

Minutes of the North Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Policing Committee Meeting

Room 1c, Cecil Ward Building, Belfast

Wednesday, 29th June, 2016

Political Members

Alderman Guy Spence (Chair)
Alderman Patrick Convery

Independent Members

Michael Murray (Vice-Chair)
Jennifer Cornell
Gerard O'Reilly
Catherine Patrick

Police Service of Northern Ireland Representatives

Inspector Kelly Moore

Staff Present

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

Apologies

Councillor Mary Ellen Campbell
Councillor Mary Clarke
Councillor Nuala McAllister
Alderman Gareth McKee
Gerald Solinas
T/Chief Inspector Gavin Kirkpatrick

1. Welcome and Routine Matters

- i. The Chair welcomed Members to the meeting and noted the apologies provided.
- ii. Inspector Kelly Moore advised Members that during July Chief Inspector Stephen Burns would be taking over as the Local Policing Chief Inspector for North Belfast, and that T/Chief Inspector Kirkpatrick would be moving to Musgrave Street Station to work with Operational Planning.
- iii. She also advised Members that she would be responsible for the Court North area, Inspector Paul Noble would be covering the Castle area and that they would share responsibility for Oldpark.

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 and Matters Arising

- i. The Safer City Coordinator provided an update on the actions arising from the previous meeting noting that he was still working on an easy read summary of the North Belfast DPCSP Action Plan.
- ii. Inspector Moore agreed to look into at the possibility of plotting incidents of violent crime onto a map of North Belfast.

- iii. In response to a query regarding body worn cameras, Inspector Moore advised that Response Officers were likely to begin using cameras in August/September, 2016, followed by Neighbourhood Officers, however none were in use in Belfast as yet.
- iv. The minutes of the North Belfast DPCSP Policing Committee held on 27th April, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct.

4. Update on Policing

- i. Members were provided with an update report on policing in North Belfast including a breakdown of call types received by Tennent Street Police Station over a 24 hour period and some 'good news' stories.
- ii. With regards to performance against the Local Policing Plan, Members were advised that the number of incidents of burglary had fallen by 34.4% while offences committed against the older people had fallen by 24.1%. Inspector Moore also reported positive trends with regards to crimes with a sectarian motivation, allegations of incivility and victim update statistics. She noted that anti-social behaviour had increased by 4.4% and that the number of drug seizures had fallen by 9.1% when compared with the same period last year.
- iii. Inspector Moore also provided an update on key incidents relating to drugs, domestic abuse, hate crime, burglary, anti-social behaviour, and significant policing operations. She noted that the Tour of the North Parade and Whiterock parades had passed off peacefully.

5. Questions from Members

Drug Seizures

- i. In response to a query about drug seizures, Inspector Moore advised that community intelligence was key and that while individual pieces of information did not always result in searches, it helped the police build up a picture which could help with future action.

Domestic Violence

- ii. A Member questioned whether the PSNI ensured that a female officer was present at all domestic violence call outs. Inspector Moore advised that this was not standard practice as not all victims were female, or would necessarily need or want a female officer to be present. She added that an assessment was made at each case and victims could request that a female officer was present.

Hate Crime

- iii. A Member questioned whether any increase in hate crime had been reported following the EU Referendum, similar to that seen in England, and whether there were any resourcing or security implications for the PSNI as a result of the vote.
- iv. Inspector Moore advised that there had been no reported rise in hate crime and agreed to ascertain what plans or implications the Senior Leadership Team were dealing with as a result of the Referendum.

- v. The increase in hate crime incidents around the Girdwood Interface was noted and Inspector Moore advised that CCTV was being reviewed in relation to these cases.
- vi. With regards to a query about stone throwing in the Shore Road area, Inspector Moore confirmed that they were not able to tie incidents to the bonfire site as incidents had been reported across the general area.

6. Members Written Questions

- i. The Chair advised that no written questions had been submitted.

7. Policing Committee Application(s) for Funding

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that 2 Policing Committee applications had been received;
 - Royal York Historical Society – £1,000
 - Twaddell Woodvale Residents Association - £1,000
- ii. He confirmed that despite the event associated with the Royal York Historical Society application taking place in South Belfast, the organisation was based in North Belfast, as were most of the participants. It was also noted that Twaddell Woodvale Residents Association were also requesting a further £1,000 from the Tension Monitoring Budget within the Action Plan.
- iii. Following discussion of the applications, Members approved the funding as requested.

8. Policing Committee Report

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that PCSPs and DPCSPs are required to submit an annual report to the Northern Ireland Policing Board on the work of the Policing Committee, and as such a copy was included within the papers for approval.
- ii. Members noted the contents of the report and approved its submission to NIPB.

9. AOB

- i. Inspector Moore advised Members that the Greater Shankill Community Safety Forum had requested administrative support in order to have minutes taken at their monthly meetings. The Safer City Coordinator added that the DPCSP currently paid for room hire and catering costs, and that the group was made up of volunteers with no full or part time staff.
- ii. Members discussed the issue noting that such a request may create a precedent, but suggested that a funding proposal could be produced for consideration. It was noted that rather than providing a note taker, training for the group may help to build capacity amongst members.
- iii. It was also noted that the level of capacity building provided to groups over the years would suggest that the skills were present within communities, and that Community Relations Officers within Belfast City Council may also be able to assist. A Member suggested that given the number of statutory partners involved in the group, a suitable note taker could be found without cost.

- iv. The Safer City Coordinator agreed to explore the various options suggested by Members and provide an update at a later date.