

# Minutes of South Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership

## Policing Committee

Tuesday, 4th February 2014, 5.00pm  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor HR Conference Room, City Hall, Belfast

Political Members	Independent Members
Cllr. Deirdre Hargey (Chair)	Ms. Debbie Hammill
Ald. Tom Ekin	Mr. Trevor Greer
Cllr. Kate Mullan	Ms. Nuala Toman
Statutory Designated Bodies	
Chief Inspector Gaby Moran	
Belfast City Council Staff Present	Apologies
Denise Smith, Safer City Coordinator	Ald. Ruth Patterson
Saranne Gallagher, Partnership Support Officer	Cllr. Máirtín Ó Muilleoir

### 1. Welcome & Routine Matters

- i. The Chair, welcomed all Members to the Policing Committee Meeting of the South Belfast DPCSP.
- ii. Apologies were noted for Ald. Ruth Patterson and Cllr. Máirtín Ó Muilleoir.

### 2. Minutes and Matters Arising

- i. The Minutes of the South Belfast Policing Committee Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> December, of which copies were previously circulated, were taken as read and correct.

### 3. Area Commander Update

- i. The Area Commander provided Members with updated figures until the end of January 2014. The Area Commander commented that the overall level of crime at this date showed an increase of 11.4 %.
- ii. The Area Commander commented that there had been an increase of 10% in victim based crime.
- iii. The Area Commander commented that the number of sexual offences had been reduced by 9.3% (12 fewer victims) and that the level of rape crime had also decreased by 19% (6 fewer victims).
- iv. The Area Commander further commented that non domestic burglaries had decreased by 7.9% and also shoplifting had decreased by 5%.
- v. The Area Commander commented in comparison to this time last year, there had been an extra 185 burglaries of residential houses within South Belfast (Increase of 18.8%).

- vi. The Area Commander also advised Members that while violence with injury had fallen by 1.5% violence without injury had significantly increased by 27%.
- vii. The Area Commander commented that up to the end of January there had been an extra 33 robbery offences which resulted in an increase in this crime of 17%. The Area Commander commented that one of the areas affected by this crime is around Shaftesbury Square particularly at night time.
- viii. The Area Commander advised Members that public order offences had fallen by 18% (or 21 fewer offences).
- ix. The Area Commander highlighted that there had been an increase of two sectarian offences this year to a total of 66 offences. The number of Sectarian non crime incidents had fallen by 10 to 77 incidents (fall of 11%).
- x. He further commented that racist incidents were of a growing concern as there had been 111 offences in South Belfast an increase of 41 offences or 59% in the year to date. Racial non crime incidents had increased in South Belfast by 38 incidents to 160 (31% increase).
- xi. The Area Commander explained that there had been a doubling in the number of Homophobic Hate crimes to 30 incidents this year however the crime outcome rate had been increased by 3.3%. The number of Homophobic hate incidents had increased by 14 to 47 in the year to date.
- xii. The Area Commander informed Members that a report had been circulated regarding an ecstasy drug type in Scotland. He further commented that following recent events in Northern Ireland that the PSNI are working with a number of agencies to highlight the dangers of drugs.
- xiii. A Member suggested that the PSNI and DPCSP link directly with the universities in order to have all information regarding the dangers of drugs circulated to students.
- xiv. The Chair further suggested for the DPCSP to contact the Public Health Agency to see what they are doing in relation to drugs misuse and if a collaborative approach could be adapted.
- xv. The Area Commander advised Members that the extraction of officers to police parades and more recently of officers policing Twadell had had an impact on the police services ability to focus on tackling crime proactively in South Belfast over the past year. However, he commented that there had been in recent months a return to more normal policing activity. This was helping to claw back the significant increases in crime levels seen in the earlier part of the year.
- xvi. The Area Commander advised Members that the PSNI had been working with licensed premises that had the ID scan system to assess its impact

regarding phone thefts. He further commented that some internal and external information had been developed regarding best practice and to advise the general public what to do when you lose your phone.

- xvii. The Chair suggested that the DPCSP could assist in the development a leaflet to be distributed to all licensed premises regarding phone theft.
- xviii. A Member suggested that the DPCSP to have a meeting to review areas of crime with the intention of prioritising what areas to work on and become more focused in terms of planning.
- xix. The Safer City Coordinator commented that the DPCSP can be proactive and awareness training can be implemented at short notice.
- xx. The Area Commander commented that all police crime statistics are available on the PSNI website, however if the DPCSP would like to identify five or six priorities, he can provide updates on a monthly basis in each priority.
- xxi. The Chair commented it would be mainly looking at trends, and if trends are not decreasing, then the DPCSP could react to them and create awareness of certain criminal activities within the local community.
- xxii. A Member commented that during the Giro a large volume of tourists will be in Northern Ireland and that information focused on the prevention of thefts during this time may be helpful.
- xxiii. The Area Commander commented that there would be a significant policing operation during this time, this would have a focus around the night time economy and identified hot spot areas.

#### **4. Policing Committee Applications**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that there had been 11 Policing Committee applications received.
- ii. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with an over view of each application and where additional information had been required, contact had been made with the relevant group.
- iii. Following discussion, Members agreed to fund the following Policing Committee applications:

<b>Name of Organisation</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Total Amount of Funding</b>
Oh Yeah Music Centre and Over The Hill	International Womens Day & Over The Hill Collective	£200

Cara Friend	GLYNI Engage	£700
St Malachy's Youth Centre	St Malachy's Youth Centre After Hours Youth Drop In Programme	£1,000
Belfast South Community Resources	Building Bridges	£1,000
Lower Ormeau Residents Action Group	Friday Nights Sports Diversionary Programme	£1,000
Cross Over Basketball	Cross Over Basketball NI – Good Relations Project	£1,000
All Nation Ministries	Information Sharing and Confidence Building	£200

- iv. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that all funded projects would complete an evaluation form detailing evidence of project outcomes and all information would be presented to Members at a future DPCSP meeting.

## **5. Emerging Issues**

- i. No issues discussed.

## **6. Date of Next Meeting**

- i. Date, time and venue for the next Policing Committee of South Belfast DPCSP to be confirmed.