

# Minutes of the East Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership

## Private Meeting

Strandtown Police Station, Belfast  
Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2014

<b>Political Members</b>	<b>Independent Members</b>
Councillor Mervyn Jones (Chair)	Gareth Beacom
Councillor Claire Hanna	Olwen Lyner
Councillor Adam Newton	
Alderman Gavin Robinson	
<b>Designated Organisations</b>	
Gary Ballantyne, NIHE	Chief Inspector David Moore, PSNI
Yvonne Cowan, H&SCT	Patricia Muldoon, YJA
Jane Lappin, PBNI	Pauline Smart, BELB
<b>Staff Present</b>	<b>Apologies</b>
Glenn Thomas, Safer City Coordinator	Andy Moorhead (Vice Chair)
Saranne Gallagher, Partnership Support Officer	Mark Houston
	Lynda Gibson
	Chief Superintendent Nigel Grimshaw
	Paul Martin, NIFRS

### 1. Welcome and Apologies

- i. The Chair welcomed Members to the meeting and noted the apologies provided.
- ii. Members noted that Chief Superintendent Nigel Grimshaw would attend the next East Belfast DPCSP Meeting.

### 2. Declaration of Interests

- i. Declaration of interest was read by the Chair after which no declarations of interest were declared.

### 3. Minutes of East Belfast DPCSP Private Meeting

- i. The Minutes of the East Belfast Private Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> October, of which copies were previously circulated to Members.
- ii. A Member requested that the Minutes for the East Belfast DPCSP Meeting of Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> October be amended.
- iii. Following the amendment to the Minutes, Members agreed to review the revised Minutes at the next DPCSP Meeting and agree accordingly.

### 4. Chairman's update on the work of the PCSP

- i. The Chair provided Members with an update on the previous Belfast PCSP Meeting.
- ii. A Member provided an update on the Belfast PCSP Human Trafficking Gift Box.

- iii. She further advised Members that Peter Shirlow attended a recent Meeting and provided an update on the findings of the Hate Crime Report. She commented that Members can request a copy of the full report from Belfast PCSP.
- iv. A Member highlighted his frustration regarding the legislation of the Northern Ireland Policing Board. He advised Members that he had an informal conversation with Debbie Watters regarding the constraints currently placed on the sharing of information between the DPCSP Policing Committee and Private Meetings. Following their conversation, he suggested for a meeting to be organised with the Northern Ireland Policing Board to discuss the Partnerships concerns regarding the structures of the DPCSP.
- v. Members agreed for to a meeting to be scheduled with Northern Ireland Policing Board. Alderman Gavin Robinson and Olwen Lyner to attend the meeting.

## **5. Project Proposal – Drug Bin**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with an update regarding a proposed project proposal in relation to the relocation of a drug bin.
- ii. He advised Members that the first of these bins was placed within Connswater Shopping Centre where it remains an effective bin for the depositing of various drugs.
- iii. He further advised Members that the second drugs bin had been initially installed within the Short Strand Community Centre, however due to circumstances beyond the control of the Partnership the bin had to be removed. He commented that a new location for this bin had yet to be identified.
- iv. The Safer City Coordinator informed Members that in an effort to identify a potential new location for the former Short Strand bin a conversation had taken place with FASA. He further commented that FASA have undertaken to conduct a survey (free of charge) of potential sites where this bin could be installed. Once a site has been identified, appropriate consultation will be conducted with the site owner, police and other relevant agencies in order to allow the installation to take place.
- v. The Safer City Coordinator requested Members to note the contents of the report and the accompanying project brief and to consider granting £1,000 towards the project to assist with awareness raising of the drug bin.
- vi. Following a discussion, Members agreed that FASA were well placed to identify the location of the drug bin. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that once a suggested location for the drug bin is identified, Members will be updated.
- vii. A Member requested for a breakdown of the quantity and types of drugs that had been disposed of in the Connswater drug bin.
- viii. Members agreed to the project proposal and allocated £1,000 as requested.

## **6. Project Proposal – Mural Project**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator informed Members that East Belfast DPCSP had committed in its 14/15 Action Plan under Strategic Objective 2 to deliver relevant and appropriate initiatives and interventions in order to improve community safety by tackling crime and ASB.

- ii. He provided Members with an overview of the mural project proposal. He advised Members that the project would involve the production of a board mounted mural on the Belfast bound platform of Sydenham train station. He informed Members that it had been suggested that the could possible detail East Belfast individuals such as Gustav Wolff (who lived in Station Road Sydenham) the founder of Harland and Wolff.
- iii. He advised Members that the Mural Project would involve a number of local schools both primary and secondary and the project would seek to engage with young people through a number of community based workshops aimed at designing the mural.
- iv. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members the total proposed allocation for the delivery of the project had been £4,000.
- v. Members agreed that the proposed project had been a good concept, however concerns had been highlighted if the mural is defaced. The Safer Coordinator suggested for confirmation and agreement to be sought from the artist that if the mural is defaced that it can be corrected and fixed.
- vi. Following a discussion, Members agreed to support the proposed project and allocated £4,000 to the development of the mural. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that once the concept of the mural is confirmed, Members to be updated accordingly.

## **7. Road Safety and Car Crime**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with an overview of a suggested project proposal that would have deliver a range of initiatives to tackle specific community safety issues.
- ii. He advised Members that the project proposal would focus on road safety and car crime. He informed Members that the project aims to deliver two live road safety demonstrations involving the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service, the police, Northern Ireland Ambulance Service and the Youth Justice Agency(subject to confirmation).
- iii. He informed Members that the target audience for the proposed project would involve young people. He further commented that these young people would be identified and engaged through existing relationships with community groups in the East Belfast area.
- iv. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that the total proposed allocation for this project is £1,500.
- v. A Member suggested Avoniel Leisure Centre to be a potential venue for the delivery of the proposed project.
- vi. Members noted that proposed project and agreed to allocate £1,500 to the delivery of the project.

## **8. Pilot Survey Project**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with an overview of the Pilot Survey Project.
- ii. He advised Members of the boundary changes and the new areas that will be encompassed within East Belfast from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015.
- iii. The Safer City Coordinator commented that the pilot survey had been designed to be the forerunner to a full survey of the new area (in its entirety) to be conducted during the 2015/16 financial year. He further advised Members that the survey will inform potential future work in the Sydenham area and also allow for informed future planning of the east wide survey the following year.
- iv. He informed Members that the results of the survey would also gauge the need for future work in the Sydenham area in order to build confidence in the work of the East Belfast DPCSP as a mechanism for reducing incidents of ASB and low level crime.
- v. A Member asked if future reports presented by the PSNI would encompass the new areas within East Belfast. The Chief Inspector confirmed that all PSNI reports presented at the East Belfast DPCSP Meetings would include new areas.
- vi. The Chair asked if any communication had been made with Castlereagh PCSP regarding work they had been doing within the areas that will become part of East Belfast. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that he had met with the Coordinator for Castlereagh PCSP to review their Action Plan and associated projects being delivered with the areas that will move to Belfast from 1<sup>st</sup> April.
- vii. A Member asked if the Department of Justice would increase their funding to DPCSPs to compensate for the new areas being consumed within Belfast following the reform of local government. The Safer City Coordinator suggested that budgets would more than likely be decreased than increased, however, commented that budgets for DPCSPs had not yet been confirmed.
- viii. A Member suggested that the DPCSP lobby for additional funding for the Department of Justice. The Chair advised Members that he would raise the issue regarding future funding at the next Belfast PCSP Meeting.
- ix. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that if the Partnership approves all proposed projects, all funding allocated to the East Belfast DPCSP will be exhausted. However, he highlighted that there may be a claw back of funding required, if funding allocated to small grant applicants is not fully utilised.
- x. Members noted the proposed proposal and agreed to allocate the requested funding of £1,000 towards the delivery of the project.

## **9. Cage Soccer Proposal**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with an overview of the Cage Soccer Proposal.
- ii. He advised Members that two quotation exercises had been carried out in order to commission work to deliver relevant and appropriate initiatives and interventions in order to improve community safety by tackling crime and ASB.

- iii. He commented that both quotation exercises were unsuccessful and therefore to use the money effectively, he requested Members to consider the commissioning of projects which add value around efforts to reduce ASB and in order to ensure that the budget is used before the end of this financial year.
- iv. He provided Members with an overview of the Cage Soccer initiative and detailed how the Cage could be used as an intervention within East Belfast to engage with young people and improve community safety by tackling crime and ASB.
- v. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that the total cost of the proposed project had been £1,000 which included the production and delivery of 10,000 leaflets and venue/refreshments costs.
- vi. Following discussion, Members requested for DPCSP contact details to be printed on the leaflets.
- vii. Members noted the project proposal and agreed to allocate £1,000.

#### **Partnership Information Page, East Belfast Extra**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that at the previous East Belfast DPCSP, Members requested for contact to be made with Mr John MacVicar, the editor of the East Belfast Extra in order to explore the potential to use the paper as a medium for updating members of the public on the work of the Partnership.
- ii. The Safer City Coordinator informed Members that he met with Mr MacVicar and discussed the possibility of the East Belfast Extra carrying a regular information page updating recipients of the paper on the work of the Partnership.
- iii. He advised Members that the page will consist of a number of short articles on existing or planned projects, supporting pictures, update on policing and a small tear off return affording the reader an opportunity to feedback into the Partnership on issues around community safety. It would also provide an opportunity to introduce the East Belfast Members of the DPCSP and the Council Community Safety Team in order to further enhance public awareness of the work of the Partnership.
- iv. He further commented that the information page would run initially for a three month pilot after which Members could consider extending its use into the new financial year.
- v. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that the cost for the page would be a total of £750.00 and recommended Members to grant £750.00 towards the project.
- vi. Members noted and agreed the recommendations of the report.

#### **Domestic Violence Awareness Campaign**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that at the DPCSP Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> October, the Partnership agreed to fund £4,000 towards the Domestic Violence Campaign.
- ii. He advised Members that the Campaign will run for three weeks during December and the Campaign will focus in raising awareness through a tailored advertising campaign utilising Adshels, Adtalk, Billboards, Adboxes and production of a leaflet for sharing in key community buildings.

- iii. He suggested to Members that two amendments would further enhance the effectiveness of this campaign and provide an added strand of cooperation between the Partnership and Castlereagh PCSP. He advised Members that the first amendment would include an increase in the leaflet production from 1,000 to 40,000 and the second amendment would involve an increase to the funding allocated by a further £1000 in order to fund a joint piece of work with Castlereagh PCSP. He further commented that that the funding would be match funded by Castlereagh Borough Council.
- iv. The Safer City Coordinator recommended that Members to agree the suggested amendments and to grant an additional £2,000 towards the delivery of the project.
- v. Following a discussion regarding the cost of leaflets, Members agreed to note the report and allocate the requested funding.

#### **10. DPCSP Action Plan**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with an update regarding the delivery of the East Belfast DPCSP Action Plan 2014/2015.
- ii. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that the Action Plan's aims and objectives had been on track to be achieved by the 31<sup>st</sup> March.
- iii. He advised Members that an under spend may be created, however he anticipated that the under spend would be minimal.
- iv. Members noted the progress to date regarding the delivery of the East Belfast DPCSP Action Plan.

#### **11. DPCSP Financial Approval Process for Emergency Situations**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that during the recent unrest within the East Belfast area it became apparent that the Belfast City Council Procurement Process as it relates to the discharge of this partnership's financial responsibilities made it difficult to commission work or consider applications in an emergency situation.
- ii. He commented that in normal circumstances any decision required for funding support would be tabled as a proposal at the next available DPCSP meeting. He advised Members that a DPCSP meeting could be four weeks away and indeed during the certain times of the year even longer.
- iii. He suggested that Members may wish to consider a process for dealing with emergency applications and one which would allow for the commissioning of work as a means of addressing emerging emergency situations.
- iv. He advised Members of the protocol surrounding the financial approval process regarding emergency funding up to £1,000.
- v. He advised Members that a request for emergency funding would be brought to the next available meeting of the DPCSP or alternatively a request to be brought to a specially convened decision making panel of at least five DPCSP Members. Where time constraints apply and there had been an inability to convene a sub-group, the following decision making authority for spend under £1,000 to be delegated to the Safer City Unit Manager, Assistant Safer City Unit Manager, and Safer City Coordinator, who will consult with the Chair and Vice Chair of East Belfast DPCSP.

- vi. He requested for Members to grant delegated authority for spend under £1,000 to the Safer City Unit Manager, Assistant Safer City Unit Manager, and Safer City Coordinator, who will consult with the Chair and Vice Chair of North Belfast DPCSP for final approval.
- vii. He asked Members to approve the financial process for emergency situations.
- viii. Following a discussion, Members noted the protocol surrounding the financial approval process regarding emergency funding up to £1,000 and agreed to the recommendations suggested by the Safer City Coordinator. Members also agreed that delegated authority could be removed if required.

## **12. Policing Update**

- i. Chief Inspector David Moore provided Members with an update on policing operations.
- ii. He advised Members that following a number of creeper burglaries recently, the PSNI had been actively using social media to raise awareness of the crime. He advised Members that the PSNI had made three arrests in connection with recent creeper burglaries.
- iii. The Chief Inspector provided Members with an update regarding District Policing. He advised Members that both Willowfield Police Station and York Road Police Station would be closing in the near future.
- iv. A Member asked what the impact on PSNI resources had been following PSNI doing road/vehicle checks. The Chief Inspector commented that due to the recent threat and the incident in North Belfast, the PSNI had to conduct vehicle checks to increase their presence in an attempt to try and deter any attacks on the PSNI.
- v. A Member asked if the PSNI had any rationale as to why local buses had been attacked recently. The Chief Inspector commented that the PSNI believed the attacks on buses had been an attempt to take PSNI away from interface areas.
- vi. The Chief Inspector updated Members of a recent Facebook Page being used regarding East Belfast Neighbourhood Watch. He advised Members that the PSNI had concerns with this page and had challenged some of the comments being published through the page. He informed Members that contact had been made with the Department of Justice regarding the removal of the page.
- vii. Following a discussion, Members raised their concerns regarding the page and agreed that the page needed to be removed.
- viii. The Chief Inspector reassured Members that the PSNI are doing all they can to ensure the page is closed down.

## **13. AOB**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members of the recent review of PCSP's by the Criminal Justice Inspectorate. He commented that the draft report is with the Joint Committee for review.
- ii. He further commented that the Joint Committee agreed that it would be very beneficial for each (D)PCSP to facilitate their own independent review.

- iii. He advised Members that Belfast PCSP had allocated £3,000 to deliver this review and the PCSP had requested for each DPCSP to allocate a further £2,000 each to assist with this piece of work.
- iv. Members noted the report and agreed to allocate £2,000 towards the review.

**14. Date of Next Meeting**

- i. Members agreed not to facilitate an East Belfast DPCSP Meeting in December.
- ii. Dates for future DPCSP Meetings to be circulated to Members.
- iii. Following the conclusion of the East Belfast DPCSCP Private Meeting, a quorum of Policing Committee Members assessed a Policing Committee application.
- iv. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with an overview of the application. He advised Members that the application had been submitted by the East Belfast Community Development Agency. He informed Members that the request for funding had been to deliver a Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness Event in partnership with numerous statutory organisations including the Public Health Association. He advised Members that the total cost of funding requested had been £600.
- v. Members noted the application and agreed to allocate £600 to the delivery of the project.