

Minutes of the East Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Private Meeting

Eastside Visitors Centre, C.S. Lewis Square
Tuesday, 13th December, 2016

Political Members

Alderman Tommy Sandford (Chair)
Councillor Aileen Graham
Councillor Mairead O'Donnell

Independent Members

Michelle Bryans
David Geddis
Lisa McMaster
Steven McMillen

Designated Organisations

Yvonne Cowan, H&SCT
Jane Lappin, PBNI
Dermot Magorrian, YJA
Alison Methven, NIHE

Chief Inspector David Moore, PSNI
Michael Roberts, NIFRS
Pauline Smart, EA

Staff Present

Glenn Thomas, Safer City Coordinator
Katharine McCrum, Partnership Support Officer
Rachel Fulton, Partnership Support Officer

Apologies

Jonathan Currie (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Sonia Copeland
Councillor Carole Howard

1. Welcome and Routine Matters

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

2. Declaration of Interests

- 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.
- ii. No declarations of interest were declared at the outset of the Meeting.

3. Minutes and Matters Arising

- i. In relation to actions from previous DPCSP Meetings, the Safer City Coordinator advised that the PCSP had just launched its 2FAST2SOON Car Simulator which included DVDs relating to safe driving and distraction whilst driving. Members were advised that the car would be delivered alongside the PSNI and NIFRS and was now available for use at suitable events.
- ii. The Chair advised that he had attended the launch of the car simulator alongside the Justice Minister and encouraged partners to make use of the resource.
- iii. Minutes of the East Belfast DPCSP Private Meeting held on 26th October, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct.
Proposed: David Geddis
Seconded: Councillor Aileen Graham

4. Chairs Update from the PCSP

- i. The Chair advised Members that the PCSP had reviewed the latest DPCSP Action Plan Progress Reports and Financial Spend Report at its meeting on 12th December. He noted that some areas were seeking additional funds should underspends be identified, and that if money was not spent, it would be returned to the Joint Committee. He also advised that a meeting of the Chairs and Vice-Chairs would be called in early January to discuss what money remained unallocated and to make decisions about reallocation of funds.
- ii. The Chair advised that he continued to visit communities to raise awareness of the DPCSP and to see what support could be offered to them.

5. East Belfast DPCSP 2016/2017 Action Plan Progress Report

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that an update on the delivery of the 2016/2017 East Belfast DPCSP Action Plan was contained within the papers with each project RAG rated to demonstrate its level of progression; completed projects in green, ongoing delivery in amber, planned activity in purple and unallocated or not developed projects in red.
- ii. Members were further advised that a number of projects had commenced over the past week, increasing committed spend by around £40,000 and reducing unallocated spend to approximately £3,000. It was noted however than even committed money could remain unspent should projects fail to deliver as planned.
- iii. Members noted the contents of the report and the progress to date.

6. Updates from Statutory Partners

Health and Social Care Trust

- i. Yvonne Cowan asked the Safer City Coordinator to circulate information regarding a PCSP funded Domestic Violence training on 26th January. In response to a question regarding involvement from the PSNI at the event, she advised that it was being delivered by Women's Aid however the police were part of the Belfast Domestic Violence Partnership.

Probation Board NI

- ii. Jane Lappin advised that Christmas was a very busy time for the service due to home leave for prisoners and increased consumption of alcohol. She advised that staff would be working throughout the Christmas period to ensure a swift response to those most at risk.

NI Fire and Rescue Service

- iii. Michael Roberts advised that the Fire and Rescue Service wished to promote their Christmas fire safety message and encouraged communities to visit elderly and vulnerable neighbours to check that smoke alarms were working, candles were not left unattended and that homes were generally fire safe.

NI Housing Executive

- iv. Alison Methven advised that Christmas had been a very difficult time for communities last year with queues forming in January due to the number of people presenting as homeless. She advised that Social Services would provide emergency places over the holidays and that key telephone numbers would be distributed. She added that the Housing Executive were working with NIFRS and domestic violence groups to support those who may become homeless due to fire or violence.
- v. The Safer City Coordinator advised that staff were working on developing an information/directory booklet for East Belfast and so contact numbers such as the one mentioned would be useful to include. He also advised that a draft booklet would be circulated before print.
- vi. Ms. Methven provided information on structural improvement work in the Cregagh Estate which would require the removal and renewal of 2 murals. She advised that work would begin in January, 2017 and would be funded by the Community Cohesion Team with community input.

7. Project Updates

- i. The Safer City Coordinator provided an overview of 6 projects which had been approved through the delegated authority of the Chair and Vice-Chair, some of which had received Policing Committee (PC) funding;
 - Charter NI, Tamery Pass Christmas Celebration Project - £1,790
 - PCSP Argos Domestic Violence Project - £500
 - Walkway Community Association, Understanding your Community (PC) - £800
 - Redcar Crafts at McQuiston (PC) - £147.50
 - Youth Initiatives, Merry on the Mersey (PC) - £1,000
 - Charter NI, Community Cohesion Festival (PC) - £360
- ii. Members were asked to retrospectively note and approve the contents of the report and the allocation of £4,597.50 as outlined.
- iii. Members welcomed the number of projects supported and the small amount of funding required to engage with this number of people.
- iv. Michael Roberts asked that the Fire and Rescue Service were invited to attend such events in the future as they offered excellent opportunities to promote the fire safety message, especially amongst the elderly and vulnerable.
- v. Members noted the report and retrospectively approved the allocation of funds.
Proposed: Councillor Aileen Graham
Seconded: David Geddis

8. Citywide Projects

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that staff had identified 3 Citywide Projects that, if delivered, would offer benefit to each area of the City;
 - Belfast PCSP Schools Programme - £3,000 (Total Project Cost - £12,000)
A pilot programme delivering policing and community safety messages to schools.

- No Hate Here Campaign - £2,000 (Total Project Cost - £10,000)
A campaign partnering businesses and community groups to raise awareness, build capacity and offer support to victims of hate crime.
 - Think How You Drink drama - £5,000 (Total Project Cost - £20,000)
A drama tackling the issues of anti-social behaviour, underage drinking, drug use and suicide in schools.
- ii. A Member suggested that youth and community groups would also benefit from the delivery of the Think How You Drink drama and so it was agreed that links could be made with the Youth Practitioners Forum to explore options for a specific showing for this audience. The Safer City Coordinator advised that additional showings could also be purchased if Members wished to expand on the proposed number of performances. He undertook to circulate the dates of performances once agreed.
 - iii. In response to a query regarding tendering for the PCSP Schools Programme, the Safer City Coordinator advised that all spend over £3,000 required a quotation exercise to be undertaken. He also advised that the proprietary process previously used by Council had been amended and so justification as to why a certain group was best placed to deliver a project would no longer be accepted.
 - iv. Following discussion Members agreed to provide £10,000 of funding towards the delivery of the 3 Citywide Project outlined above.
Proposed: Councillor Aileen Graham
Seconded: Lisa McMaster

9. PACTs Update

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that the Ormiston PACT had met on 30th November at Tesco, Knocknagoney. He noted that despite the small numbers, engagement had been positive and a volunteer Chair was now in place. Members were further advised that work was ongoing to develop the Titanic and Victoria PACTs to a similar level of sustainability.
- ii. A Member advised that PACTs had been discussed at a recent Inner East Forum meeting and that there was community sector support for the model. It was agreed that PACTs were a useful tool but did need community buy-in to become successful. The Safer City Coordinator agreed to circulate dates of future meetings to the DPCSP.

10. Emerging Issues

Underage Drinking

- i. A Member asked for an update following discussions at the last meeting about underage drinking at a bar in East Belfast.
- ii. Chief Inspector Moore advised that a number of inspections had taken place since the last meeting, however no cause for further action was found.
- iii. Members agreed that a key issue was confidence within communities to report concerns to police, as well as parental responsibility. It was suggested that a campaign could be developed by the DPCSP to support this action. The Safer City Coordinator agreed to look into possibilities.

- iv. A Member noted that the action taken by the police following reports at the last meeting should filter down through communities and in turn build confidence.

Drug Use

- v. A Member raised concerns regarding a number of vulnerable adults under the influence of drugs, likely heroin, at an East Belfast park and their encounter with police. She advised that police had moved the group on however she had concerns for their welfare and questioned what services could have been involved to offer support, or if an arrest would have been appropriate.
- vi. Chief Inspector Moore advised that the police would not arrest an individual unless drugs were found on their person but that they did have a duty of care to vulnerable people and ambulance assistance can be called for following a case-by-case assessment. He advised that the PSNI was working with the Council on the issue of needles and drug litter but that issues were recurrent given the needs of the user. He also advised that involving a drugs counsellor at that stage was probably inappropriate given that the user was under the influence of drugs, however details could be passed onto support agencies.
- vii. Yvonne Cowan advised that drug outreach teams were working in such hotspots and those involved in the incident were likely known to services. She undertook to pass on details of the incident, as did Chief Inspector Moore.

11. Date of Next Meeting

- i. The Chair reminded Members that the next meeting on the DPCSP would be on Monday 30th January, 2017 and wished Members a happy Christmas and New Year.