



Annual Report

April 2017 – March 2018



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

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Chairman's Report

As the Chairman of the West Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership (DPCSP), I am delighted to welcome the publication of our Annual Report for the year 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018.

The Partnership, which came into effect on the 1st April 2012, saw the merging of the former District Policing Partnerships (DPP) and the former Community Safety Partnerships (CSP) in order to deliver a more consistent and cohesive approach to tackling issues around policing, crime and anti-social behaviour.

Members of the West Belfast DPCSP remain committed to providing a fair and equitable service for all communities within West Belfast. It works in partnership with other statutory bodies and groups such as the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, The Police Service of Northern Ireland, the NI Fire and Rescue Service, Youth Justice Agency, Probation Board Northern Ireland, Belfast Education and Library Board and the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust.

To ensure effective, transparent and accountable delivery of the Partnership's objectives, the DPCSP also includes community-designated representatives, from existing local structures, who add value to the overall effectiveness of the Partnership.

As Chair of the Partnership, I am delighted to lead a multi-agency partnership that has focused on delivering projects that support a Safer West Belfast. Our Partnership is keen to improve the safety of all those living in West Belfast.

Alderman Brian Kingston

Chair - West Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership
2017-2018

MEMBERSHIP OF WEST BELFAST DPCSP

ELECTED MEMBERS



Councillor Brian
Heading



Councillor Matt
Garrett



Councillor Billy
Hutchinson



Councillor Chris Mag
Gimpsey



Alderman Brian
Kingston



Councillor Stephen
Magennis

INDEPENDENT MEMBERS



Elizabeth Groves



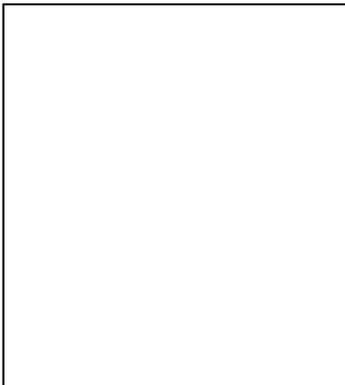
Ms. Breige
Brownlee (Vice Chair
From May 2018)



Claire Canavan (Vice
Chair)
Resigned February
2018



Mr. Eoin McShane



Lauren Slane
(Photo not available)

STATUTORY MEMBERS

The following statutory organisations are represented on the West 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

DESIGNATED COMMUNITY MEMBERS

The following Community Designated Members represent Strategic Community Structures across West Belfast and are:

Michael George – Colin Community Safety Partnership

Paula Kerr – Upper Falls Community Safety Forum

Micheal Donnelly – Greater Falls Community Safety Forum (To April 2018)

Aisling Heath – Professional Witness (West) June 2018

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 West Belfast DPCSP has continued in its efforts to promote the building of relationships with community groups, other partnerships specific to West Belfast and new emerging groups. The partnership has continued to recognise the need to strike an appropriate balance between this work and actual deliverables at a local level. Members have engaged with and promoted Outcome Based Accountability (OBA) principles in all their strategic engagements and laid the foundation for community compliance with the requirements of the new DPCSP accountability process. Throughout the year, Members of the partnership have played an active role in the development of new and stronger strategic relationships within West Belfast. This strategy has cemented the relationships and joint working of the Partnership and community safety structures which, in turn, have affectively ensured the longevity of joint, strategic working in relation to community safety issues and relations with Police within West Belfast.

Members have also ensured that the West Belfast DPCSP Action Plan and the Local Policing Plan mutually supported and complimented one and other through their strategic direction and complimentary outcomes.

The partnership has continued to work closely alongside our Statutory Members to make their role more pro-active about addressing relevant issues in a joined up way. This in turn ensures an effective response to the needs of the community through the encouragement of better partnership working and the better utilisation of a community assets based approach.

The Partnership continues to respond, where appropriate, to emerging or emergency issues in a swift and affective manner. Members have ensured that constant engagement occurs between relevant partner agencies to affect strategic solutions to critical situations. Members have also taken into account the need for strategic planning concerning re-occurring events and believe that the development of the 2018/2019 Action Plan, reflects this initiative.

Key Outputs:

- The development of the West Belfast Action Plan for 2018-2019 with a continued multi-agency collaborative and strategic approach.
- Continued support and involvement in and for citywide strategies delivered through the Belfast PCSP.
- Partnership working in which all Members contribute allowing their respective organisations to recognise the value and benefit of a multi-agency and strategic approaches in securing positive outputs and outcomes.
- Submission to the Joint Committee of the draft 2018-2019 Action Plan for consideration and 2018-2019 Local Policing Plan for West Belfast with appropriate partnership input.
- Effective use of all media platforms as a vehicle for promoting the work of the Partnership and sharing critical messages in response to the work of the Partnership.

- Through the involvement of local community designated organisations, the Partnership ensures that its work is relevant and feeds back directly and affectively to the community, through these structures.

Engagement

The West Belfast DPCSP has continued to work hard in order to develop and consolidate appropriate relationships with key change champions and community groups. This has been achieved in part through increased contact between groups funded by the West Belfast DPCSP and the Partnership staff team and Coordinator, who in turn pro-actively promote, amongst the community, the benefit of partnership working. These ongoing and developing relationships ensure that projects are affectively delivered both to address immediate need within West Belfast but also to ensure that the Partnership spend is accountable, transparent and affective and that change and impact are measured, recorded and learned under the auspices of the OBA process.

The Partnership has actively encouraged sustainability and long term development in the delivery of its projects. This strategy ensures that the delivery and learning from projects is maximised and promoted within the rest of the sector, both in West Belfast and City wide, so that good practice, effectiveness and strategic thinking is promoted. Members are in the final stages of implementing a four year strategy, which has seen these more strategic initiatives 'bed in' and be tested, prior to any new constitution of DPCSPs in 2019. The objective of the strategy was to develop capacity within strategic and local organisations to better respond to the needs of their respective areas of delivery, whilst also breaking down some of the historical and political misconceptions concerning the work of the DPCSP and Police.

West Belfast DPCSP and its staff team continue to engage with a wide variety of local groups involved in all aspects of Policing and community safety initiatives. In order to reduce ASB and crime, enhance community safety and build confidence in Policing within communities the West Belfast DPCSP has engaged with an extensive array of groups and organisations over the reporting period.

The West Belfast DPCSP has held a number of public engagements during the reporting year. These engagements are generally themed to relevant strategic and emerging issues within West Belfast. These issues have included Drugs and Alcohol, Domestic Violence, Transient Youth, the vulnerable and elderly as well as addressing ASB, crime and the fear of crime. These public engagements allow community members to engage fully with the structure and processes of the Partnership and also to promote access to elected Members and Policing, at multiple levels.

Key outputs of public meetings and engagements:

- Increased public awareness of the work of the West Belfast DPCSP.
- Increased public awareness around key and emerging issues as dealt with through themed and partnership sponsored meetings.
- Building of confidence amongst communities in West Belfast around the collaborative work of the West Belfast DPCSP, Police and Statutory Agencies.
- Presenting opportunities for members of the public to pose questions directly to partnership Members.
- Engagement with hard-to-reach communities and sections such as older people and young people.

- Sharing of information around crime statistics through the presentation of reports at each of the meetings by the PSNI's Area Commander for West Belfast.
- Affording local people direct contact with other agencies such as the 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 and the Youth Justice Agency of Northern Ireland.

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

West Belfast DPCSP Small Grants Programme

West Belfast DPCSP continue to recognise their Small Grants Programme as an effective means of supporting community based organisations who have the capacity to deliver projects tackling issues around confidence in Policing, crime and anti-social behaviour. The West Belfast DPCSP Small Grants Programme also empowers local communities to affect the change needed in their areas and adds significant value to other work. West Belfast DPCSP has consistently been the most oversubscribed Partnership in Belfast for Small Grants and regularly consider supporting additional projects when Small Grants funding is exhausted. During the reporting period, small grant awards were made over Tranche 1 and Tranche 2 to the value of £46,955.80. Members are confident that the number and value of awards made is a clear indication of the success of Partnership engagements and consultations and strategic development of relevant and strategic relationships with organisations and initiatives across West Belfast.

Awards made under Small grants Tranche 1:

• Footprints Women's Centre	£4,420.40
• Ulster Wildlife Trust	£4,953.20
• Poleglass Community Association	£4,040
• Lisburn YMCA	£4,695
• Colin Neighbourhood Partnership	£3,183
• Gleann ABC	£3,900
• St Paul's ABC	£4,590
• St Oliver Plunkett	£3,000

Awards made under Small grants Tranche 2:

• Bardic Educational Arts and Media	£4,558
• Footprints Women's Centre	£4,616.20
• Poleglass Community Association	£5,000

Under Strategic Objective 2, and the theme of ASB, the West Belfast DPCSP has a number of strategic work streams to address specific recurring issues. These work streams include:

- Management and coordination of an Unwanted Bonfire Strategy for West Belfast.
- The commissioning of Community lead service delivery to address community safety issues at a district level, youth engagement and the reduction of ASB.
- And to provide an appropriate and effective response to emerging or emergency issues

Unwanted Bonfires:

During the reporting period the Partnership continued to address the issue of unwanted Bonfires through the auspices of its unwanted bonfire sub-group. The sub-group met on the lead up to the 2017/18 August Unwanted Bonfire season to develop strategies and interventions in regard to the subject. As well as the continued delivery of an unwanted bonfire action plan, the sub-group supported a number of diversionary activities, which were used to dissuade young people from building unwanted bonfires and engaging in the associated ASB in and around historical bonfire sites. As part of the Partnerships overall bonfire strategy, a similar Action Group continued to coordinate strategies around July bonfires and particularly in relation to historical community tensions around the M1-Broadway areas. This group continued to facilitate and coordinate a multi-agency approach to strategies and interventions to reduce tensions in that area. The group continues to show success, with no tensions or community conflict in the area for the last number of years.

Commissioning of Community lead service delivery:

Through a quotation exercise the West Belfast DPCSP, annually commissions strategic organisations within West Belfast, as part of its on-going Community Safety Strategy, to see out and develop actions to address this strategic objective. During this period, Falls Community Council again successfully secured this piece of work. The commissioned project were tailored to provide the essential strategic development of a community safety structures across west Belfast as well as to consult with local residents associations and relevant agencies to identify gaps in provision across the district.

An appropriate and effective response to emerging or emergency issues:

During the reporting period a number of interventions were developed and delivered in regard to responses to emerging issues. These interventions were generally based around the issue of ASB and associated negative behaviours. These interventions included a number of diversionary activities and youth initiatives, additional youth providers' hours to support other youth interventions and to further develop and support other community safety strategies. During the reporting period, two particularly innovative youth engagement pilots were developed for two hot-spot areas in the district. Pilots in the Lenadoon and Falls Park areas were evaluated externally and deemed best practice models. It is hoped that the models identified will be promoted across all districts in the 2018/2019 reporting period.

Overall Action Plan project delivery

The following projects are an example of projects supported through the delivery and resource of the 2017/18 Action Plan:

1. **Saints Youth Club:** successfully diverted more than 30 local young people from collecting for an unwanted August bonfire, diverting 51 of them to a concert in Falls Park and engaging more than 50 residents in a barbeque.

2. **Upper Springfield Resource Centre:** August Diversionary programme incorporated a included a Rio Ferdinand Play Park League, arts and craft activities, fund day and a big family health and fun day on 8 August; finishing with a youth camp out on Black Mountain on 10 August. Approximately 2,100 local residents were engaged and both unwanted bonfires were prevented.
3. **Colin Youth Engagement & Diversion:** 150 identified young people were engaged and diverted over the August Bonfire period. The project utilised a number of strategies including outreach workers, workshops and BBQ events to attract participants.
4. **Falls Residents Association:** 15 hard to reach young people were engaged in a community support and clean-up project over the August Bonfire period. The participants helped other local residents to repair local fencing etc as a way of reducing negative perceptions of young people.
5. **Willowbank Diversionary:** Sports diversionary activities were delivered to 76 young people in the Beechmount/Willowbank area over the August bonfire period.
6. **Colin Glen Trust:** A three-month youth engagement project was delivered through Colin Glen Trust outreach team to explore new ways of affectively engaging with 'hard to reach' young people in and around the Lenadoon area. The project delivered 240 hours of outreach work at peak times and delivered an analysis report, written by Queens University, upon completion.
7. **Drugs Panel Initiative:** Due to the on-going issue of Drug and alcohol mis-use and the impact this issue was have on residents and the district as a whole, the west DPCSP worked with local Elected members to support a West Belfast Drugs Panel. From October 2017, the panel engaged with numerous structures, both statutory and community based, to ascertain the detailed impact that the subject matter was having on west Belfast. 27 consultation sessions were held with Governmental, statutory and other relevant agencies to gain the widest view possible, whilst also ascertaining current resource to address the issue. 15 families who had been directly affected by the negative impact of drugs and alcohol were also consulted with. Some of the families engaged with had suffered a personal bereavement as a result of usage. The report has been publicly launched with favourable publicity and acceptance.
8. **Falls Park Youth Engagement Pilot:** The pilot engagement strategy was innovative in that it was developed as a direct result of west Belfast PSNI Neighbourhood teams (NPT's) and local youth providers working together to address serious ASB and vulnerability involving young people primarily in and around the Falls Park and City Cemetery sites. The project delivered 6 hours of detached outreach work twice a week at peak times over Friday and Saturday nights and was delivered by teams of youth workers from each of the clubs on a rotating basis. Police were also involved in engagement with the youth workers on each of the delivery occasions. Final monitoring will show that, on average, 80 young people were engaged with and also sign-posted to other support services on each delivery night. The initiative also was responsible for deterring the suicide of one young person. As part of the

project, youth workers were provided with DPCSP branded clothing to enhance opportunities for young people to recognise a responsible point of contact, if they were feeling vulnerable. Youth workers were also provided with safety and first aid equipment to assist where necessary.

9. **RAPID Drugs Bins:** Historically drugs bins were not common practice within west Belfast, given some concerns in relation to the role of statutory agencies in the management of said bins, along with the fear of increased crime in the premises where bins were situated. After lengthy discussions and relationship building between DPCSP, PSNI and local businesses, a bin was eventually situated in the Kennedy Centre in west Belfast. The success of this particular bin surpasses any other bin in Belfast at this stage.
10. **Beat the Burglar:** The west Belfast 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 with useful information and advice from statutory partners such as Police, NIFRS etc. The DPCSP worked closely with Crime Prevention Officers from the PSNI to ensure the effective distribution of the kits, identifying domestic burglary hotspots and engaging with local residents to provide the resource. In west Belfast almost 800 kits were distributed and due to the success of the campaign the other three Belfast districts also adopted the strategy, resulting in over 2600 kits being distributed citywide.
11. **Dunmurry Interventions:** Following a prolonged surge in ASB in and around the Dunmurry Train Halt, Members of the DPCSP approved for a strategic multi-agency approach to be developed to address the issue. Large numbers of young people were engaging in very negative behaviours in the area, which included 'touching trains' as they passed. Through the engagement with other relevant statutory and community organisations, an approach was agreed and resources were put into the area for three weeks, at peak times, to engage and divert vulnerable young people from the area and lessen the impact on the local community. The activities were led by the DPCSP Officer team and employed a number of interventions such as additional youth workers hours, off-sales visits to deter businesses from supplying alcohol to minors, The SOS Bus was also used to engage and provide advice to vulnerable young people, as well as additional and coordinated resource from local PSNI teams. As a standard model of emergency response, the initiative proved very successful.
12. **St Patrick's Day Diversions:** Historically St Patrick's day increases the likelihood of young people engaging in ASB fuelled by alcohol & drugs. This regularly occurs more so in and around the Falls park and City cemetery sites in west Belfast. To provide diversionary alternatives for both young people and families in the area, the DPCSP Officer team coordinated two local interventions in partnership with local providers. St Galls GAA Club, which faces onto the sites in question, facilitated the delivery of a family fun day, which involved Police and community. The event was delivered over the afternoon period and also combined a Camogie Tournament for local GAA Clubs to take part in. An additional diversionary event was also delivered through a local Youth Centre, encouraging young people away from negative behaviours in and around the area. Testimonials from local Police Officers have confirmed that the 2018 St Patrick's Day was the quietest that they could remember in west Belfast.

Quotation Exercises

- **Falls Community Council** - Community Safety and Confidence in Policing – Delivery of Localised Services - £27,999
- **Beat the Burglar** – Kits to support the local community to reduce the possibility of burglary - £10,000
- **ASB Signage** – Signage for use in partnership with PSNI in identified hotspot areas to act as a deterrent and to also instil confidence within the community.

Strategic Objective 3 – To improve community confidence in Policing

Monitoring the performance of the police.

West Belfast DPCSP convened bi-monthly meetings of its Policing Committee in order to fulfil the responsibility to enhance public confidence in policing through its work in monitoring police performance.

At these meetings, the Members of the DPCSP have the opportunity to question the Area Commander on the monthly, quarterly and annual performance reports. Members also utilise this platform to raise issues by members of the community affecting policing in West Belfast.

The positive and proactive relationship Members' have enjoyed with the Area Commander allow emerging issues to be raised outside of the structured Policing Committee meetings ensuring that they are dealt with in a timely and corporative manner. This relationship also allowed for effective interventions to be considered in response to emerging and emergency issues as well as changing priorities.

Key Outputs:

- 6 Policing Committee Meetings;
- 6 PSNI monthly reports;
- 4 PSNI quarterly reports;
- 1 Local Policing Plan discussion;
- 1 Public Meeting presenting an overview of new policing structures
- 2 Themed Meetings to consult on local issues.

Policing Committee Funding

Policing Committee funding was allocated to West Belfast Policing Committee to allow the commissioning or funding of projects that directly involved police participation as part of the delivery within a project. These projects allow for direct engagement between project participants (generally hard to reach groups) and the police. The direct involvement of the police and the associated interaction allowed for relationship building as a means of further developing local confidence in policing. During the reporting period, only one project was funded concerning Policing Committee funding. Members believe that the affective consultation, partnership approach and strategic

distribution and award of other Action Plan monies addresses the promotion of direct work and engagement by and with Police in West Belfast.

Policing Committee Supported Projects:

- 1. Colin Primary Road Safety Project:** This Police led project engaged with a number of primary schools in the Colin area of west Belfast and provided a poster competition, which allowed local Police to engage with primary age pupils to promote road safety. The project also involved trips for the pupils to the RADAR Centre so that they could participate in scenario based learning to increase the impact of the engagement.

Strategic Objective 3 – To improve community confidence in Policing

West 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?	On 6 occasions
Did the Policing Committee receive a report from the PSNI District Commander at least twice during this 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, hard copy and presentation.
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 period, did the Policing Committee ask for any additional reports from the District Commander on current or emerging issues?	Additional reports requested for :- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prescription drugs • Burglary trends and hotspots • ASB local analysis • Call Handling analysis • Abandoned Vehicle and Recovery information.
When did the Policing Committee meet?	At the conclusion of the Private Meeting of the DPCSP (Bi-monthly).
How were the Designated Members given the opportunity to comment on the	Designated Members received a PSNI update at the private meeting of the Partnership.

topics considered by the Policing Committee?	
Has the Policing Committee held any public meetings during this period? If yes, what was the theme?	The DPCSP held themed Public Meetings concerning Domestic Violence and ASB