

East Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Policing Committee Meeting

East Belfast Network Centre
Tuesday 29th May, 2018

Political Members

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

Independent Members

Michelle Bryans (Vice-Chair)
Jonathan Currie
David Geddis
Lisa McMaster

PSNI Representatives

Chief Inspector David Moore

Other Designated Organisations

Gary Ballantyne, NIHE
Yvonne Cowan, H&SCT
Alan Cunningham, NIFRS

Dermot Magorrian, YJA
Jane Lappin, PBNI
Pauline Smart, EA

Staff Present

Glenn Thomas, Safer City Coordinator
Andy Claydon, Partnership Support Officer

Apologies

Michael Roberts, NIFRS
Councillor Carole Howard
Councillor Sonia Copeland
Yvonne Cowan, H&SCT
Steven McMillen

1. Welcome and Routine Matters

- i. The Safer City Coordinator welcomed Members to the Policing Committee Meeting

2. Declarations of Interest

- i. No declarations of interest noted.

3. Minutes/Matters Arising

- i. Minutes of the East Belfast DPCSP Policing Committee Meeting held on 20th March, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct.

4. Area Commanders Update

- i. CI Moore provided Members with the new format of the local policing report and delivered an overview of recent figures and commented on the following issues:
 - Sex Offences – Figures, although worrying, are distorted by the fact that the PSNI are not the only agency dealing with cases.
 - Burglary figures are high due to a spate of opportunistic incidents on homes with unlocked doors. Figures are also increased by reports of offenders from the North and West of the City coming to arterial route sites like Ravenhill and committing crimes.

- Drugs results are pleasing due to an increase in people reporting crimes which suggests an increase in confidence.
- The East had a significant number of Domestic Crimes which CI Moore assured the PSNI have a very low tolerance for. However, the desire to prosecute is hindered by a common reluctance on behalf of the victim to press charges.
- A Member commented on the surprising number of rape cases which CI Moore suggested may appear inflated due to a willingness to report the crimes which should be considered positive.
- A Councillor congratulated the PSNI on their positive results for drug crime which CI Moore suggested was aided by the support of local Communities.
- CI Moore responded to a request for information of operations against Paramilitaries. He stated that the majority of the work was being undertaken by local police, who were targeting licensed premises and taxi's and generally trying to be more visible and disruptive. CI Moore continued by highlighting the sensitive nature of the work and informed Members that local police were working with the Task Force.
- Members discussed the importance of community understanding of how their reports are dealt with as a common misconception is that it is not worthwhile reporting incidents to the Police as they are not followed up. CI Moore suggested inviting Sam Donaldson from C3 to address this issue and a Member further suggested he be invited to attend a public meeting.

5. Policing Committee Application

- The Safer City Coordinator introduced the application for funding from Charter for Northern Ireland to contribute £1,332 towards a project which aims to bring about conversations exploring Community Safety and diversionary activities at heightened times of tension. The proposal includes an end of project celebration to involve both sides of the Community.
- Members agreed that any project that promoted cross community activities should be supported.
- Members agreed to support the project.
Proposed by Lisa McMaster
Seconded by Jonathan Currie

6. Emerging Issues

- None discussed

7. Date of Next Meeting

- Members were informed that the next meeting of the Policing Committee would be on 28th August in the Network Centre.