



## 2017/2018 Annual Report

<b>Content</b>	
	<b>Page</b>
Introduction	3
Statement from Chair and Vice Chair	4
Membership, 31 March 2018	5
Joint Committee Statement	6
Strategic Priority 1 - Effective Partnership	7
Strategic Priority 2 – Improving Community Safety	10
Strategic Priority 3 – Confidence in Policing	15

## Introduction

Belfast City Council established South Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership under the Justice Act (NI) 2011.

The Partnership is made up of 6 Elected Members nominated by Belfast City Council, 5 Independent Members who were selected through a public appointment process by the NI Policing Board and Designated Members representing key statutory organisation which contribute to improving policing and community safety.

Its role is to work in partnership to improve policing and community safety in the area by consulting with the community, putting in place, resourcing and measuring the difference made by projects and initiatives in the annual action plan.

South Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership's Policing Committee has a specific role. It advises the district commander of PSNI on any matter concerning the policing of the district. This includes monitoring the performance of the police in relation to the district and regional policing plans and to make arrangements to obtain the cooperation of the public with the police in preventing crime and enhancing community safety in the area.

South Belfast DPCSP's budget comes in the form of a grant from the Joint Committee of the NI Policing Board and the Department of Justice's Community Safety Unit. This is further enhanced with funding provided by Belfast City Council.

Staff support for South Belfast DPCSP and the projects it delivers comes from Suzanne Gowling, Safer City Coordinator and Rosie Hamilton, Project Officer in Belfast City Council.

## Statement from the Chair and Vice Chair

South Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership has had the same membership since 2015 and we have worked well together to make real improvements to policing and community safety in South Belfast.

Over the years, there has been significant consultation with adults at risk of harm, with residents in the South West Neighbourhood Renewal Area, Wider University Area and at neighbourhood level across the District.

This 2017/2018 Annual Report describes the work the Partnership has funded in response to our understanding of Policing and Community Safety Need in South Belfast.

We would very much like to extend our thanks to the community and voluntary sector partners who are instrumental to delivering these projects to some of the most vulnerable and disengaged people in our community.

The Members themselves all deserve commendation, and we would like to extend our thanks specifically to Aiden Hughes, Independent Member, who unfortunately resigned due to other commitments.

Melissa Spence who is the new Probation Board Area Manager has replaced Deirdre Grant. Paul McCombe has replaced Gary Ballantine from NI Housing Executive. Chief Inspector Gavin Kirkpatrick is very welcome to the table as a replacement for Robert Murdie who is now Acting Superintendent and we wish him every luck in his well-deserved promotion.

Members have participated in an outcomes based accountability planning process to develop the 2018/2019 Action Plan. We relish the challenges this brings and wish our replacements every success in improving Policing and Community Safety in South Belfast.

## **Members of South Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership, 31 March 2018**

### **Elected Members**

Councillor Lee Reynolds, DUP – Chair  
Councillor Deirdre Hargey – SF  
Councillor Donal Lyons, SDLP  
Councillor Emmett McDonagh Brown – Alliance  
Councillor Geraldine McAteer – SF  
Councillor Jeffrey Dudgeon, UU

### **Independent Members**

Richard Kennedy – Vice Chair  
Aleksandra Lojek  
Michael Boyle  
Paul McDonnell

### **Designated Members**

Belfast Trust – Yvonne McKnight  
Education Authority - Anita Duff  
NI Fire and Rescue Service – Michael Roberts  
NI Housing Executive – Paul McCombe  
Probation Board NI – Melissa Spence  
PSNI - Chief Inspector Gavin Kirkpatrick  
Youth Justice Agency – Dermot Magorrian

## Joint Committee Statement

“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.”

## Strategic Priority 1 - Effective Partnership

### Private Meetings

South Belfast District Policing Partnership held 10 Private Meetings and 2 Public Meetings in 2017/2018.

### Public Meetings

The Public Meeting on 24 January “Belfast as a Vibrant City and Policing and Community Safety Issues” attracted 18 people. Following presentations about licensed premises group; liquor licences and entertainment licences and the impact of events there was significant discussion. The community was encouraged to report all complaints so they could be included in considerations when the Licensing Committee reviewed applications for entertainment licences.

On 21 February, the Public Meeting to encourage Confidence to Report to Police attracted resulted in a letter being sent to the call centre manager to encourage reference numbers to be given to callers as a matter of course.

Some of the Members met with the community confidence workers for the South West Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership Area in May and September.

### Ballynafeigh PACT

Ballynafeigh PACT met 5 times throughout the year and debated a number of issues including

- Belsonic
- Drinking in public
- Inappropriate Parking
- Alleygates
- Graffiti
- Bins
- A report of a paedophile hunter approaching a man
- Christmas Safety
- Beat the Burglar and home safety information

### Wider University Area PACT

Wider University Area PACT met eight times during the year to progress delivery of their action plan to improve policing and community safety and quality of life for residents in the area.

WUA PACT's Public Meeting took place on 19 September 2017 and was Chaired by Richard Kennedy, Independent Member and Vice Chair of South Belfast DCPSP.

### The Wider University Area Capacity Support Project

South Belfast Partnership Board delivers this project which provides capacity support to the different groups in the Wider University Area.

A number of projects were developed by building local agreements and supporting participation.

An application has been submitted for long-term community development to Community Relations Council

Project applications:

- BCC Good Relations Grants for Horsey Hill pop-up village green and play space, and community green trail map – successful
- BCC Community Festival Fund for Spring Gathering 2018 - successful
- BCC outdoor/recreation grant in collaboration with Sara Barkley, Belfast City Council- successful
- Quotation 204 Community Guardian Programme for South Belfast DPCSP – not awarded
- NICRC small grant to follow up from the Reconciliation Fund Ireland project: Use documentary for preventative workshops in the areas where new students arrive – not decided to date

They delivered five community safety seminars as part of this project:

1. Alcohol awareness workshop
2. Creative Regeneration Workshop with Residents of Roma background
3. Circular Economy Hub Session - exploring how to create a sustainable community hub which can also provide training and employment opportunities.
4. Living Experience workshop and documentary screening
5. Co-design workshop on safe and shared play space with young people

3 newsletters - Content for 3 Neighbourhood Matters magazines in partnership with LORAG

#### **Steering Group Comments:**

All 14 (100%) of the groups supported by this project agreed that (D)PCSP support improved community safety in their area. The groups who were part of the steering group and actively involved in the project reported that:

- *“The support from The SBPB WUA Capacity Building worker has allowed projects to flourish throughout the community. It has brought those who share this community together, in ways that were unimagined and previously out of reach without this professional focus.*

*There is a noticeable positive change in attitude amongst those who wish for a more cohesive long term future for the area. This would not have been achievable without this support, which drives the community toward achievable goals that are changing attitudes and helping everyone to reimagine the area and their sense of place within it. This has also allowed many who share this community to buy-in to the changes and new ideas that they see happening.*

*It is important for this work to continue to build and sustain capacity, rather than disparate elements within this community reverting to the previously frustrating, ignorant and entrenched positions that were hard to break out of, without the time invested this vision.”*

- *“This project is the first formalised statutory support to SB Holyland area and is long overdue. It is much appreciated and is very successful in sparking off a whole series*

*of positive community initiatives that give residents some belief that they are being supported and valued. The DCSP funding needs to build towards acquiring future more extensive support for a full time worker and community hub that will completely regenerate the area. A great start has been made with this innovative project within a very short time period. Time to build on its success!"*

- *"The need for a capacity worker is critical to the future progress of the WUA area to develop, manage and deliver these opportunities for all."*
- *"It has helped improve community safety. Sophie does a great job getting projects off the ground and bringing together the communities. Keep up the good work."*

The community and many diverse groups in the Wider University Area has begun to work more closely and more coordinated towards a set of common and agreed goals, as articulated in the PACT action plan. Discussions through out the period have built on this action plan towards both more practical solutions and details on how to create a community hub, how to create a shared space and help improve the environment particularly for the local children.

But the discussions have also started to foster a more strategic way of thinking among the local community. This has particularly been sparked by the tension-reducing project funded by the Reconciliation Fund for Ireland. Following the documentary on the living experience and the anticipated transition study, coupled with successful events (Horse Hill and Spring Gathering) has sparked a renewed interest in the neighbourhood and created a push towards creating a shared neighbourhood where a proportionate balance of residents, tenants and students living in the area are well integrated and engaged.

Although ASB and other issues continue to cause problems there is now a growing sense of community and a belief that the problems can be reduced. A focus on positive media stories and social media - as part of positive and engaging events - has begun to manifest in the area and the community is now focussing on shaping a positive future, regenerating the area together and building a cohesive community. These are only the first steps and there is a long way yet to go, but the curve has turned and a renewed energy and vitalisation is growing in the community which is now beginning to take responsibility and ownership of the process and working more jointly, supporting the each other and the many initiatives that are springing up. This collective energy and active engagement has attracted interest from agencies and funders.

## Strategic Priority 2 - Improve Community Safety

### Adults at Risk of Harm

165 adults at risk of harm participated at 22 meetings and events.

They were given presentations and information about different policing and community safety topics which they all reported as beneficial. 100% of participants reported that they felt safer due to the project and 60% felt they were more likely to report incidents to the appropriate organisation.

Comments from participants include:

- *“Very interesting and learned some interesting things [Greater Village]*
- *Great. Very useful [Greater Village]*
- *Would like to look at domestic violence in the future. We just found out the number of domestic violence perpetrators and victims we have in our area. We were approached to help and need to know more. [Taughmonagh; Benmore and Finaghy]*
- *But who will help with the isolation. So many of them have nothing to do [Cross south Belfast staff member]”*

### Guardian Project

In 2016/17, South Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership (SBDPCSP) undertook a concentrated consultation programme with the community sector in the South West Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership area.

That exercise made some recommendations about projects that would help improve policing and community safety locally, one of which was to *“Consider commissioning of Community Safeguarding Project that addresses training and education needs of community leaders including safety and support planning to assist prevention, earlier intervention and support needs”*

The Guardian Project ran 12 sessions to 77 participants; all of whom reported that the seminar improved their awareness of the community safety topic, they were more confident in how to access appropriate support services and were more likely to report incidents to the relevant organisation following these sessions

### Hate Crime and Fear of Hate Crime Steering Group

In 2017/2018, the delivery contractor has experienced three changes of staff, use of different temporary offices and a number of other disruptions that made the delivery of the Hate Crime and Fear of Hate Crime Steering group very erratic.

In spite of this members have worked together to deliver the Into the Unknown - An Experiential Insight into the Journey of a Refugee small grant project. A draft action plan for 2018/2019 has also been proposed.

### WUA Project Delivery to support the St. Patrick’s Day Programme of Interventions

South Belfast DPCSP provided additional staff hours to enable the successful delivery of the Spring Gathering on St. Patrick’s Day and the Horsey Hill Project in the Wider University Area. 14 groups were supported to deliver 4 events with a total of 240 participants; clearly these results build on the hard work of the WUA Capacity Support Project described above.

Both the Spring Gathering and the Horsey Hill community green became catalysts for change and engagement - reigniting the community spirit, expressing the need and creating the evidence for a meaningful shared safe space.

Over 90% of the participants surveyed felt that the projects had made them feel safer using the area, and that the potential to grow the projects will have real impact on the community and counter some of the negative consequences of anti-social behaviour and low levels of community cohesion.

Anti-social behaviour was reduced in the area where the events took place, and there were no known incidents in the vicinity. The event areas were alcohol free and calm throughout, and were well stewarded; the families and children enjoyed themselves participating in the various activities.

A large majority of participants surveyed at the event reported that due to participating in the Spring Gathering they felt safer. One felt indifferent, and one didn't feel safer. One said that it had created a "totally different energy" Others reported that the event was "very helpful" in changing perceptions and use of the area.

Comments from participants:

- *'Very positive, great to see people coming together'*
- *'Improved social space to interact with neighbours'*
- *'Roma children were so well mannered, a pleasure to work with'*
- *'Better sense of belonging'*
- *'Brings people together, encourages a sense of community and reduces social insolation'*
- *'People living in the area don't often get the chance to engage like this'*
- *'The area is cleaner now'*
- *'Community spirit and more child friendly'*
- *'It could attract new residents'*
- *'Would like to see more opportunities for residents to interact'*
- *'Would like to see more events and creative solutions to help change attitudes throughout the area for positive long-term change'*

The activities helped the participants, of whom most were local residents and tenants, to image what the area can be, and how it can be used in a more positive and family-friendly way that fosters good relations and breaks down current barriers. The young people involved in the workshop shared valuable insight into how they would like to see the area develop, and how the area could work for them, as a safe space with increased integration with others. It was fantastic to see and hear this articulated by the young people themselves.

A group of students took part in a co-design session with the local residents and stakeholders. This has helped form new relationships and break down barriers between the many resident/tenant groups and different age groups. The students have taken an initiative to develop on the map concept to include more details and to continue to engage with an increased number of students living in the area so that they get a better understanding of the neighbourhood and the community they live in.

### **E-Pub**

Ulster University Student's Union promoted the E-Pub self-assessment of alcohol consumption tool during fresher's and key periods throughout the year, particularly the run up to St. Patrick's Day. It was closely tied in with their welfare work, but if any students were investigated for disciplinary activities, where alcohol may have been a factor, they were strongly encouraged to take assessment and consider the results.

### **Online Social Media Behaviour Training**

South Belfast Alternatives delivered a social media awareness raising seminar in partnership with South Belfast Youth League (SBL) around issues of acceptable online behaviours especially while using social media.

This has followed incidents of arranged fights; youths gathering in large numbers and taking part in risk taking behaviours, as well as unacceptable behaviours such as hate filled comments by young people on social media and online forums.

39 young people aged 13 and 14 attended the seminar where they heard presentations from PSNI, professional soccer scouts, Children's Commissioner and Alternatives to cover

- Consequences of homophobic and racist comments on a cyber platform
- Work on these topics conducted by PSNI and IFA
- Breakout sessions
- Talks from potential employers, including scouts from various professional football teams on the consequences behaviours online can have on employment
- Learning/comments

All of the young people said they would now think twice before posting hate messages considering this will effect on their future as they hadn't realised scouts and employers used it profile. The Children's commissioner give an example if you're not comfortable saying it on a megaphone outside the BBC think before you post.

### **Creating a Safer Ballynafeigh by Celebrating Diversity**

Working in partnership with the PSNI, Chinese Welfare Association and Northern Ireland Community of Refugees and Asylum Seekers Ballynafeigh delivered 3 anti-sectarianism and anti-racism workshops, police engagement workshops, ran a Small World event and the young people worked together to develop an art piece that explored these issues.

The participants said the project had changed their mind about people from different cultures and backgrounds as well allowing them to see PSNI officers as real people. The staff involved felt that there was a real shift in attitude, particularly from the young people most at risk of causing asb before the project. However they suggested more work was required to get the young people to feel confident in reporting to police directly, but they were more likely to report to their issues and concerns to the youth workers.

### **Sandyrow Diversionary Project**

This project used DJ courses and an introduction to digital fabrication as a diversionary vehicle to encourage 15 young people to move away from gathering in the local park. It also acted as an opportunity for local community workers to engage with these young people in a

neutral safe venue, and initiated a process of behavioural change by addressing several community safety topics.

80% of the young people reported they learnt something relevant by participating in the following workshops:

- Personal Consequences of ASB
- Community Consequences of ASB
- Drugs and Alcohol
- Sexual Health
- Confidence in Policing

### **Inclusion in Our Community**

Due to increased levels of asb against newcomers and BME residents around Empire Community Centre, the Education Authority delivered a community safety programme which included team building, ending hate training, myth busting about different ethnic groups and consideration of barriers to inclusion; and the project ended with a residential.

The young people reported that they felt that their community was better off because of the programme, particularly new comers. They felt they had a safe space where they can meet to discuss topics and gained a better understanding of themselves and the effect they have on others – particularly when they allow prejudice and stereotypes to dictate how they treat others

### **Greater Village Winter ASB Project**

In January and February young people from the TREE project participated in workshops about antisocial behaviour, feeling safe, community confidence and hate crime to develop an artwork discussion board.

The board was taken to local primary schools and youth clubs for de bate and discussion.

The young people in the project felt that it made a difference to the way in which they looked at vulnerable people within the community, themselves, their families and local businesses. PSNI's Neighbourhood Team have noted a reduction in asb calls from the project's target areas.

### **Safer Over the Summer**

In 2017/2018 LORAG operated a bonfire intervention project for 20 young people, half of whom were known to police and the diversionary residential on the 8-10 August was enhanced with talks about internment. The project also supported local family fun days and health days to provide positive activities for everyone.

The targeted young people felt that being on the residential helped them to stay out of trouble, they learnt more about internment and felt the time helped to build better local friendships.

GVRT's Project included a diversionary fun day for children and young people and a family focused day on 8 August. AnDroichead and Alternatives facilitated a Quare Criac programme to enable the young people to explore both Irish and Ulster Scots culture and

heritage. Tides facilitated a number of workshops and trips to War Years Remembered, the Somme Museum and a tour of historically and culturally relevant locations in Dublin.

## Strategic Priority 3 - Build Community Confidence in Policing

### Policing Committee Meetings

There were 5 Policing Committee Meetings during the year, each one with an Area Commanders report for full discussion.

### Public Meeting - Confidence to Report to Police

On 21 February, the Public Meeting to encourage Confidence to Report to Police attracted nearly 20 people to hear how PSNI receive to calls for service and how they determine the response the request will receive.

The discussion highlighted concerns about PSNI's follow up to calls, which Chief Inspector Kirkpatrick agreed to highlight internally. Further discussion resulted in a letter sent to the call centre manager to encourage reference numbers to be given to callers as a matter of course.

### Policing and Community Safety Small Grants

In 2017/2018, South Belfast DPCSP awarded 11 small grants assessed on a competitive basis following public open call. The grants fund community and voluntary groups to deliver projects to prevent, reduce or address antisocial behaviour or crime and help people feel safer.

All of the projects had direct involvement from PSNI Officers and provided the opportunity to build the participants' confidence in policing

Dreamscheme NI delivered **Be More, Belvoir/Milltown**. This project aimed to reduce anti-social behaviour, prevent crime, and help young people reach their potential, while helping elderly residents feel safer. The project was aimed at 30 young people aged 13-18 in the Milltown/Belvoir area and provided diversionary activities, educational workshops and positive trips

Old Stranmillis Residents' Association undertook a **local community consultation** to identify community safety concerns within the Old Stranmillis area through a community survey and work to strengthen the existing Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.

Ballynafeigh Community Development Association Created a **Safer Ballynafeigh by Celebrating Diversity**. They worked in partnership with the Chinese Welfare Association and Northern Ireland Community of Refugees and Asylum Seekers, they promoted and celebrated the diversity of the area and worked proactively with PSNI to improve community safety and good relations.

Lower Ormeau Residents Action Group (LORAG) delivered the **Youth and Children's PCSP Project**, which proactively engaged young people in the area on Friday and Saturday nights and extending centre provision to help reduce their risk taking activities. They were successful in both tranches of small grants so the project ran from April through to March 2018.

Lisburn YMCA delivered their **Safer, Stronger** programme in schools in south Belfast which recognised that children are part of their community, school and home. It adopted an ecological model providing risk and protective focussed information and support within each

of these domains to support the healthy development of the child at its centre, reducing likelihood of future engagement in antisocial activity.

Greater Village Regeneration Trust (GVRT) ran their **RESPECT Project**, which worked with young people, including the hard to reach to promote respect. Respect for one another and their bodies as well as cultural identity.

Romanian Roma Community Association of Northern Ireland ran a **Positive Intervention for Roma Teenagers**. It was a positive intervention program which diverted them away from the lure of negative behaviour associated with hanging around on the streets through education workshops and midnight soccer.

Bardic Educational Arts and Media (BEAM) delivered the **Cyber Safe** programme to primary schools in south Belfast. They were age appropriate, prevent and deter cyber safety drama based workshops to approx. 360 Key Stage 2 children. Teachers were furnished with a resource pack with hint/tips for parents and give copies to participating schools

South Belfast Roundtable, in partnership with South Belfast Alternatives delivered two refugee camp experiences in the **Into the Unknown - An Experiential Insight into the Journey of a Refugee**. One camp was for young people recruited via SBA and the Youth Safety Partnership. The second was for key stakeholders through the SB Hate Crime Steering Group and offered to members of SBDPCSP.

Dreamscheme ran a second project in Belvoir and Milltown which was called **Survive to Thrive**. It worked to prevent and reduce the number of young people from Belvoir/Milltown getting involved in anti-social behaviour and the criminal justice system. The project also helped young people make positive choices and build relationships in their community through participating in community activities, including intergenerational events.

### **Police Led Projects**

South Belfast DPCSP is committed to enabling police officers to work directly with local groups to build dialogue and community confidence in policing. The Police Led Projects allow significant responsiveness and flexibility and in 2017/2018 they enabled the initiatives detailed below.

#### **Community Safety Newsletter – GVRT**

GVRT has compiled and distributed a community safety newsletter around the Village Area. PSNI have confirmed that they are pleased with the content

**PSNI Lead Officer:** Constable Brian Carroll

#### **Transport costs for young people at risk to attend PSNI Soccer School**

Diversionary soccer programme took place at Newforge, 3 – 7 July and they offered 6 places to PSNI for children from South West area. The young people were identified by PSNI and community representatives.

**PSNI Lead Officer:** Constable Con Brian Carroll

#### **Winter Safety Project (part of Greater Village Winter ASB Project)**

Up to £500 towards the Winter Safe Fun Day & safety workshops with PSNI for 100 children (P5-P7) from Donegall Road & Blythefield Primary School with members of the Neighbourhood Policing Team in Attendance.

**PSNI Lead Officer:** Constable Brian Carroll

#### **Trans Centre Police Engagement Event**

Neighbourhood Policing Team for Botanic have started to meet with the Trans centre and have identified issues in terms of willingness to report issues and confidence in police to respond. As a follow up, members of the Trans community who use the centre will be invited to an evening discussion with the NPT members.

**PSNI Lead Officer** Constable Davy Reynolds

#### **RADAR Visit for Somalian Association NI**

Neighbourhood Policing Team for Botanic has been working with the Red Cross and women in the Somalian community. 25 people will use a visit to RADAR to encourage confidence in using public services; particularly reporting to PSNI

**PSNI Lead Officer:** Constable Ciaran Duffy

#### **PSNI/ NIFRS Postcard for Beat the Burglar Boxes (BTB)**

New Beat the Burglar Boxes have been ordered by Paul Cleary, this includes PSNI/NIFRS Postcards that SDPCSP commissioned in 2016/17. 2,500 Postcards have been ordered on 16/03/18 as NIFRS phone number needs amended.

**PSNI Lead Officer:** Robert McMurrin (PSNI Crime Prevention Officer)

#### **Social Media Awareness for a Digital Generation**

Awareness raising pop ups were produced from the learning gleaned at the Keyboard Project which was run by South Belfast Alternatives.

**PSNI Lead Officer:** Constable Brian Carroll