

**Minutes of the South Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership**

**Private Meeting**

**Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2016, 5.00pm  
Lavery Room, City Hall, Belfast**

<b>Political Members</b>	<b>Independent Members</b>
Councillor Geraldine McAteer (Chair)	Aleksandra Lojek-Magdziarz (VC)
Councillor Declan Boyle	Michael Boyle
Councillor Deirdre Hargey	Aidan Hughes
	Richard Kennedy
	Paul McDonnell

  

<b>Statutory Designated Bodies</b>	
Gary Ballantyne, NIHE	Dermot Magorrian, YJA
Anita Duff, EA	Chief Inspector Robert Murdie
Christine Hunter, PBNI	SC Micheal Roberts, NIFRS

  

<b>Belfast City Council Staff Present</b>	<b>Apologies</b>
Suzanne Gowling Safer City Coordinator	Councillor Jeffrey Dudgeon
Saranne Gallagher Partnership Support Officer	Yvonne McKnight, H&SCT

**1. Welcome & Routine Matters**

- i. The Chair welcomed the Members to the South Belfast DPCSP Private Meeting and noted the apologies provided.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

- i. The Chair asked Members to declare any material interests which they may have in relation to any item of business to be considered during the meeting.
- ii. Councillor Declan Boyle declared an interest in relation to Item 4 on the agenda. However, following advice from Member Services the Chair clarified that because Cllr Boyle would not benefit more than any other landlord, and that there was no direct pecuniary interest to be gained at the meeting, there was not a conflict of interest to be declared.

**3. Presentation and Discussion – Wider University Area**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator presented to Members an overview of South Belfast's DPCSP role in the Wider University Area. The presentation included an overview of:
  - a. Various crime types and levels in South Belfast between October 2015 – September 2016;
  - b. Community Safety Projects delivered throughout 2016;

- c. Resources deployed within the Wider University Area; and,
  - d. Common Themes and Aspirations within the Wider University Area.
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- ii. Following a discussion regarding South Belfast DPCSP's role in the Wider University Area, a Member highlighted the importance of South Belfast DPCSP not working in silo and the benefits of working in partnership with other community organisations and local residents. She also suggested that the recent motion discussed by People and Communities Committee and the Buchanan (Louise Browne) Report be considered when considering the Wider University Area. She suggested for the Partnership to schedule a further meeting to discuss this. Members welcomed this suggestion.
  - iii. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that a meeting had been scheduled with Good Relations and Community Services to discuss ongoing issues with the Wider University Area and would provide an update on this meeting at the next South Belfast DPCSP Meeting.
  - iv. A Member asked why certain crime statistics are classified collectively and not separated into individual categories. Chief Inspector Robert Murdie confirmed that the classifications are dictated by the National Crime Recording Standards which the PSNI need to abide by.
  - v. Following a discussion, the Chair commented that a pattern had been evident in relation to the crime statistics provided for South Belfast. She further commented that interventions needed to be put in place in order to address crime and community safety in South Belfast.
  - vi. A Member highlighted the lack of community infrastructure within the Wider University Area. She commented there was a need for further community engagement to assist build community capacity and cohesion within South Belfast. She further commented that in doing this, South Belfast DPCSP can deal with issues proactively.
  - vii. A Member commented that there is a transient population in the Wider University Area, which changes year on year. He commented that this needed to be taken into consideration when reviewing the Wider University Area or when developing a specific strategy for the area.
  - viii. Chief Inspector Murdie suggested that the Partnership focuses on an assets focus based approach rather than a needs based approach when reviewing the Wider University Area.
  - ix. A Member provided an overview of restorative panels and how they had been positive in assisting with capacity building and suggested that residents could be involved in a similar initiative in the Wider University Area.
  - x. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with an overview of PACT and its role. She advised Members that in addition to PACT there is a Learning City Interagency Group who have developed an Action Plan which included

reference to PACT. She advised Members that PACT have not seen the Interagency Group Action Plan.

- xi. A Member asked what the role of the working group for the Wider University Area should be. The Safer City Coordinator suggested the working group to meet with Nigel Grimshaw, Director of City and Neighbourhood Services; in his role as Chair of the Learning City Interagency Group to discuss what South Belfast DPCSP's role should be in the Wider University Area. Members welcomed this suggestion.

#### **4. Emerging Issues**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that at the October meeting that Belfast Policing and Community Safety Partnership had been closely monitoring spend in each of the Districts to ensure full spend. She further commented that Officers were asked to identify projects that would benefit each of the Districts, but could be delivered more effectively on a city wide basis.
- ii. The Safer City Coordinator presented to Members the following project proposals for consideration:
  - Belfast PCSP Schools Programme - £3,000,
  - 'No Hate Hear' Campaign - £2,000, and;
  - 'Think How You Drink' Drama - £5,000.
- iii. She advised Members as of 30 October 2016, a total of £13,116 was not allocated or committed and a number of under spends have been identified from various budget lines. She suggested for Members to reallocate £10,000 to support the delivery of the three project proposals. The funds would be drawn from under spends in focused area working (£5,000), drugs and alcohol (£2,500) and community confidence (£2,500); and allocated to the feel safer budget line from where the projects would be funded.
- iv. A Member proposed to change the title of the proposed project 'Think How You Drink' to a title that may encourage non-drinking. The Safer City Coordinator explained that the premise of the production requires drinking to take place, so that the consequences can be explored.
- v. A Member further asked where the dramas delivered as part of the schools programme be facilitated. The Safer City Coordinator confirmed that the dramas would be facilitated possible outside the school environment and maybe in local youth club settings.
- vi. Following a discussion, Members agreed to reallocate the funding requested to support the delivery of the three project proposals.
- vii. Councillor Boyle highlighted concerns regarding Item 4c – Wider University Area Consultation Report.

- viii. Following a conversation, the Chair suggested she, Councillor Boyle and the Safer City Coordinator to meet separately with South Belfast Partnership Board to discuss the Wider University Area Consultation Report. A separate meeting is to be convened to discuss the Consultation Report.
- ix. A Member commented that the concerns identified by Councillor Boyle should be noted not to be a reflection of the full Membership of South Belfast DPCSP. Members agreed to this suggestion.
- x. The Chair requested for an update on SDPCSP Sub Committees at the next South Belfast DPCSP Meeting.

## **5. Date of Next Meeting**

- i. Members noted that the next South Belfast DPCSP Meeting would be held on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2017.
- ii. The Safer City Coordinator reminded Members of Belfast PCSP Christmas Safety Event on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December, City Hall, 10.00am-1.00pm. She welcomed all Members to attend.
- iii. The Chair wished Members a peaceful Christmas and a prosperous New Year.