

Minutes of the North Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Private Meeting

Radar Centre, 9 Heron Road
Monday, 21st March, 2016

Political Members

Alderman Patrick Convery

Independent Members

Jennifer Cornell

Designated Organisations

Harry Bradley, YJA
T/Chief Inspector Gavin Kirkpatrick, PSNI
David McComiskey, NIFRS
Malachy McKinney, NIHE

Gabi Mornhinweg, H&SCT
Mark Nicholson, PBNI
Alan Wilson, EA

Staff Present

Richard McLernon, Safer City Coordinator
Katharine McCrum, Partnership Support Officer

Apologies

Alderman Guy Spence (Chair)
Councillor Mary Ellen Campbell
Councillor Mary Clarke
Councillor Nuala McAllister
Alderman Gareth McKee
Michael Murray (Vice-Chair)
Gerard O'Reilly
Catherine Patrick
Gerald Solinas

1. Welcome and Routine Matters

- i. In the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair, Jennifer Cornell welcomed Members to the meeting and noted the apologies provided.

2. Declaration of Interests

- 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 were provided at the outset of the meeting.

3. Minutes

- i. The Safer City Coordinator recapped on the actions from the previous meeting of the North Belfast DPCSP noting that:
 - A version of the alcohol by-laws was available however a more succinct version was being sought,
 - The Small Grants Panel had met and recommendations were contained within a later agenda item,
 - No graffiti removal requests had been received from Members,
 - A list of those involved in the Ardoyne Youth Providers Forum is to be emailed to Members,

- The Public Meeting would take place on 23rd March and information had been circulated to Members, and,
 - A presentation from the Education Authority would be delivered as part of the meeting.
- ii. It was agreed that in future, any information requested would be emailed to Members as well as being brought to the next DPCSP Meeting.
 - iii. The minutes of the North Belfast DPCSP Private Meeting held on 28th January, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct.

4. Education Authority Presentation

- i. Alan Wilson, Education Authority (EA), provided Members with information on the Education Authorities' North Belfast Area Plan for 2016-2017 and the new Plan that was being developed for 2017-2020. Members were provided with a policy overview, population and deprivation statistics, details on the full and part-time units operated by the Youth Service and the outcomes of these services.
- ii. The Safer City Coordinator agreed to circulate the presentation to Members via email.
- iii. A Member suggested that the same outcomes and targets should be being delivered by all youth service providers and that quality control is needed. Mr. Wilson confirmed that units who receive funding from the Education Authority must work to tackle the agreed thematic areas; however those outside of this funding cannot be controlled by this Plan.
- iv. In response to questions from Members, Mr. Wilson confirmed that young people often use both voluntary and EA funded centres, and that the 355 'newcomer children' were those who were new to Northern Ireland within the last 2 years.
- v. A Member questioned how the Education Authority measured the impact of participation in residential and international trips. They were advised that there was currently no system in place however Ardoyne Youth Club had received Lottery Funding to develop a case progression system which charts the progress of young people within the Club and can be accessed by parents and the young people. Mr. Wilson advised that he was hoping that the system would be adopted across the board as it was also a helpful child protection measure.
- vi. The Safer City Coordinator agreed to investigate if the Council used or had access to such a system.

5. Chair's Update on the Belfast PCSP

- i. As the Chair was not in attendance, no update from the PCSP was provided.

6. Members North Belfast Priorities and Emerging Issues

- i. Partnership Members were invited to provide an update on any emerging issues. Key points included:
- Homelessness within the City Centre and Parks - It was noted that some of those presenting as homeless may in fact have homes but welcome the company of others which they do not have at home. Malachy McKinney, NIHE, pointed out that homelessness was only one of a number of complex issues for those in question.
 - Anti-social behaviour and the lack of facilities in some areas - Mark Nicholson, PBNI, advised of work with Newtownabbey PCSP regarding anti-social behaviour at interfaces and suggested that it could represent an opportunity for shared work.
 - Gabi Mornhinweg, H&SCT, advised that Belfast hospitals became smoke free as of 9th March.
 - Mark Nicholson, PBNI, advised that Prison Officers were taking extra precautions following the recent death of an Officer and that the incident had had a wider impact on other agencies within the criminal justice system. He added that a number of offenders and their families had recently received threats and so work was ongoing with the PSNI regarding challenging this behaviour.
 - Chief Inspector Kirkpatrick, PSNI, advised that the threat level was high in the run up to Easter and significant operations would be put in place. He also advised that interface areas were quiet and that no significant incidents had been reported since the Crumlin Road peace wall had come down.
 - Members queried how the International Fund for Ireland (IFI) peace wall initiative was progressing and requested that the Safer City Coordinator seek an update.
 - Mark Nicholson, PBNI, advised Members that East Belfast Mission had a recycling warehouse on Crumlin Road which dismantles bicycles for shipping to Africa, and encouraged Members to use this worthwhile project.
 - Harry Bradley, YJA, advised that the Youth Justice Agency had recently funded the delivery of plays focusing on internet safety and underage drinking. He also advised that Prevent and Deter programmes would begin to roll out across North Belfast in the next few months.
 - David McComiskey, NIFRS, advised that several deliberate grass land fires in areas such as Cavehill were likely to be linked to Easter holidays.

7. DPCSP Action Plan Update

- i. The Safer City Coordinator drew Members' attention to the latest North Belfast DPCSP Action Plan Progress Report, and made mention of a recent youth event involving 81 young people from across North Belfast delivered alongside the Education Authority. He advised that as a result, a Working Group had been established which would link to the Action Plan in future.
- ii. Under the Hate Crime theme, Members discussed the establishment of a Friendship Club in the 174 Club using a model developed in South Belfast. A Member advised that the 174 Trust currently delivered complimentary services and was seen as a neutral venue. Members were further advised that while initial support would come

from the DPCSP, it was hoped that Awards For All funding could be secured to fund the Club in the long term.

- iii. Members discussed the idea and it was noted that the South Belfast model worked so well due to the personalities involved. It was also pointed out that the original focus of tackling hate crime should not be lost. A Member advised that the 174 Trust was enthusiastic about the project which would be promoted to new and established communities.

8. 2016/2017 North Belfast DPCSP Action Plan

- i. Members were presented with the North Belfast DPCSP Action Plan for 2016/2017 which is made up of 5 priorities; Anti-social behaviour, Hate Crime and Community Tensions, Drugs and Substance Misuse, Domestic Burglary and Domestic Abuse. The Safer City Coordinator advised that the Plan was based on a budget of £125,000 however this was subject to review. He added that spend would begin in April with the commencement of Working Group meetings.
- ii. Members were further advised that the PCSP would be reviewing each of the DPCSP Plans and would lead on strategic issues across the City such as domestic burglary.
- iii. It was noted that with the suspension of FASA, the Partnership should keep in mind the gaps in service that may appear.
- iv. Members approved the North Belfast DPCSP Action Plan for 2016/2017.

9. PCSP Small Grants

- i. The Safer City Coordinator drew Members attention to the Small Grants Report which advised that 37 PCSP Small Grants applications had been received across the City for Tranche 1 of the 2016/2017 grants, 5 of which were from groups in North Belfast.
- ii. Members were further advised that none of the 5 applications had reached the quality threshold of 50 points and so no Small Grants were being recommended for approval.
- iii. Members approved the recommendation of the Member Panel not to fund any Small Grants during Tranche 1, but questioned why scores were so low on this occasion.
- iv. The Safer City Coordinator advised that there had been no clear link between the applications and DPCSP priorities and that information sessions had been poorly attended. A Member who sat on the Panel advised that while the applicants were experienced, the projects had not been well thought out.
- v. Members were advised that the second tranche of funding would open in May, 2016.

10. August Bonfire Update

- i. Members noted the report on the recent meeting of the August Bonfire Workshop. Actions included the need for a contractor that would work for the community, the need for enforcement action, representation from NIHE, DRD and political reps and continued momentum at Working Group meetings.
- ii. A Member commended the note taker on the clear and concise report. The Safer City Coordinator agreed to pass that to Edele Cleary who had taken the notes.

11. Greater Ardoyne Tension Monitoring Group

- i. Members noted the attached report.

12. Schedule of Forthcoming Meetings

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised that a proposed list of meeting dates had been provided to Members within the meeting papers, and that these had been chosen to avoid Council meetings. He also advised that due to building work in the Cecil Ward Building, meetings would need to be moved to City Hall from August onwards.
- ii. Members discussed the Public Event which was to be held on 23rd March on the theme of suicide prevention. It was agreed that the message would need to be sensitively delivered in order to avoid upset or alarm and that support services should be made available should anyone be affected by the issues raised.