

West Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Private Meeting

Lavery Room, City Hall
Monday, 24th September 2018

Political Members	Independent Members
Councillor Claire Canavan(Chair) Councillor Matt Garrett Councillor Brian Kingston	Breige Brownlee (Vice-Chair)
Statutory Designated Organisations	
Harry Bradley, YJA Nicola Coogan, PBNi Mark Cushnahan, NIFRS Davy Harbinson, NIFRS Inspector Clare McClelland	Chief Inspector Kellie McMillen, PSNI Paul O'Neill, H&SCT Pauline Smart, EA Inspector Alan Swann, PSNI
Local Designates	
Michael George, CNP Aisling Heath, Falls Council	Paula Kerr, Upper Falls CSF
Staff Present	Apologies
Alan Wardle, Safer City Co-Ordinator Katharine McCrum, Partnership Support Officer	Tommy Boyle, H&SCT

1. Welcome and Routine Matters

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

2. Declarations of Interest

- 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 recorded.

3. Minutes & Matters Arising

- i. The Minutes of the West Belfast DPCSP Private Meeting held on 28th August, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct.
- ii. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that all actions identified at the last West Belfast DPCSP Meeting had been completed. He added that a letter of thanks to the previous Chair had been drafted and was awaiting the Chair's signature before sending.
Proposed: B. Brownlee
Seconded: H. Bradley

4. Chairs Update from PCSP

- i. The previous Chair provided Members with an update from the August meeting of the Belfast PCSP.
- ii. He advised that a financial review meeting would be held in October to discuss any potential underspends and reallocation of budgets, and that the PCSP had been nominated as one of several project supervisors for ARCS Funding, applications for which closed on 3rd September. He advised that discussions were ongoing with the Department of Justice regarding the additional workload that would fall to PCSP staff administering ARCS funding.

5. Updates from Statutory Partners

PBNI

- i. Nicola Coogan, PBNI, advised that Supervised Activity Orders were now in place, and asked Members to advise her of any community service type work that was required as they were in need of placements. In response to a query as to what types of placements were needed, Ms. Coogan advised that placements were often short term and could be one-off sessions so community clean ups or painting were ideal.

Education Authority

- ii. Pauline Smart, EA, advised that she had recently been appointed as the Senior Youth Officer for South and West Belfast.
- iii. Members were provided with an update on £224,262 of Summer Intervention Funding which was awarded to groups across Belfast, more than half of which went to groups in South and West Belfast.
- iv. Ms. Smart also advised that she had developed a new Area Plan for South and West Belfast which mirrored the new Council areas, and would now be working to review need in the area and work to fill job vacancies.

Youth Justice

- v. Harry Bradley advised that the Youth Justice Agency had received 53 referrals from the PSNI for Community Resolution Notices for minor offences between February and August and of these, 47 had attended with positive feedback provided.
- vi. He also advised that they had received interest from a number of schools regarding information sessions for various ages, and that these would begin to be delivered in October/November time.

H&SC Trust

- vii. Paul O'Neill, deputising for Tommy Boyle, H&SCT, advised that a new Director for Family and Child Care Services had recently been recruited and that links with Belfast City Council may be possible with the new Child Care Strategy.

NIFRS

- viii. Davy Harbinson provided statistics on major and secondary fires across North and West Belfast but noted that the main area of work had been the recent fire in the Primark building. He noted his thanks to community groups who had encouraged participation in a 1 day pilot

programme tackling anti-social behaviour. He also mentioned a recent news item regarding a new drug which involves the use of propane in its development which was likely to come to the attention of the PSNI and NIFRS given the risk of explosions.

Falls Community Council

- ix. Aisling Heath noted that increased anti-social behaviour had been reported in the College Square area and that Belfast City Council and the PSNI had been working to address this.

PSNI

- x. Chief Inspector Kellie McMillen provided Members with an overview of on police performance and noting that:
- Overall crime had increased by 1.6%, mainly in the category of violent crime without injury;
 - The main crime areas were showing a decrease when compared with the previous year with domestic burglary down by 13%, commercial burglary down by 50% and criminal damage down by 40%;
 - The number of anti-social behaviour (ASB) incidents had decreased by 67 with figures across Belfast also down;
 - Hot spots for ASB were noted as Lower Divis (College Sq North), Suffolk Road and Falls/Beechmount. Alcohol and drug use was a contributing factor in the latter 2 areas.
- xi. Chief Inspector McMillen thanked colleagues from Belfast City Council and NI Fire and Rescue Service for the support in focused operations to deal with anti-social behaviour over the summer which saw a reduction of 47% in identified hotspots over a 22 week period. She advised that the PSNI hoped to expand on this work to include a focus on drug and alcohol issues. She also advised that operations were planned for 27/28th October and 3/4th November to cover the Halloween holidays.
- xii. Inspector Clare McClelland provided an update on the anti-drug operation, 'Silent Guardian'. She added that the reports regarding College Square North would be factored into priority patrolling.
- xiii. A Member raised concerns regarding the increased visibility of drugs on the streets and called for a multi-agency approach to tackle the issue. He also advised that he had received a number of complaints regarding aggressive begging in the City Centre, which may also have a drug related element. Chief Inspector McMillen undertook to pass these concerns on to the Chief Inspector for South Belfast.
- xiv. A number of Members raised concerns about worsening communications between the PSNI and local communities, in particular neighbourhood calls going unanswered and long waits when using the 101 non-emergency service.
- xv. Chief Inspector McMillen apologised for the delays and suggested that if unanswered, Officers should be returning calls at a later date. She undertook to address the concerns raised. She also advised Members that work was about to begin on a project related to increasing confidence in the 101 service whereby operators and communities would get a better understanding of each others perspective. She suggested that the responsible officer, Inspector Louise Dunn, could attend the next meeting of the DPCSP in order to provide further information.
- xvi. A Member asked what progress had been made with regards to work on the Fresh Start initiative, and if there were any plans to draw down the funds available.

- xvii. Chief Inspector McMillen advised that she had begun to look into the process of applying for funding under the Tackling Paramilitarism theme and once available, would come to communities to see how best this could be developed. The Safer City Coordinator advised that this would be the same theme that PCSPs would feed into however there was no update available at this stage.
- xviii. At the Members request, the Safer City Coordinator agreed to write a letter to the Department of Justice to ask for an update on the progress of releasing funds to the PSNI and/or PCSP in order to support communities and re-energise the process.
- xix. Pauline Smart, Education Authority, advised that they had received funding from Fresh Start which had been administered to the voluntary sector. She added that the funding paid for one youth worker in West Belfast and that 11 were funded in this way across Northern Ireland.

6. 2018/19 Action Plan Update

- i. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with an update on delivery of the 2018/2019 West Belfast DPCSP Action Plan.
- ii. He advised that over £10,000 of invoices were still outstanding from the 2017/2018 financial year, and as a result no further funding would be provided to the groups who were still to finalise previous projects.
- iii. Members were advised that of the current budget, £39,220 remained unspent however just £2,420 of this was unallocated, most of which was within the budget lines for private and public meetings and so full spend was anticipated. Members were also reminded that a financial review meeting would be held on 15th October to which all Members were invited to attend.
- iv. The Safer City Coordinator suggested that Members may wish to begin considering priorities for the 2019/2020 financial year.
- v. Members noted the contents of the report and commended the work of the officers in progressing delivery to its current position.

7. 2018/2019 West Belfast DPCSP Spend Approvals

- i. Members were provided with a list of projects that had been approved by the West Belfast DPCSP. The Safer City Coordinator advised that approvals accounted for 68% of the budget however as the full budget included Citywide projects, the percentage of approvals relating to West Belfast DPCSP specific projects would be over 90%.
- ii. Members noted the contents of the report.

8. Belfast PCSP Action Plan Implementation

- i. Members were provided with a report detailing 3 projects approved by the Belfast PCSP at their meeting in September;
 - Banjaxed! Project, £15,000
 - Crisis Support Project, £5,000
 - Stewarding Project, £7,500
- ii. Members noted the contents of the report.

9. West Belfast DPCSP Small Grants Update, Tranche 2

- i. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with an update regarding West Belfast DPCSP Small Grants Tranche 2.
- ii. He reminded Members that unallocated funds from the Policing Committee Applications had been used to subsidise the Small Grants budget, and that a panel of Members had met on 13th September to ratify the funding decisions for Tranche 2.
- iii. Members were advised that 5 applications had met the threshold to be recommended for funding, however the remaining budget of £10,400 would only allow the top 2 of these to be funded at a cost of £9,222.40. Members were further advised that successful and unsuccessful letters would be issued in due course, along with 'holding letters' to the remaining 3 applicants should additional funds become available in the coming months.
- iv. Members were asked to provide delegated authority to the Safer City Coordinator to reallocate the remaining £1,178 within the Small Grants budget to other projects or budget lines as necessary.
- v. Members noted the contents of the report, approved the funding recommendations and delegated authority as requested.

10. West Belfast Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Report

- i. Members were provided with a report detailing ASB issues and local district hotspots as reported to Belfast City Council. The Safer City Coordinator asked Members to consider the style of the report and advise of any changes they wished to see.
- ii. A Member suggested that information on the general area as well as the 3 main hotspots would be useful, including emerging themes or general context information.
- iii. The Safer City Coordinator agreed to feed this back to the Operational Team but noted that staff hoped to maintain a consistent in format across the 4 reporting areas.

11. Emerging Issues

- i. A Member provided an update on a recent Peace Day Event organised by Falls Shankill Community Forum at Townsend Street. It was agreed that a letter commending those involved should be sent from the Partnership.
- ii. At the request of a Member, the Safer City Coordinator agreed to explore the possibility of having a briefing on Belfast City Council's Peace 4 Programme.
- iii. A Member asked for the Suffolk area to be included in Planning for the 2019/2020 Action Plan as the area did not have the same level of community representation and so could be overlooked when designing projects.
- iv. A Member advised that problems had lessened at Dunmurry Halt, and following a break in communication with Translink due to the Glider launch, work was ongoing to re-integrate with Education Authority staff. He advised that the ASB project with Translink regarding vandalism would be promoted via posters and a bus wrap and suggested that the DPCSP promote this as they instigated the first stage of the project.

- v. Inspector Alan Swann advised the Partnership that he would be moving on from his current role as Local Inspector for West Belfast, and advised that Uel Boyd would be replacing him. Members thanked him for his work in the area over the last number of years.

12. Date of Next Meeting

- i. Members were advised that the next meeting of the West DPCSP would be held on Monday, 22nd October 2018 at 5.30pm in the Lavery Room, City Hall.