

# Minutes of the Belfast Policing and Community Safety Partnership

## Policing Committee

Lavery Room, City Hall  
Monday 6<sup>th</sup> August, 2018

<b>Political Members</b>	<b>Independent Members</b>
Councillor Carole Howard (Chair)	John MacVicar (Vice Chair)
Councillor Claire Canavan	Debbie Hammill
Councillor Matt Garrett	Mary Lambe
Alderman Brian Kingston	Carmel McKinney
Councillor JJ Magee	Michael O'Hara
Councillor Lee Reynolds	Susan Russam
Alderman Jim Rodgers	

  

<b>PSNI</b>	
Chief Superintendent John Roberts	Superintendent Melanie Jones

  

<b>Staff Present</b>	<b>Apologies</b>
Lorna Somers, Safer City Assistant Manager	Anne-Louise Toal
Suzanne Gowling, Safer City Coordinator	John Loughran
Saranne Gallagher, Partnership Support Officer	

### 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 minutes of the Belfast PCSP Policing Committee Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> May, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct.

### 4. Matters Arising

- i. The Safer City Coordinator reminded Members that at the previous PCSP Meeting held, Members requested for a meeting to be arranged to discuss the policing information provided to enable (D)PCSPs to monitor performance against the local and NI Policing Plans. She advised Members that this was still ongoing and detailed would be provided in due course.
- ii. She also advised Members that confirmation regarding a Joint Briefing on the Judiciary would also be circulated in due course.

## **5. Update from PSNI Representatives**

- i. Chief Superintendent Roberts provided Members with an update regarding significant events that required PSNI assistance.

### Bonfires

- ii. He provided Members with an overview of the 11<sup>th</sup> July Bonfires.

### Road Traffic Incident

- iii. He further advised Members of a road traffic accident on the 3<sup>rd</sup> July in which a stolen vehicle had been involved. He advised Members that the Police Ombudsman was investigating the incident.

### Death of Male

- iv. He also informed Members of the death of a male whilst in police custody. He commented that investigations were on going regarding the cause of death.

### West Belfast – Devices

- v. Chief Superintendent Roberts also informed Members that two houses in West Belfast recently had devices thrown at them. He advised Members that investigations were ongoing.

### Sectarian Incident

- vi. He further advised Members that recently there had been a report of a sectarian incident in North Queen Street. He commented that the incident was now being treated as a hate crime incident.
- vii. A Member asked if the incident in North Queen Street had been mainly sectarian.
- viii. Chief Superintendent Roberts commented that although motivation for the attack had been noted as sectarian, he would be unable to comment further on the rationale for the attack.

### Parades

- ix. A Member commented that on the 12<sup>th</sup> July a band passing St. Patricks Church played music. He asked if the PSNI could deal with this or if a complaint needed to be made first.
- x. Chief Superintendent Roberts advised Members that there had been two incidents with parades on the 12<sup>th</sup> July; first issue one band had brought additional members into their rank and the second issue involved a band breaking the rule as they passed St. Patricks Church. He informed Members that both incidents had been referred to the PPS for review.
- xi. A Member asked if the PSNI could provide a reassurance that there would be adequate PSNI resources at the scheduled parade in the City Centre on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> August. He commented that local traders had highlighted that the parade may affect trade.

- xii. Chief Superintendent Roberts advised Members that Superintendent Melanie Jones would be the lead officer in charge on Saturday. He further advised that local traders contact the Parades Commission if they had any concerns regarding Saturday's parade.
- xiii. Superintendent Melanie Jones informed Members that there would be an enhanced PSNI presence on Saturday in the City Centre, with the aim of ensuring a level of normality remains in the City.

#### Policing Plan Update

- xiv. In relation to performance, Chief Superintendent Roberts informed Members on the following:
  - Increase of 2.9% in the total number of crime incidents;
  - Robberies increased by 27.7%;
  - ASB reduced by 2.9%;
  - Drug seizures increased by 11.5%;
  - Burglaries increased by 7.7%. resident burglaries increased by 9.3%;
  - Domestic abuse increased by 7.9%; and,
  - Shoplifting increased by 28.6%.
- xv. A Member suggested for information regarding police attending call outs specifically in connection with mental health to be included in the report provided to the PCSP.
- xvi. Chief Superintendent Roberts advised Members that this information would be difficult to obtain, however he would endeavour to see if this information can be included in future reports.
- xvii. A Member highlighted her concern regarding the number of PSNI officers who attend local hospitals when accompanying a person in custody.
- xviii. Superintendent Jones provided Members with a rationale as to why PSNI officers are present at hospitals when accompanying a person in custody.
- xix. Members noted the disappointment of Street Triage not being available in Belfast.
- xx. A Member thanked the PSNI for the report provided. He further commented that the Health and Social Care Trust should provide additional resources that will assist with addressing mental health issues throughout Belfast.
- xxi. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised Members that she had recently met with David Cuthbert Community Planning Project Officer, and discussed the issues of mental health/vulnerable individuals. She commented that she hoped that Community Planning and the Belfast Agenda would focus on these issues.
- xxii. Following a discussion, Superintendent Jones invited any PCSP Members who would like to visit the Custody Suite at Musgrave Police Station to contact her directly.
- xxiii. Members requested for a copy of the Policing Plan to be emailed to the Partnership.

#### **6. The Effectiveness of Policing Committees**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with a presentation overview on the 'Effectiveness of Policing Committee's'.

- ii. Members noted the presentation and the detail provided.

**7. Date of Next Meeting**

- i. Members were advised that the next meeting of the Policing Committee would be held on Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> October following the conclusion of the Private Meeting.