

# Minutes of the Belfast Policing and Community Safety Partnership

## Policing Committee

Lavery Room, City Hall  
Monday 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2018

| <b>Political Members</b>  | <b>Independent Members</b>   |
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| Councillor Carole Howard (Chair)<br>Councillor Claire Canavan<br>Councillor Matt Garrett<br>Alderman Brian Kingston<br>Councillor JJ Magee  | John MacVicar (Vice Chair)<br>Debbie Hammill<br>John Loughran<br>Mary Lambe<br>Carmel McKinney<br>Michael O'Hara<br>Susan Russam<br>Anne-Louise Toal |
| <b>PSNI</b>   | <b>NI Policing Board</b>   |
| Superintendent Norman Haslett   | Wendy Osbourne, Independent Member   |
| <b>Staff Present</b>  | <b>Apologies</b>   |
| Lorna Somers, Safer City Assistant Manager<br>Suzanne Gowling, Safer City Coordinator<br>Andy Claydon, Partnership Support Officer<br>Katharine McCrum, Partnership Support Officer | Councillor Lee Reynolds<br>Chief Superintendent John Roberts, PSNI   |

### 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 12<sup>th</sup> March, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct.

### 4. Matters Arising

- i. No matters were raised.

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

### Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs) and Arrests

- i. Superintendent Haslett provided Members with an update on a number of incidents of note, including 2 high profile Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs) and an attack on a bus lane CCTV car/operative.
- ii. Superintendent Haslett also provided information on some recent arrests and drug seizures which had come about due to police patrols. He noted that visible policing had been a concern for Members at a previous meeting, and so it was reassuring to share these positive outcomes.
- iii. Members passed on their condolences to the families of those involved in the RTC's and queried whether car crime was on the rise. Members also welcomed the details on recent arrests as they showed the benefit of more visible policing.
- iv. Superintendent Haslett advised that the nature of crime was changing with more offences committed online or in a more hidden way, and so while the PSNI tried to have officers in the right place at the right time, they needed to be careful with deployment when considering other, more complicated criminal behaviour. With regards to car crime, he advised that instances were reducing however that was of little consolation to those affected, and was not necessarily the perception of the public.
- v. Following queries from Members on specific incidents, Superintendent Haslett undertook to speak to the relevant Chief Inspector and seek an explanation for the series of events.
- vi. Discussion took place regarding the driver involved in the fatal RTC and the suggestion that he had recently been released on bail. Several Members felt that the Judiciary needed to be heard on this issue and that public confidence in reporting crime was being greatly diminished.
- vii. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised Members that two of the (D)PCSPs had organised public events in the past which looked at crime from the point of view of a range of statutory agencies, including a District Judge. Members agreed to hold a similar event as a Joint Briefing for all PCSP and DPCSP Members.

### Statistics and Reports

- viii. In response to the question as to what information Members wished to see from the PSNI, a Member asked for RAG (red/amber/green) statistics on a monthly or quarterly basis, as well as a demand wheel. Another Member suggested that themed meetings would be useful.
- ix. It was agreed that these suggestions would be implemented at the next meeting of the Policing Committee.

### Belfast Marathon

- x. A Member questioned a recent media report which stated that the cost of policing the Belfast City Marathon was prohibitive and as a result may impact the viability of future events.
- xi. Superintendent Haslett advised that the new legislation being referred to, the Roads (Miscellaneous Provision) Act, included issues of police costs, however it was only one aspect. He advised that this year's marathon had been successful but costs were very

high, particularly due to the bank holiday. He added that discussions were ongoing and that the PSNI needed to look at the most appropriate use of its resources.

- xii. The Chair noted that in other areas Special Constables would be used for such events.

## **6. Draft NI Policing Plan**

- i. Superintendent Haslett advised that where previously each area of the City had its own Policing Plan, moving forward the PSNI had developed 1 Plan for the City. He noted that while each area had differing issues, they had been grouped by overarching issues and vulnerabilities. He noted that the boundary lines drawn by the PSNI and Council were often invisible to communities.
- ii. Members differed on their opinion of the new Plan, with some feeling that it lacked detail, particularly when considering an OBA approach, while others agreed that the themes were recurring over the city. It was suggested that the Plan was edited to include 'local communities' when discussing problem solving and partnership working and a reference to 'keeping people safe from others and themselves'.
- iii. Superintendent Haslett took on board the comments made and reassured Members that the Plan offered a template for the PSNI to demonstrate what they were doing to tackle each of the areas outlined.

## **7. Monitoring Reports against the NI Policing Plan**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator reminded Members about their responsibility as a Policing Committee to monitor the PSNI performance against the Local and Northern Ireland Policing Plans. As such, it was suggested that a Working Group be established in order to look at a new approach for both monitoring and a mechanism for reporting back to the Policing Board.
- ii. Members agreed that a meeting would be convened involving the Chairs and Vice-Chairs from each of the (D)PCSPs, as well as the PSNI and their analysts. It was also agreed that once a date was agreed, it would be circulated to all Members to allow comments and suggestions to be submitted from the wider Partnership.
- iii. Members were asked to note correspondence from the Northern Ireland Policing Board regarding the bi-annual Policing Monitoring Reports and the importance of completing these templates. It was agreed that the templates would be reviewed as part of the meeting previously discussed.

## **8. Date of Next Meeting**

- i. Members were advised that the next meeting of the Policing Committee would be held on 6<sup>th</sup> August, 2018.