

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

## Private Meeting

Cecil Ward Building, Belfast  
Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January, 2015

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

### 1. Welcome and Apologies

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

### 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 24<sup>th</sup> November, of which copies were previously circulated, were taken as read and correct.

### 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. The Chair advised Members that there had been a delay in the recruitment process for the appointment of new Independent Members. He commented that due to the delay in the recruitment of new Independent Members, there would be minimum of three months in the next financial year that were no Policing Committees will be able to take place. He confirmed that the level of dissatisfaction of the East Belfast DPCSP Members regarding the delay in the recruitment process had been noted by the PCSP.

## **5. DPCSP Action Plan Update**

- 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 a Quarterly Progress Report regarding all delivery to date against the East Belfast DPCSP Action Plan had been submitted to the Joint Committee.
- iii. 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. He advised Members that potential projects to be delivered within this financial year would be presented and discussed later in the Meeting.
- iv. Members noted the progress to date regarding the delivery of the East Belfast DPCSP Action Plan.

## **6. Policing Update**

- i. Chief Inspector David Moore provided Members with an update on policing operations.
- ii. He advised Members that the PSNI had a successful policing operation over the Christmas period and there had been no major incidents to report.
- iii. The Chief Inspector advised Members that recently there had been an increase in various types of crime throughout East Belfast. He commented that the PSNI had implemented various proactive and reactive programmes in an attempt to reduce crime levels. He further commented that the PSNI had been aiming to improve performance, address all crime and ensure all crime is recorded accurately.
- iv. The Chief Inspector commented that he would provide an update regarding police performance at the next DPCSP Meeting.
- v. The Chief Inspector advised Members that the PSNI had been focusing on Elmwood Primary School and Orangefield Park.
- vi. A Member asked had there been any further incidents reported in Orangefield Park. The Chief Inspector commented there had been reports of further anti social behaviour and the PSNI had been continuing to monitor the area.
- vii. A Member further commented that there had been concern highlighted by local residents regarding the number of young people gathering in the area. He further commented that some of the young people gathering in the area had been from North Belfast. He advised Members that detached outreach workers had been deployed in the area to address this issue.
- viii. A Member highlighted his concern regarding the ongoing issues in Orangefield Park. He commented that the issues being reported could have an impact on the detriment on the delivery of local projects.
- ix. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that a meeting had been scheduled with Parks regarding ongoing issues with Orangefield Park and he will provide an update to Members at the next DPCSP Meeting.

- x. A Member commented that there had been reports of a recent hate crime where ten families within East Belfast had been placed under threat. She asked if the PSNI had been aware the incident. Chief Inspector David Moore commented that he had not been aware of the incident.
- xi. Following a discussion regarding hate crime and how hate crime had been portrayed in East Belfast, Members agreed more work was needed to be carried out in this field to change perceptions.
- xii. The Safer City Coordinator commented that a draft hate crime response plan had been received as part of the Hate Crime Project that has been commissioned by the Partnership this year. He advised Members that the finalised report would be forwarded for review when complete.

## **7. Consultation Exercise**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with an overview of the Consultation Exercise conducted by Ineqe.
- ii. He advised Members of the key findings specifically in relation to East Belfast. He commented that the information detailed in the report could assist the Partnership when developing their Transition Plan/Action Plan 2015/16.
- iii. A Member commented for clarification to be provided regarding answers detailed in the Ineqe Report with reference to how many people knew about East Belfast DPCSP. He commented that full answers had been provided on page 18 but not in the appendix of the report.
- iv. Members noted the report.

## **8. Interaction Project Proposal**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with an overview of the Interaction Project.
- ii. He advised Members that the Interaction Project aimed at building on the success of the Eastside Boxing Club project by engaging young people aged 11-18 in a similar project running over 8 weeks and again using fitness as a platform for education.
- iii. He further advised Members that the project applicant group had requested £2,850 in order to fund the project. He informed Members that the project that had been previously funded under Tranche 1 had been due to return £1,500 of their original £5,000 allocation and hence this application potentially represents an additional grant of £1,350 overall.
- iv. The Safer City Coordinator reassured Members of the attendance of the Safer Neighbourhood Officers at a number of the projects sessions for being involved in the project and for governance perspective.
- v. A Member commented that the project could be delivered in partnership with a range of local agencies. She advised Members that she would forward contact details of the local agencies to the Safer City Coordinator which can be forwarded to the group to allow for additional support to be sought to deliver the project.

- vi. Following a discussion regarding the delivery of the project, Members agreed to fund the project in principle, however requested for additional information to be provided in relation to the costs detailed in the application before a Letter of Offer is forwarded to the applicant.

## **9. Community Safety Surgeries Project Proposals**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with an overview of the Community Safety Surgeries Project.
- ii. He advised Members that the aim of the project would be to establish a mobile community safety surgery which would establish itself monthly in different locations throughout the area of East Belfast. He further commented that the surgery would run once a week during that month.
- iii. The Safer City Coordinator further advised Members that the surgery would be advertised locally with the use of editable flyers, promotion through established community and stakeholder groups and through mediums such as Belfast City Councils Facebook and Twitter accounts.
- iv. He requested Members to allocate a total of £2,000 towards venue costs and promotional material to be distributed at the events.
- v. A Member highlighted an inaccuracy regarding costs for the events. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that the costs would be reviewed and re-circulated to Members. Members also requested venues to be identified and forwarded to all for review.
- vi. The NIFRS requested to be involved in the delivery of the project.
- vii. Members agreed to fund the project in principle, however requested for additional information to be provided in relation to the costs detailed in the application before a Letter of Offer is forwarded to the applicant.

## **10. Engaging Youth Project Proposal**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with an overview of the Engaging Youth Project.
- ii. He advised Members that the applicant group already run a number of successful homework groups and this project would seek to build on the success of the homework clubs by providing opportunities for positive engagement between other agencies and groups such as the police, FASA, YJA and BELB as well as these councils Safer Neighbourhood Officers.
- iii. He further advised Members that the project would allow for the sharing of key information around community safety whilst also presenting an opportunity for raising awareness around drug and alcohol issues. He commented that the project would allow for positive interaction between the young people and the police in an informal setting.
- iv. Members noted the project proposal and agreed to grant the requested amount of £2,720 towards the delivery of the project.

- v. Following a discussion regarding projects and eligible items for funding, the Safer City Coordinator commented that it is the responsibility of the Partnership to identify and develop projects, and the role of the Safer City Coordinator is to ensure that all projects are delivered and managed effectively.

#### **11. Orangefield Park Art Installation Project Proposal**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with an overview of the Orangefield Park Art Installation Project.
- ii. Members noted the project proposal and agreed to grant the requested amount of £1,005 towards the delivery of the project.

#### **12. Lagan Walkway Project Proposal**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with an overview of the Lagan Walkway Project Proposal.
- ii. He advised Members that although the walkway is in South Belfast, young people from East Belfast had also been gathering on the walkway.
- iii. He informed Members that the primary concern about the young people relate to their safety and the potential of them becoming victims of alcohol and drug misuse, assault, intimidation, sexual assault and theft of their personal property.
- iv. He further advised Members of the aim of the project and commented that the project would involve the deployment of two teams of detached youth workers between 8pm and 10pm on Saturdays until the last weekend in March. He informed Members that the project would allow for at least 3 youth provisions to be opened on Saturday evenings until the last weekend in March which will result in 80 young people participating in extended Saturday night youth provision (10 young people each week using service).
- v. The Safer City Coordinator informed Members that the total cost for the delivery of the project would be £5,815. However, he advised Members that South Belfast DPCSP would be asked to consider funding a total of £4,815 towards the project at their next DPCSP Meeting. Therefore, he requested Members to approve a total of £1,000 towards the delivery of the project.
- vi. A Member commented that there are Community Safety Wardens who had been funded to assist with the delivery of projects similar to the Lagan Walkway Project. He further commented that he could not see how the delivery of this project could compliment the services all ready in place.
- vii. Following a discussion, Members agreed to allocate £1,000 to the delivery of the project on the basis that South Belfast DPCSP supports the project. Members agreed that East Belfast DPCSP £1,000 contribution would be used to support the publication of leaflets for the project.

### **13. Safer Homes Project**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with an overview of the Safer Homes Project.
- ii. He advised Members that the aim of the project had been to help reduce the occurrences of Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) and Burglary (including distraction type burglaries). He further commented that an additional aim is to reduce fear of crime within communities in East Belfast and in particular amongst older people.
- iii. He informed Members that the project would be an initiative designed to promote crime prevention advice and security measures in East Belfast. He commented that the project will conduct a number of bespoke surveys to identify areas of need. Those areas will then have the crime prevention message promoted by community groups and this council Safer Neighbourhood Officers in order to identify vulnerable older people.
- iv. He suggested for Members to allocate £4,000 to allow for the purchase of security items to assist with the delivery of this project.
- v. A Member commented that there are external services that could be utilised to assist with the delivery of the project. The Member commented that he will forward contact details to be Safer City Coordinator to be involved in the delivery of the project.
- vi. Members noted the proposal and agreed to allocate £4,000 to support the delivery of the project.

### **14. Shared Experiences Project**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with an overview of the Shared Experiences Project.
- ii. Following a discussion regarding the implementation and delivery of the project, Members agreed not to fund the project.

### **15. PCSP Communiqué from Joint Committee**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with an update on the PCSP Communiqué from the Joint Committee.
- ii. He advised Members that a Communiqué included two key items;
  - Partnerships are required to provide a 9 month Annual Report for the period April – December 2014 which is to be approved by the current Membership and submitted to the Joint Committee by 31st March, 2015.
  - Due to a delay in the recruitment process, it is unlikely that the Partnerships will be reconstituted before late June, 2015 and so PCSPs are asked to review current Action Plans in order to develop a 6 month Transitional Action Plan which will be led by staff in the absence of a Partnership. This is to be submitted to the Joint Committee by 28th February.
- iii. Members highlighted their concern regarding no DPCSP meetings until the new DPCSP is constituted and asked for the Safer City Manager to be made aware of their concerns.

**16. AOB**

- i. Members discussed the ongoing concerns regarding the East Belfast Neighbourhood Watch social media page on Facebook.
- ii. Chief Inspector David Moore commented that he would confirm who within the PSNI had been monitoring the situation and would provide an update at the next DPCSP Meeting.
- iii. Chief Inspector David Moore commented that there is still a need to encourage reporting to the PSNI in order to try and reduce levels of crime within East Belfast.

**17. Date of Next Meeting**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that the next DPCSP Meeting will be held on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February, 5.30pm in 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room, Cecil Ward Building, Belfast.
- ii. He further advised Members that a DPCSP Private/Policing Committee and a Public Meeting will be held on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March commencing at 5.30pm, venue to be confirmed.