

Minutes of the West Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Policing Committee Meeting

Conor Room, City Hall

Monday, 30th January 2017

Political Members	Independent Members
Councillor Brian Heading (Chair)	Breige Brownlee (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Matt Garrett	Claire Canavan
Councillor Stephen Magennis	
PSNI	
Inspector Alan Swann, PSNI	
Staff Present	Apologies
Alan Wardle, Safer City Coordinator	Alderman Frank McCoubrey
Rachel Fulton, Partnership Support Officer	Liz Groves
	Eoin McShane
	Lauren Slane

1. Welcome and Routine Matters

- i. The Chair welcomed Members to the Policing Committee 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.
- ii. No declarations of interest were noted.

3. West Belfast DPCSP Minutes & Matters Arising

- i. The Minutes of the West Belfast DPCSP Policing Committee Meeting held on 02 November, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct.
- ii. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

4. Area Commanders Update/Summary

- i. Inspector Alan Swann provided Members with an update on West Belfast's Performance against the Local Policing Plan up to 16 January 2017. The following key points were noted as being achieved:
 - A decrease of 8.6% in relation to offences committed against older people;
 - A decrease of 3.3% in relation to number of burglaries involving older people;
 - A decrease of 11.9% in relation to the outcome rates for crime with a sectarian motivation; and,
 - A decrease of 9.7% in relation to the number of anti social behaviour incidences.

- ii. He advised Members that figures in relation to incivility and failure in duty were Belfast wide, but advised that there were two incidents reported of incivility in West Belfast and could not provide exact figures for amount of incidents of failure on duty. He further advised Members that there had been no specific details for West Belfast for the number of victim updates carried out, but commented that for Belfast an increase of 6% had been achieved.
- iii. Inspector Swann advised that the number of drug seizures was down 2.2% and was an area for concern. He commented that drugs is a major issue in West Belfast and it is an area that the PSNI strive to improve upon.
- iv. He further commented that overall crime in West Belfast was down compared to last year and commended the work from partners to make it happen.
- v. Inspector Swann advised members that the next major event for the PSNI would be St Patrick's Day.

5. Emerging Issues

- i. The Vice Chair questioned what failure of duty involves and commented that the current levels of this were alarming.
- ii. Inspector Swann advised that the failure of duty involves officers failing to investigate a matter properly or incidents were officers have fell down on a number of aspects for various reasons. He also commented the need to obtain West Belfast specific figures.
- iii. The Vice Chair thanked Inspector Swann for his insight and commended the PSNI for their response in relation to an incident in Milltown. She also highlighted her concern around St Patricks Day regarding transient youth and asked all members to be vigilant of ASB during this time.
- iv. Inspector Swann advised that the PSNI will be meeting with community groups in due course to discuss ASB hotspot areas and the overall management of St Patrick's Day.
- v. A member requested PSNI to provide a breakdown analysis of all burglary types, which could help to map out incidents that are occurring and appropriately target resources into specific areas based on need.
- vi. The Chair reiterated the need for PSNI to provide figures in regard to cases progressing to convictions and resulting in sentencing to improve confidence in policing in the area.
- vii. Inspector Swann welcomed the comments made and stated that burglary can be a frustrating offence as the final outcome of a case can take considerable time due to forensic results etc.
- viii. A discussion took place around engagement ideas with youth and the PSNI. A member welcomed any ideas that members would have in relation to this and highlighted that youths are open to engagement with the PSNI.
- ix. Inspector Swann commented that neighbourhood officers are open to engagement exercises and welcomed any ideas that members would have on this.
- x. SCC advised members that an evaluation report has been produced in relation to SNPs and will provide to members at the next meeting.

- xi. The Chair commented on his concern with the ASB figures. He stated that although they show a decrease, members are aware that there is an increase of shootings in the area and could this number be down to a drop in reporting to the PSNI of incidents. He further commented that he is concerned that confidence in policing may be declining and residents are letting other groups deal with issues instead of the PSNI.
- xii. Inspector Swann commented that he would like to believe that a decline in ASB figures is down to good partnership working and no other reason, but understood the Chairs concern.
- xiii. The Chair reiterated the need to provide a breakdown of figures in relation to crime and have these circulated to increase confidence.

6. Date of Next Meeting

- i. Members noted that the next West Belfast DPCSP Policing Committee Public Meeting would be held on Monday 20th March, venue to be confirmed.