

Minutes of the East Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Private Meeting

Wandsworth Community Centre, Belfast
Thursday, 26 September, 2013

Political Members

Councillor Adam Newton (Chair)
Councillor Claire Hanna
Councillor Mervyn Jones

Independent Members

Mrs Lynda Gibson
Mrs Olwen Lyner

Designated Organisations

Gary Ballantyne, NIHE
Yvonne Cowan, H&SCT
Jane Lappin, PBNI
Dermot Magorrian, YJA

Pauline Smart, BELB
Chief Inspector Mark McEwan, PSNI
Inspector Angus Mairs, PSNI

Staff Present

Phyllis Anderson, Safer City Coordinator
Saranne Gallagher, Partnership Support Officer
Bernie Quinn, Project Officer

Apologies

Alderman Gavin Robinson
Cllr Niall Ó Donnghaile
Mr Gareth Beacom
Mr Andy Moorhead
Yvonne Adair, YJA
Alice Mills, NIHE

1. Welcome and Routine Matters

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

2. Declarations of Interest

- i. No declarations of interest were recorded.

3. Minutes

- i. The minutes of the East Belfast DPCSP Private Meeting held on 28th August, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct.

4. Delegated Authority Spend Update

- i. The Safer City Coordinator provided an update on delegated authority spend.
- ii. She advised that £600 had been awarded to a young persons' discussion and drumming project organised by Walkway Community Association.
- iii. She advised that £1,000 had been contributed towards the production of a suicide awareness booklet 'A Message of Hope' for distribution within East Belfast.

5. Project Proposal – Avoniel Project

- i. The Safer City Coordinator further advised Members that following discussion regarding the Action Plan at the last meeting, Belfast City Council Officers had been approached regarding ASB around the Avoniel LC. In partnership with the local young people and the Parks and Leisure Department, a programme of activities had been developed including a community clear up project. The programme would last for approximately 6-8 weeks and would help get the young people off the streets.
- ii. Members agreed to support the project as it fits into the ASB objective of the Action Plan and awarded £3,000 funding towards it.

6. Project Proposal – Development of Smartphone App

- i. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with an overview of a proposal for the development of a Smartphone App and Webpage that would connect directly with youth service providers and let local young people know what is happening in the area. Members were made aware that further costs and updates would be provided by East Belfast Community Development Association (EBCDA).
- ii. A Member asked who would be responsible for developing the app. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that it would be developed by an external consultant, alongside the Youth Practitioners Forum and EBCDA.
- iii. A Member further commented that it could be valuable for the young people to be involved in the design of the app.
- iv. The Area Commander asked if consideration had been given to how the app could be monitored and what the return on investment would be. The Safer City Coordinator commented that this is something that the DPCSP could want to be able to monitor and demonstrate the impact the app was making within the area.
- v. A Member requested that EBCDA attend the next meeting to provide the Partnership with an overview on how the app could be monitored and how this information would be utilised by the DPCSP.
- vi. Members agreed to support the initiative and allocated a total of £3,700 towards the development and initial technical support of the app.

7. Match Funding Application – ‘Safe and Secure in East Belfast’

- i. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with an overview of a proposal received from PSNI requesting match funding to support a ‘Safe and Secure’ at home project.
- ii. The Safer City Coordinator informed Members that PSNI had been successful in securing £5,000 funding from the Assets Recovery Scheme to provide victims of crime or vulnerable people with products to improve their personal and home security.

- iii. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members there was £6,000 allocated in the DPCSP Action Plan for burglary and crime prevention advice.
- iv. Members were supportive of this project, as this area is a priority for the DPCSP and therefore Members agreed to support the project and allocate £4,000 towards the project.

8. Emerging Issues

- i. A Member commented that following a recent meeting of the Drugs and Alcohol Steering Group, the Group had requested they attend a future DPCSP meeting and present their Action Plan to Members.
- ii. Members agreed to invite group to present at a future DPCSP meeting as this could be beneficial in linking directly with the DPCSP's Action Plan.
- iii. A Member, who attended South Belfast DPCSP meeting the previous evening, commented that concerns had been highlighted regarding ASB in Ormeau Park.
- iv. The Area Commander commented that there are a number of areas that are affected by ASB but officers are unable to respond to all incidents as the PSNI are still policing protests.
- v. A Member asked if the DPCSP were aware of additional funding available through Assets Recovery.
- vi. The Safer City Coordinator commented that due to the tight turnaround for receipt of applications, it would not have been viable for the DPCSP to apply for funding and that on this occasion, the Belfast PCSP would submit several applications. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that additional funding would be available for the next financial year and asked Members to identify any projects they would like to bid to the Assets Recovery for funding.
- vii. A Member gave a brief overview on a project operating within the Castlereagh area. The project was called DREAM SCHEME and focused on leadership skills. The Member commented that this may be a project that the DPCSP could be interested in replicating in East Belfast.
- viii. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members will an update on the Youth Event, scheduled for 24th October 2013, Belfast City Hall and invited Members to attend.
- ix. A Member queried the reason for hosting the event during schools hours and that schools would select the students who would attend and it may not necessarily be the appropriate students who would need to attend the event.
- x. The Area Commander welcomed the event and commented that there were real issues affecting the PSNI and how they engaged with young people.
- xi. A Member commented on an event they had attended 'Let's Talk' involving a panel of politicians and young people who were invited to attend and given the opportunity to ask the politicians questions. The Member commented that the event was well organised and structured. The DPCSP confirmed they would consider hosting a similar event in the New Year and possibly get Youth Action involved.

- xii. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with an update on the ASB quotation. A total of 16 organisations were invited to submit quotations and once assessed Members would be updated.
- xiii. The Safer City Coordinator suggested that representatives from the designated organisations to provide information on each of their roles and how they can feed into the DPCS at the being of the next Private Meeting.
- xiv. The Area Commander provided an update on burglary statistics, by the end of June burglary had increased to 28.8%, however the increase has started to slow and currently sits at 1.9%, 8 additional offences. Overall crime has increased by 9.2%.