

Minutes of the Belfast Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Private Meeting

Conor Room, City Hall
Monday 12th March, 2018

Political Members

Councillor Carole Howard (Chair)
Councillor Claire Canavan
Alderman Jim Rodgers
Councillor JJ Magee
Councillor Matt Garrett
Alderman Brian Kingston
Councillor Lee Reynolds

Independent Members

John MacVicar (Vice Chair)
Debbie Hammill
Susan Russam
Michael O'Hara
Mary Lambe
Carmel McKinney
Ann Louise Toal
John Loughran

Designated Organisations

Chris Fee, NIFRS
Harry Bradley, YJA
CS John Roberts, PSNI

Jennifer Hawthorne, NIHE
Bryan Nelson, H&SCT
Liz Arthur, PBNI

Also in Attendance

Jenny Cornell

Staff Present

Alison Allen, Safer City Manager
Lorna Somers, Safer City Assistant Manager
Denise Smith, Safer City Coordinator
Andy Claydon, Partnership Support Officer

Apologies

Lynsey Branniff, EA

1. Welcome and Apologies

- i. The Chair welcomed Members to the meeting and noted the apologies provided.

2. Declarations of Interest

- i. The Chair advised Members that they were required to declare any material interests that they may have in relation to any items on the agenda.
- ii. No declarations of interest were recorded.

3. Minutes

- i. The Safer City Coordinator informed Members of the actions progressed from the last meeting:
 - Letter of concern re. Street Triage has been written and will be sent once signed by the Chair

- CS Roberts updated Members as to the progress of PSNI investigations concerning ASB in the Dunboyne Park Area
- AGC Fee informed members that the current level of absenteeism amongst NIFRS employees stood at 13.3 days on average, falling short of the target of 10 days.
- The Safer City Coordinator presented an Education Authority report that had been provided by Lynsey Branniff in response to a request for a list of members from each Local Area Group.
- The Safer City Coordinator broke down Tranche 1 and 2 of the Small Grants funded by the PCSP.
- The Safer City Manager informed members of the internal investigation into the lost application form for a North DPCSP funding application. The Safer City Manager assured Members that procedures for receiving applications was being reviewed and that the missing application has now been accepted and is being reviewed by North DPCSP.
- The Safer City Assistant Manager informed Members that an investigation had been conducted into East Belfasts' funding of a Radius Housing project in Cantrell Close and reported that no duplicate funding had taken place.
- The Safer City Assistant Manager continued to report that there had been no other instances of funding to Housing Associations from the (D)PCSP's. A discussion then took place surrounding the issue of the PCSP's funding of Housing Associations concluding with Members requesting assurances from Legal Services. The response from legal services will be disseminated to members via e-mail.

10. (D)PCSP Funding Model (Item brought forward)

- i. The Safer City Assistant Manager reported that to date, the Joint Committee has indicated that the 2018/2019 funding allocation to Belfast PCSP for its administration and operational costs will be reduced by 10% in comparison to the 2017/2018 year. This indication would mean that the Belfast PCSP letter of offer should be for approximately £788,110 of which £531,919 would be ring fenced for project costs. This indication would mean that the operational budget for projects would be reduced from £633,743 to £531,919, a reduction of £101,824. Belfast City Council has also provided in its estimates a financial contribution of £120,000 towards the project costs for the Partnerships. This would provide the (D)PCSP with a total ring fenced budget allocation of £651,919 towards project costs.
- ii. The Safer City Assistant Manager introduced the proposal to ring-fence £193,474 of the budget to the PCSP for strategic projects and towards the development of a number of Citywide projects/initiatives which have a local focus. (2017/2018 budget less 10%).
- iii. It was further recommended that the PCSP agrees to allocate the remaining operational budget of £458,445 on a proportional basis based on a similar funding model used by the Joint Committee for the PCSPs. This model provides a (30%) basic allocation equally to all DPCSPs and then additional allocations based on (45%) population and (25%) deprivation and has been used by the PCSP to allocate DPCSP funding since 2016.

- iv. It is also recommended that each DPCSP is allocated 60% of their overall budget contribution which will provide the DPCSPs with sufficient funding in the interim to progress projects. This will enable the PCSP to hold a Workshop of all (D)PCSP Members in September to analyse current budget spend and to consider options in relation to reallocation of any significant underspends which have been identified.
- v. Members were also asked to consider the recommendation that the PCSP delegate authority to the Safer City Manager/Safer City Assistant Manager to approve the release of the funding for any projects which have completed the PCSP governance/due diligence processes and this funding will be reported retrospectively at each PCSP meeting.
- vi. A Member expressed concern at the recommended 60% allocation, suggesting that delaying full allocation until September meant that Partnerships risked running out of time to spend their budgets. The Safer City Assistant Manager informed the Partnership that this decision had been recommended due to the (D)PCSP's reluctance to have their unspent budgets reallocated when given it in full in previous years. The Safer City Assistant Manager explained that the recommendation was supported by spend analysis which highlighted only a small portion of budgets being spent before September and continued to outline how it would give each partnership an equal opportunity to evidence their ability to spend their budgets.
- vii. Members discussed the issues leading to the underspends highlighted in the North Belfast (D)PCSP action plan, for example procurement restrictions and numerous failed quotation exercises. The Safer City Manager assured Members that the spend figures quoted in the respective action plans were not 'Final' and would be vastly improved due to the completion of numerous projects.
- viii. A Member suggested that the PCSP send a delegation to Joint Committee to oppose the expected cuts.
- ix. The Partnership approved the recommended proposals as outlined by the Safer City Assistant Manager.

11. 2018/19 Belfast (D)PCSP Draft Action Plan

- i. The Safer City Manager advised Members that the PCSPs have been advised to submit their Action Plans based on the expected 10% budget cut however this indicative budget may increase once the Central Government budget is confirmed. The Action Plans have been developed using the required OBA method and following the Joint Committee's planning guidance.
- ii. The Safer City Manager added that due to the current financial uncertainty, it was likely that there would be a delay in receiving a formal letter of offer.
- iii. Members were asked to approve the content of the draft 2018/2019 Amalgamated Belfast (D)PCSP Action Plan. Members were also asked to approve the submission of the draft Plan to the Joint Committee by 31st March based on the themes and priorities outlined.
- iv. Members approved the draft Action Plan and its submission to the Joint Committee.

4. Chair's Update

- i. The Chair had no update to report.

5. Update from Designated Partners

PSNI

- i. CS Roberts informed the Partnership that shortly after last months meeting, a murder was committed which remains an active enquiry.
- ii. CS Roberts presented the significant events of note:
 - Male charged with Robbery & Drug Offences
 - NPT Officers attend Ulster University's Drug and Alcohol information day
 - Eyes on Crime Campaign Launched
 - 5 charged with Drug Offences
 - 3 men charged with affray and unlawful assembly
 - Botanic NPT hold 'Pizza with a Peeler' event at the Trans Resource Centre
 - 5 arrested and charged with drug offences
 - Male and female arrested for drug offences
 - 3 males charged with false imprisonment and other offences
 - Male arrested and charged with burglary
 - Female charged with Theft
 - Male arrested for a number of offences including cultivating cannabis
 - 2 males charged with burglary and other offences
 - Male charged with Robbery
 - Male arrested on suspicion of money laundering
 - 70 year old male charged with driving offences
 - 3 males charged with fraud offences
- iii. CS Roberts outlined the Crime Summary, figures of note being:
 - Overall Crime figure has fallen 1.7%
 - Significant decrease in robberies 20.1%
 - Concerning increase in drug offences (21.6%) but this could be explained by an increase in possession offences and seizures.
 - Significant increase in incidents of ASB, biggest of which is recorded in South Belfast
- iv. CS Roberts explained that when police focus on to the Centre of the City for any length of time it can result in crime being pushed out to the suburbs which, along with the opening of the Connswater Greenway is likely the reason for the poor drug offence outcome rate recorded in East Belfast.

Councillor Howard left the meeting at 6:40pm and was replaced as Chair by John MacVicar
- v. A discussion took place regarding the death of a women after a burglary and the theft of her car, Members being informed that the PSNI were open minded about the cause of death and that currently, no evidence suggested that the death was as a direct result of the burglary.

- vi. Members discussed the dilution of policing in the community, pointing to restructuring and budget cuts as the primary factors in the reduction of Neighbourhood teams. CS Roberts reported that he was mindful that the current Neighbourhood model provided less opportunity for public engagement.

NIFRS

- i. AGC Fee reported 2 recent high rise fires.
- ii. Members noted emerging themes and issues, namely:
 - STOP Campaign
 - Promotion of People at Risk strategy
 - Focus on prevention of Hoax calls
 - National No smoking day
- iii. Members heard that there had been 5 further attacks on firefighters

EA

- i. In regards to the EA update provided by Lynsey Branniff, a Member requested clarification in relation to the process employed to select LAG Members after suggesting that the provided lists suggested an imbalance in the number of Members elected to some areas of the City. It was further pointed out that there were some significant areas that appeared to be unrepresented, eg Colin, Balmoral and Belvoir.

6. 2017/18 PCSP Action Plan Progress Report

- i. The Safer City Coordinator asked that Members to note the contents of the report.
- ii. Members noted the report.

7. 2017/2018 DPCSP Action Plan Progress Reports

- i. The Safer City Manager addressed the reported underspends and informed Members that the published figures were not final and would increase considerably within the next month.
- ii. Members discussed the failure of the Street Triage project. The Safer City manager explained to members that if the Street Triage project failed to get off the ground next year there was flexibility in the 'Complex Needs' portion of next years' action plans to address projects potentially affected.

8. DPCSP Budget Spend Update

- i. The Safer City Manager requested that Members agree to release the following funds for projects which were previously approved for release 'Pending due diligence completion':

North DPCSP		
Feeling Safer	Star Neighbourhood Centre	£780
Feeling Safer	PIPS Project	£2,168
Feeling Safer	White City ASB	£1,947
Feeling Safer	New Lodge Youth Club	£1,800
Alcohol & Drugs	Drug Dealers Don't Care	£5,000
South DPCSP		
Effectiveness	Radar event, PACT/DPCSP Meetings	£1,800
Alcohol & Drugs	Drug Dealers Don't Care	£5,000
East DPCSP		
Feeling Safer	Beat the Burglar	£8,000
Alcohol & Drugs	Drug Dealers Don't Care	£10,000
ASB Signage	ASB Signage	£10,000
West DPCSP		
Alcohol & Drugs	Drugs Panel Report	£3,000
Feeling Safer	St. Galls – St. Patrick's Day	£3,000
Alcohol & Drugs	Drug Dealers Don't Care	£5,000

- ii. Members agreed to release the funds.

9. DPCSP Financial Spend Update

- i. The Safer City Manager requested Members to note the report.
- ii. Report was noted by members

12. St Patricks' Day Support Services Project

- i. The Safer City Manager outlined the following actions to be undertaken as part of the St Patricks' Day project to manage Anti-Social Behaviour in the Wider University area. It was further explained that these actions were being funded by reinvesting underspends from elsewhere in the budget.
 - Deployment of SOS Bus
 - Supporting Volunteer Groups in Wider University Area
 - Diversionary Trip to Crawfordsburn for Roma Children from Holylands
 - Deployment of Alcohol Recovery Centre in Botanic Gardens Bowling Pavillion
 - Hire of City Church as a base for Statutory and Voluntary Partners
- ii. Members agreed and noted the contents of the report.

13. 20017/2018 PCSP Project Evaluations

- i. The Safer City Coordinator explained that examples of completed project evaluations would become a standard inclusion to the PCSP papers and asked Members to note the contents of the report.

- ii. Members noted the contents of the report.

14. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on the 16th April 2018 at 5.30pm, in **Titanic 1, Clayton Hotel, 22-26 Ormeau Avenue.**