

# Minutes of South Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership

## Policing Committee

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2014, 5.00pm  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor HR Conference Room, City Hall, Belfast

### Political Members

Ald. Tom Ekin  
Cllr. Deirdre Hargey

### Independent Members

Niall Kelly (Vice Chair)  
Paula Bradshaw  
Trevor Greer  
Debbie Hammill  
Nuala Toman

### Statutory Designated Bodies

Chief Inspector Robert Murdie  
Inspector Rosie Thompson

Inspector Gordan Wilkinson

### Belfast City Council Staff Present

Denise Smith, Safer City Coordinator  
Saranne Gallagher, Partnership Support Officer

### Apologies

Cllr. Kate Mullan (Chair)

## 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 Cllr Kate Mullan.

## 2. Minutes and Matters Arising

- i. The Minutes of the South Belfast Policing Committee Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> September, of which copies were previously circulated, were taken as read and correct.
- ii. The Area Commander provided Members with an update regarding the actions from the last DPCSP Meeting.
- iii. He advised Members that in relation to the attacks on vehicles within the Holyland area, the CCTV footage from the attacks had not provided the PSNI with enough information to allow identifications to be made. He further commented that a male had been arrested in association with the attacks.
- iv. The Area Commander informed Members that with regards to the increase of needle finds in local parks, conversations had been ongoing with Belfast City Councils Park Departments in relation to the issue.
- v. Inspector Rosie Thompson provided Members with an update regarding the recent injunction secured against a premise owner in Gresham Street. She advised Members that the injunction meant that the premises had now

been closed and if the injunction is breached it could lead to further legal action being taken.

- vi. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that a letter had been distributed to local residents regarding concerns around Joy Street.
- vii. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that following a request for local taxi firms and licensed premises to attend a future DPCSP meeting, that the Safer Belfast Coordination Team link directly with taxi firms and licensed premises. She informed Members that the Safer Belfast Coordination Team had been reviewing the possibility of developing A Get Home Safe App. She advised Members that she would inform the Partnership of developments of the app.
- viii. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that the Chair had been keen on supporting the Get Home Safe Campaign this Christmas again by doing a radio campaign to highlight the importance of people remaining vigilant when in the City at night time. Members welcomed this suggestion and agreed to support the delivery of a radio campaign during December.
- ix. The Area Commander advised Members of the PSNI's launch of the official Christmas operations on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> November and welcomed Members to attend the event. He further advised Members of the Ride Along Radio Campaign to be aired on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December.
- x. A Member asked if the anti burglary campaign had still been ongoing. The Area Commander commented yes that the campaign had still been in operation. He further advised Members that since the roll out of the campaign that there had only been six burglaries in comparison to 22 burglaries during the last three months.
- xi. A Member commented that there had been growing concern regarding drugs within South Belfast and asked what had the PSNI been doing to address this issue. The Area Commander commented that there had been a growing concern regarding heroine within South Belfast. He advised Members that talks had been ongoing between the PSNI, Belfast City Council and other key agencies regarding concerns of drugs within South Belfast.
- xii. A Member suggested for a PSNI update regarding drugs in South Belfast at a future DPCSP Meeting. Members welcomed this suggestion.

### **3. Area Commander Update**

- i. The Area Commander provided Members with an update on the new policing structures. He advised Members that A and B District had been merged to become the Belfast City Policing District. He further advised Members that Belfast City Policing District would be going through a change process to align itself with the new Council wards.
- ii. The Area Commander informed Members of the review of PSNI resources, new PSNI Station opening hours and budget cuts.
- iii. A Member asked in relation to budget cuts within the PSNI, had any consideration given to a reduction in travel and subsistence, professional services and hospitality. The Area Commander commented that all of

these areas had ceased and they had been no longer eligible for PSNI to avail of.

- iv. A Member asked if conversations had taken place with Belfast City Council regarding City events that require police presence. The Area Commander commented that these conversations had taken place and are continuing. He advised Members that City Centre events incurred huge policing costs and provided Members with the example of Belfast City Marathon.
- v. A Member asked if the reduction of PSNI Station opening hours would have a direct impact on Neighbourhood Police Teams. The Area Commander commented that the style and method used for the Neighbourhood Police Teams would be to police the community. He further commented that there would be a review of the Neighbourhood Police Team structures to see if they are required in each area.

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

- i. A Member declared a declaration and left the meeting for the duration of the discussion regarding the Great Village Regeneration Trust application.
- ii. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that two policing committee applications had been submitted from the following organisations:
  - Greater Village Regeneration Trust, £1,000; and
  - Lower Ormeau & Botanic Consortium, £1,000.
- iii. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with an overview of each application and detailed the total amount of funding requested for each application.
- iv. Members noted the report and agreed to fund the two policing applications submitted.

#### **5. Emerging Issues**

- i. A Member asked what the plans had been for the proposed march on 29<sup>th</sup> November. The Area Commander commented that the Loyalist People Protest had been scheduled for Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November. He advised Members that there had been an expectation of around 500 people to attend the parade, but based on previous parades approx 100/200 people would be expected to attend. He advised that the PSNI had no concerns regarding the parade.
- ii. The Area Commander commented that the 3<sup>rd</sup> December will mark the anniversary of the flag at City Hall. He informed Members that the PSNI had received notification that a group intends to parade to the City Hall at 7pm to mark the event.
- iii. A Member highlighted a concern regarding young people and the use of mobile phones, in particular photographs. The Area Commander

commented that the PSNI had been enforcing personal safety messages when using mobile phones and social media.

- iv. A Member asked what the PSNI has been doing in relation to the recent number of burglaries in the Olympia area. The Area Commander commented that figures in relation to burglaries in South Belfast had decreased, however would forward the figures regarding the burglaries in Olympia as requested.

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

- i. Members noted that the next South Belfast DPCSP Policing Meeting will be held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December, 12.30pm in the Conor Room, City Hall.