

Minutes of South Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Policing Committee

Thursday 31st August 2017, 5pm

Conor Room, Belfast City Hall

Political Members	Independent Members
Councillor Lee Reynolds (Chair)	Richard Kennedy (VC)
Councillor Geraldine McAteer	Michael Boyle
Councillor Jeffrey Dudgeon	Aleksandra Lojek-Magdziarz
DoJ Representative Lesley McCombe	Paul McDonnell
Statutory Designated Bodies	
Paul McCombe, NIHE	Dermot Magorrian, YJA
Deirdre Grant, PBNI	Yvonne McKnight, H&SCT
Chief Inspector Gavin Kirkpatrick	
Belfast City Council Staff Present	Apologies
Suzanne Gowling Safer City Coordinator	Aidan Hughes
Rachel Fulton Partnership Support Officer	

1. Welcome and Routine Matters

- i. The Chair welcomed all Members to the Policing Committee Meeting of the South Belfast DPCSP and noted the apologies provided.

2. Declarations of Interest

- i. Members were asked to declare any material interests which they may have in relation to any item of business to be considered during the meeting
- ii. No declarations of interest were declared.

3. Minutes/Matters Arising

- i. The minutes of the Policing Committee held on 24 May 2017, copies of which had been previously circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct.

4. Progress against the South Belfast District Policing Plan

- i. Chief Inspector Gavin Kirkpatrick updated the Members on the performance against the South Belfast District Policing Plan.
- ii. Members noted that:
 - Overall crime had increased by 2.1%;
 - Burglary had decreased by 9.5%

- Number of racist hate crimes had decreased by 33.3%
 - An increase of 11.4% in relation to the number of anti-social behaviour incidents; and,
 - An increase of 13.8% in the number of drug seizures.
- iii. Members were advised that Operation Torus was due to begin in the coming week and would run for 4-6 weeks, targeting street level drug dealing.
- iv. Chief Inspector Kirkpatrick then advised Members of upcoming events such as:
- 10k run on 3rd Sept
 - Belfast half marathon on 17th Sept
 - University Freshers week to begin 18th Sept

5. Questions and Discussion

- i. A Member requested clarification as to why there had been an increase of drug seizures by 13.8% but only an increase of 2.9% in drug arrests.
- ii. Chief Inspector Kirkpatrick advised that it can be a complicated process, in which sometimes, it is impossible to link an individual to a drug seizure. He also commented that there can be a 6-9months lag in results from drug laboratories which may affect these results.

6. Emerging Issues

- i. The Safer City Coordinator informed Members of two successful Police Led Projects, namely; The Community Safety Newsletter developed by GVRT and Transport for Soccer School in lead up to 12th July.
- ii. Chief Inspector Kirkpatrick stated that both projects were very positive and he had received excellent feedback on them.
- iii. A Member raised concerns around human trafficking and requested a report from PSNI at the next meeting on an update on extent of the issue to include detection and arrest rate.
- iv. Yvonne McKnight, H&SCT advised that she was part of a human trafficking engagement group in which various organisations were part of which did have policy, procedures and figures in place in relation to the issue.
- v. After a brief discussion it was agreed that PSNI and H&SCT would provide a detailed update on human trafficking figures at the next meeting.

7. Date of Next Meeting

- i. Members noted that the next South Belfast DPCSP Policing Committee Meeting would be held at 5pm on Tuesday 24 October in the Conor Room, City Hall.

8. Close

- ii. The Chair thanked the Members for attending.