

Minutes of the Belfast Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Policing Committee

Lavery Room, City Hall
Monday 5th November, 2018

Political Members

Councillor Brian Heading (Chair)
Councillor Emmett McDonough-Brown
Councillor Matt Garrett
Councillor John Hussey
Councillor JJ Magee
Councillor Ryan Murphy
Alderman Jim Rodgers
Alderman Tommy Sandford

Independent Members

Debbie Hammill
Mary Lambe
Carmel McKinney
Michael O'Hara
Susan Russam

PSNI

Chief Superintendent John Roberts, PSNI

Staff Present

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

Apologies

Councillor Claire Canavan
John MacVicar (Vice Chair)
John Loughran
Anne-Louise Toal
Chris Fee, NIFRS
Patricia Muldoon, YJA

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 8th October, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct.

4. Matters Arising

- i. No arising matters were noted.

5. Update from PSNI Representatives

- i. Chief Superintendent John Roberts provided an overview of statistics covering April – September 2018. He noted that;
- Total recorded crime had increased by 1.8% when compared with the previous year while the outcome rate remained the same,
 - Harassment figures were up by 30% however some of this was due to a change in Home Office reporting meaning that social media harassment cases were now included here,
 - Reports of sexual offences were up by 2.4% and it was hoped that some of this was as a result of increased confidence in reporting,
 - Street robbery has increased, as has residential burglary and shoplifting,
 - Drug offences were also up by 8.9%, which could be linked to the increase in resources dedicated to the issue.

6. Members Consideration of the NI Policing Board Questions

- i. The Safer City Coordinator reminded Members of their duty to review progress against the Belfast Policing Plan Report and that to support this, NIPB had issued Members with 2 questions to consider for each section of the report;
1. What views have the Policing Committee recorded on how well this work was undertaken by the PSNI?
 2. What difference has this work made within you policing district?
- ii. Chief Superintendent Roberts reviewed each of the Strategic Outcomes and the work being carried out to address the various issues. Member's comments regarding the issues are summarised below.

Strategic Objective	Relevant Initiatives	PCSP Members Comments
Increasing trust and confidence in policing throughout Northern Ireland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crime Prevention • Neighbourhood Watch • Social Media • City Centre Beat • NextDoor • Engagement with local communities • NIPB/PSNI Consultation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports of arrests show that the PSNI are active and doing a good job • Increased crime in a range of areas (ASB, drugs) shows the need for a Partnership approach • Community feedback and intelligence is key • Effective and performing well • Tasked with areas of work that are not their responsibility i.e. Mental Health issues, which is often not reflected in statistics • The Priority Simulator was an excellent tool for engagement and should continue to be rolled out • Neighbourhood Policing is a key issue for communities and needs to be increased • PSNI are active in meeting targets but increased visibility and engagement is wanted • Perception is still very important to communities and should be considered when officers carry long arms weapons • Interpretation services should be extended to the custody service as language cards are ineffective
Reducing harm caused by crime and ASB with a focus on protecting the most	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Op Rallinae • ASB Engagement • Beat the Burglar • Arrests 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSNI action following community reports builds confidence but needs to be built on • Proactive work in relation to hate crime is to be encouraged

vulnerable, including repeat victims	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tackling Hate Crime • Supporting victims of domestic abuse 	
Working in partnership to tackle serious and organised crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tackling drug dealing • Reducing harm caused by drug taking and dealing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drugs and associated ASB are a concern for Belfast
Identify and intervene with priority offenders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent and Deter • Catch and Control • Resettle and Rehabilitate • CRN Referral Scheme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How are outcomes monitored for these initiatives? • How does this link with discretionary disposals? • Can people sign up to Prevent and Deter?
Tackle Paramilitarism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paramilitary Task Force • Arrests and ongoing operations • Partnership working 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conversations are needed regarding what information is contained within the leaflets provided to those under threat • What updates are provided to those under threat? • The statutory requirements for children involved in a threat need to be considered

- iii. The Safer City Coordinator suggested that Members may wish to hear a presentation on the Reducing Offending Unit.
- iv. It was also agreed that a date for Members to visit the custody suite at Musgrave Police Station would be arranged and the details circulated.

7. **Date of Next Meeting**

- i. Members were advised that the next meeting of the Policing Committee would be held following the Private Meeting on 14th January, 2019.