are getting on great turn up together to watch the young people at their activities. The parents have now asked us could we not keep this ongoing over the summer and longer so the PSNI said they will try were possible to come to the centre and do some activities while the community group try and get some other funding to extend the programme wider.”

Ardoyne Youth Enterprises said:

“The Enhanced Youth Intervention programme allowed three youth organisations in North Belfast to deliver core outreach/detached and street youth support at times when youth services do not ordinarily operate. It provided support and engagement with at-risk young people on the streets , in parks, and public spaces, it provided safe drop-in spaces for young people to access, prevented property from being damaged, and addressed anti-social behaviour on small and large scales. Youth workers on the project escorted young people safely home, prevented young people from entering the criminal justice system, administered first aid, provided advice, signposted, made referrals, and often just provided a friendly ear. The pilot gave significant parts of the community respite from persistent anti-social behaviour. The project allowed the three delivery partners to develop closer collaborative relationships, increase communication between areas and personnel, improved peer-to-peer support amongst youth workers,

increased levels of area bank staff, enhanced logistical resources, developed productive relationships with residents and community stakeholders, tested shared programme delivery, and created new friendships between workers from the three youth organisations. It provided participants (young people) with a sense of safety and somewhere to go, someone to talk to. It provided safe accessible spaces for them to get in out of the cold, get something to eat, and meet existing and new friends. It allowed young people to engage with youth organisations, assess their offer, and improve their awareness of services and activities available to them. Many young people were surveyed on community safety issues and this allowed them to be heard and their concerns and priorities taken into account.”

### **Domestic Violence**

North Belfast DPCSP continued to roll out the Safe Church scheme along with East Belfast DPCSP, whereby Church leaders in North Belfast were trained in the Safe Place training programme. Onus said:

“There are currently eleven churches that are registered Safe Places within North Belfast with eight of these having achieved the Safe Church award and a further four churches that have expressed an interest in the Safe Church Initiative. The Safe Church programme enables churches to recognise and respond to anyone affected by domestic violence or abuse and signpost them to appropriate support services via the Safe Place Initiative. Currently there are five of the accredited Safe Churches who have expressed an interest in progressing to the Safe Church Domestic Violence Champions award which is the highest level of our Safe Church Pathway and represents a real opportunity for churches to be involved, via a lead DV Champion, with delivering the zero tolerance message, both to the wider church community and the community as a whole. Accredited Churches are provided with a Self Assessment Tool to assist them to progress along their Safe Church pathway e.g. form links with local WA Group/refuge and participate in fundraising and volunteering activities.”

### **Hate Crime**

North Belfast DPCSP has coordinated a North Belfast Hate Crime Thematic Group for several years. In the year 2017/2018, the North Belfast Hate Crime Thematic Group met on 6 occasions.

North Belfast Hate Crime Thematic Group developed a District Action Plan to address hate crime which included the following initiatives:

North Belfast Friendship Club. Initiation and support for the North Belfast Friendship Club – held weekly in the Houben Centre, Crumlin Road. This weekly drop in aims to build cohesion and create a safe space for refugees, asylum seekers and anyone experiencing social isolation in North Belfast. This initiative was nominated for an Urban Villages award in the year 2017/2018.

Launch of the North Belfast No Hate Here campaign. While the commitment remains to roll out this campaign to businesses and community organisations in North Belfast, procurement issues meant that we were unable to implement the initiative in the current year. The DPCSP and Hate Crime Working Group plan to implement in the year 2018/2019.

### **Community Tensions**

North Belfast DPCSP continued support for the Greater Ardoyne Tension Monitoring Group and for the formation of a North Belfast Tension Monitoring Process. The group has now agreed to focus entirely on North Belfast, as tensions in the Greater Ardoyne area have reduced significantly and it was felt that a wider approach is required to assess tensions across the District. The members of the group are drawn from the interagency groups who meet across North Belfast and also statutory agencies and other key stakeholders such as politicians.

The Interaction Institute for Social Change said:

“Impact of work with the North Belfast Tension Monitoring Group

The NBTMG took time out this spring to review its role and determine its purpose in the future. Through a process of facilitated workshops, the group has set forth its overall future direction. An initial assessment by the group suggested that there continues to be a valuable role for the group to play in relation to tension monitoring in North Belfast. However, it also agreed that it needs to refresh its ambitions and its membership. It now has plans to do so.

The Group has reaffirmed its commitment to the *Rowley tension monitoring model* which, at its core, is concerned with adopting a proactive approach and using *Community Impact Assessments* to develop and implement its work. It has agreed a number of immediate next steps including: communicating the group’s history and achievements to local communities across North Belfast; reconnecting with Linden Rowley’s more recent thinking in relation to tension monitoring (possibly through a capacity building workshop); and refreshing the membership.”

### **Drug and Substance Misuse**

North Belfast DPCSP appointed ASCERT to deliver a project providing drug and substance misuse support within North Belfast Advice Centres at two locations. This is being rolled out wider in the year 2018/2019.

In addition, North Belfast DPCSP supported Extern in the delivery of the Dry January and Feel-good February events in North Belfast.

North Belfast DPCSP also established a North Belfast Drugs and Alcohol Forum, which met for the first time in November 2017, and again in February 2017. The Forum is made up of a number of community organisations, statutory agencies and voluntary providers.

Extern said:

“The funding received from the DPCSP has allowed BDACT Connections to implement Mindful drinking events in local bars across communities in North Belfast. We were able to develop new relationships with bar owners and build on existing relationships with Healthy Living Centres and other local organisations to promote alcohol education, local services available to support concerns related to alcohol misuse and provide alternatives such as non-alcoholic drinks. By incorporating TAKE 5 campaign, we were able to offer other social activities to support reducing their alcohol content and feeling more included within their community.

Of the 54 Alcohol MOTS completed results were:

9 in Low Risk  
27 in Moderate Risk  
7 in Higher Risk  
11 in Highest Risk”

### **Suicide Prevention and Building Resilience**

North Belfast DPCSP funded two initiatives:

Shankill Hope Zone, which was run by the 22<sup>nd</sup> Old Boys organisation in partnership with Extern and a range of local organisations.

PIPS Hope Training Launch – which supported the launch in Girdwood Community Hub of a new training package developed by young people from North Belfast.

The 22<sup>nd</sup> Old Boys organisation said:

“Overall service users mental health and wellbeing has been improved through the Hope Zone Project, by providing listening ear 1:1 and complementary therapies and crisis de-escalation services to people presenting in need. As per the participant feedback, we have seen the difference this type of service has made to their lives. Participants fed back that they liked that there was no appointment necessary and that it was a walk in service and could get help right away. The participants also stated that “it improved my mental health and reduced thoughts of suicide” another client quoted “it was there when I needed help” “staff were supportive and friendly” “was a good service being able to get too after work”

### **Strategic Objective 3**

#### **To Support Confidence in Policing; People in North Belfast are confidence in the different roles and responsibilities within the Criminal Justice System**

North Belfast DPCSP delivered a number of Public Meetings with the aim of raising awareness and engaging members of the public on issues affecting the community. These included:

- **Drugs and Substance Misuse Event in Girdwood with a panel including PPS, BDACT, Coroner’s Office, and PSNI;**
- **Youth Engagement Event in Girdwood looking at issues including Drugs, ASB and Mental Health.**

In addition the North Belfast Policing Committee held a number of Private Meetings where the PSNI presented a report on progress against the North Belfast Policing Plan. Members of the Policing Committee were able to question the Area Commander on the targets and statistics as well as on the specifics of local policing operations.

North Belfast Policing Committee funded a number of Policing Committee projects including:

- Royal York Historical Society engagement with PSNI on 12<sup>th</sup> July
- Pensioners Project – Dean Clarke Foundation
- Bodybuilders Youth Club – Alexandra Presbyterian Church

Royal York Historical Society said:

"The engagement project between grassroots Orangemen and women and members of the PSNI and others within the setting of the "Twelfth" demonstration at Barnett's Demesne, has provided an excellent forum for dialogue and understanding over several years. We feel that it has helped the Police gain a greater understanding of the position of the Orange Institution, in particular within the contentious areas of North Belfast, and it has helped the Orange gain a greater understanding of the operational complexities of policing parades. The breakdown between the Orange Institution, the wider Unionist family, and the PSNI had become quite apparent following some high profile poor decision making on the part of some senior officers and particularly the Parades Commission. Having the forum in "field" on the "Twelfth" itself, provides a convivial and relaxed atmosphere for discussions on what can be sometimes strongly held beliefs and views, and at a time when such issues of passion and energy are at their height. We feel that a

level of understanding is being created at a low level which will pay dividends that will only increase with further engagement in the future."

PSNI working with the Dean Clarke Foundation said:

We had two projects funded by the DPCSP during the 2017/2018 period. All were very successful and a key part to reduction in ASB in the area. If we look at the asb issues within the parks I can safely say that the number of incidents in both the Grove/ Alexandra park and the interfaces around the Tigersbay area are significantly lower than the Waterworks/Bone hill. This is due in part to the funded projects. These projects allowed us to work with the kids who hang around these parks directly and build better relations. From this relationship building, it allowed our NPT policing team to easily engage with the youth we worked with in the parks and prevented a lot of the ASB. Also due to the fact that we got to know the kids from doing these projects it enabled us to identify them easily if they were involved any ASB and deal with it quickly.

As you know from local meetings such as the PACT and Duncairn Safety Partnership we were able to feed back the positive work that was done during these projects and highlight the fact that ASB in the parks was being managed and that on the whole there were very few incidents. This led to feelings of increased community safety and wellbeing.

Our pensioners' project continues to grow. It has now become a key project for a number of organisations such as social services, adult mental health, fire brigade and of course PSNI. This project focuses on the most vulnerable in our community. It allows us to build greater feeling of safety for them, increase community spirit, give important safety and wellbeing advice and classes to this vulnerable group. The group continues to grow and at our monthly tea dance, we now have up to 80 attending from all parts of the community. Partner agencies have hailed this as one of the most important community projects currently running in Belfast.

**North Belfast DPCSP Policing Committee Report for 2017/18**

**Report for the period: 1 April 2017 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018**

How often has the Policing Committee met between 1 April 2017 and 31 March 2018?	On 6 occasions
Did the Policing Committee receive a report from the PSNI District Commander at least twice during this six-month period?	Yes
Was the police report received at least a week in advance?	Yes
How was the report disseminated to the Policing Committee?	Through email and hard copy
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 presented during the Policing Committee Meeting
During this six-month period, did the Policing Committee ask for any additional reports from the District Commander on current or emerging issues?	Additional PSNI information was provided through working groups established through the DPCSP to address Hate Crime, and Drugs and Substance Misuse
When did the Policing Committee meet?	Before 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 received an update at the beginning of the DPCSP Meeting on issues arising from the Policing Committee. In recent months Designated Members have been offered the opportunity to attend the Policing Committee if they wish.
Has the Policing Committee held any public meetings during this period? If yes, what was the theme?	The DPCSP has held Public Meetings themed around drugs and substance misuse and youth engagement on a range of issues.
Has the Policing Committee held any local meetings (DEA or ward level) during this six-month period? If yes, please comment briefly on theme/issues raised.	None within the current financial year.