

# Minutes of the Belfast Policing and Community Safety Partnership

## Private Meeting

Lavery Room, City Hall  
Monday 11<sup>th</sup> June, 2018

### Political Members

Councillor Claire Canavan  
Alderman Brian Kingston  
Councillor JJ Magee  
Councillor Lee Reynolds  
Alderman Jim Rodgers

### Independent Members

John MacVicar (Vice Chair)  
Debbie Hammill  
Mary Lambe  
John Loughran  
Susan Russam

### Designated Organisations

Liz Arthur, PBNI  
Harry Bradley, YJA  
Group Commander Chris Fee, NIFRS

Superintendent Melanie Jones, PSNI  
Chief Superintendent John Roberts, PSNI

### Staff Present

Alison Allen, Safer City Manager  
Lorna Somers, Safer City Assistant Manager  
Suzanne Gowling, Safer City Coordinator  
Katharine McCrum, Partnership Support Officer

### Apologies

Councillor Carole Howard (Chair)  
Councillor Matt Garrett  
Carmel McKinney  
Michael O'Hara  
Anne-Louise Toal  
Jennifer Hawthorne, NIHE

## 1. Welcome and Apologies

- i. In the absence of the Chair, the Vice-Chair, John MacVicar, assumed the position of Chair. Members were welcomed to the meeting and the apologies noted.

## 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. Alderman Rodgers declared his interest in item 12 of the agenda; Orangefest Proposal.

## 3. Belfast PCSP Minutes

- i. The minutes of the Belfast PCSP Private Meetings held on 14<sup>th</sup> May, copies of which has previously been circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct.

## 4. Matters Arising

- i. No matters were raised.

## 5. Chairs Update

- i. The Chair reminded Members about a NI Policing Board event detailing the key findings and recommendations from the Ulster University's research on 'The Effectiveness of Policing Committees' on 13<sup>th</sup> June at the Junction, Dungannon.

## 6. 2018/2019 Belfast PCSP Action Plan Implementation

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that a copy of the 2018/2019 Belfast PCSP Action Plan had been circulated to Members and that 8 Project Description documents were contained within the papers for final approval by Members.
- ii. The Safer City Assistant Manager added that the Street Injecting Support Service and Dual Diagnosis Projects were subject to approval by the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services.
- iii. Members approved the delivery of the 8 projects as outlined below:

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Action Plan Theme</b>	<b>Budget</b>
Neighbourhood Watch	Consult and Engage	£1,500
Sharps Project	Alcohol and Drugs	£15,000
Street Injecting Support Service	Feel Safe - Complex Needs	£15,000
Dual Diagnosis Project	Feel Safe - Complex Needs	£30,000
Home Security Service	Feel Safe - At Home	£50,000
Christmas Safety Event	Feel Safe - At Home	£8,500
Road Safe Roadshow	Feel Safe – Young People	£8,000
Bonfire Cultural Expression Programme	Anti-Social Behaviour	£15,000

## 7. Unsolicited Proposals

- i. The Safer City Assistant Manager reminded Members of their request for a paper to be drafted regarding unsolicited applications for funding following the submission of such a request at the last PCSP meeting in May, 2018. She recapped on the discussions had at that meeting where Members agreed not to fund the application as to do so would have a detrimental effect on already agreed projects which had been developed through an OBA process.
- ii. Members were also advised that unsolicited requests totalling around £32,000 had been submitted to the North and West Belfast DPCSPs during June and that further requests were expected across the Partnerships.
- iii. Members were asked to consider the report which recommended not considering unsolicited proposals, and that instead groups would be signposted to the next round of PCSP Small Grants or other relevant funding.
- iv. A Member stated his support for the general approach, but suggested a degree of flexibility given the likelihood of underspends or unforeseen circumstances emerging.
- v. The Safer City Assistant Manager agreed with the points raised but noted that it was for the Partnership to agree the need for projects and to meet this need by seeking applications through an equitable process, open calls or through self delivery. She pointed out that the majority of applications were seeking to fill gaps in funding for existing projects and were often submitted within days or weeks of an event.

- vi. The Safer City Assistant Manager also advised that the governance processes undertaken by PCSP staff takes around 4 weeks and so last minute applications would be unlikely to be able to meet the conditions set out within their Letter of Offer.
- vii. Members were also reminded that a number of 'oven ready' projects that had gone through the OBA process were ready to be developed should underspends arise.
- viii. Following lengthy discussion, Members agreed with the recommendation to not consider unsolicited applications in future.
- ix. The Safer City Assistant Manager noted that this decision would mean rejecting the application due to be discussed under item 12 of the agenda. She added that it would be for each of the (D)PCSPs to agree their position in relation to such applications.

## **8. Update from Designated Members**

### NIFRS

- i. Group Commander Chris Fee provided an update to Members on key issues including fire call attendance. He advised that a number of wildfires in the Blackmountain and Cavehill areas were having both an environmental impact as well as affecting NIFRS resources. He asked for those with influence in the areas to speak with groups in an effort to reduce such incidents.

### PSNI

- ii. Chief Superintendent John Roberts outlined a number of incidents of note including the erection of banners in Cantrell Close, a significant assault in the city centre, the arrest and charge of a suspect following criminal damage in South Belfast, a device thrown in East Belfast and a paramilitary assault in North Belfast. He also noted that the month of June was a busy time with a number of concerts and parades planned while work with bonfire sites was ongoing.
- iii. A Member pointed out an error in the name of the Whiterock Parade and the date of the Mini Twelfth was amended.
- iv. The PSNI were commended on the number of charges and arrests that were being made, and on their good work over recent years.

### PBNI

- v. Liz Arthur asked the Partnership for assistance in providing placements for Supervised Activity Orders – those who would be provided with a community or voluntary placement as they were unwilling or unable to pay fines. She advised that placements would need supervision and public liability insurance.

### YJA

- vi. Harry Bradley advised that the Youth Justice Agency were having regular multi-agency meetings regarding young people who were likely to be under paramilitary threat in order to offer support and minimise risk.

### Members Comments

- vii. A Member thanked the NIFRS for their positive engagement at bonfire sites, and asked the PSNI if they felt that Anti-Social Behaviour had reduced at sites.
- viii. Chief Superintendent Roberts stated that he was unable to confirm this with figures but that he had a feeling that this could be the case.
- ix. A Member commended the PSNI on their use of social media following the theft of a motorcycle and sidecar from German tourists. Another Member provided an update on the incident, advising that a sidecar was offered to the tourists to allow them to continue their journey, and that they had thanked the community for their goodwill and were now talking of their positive experience.

### **9. Belfast City Council Anti-Social Behaviour Report**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that the Community Safety Unit had recently divided its work into two teams; a Partnership Team who will facilitate the (D)PCSPs and the delivery of the Action Plans, and an Operations Team who will respond to Anti-Social Behaviour.
- ii. Members were advised that as part of the interaction between both teams, it was suggested that a monthly report is brought to each DPCSP outlining pertinent information, and a quarterly report brought to the PCSP beginning in August.
- iii. Members agreed to this recommendation.

### **10. Belfast Agenda Update**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised that work on the Belfast Agenda, Belfast's Community Plan, was continuing to develop and as a result, the Community Planning team are keen to engage with the (D)PCSP before the draft Action Plan under the 'Living Here' priority is finalised.
- ii. Members agreed to receive a short presentation on the Belfast Agenda at the next meeting of the PCSP on 6<sup>th</sup> August.

### **11. Anti-Social Behaviour Legislation Consultation Response**

- i. Members were reminded about the workshop held on 3<sup>rd</sup> May at which a response to the DOJ's consultation to review the current criminal legislation to tackle Anti-Social Behaviour was discussed.
- ii. Members were presented with the response which included results from departments within Belfast City Council who deal with Anti-Social Behaviour.
- iii. Members approved the response and its submission to the Department of Justice.

### **12. Orangefest Proposal**

- i. Alderman Jim Rodgers left the room during discussion of this item in line with his previously declared interest in the application.

- ii. The Safer City Assistant Manager noted that in line with the decision of the Partnership under item 7 of the agenda, Members should not consider the application.
- iii. A Member noted that Belfast Orangefest was a worthwhile project which had been funded by the PCSP for a number of years, but acknowledged that the application had been received at a late stage.
- iv. The Safer City Assistant Manager confirmed that this was the 3<sup>rd</sup> year that funding had been requested, however PCSP funding was only a small part of the overall Orangefest budget. It was also noted that the Partnership had, through an OBA process, identified an alcohol and drugs project which would have an impact across the City. PCSP Small Grants and Community Festival Funding were mentioned as possible funding routes available to Orangefest in the future.
- v. In response to a query as to whether the organisers would have been aware of the processes, the Safer City Assistant Manager confirmed that the applicant was advised that there was no budget available but could complete an application if they wished. She also confirmed that Officers had been requesting details from the group for several months in order to close down the previous year's project and that their letter of offer would have asked for all details to be provided within 6 weeks. It was noted that this was the case for a large number of organisations who needed to be more mindful of the importance of the PCSPs monitoring and evaluation processes.
- vi. Members noted the sensitivities surrounding their rejection of such an application but agreed that it was the responsibility of organisers to plan ahead when considering what funding they require.
- vii. It was agreed that while the project was worthwhile and had had an impact, this did not mean the PCSP was responsible for funding it on an ongoing annual basis.
- viii. Following further discussion, Members agreed that their previous decision would stand, and that the PCSP would not consider the unsolicited application for Belfast Orangefest.
- ix. Alderman Rodgers returned to the room and was advised of the decision. Members were further advised that the group would be given full feedback regarding the decision.

### **13. Criminal Justice Inspection of PCSPs**

- i. The Chair advised Members that the Criminal Justice Inspection for Northern Ireland (CJINI) would be meeting with the PCSP Chair, Vice-Chair and Independent Members prior to the next meeting of the PCSP on 6<sup>th</sup> August. Independent Members were asked to RSVP to the PCSP Office if they were available to attend.

### **14. Date of Next Meeting**

- i. Members were reminded that the next meeting would be on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> August at 6.00pm in the Lavery Room, City Hall.