

Minutes of the West Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Policing Committee Meeting

Conor Room, City Hall
Wednesday, 25th March, 2015

Political Members	Independent Members
Councillor Matt Garrett (Acting-Chair)	Breige Brownlee
Councillor Tim Attwood	Bernie Reilly
Councillor Hendron	Ann-Marie Weir
PSNI Representatives	
Chief Inspector Anthony McNally	Inspector Alan Swann
Staff Present	Apologies
Alan Wardle, Safer City Coordinator	Councillor Frank McCoubrey (Chair)
Katharine McCrum, Partnership Support Officer	Harry Connolly (Vice-Chair)

1. Welcome and Routine Matters

- i. In the absence of the Chair, Councillor Garrett welcomed Members to the meeting 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. No declarations of interest were noted.

3. Minutes

- i. The minutes of 29th October, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct.
- ii. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that all outstanding actions relating to the minutes had been completed.

4. Area Commanders Update on Policing, Performance and New Structures

Crime Statistics

- i. Chief Inspector McNally advised Members that overall crime figures were up by 7% when compared to the previous year, mostly due to an increase in violence against the person with no injury. He advised that this pattern was being seen across Northern Ireland and that no particular trend had been detected however increased threats delivered via social media could be to blame. He suggested that education regarding the criminal nature of this behaviour was something that the Partnership could consider focusing on in the year ahead.

- ii. Members were advised that outcomes were down by 1% which could be attributed to initial issues with the inception of the Case Progression Team however this had now been addressed.

Local Government Reform and Boundary Changes

- iii. Chief Inspector McNally advised Members that in line with Local Government Reform changes to Council boundaries, West Belfast would now encompass a larger area including Dunmurry, Poleglass, Lagmore and Twinbrook.
- iv. Members were advised that these changes would bring in a further 25,000 people, 9,000 households and 7,500 service calls per year without any additional resources. Members were further advised that it would take some time before the new Districts and Teams would be in place due to the changes required to existing back office functions.
- v. Chief Inspector McNally advised the Partnership that West Belfast would operate with 1 Local Policing Team and 3 Neighbourhood Policing Teams.
- vi. He asked for Members' support as the changes were implemented and thanked them for their support over the previous year.
- vii. He advised that the PSNI would continue to focus on the Divis and Lower Falls area through the Divis Intervention and that they would begin to look at early intervention and focus on tackling drug related issues in these areas.

5. Members Questions

- i. A Member advised Chief Inspector McNally that whilst she thought that the Neighbourhood Policing Teams could have worked more effectively in the past, she felt that the link with the Neighbourhood Inspector had always worked well and was keen to see these links continue and confidence in the PSNI develop.
- ii. Another Member agreed that meetings with the local Officers had made a difference to communities.
- iii. A Member commented upon the huge change that the new teams would bring and asked for details to be sent to Members including any new contact details.
- i. In response to a query regarding Officers transferring from D District, Chief Inspector McNally advised that 6 Neighbourhood Team Officers would be retained to provide some consistency while the remaining 8 would move to Lisburn. He advised that the Local Policing Teams (LPTs) would respond to emergency and priority calls as well as scheduled appointments while Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPTs) would focus on engagement and taking a pro-active look at tackling the most difficult crime and safety issues faced by communities.