

Minutes of South Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Private Meeting

Tuesday 27th November 2018, 5.00pm

Conor Room, City Hall, Belfast

Political Members	Independent Members
Councillor McDonough-Brown	Richard Kennedy (Vice Chair)
Councillor Jeffrey Dudgeon	Paul McDonnell
Councillor Geraldine McAteer	
Statutory Designated Bodies	
Anita Duff, EA	Paul McCombe, NIHE
Chief Inspector Gavin Kirkpatrick, PSNI	Melissa Spence, PBNI
Belfast City Council Staff	
Glenn Thomas, Safer City Coordinator (SCC)	Apologies
Saranne Gallagher, Partnership Support Officer	Michael Boyle
Brice Dickson, NIPB	Dermot Magorrian, YJA
	Yvonne McKnight, H&SCT

1. Welcome & Routine Matters

- i. The Chair welcomed Members to the South Belfast DPCSP Private Meeting and noted the apologies provided.

2. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

- i. The Chair asked Members 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 conflict were noted.

3. Minutes Matters Arising

- i. The Minutes of the Private Meeting held on 29th October, copies of which were previously circulated, were agreed as correct.

4. Matters Arising

- i. No matters arising were noted.

5. Chairs Update

- i. The Chair requested an update to be circulated to Members with an overview of the Belfast PCSP Meeting held on Monday 5th November.
- ii. Members were advised that the Chair and Vice Chair attended a Governance Meeting with NI Policing Board. The Vice Chair commented that the work of South Belfast DPCSP had been well received by the Board and positive feedback provided.
- iii. The Chair thanked the Safer City Coordinator and Council staff for their work and support to South Belfast DPCSP.

6. Update from Statutory Partners

PBNI

- i. Melissa Spence advised Members that PBNI are currently developing an additional Belfast team, Central East Belfast. She commented that community services throughout Belfast would become decentralised. She suggested if Members had any projects that the PSNI could support to forward information directly to her.

NIHE

- i. Paul McCombe, NIHE advised Members that along with planning permission from Belfast City Council, NIHE had leased the Hope Street site on a short-term basis. The site will be used to facilitate fun fair.

EA

- i. No update.

7. ASB Update

- i. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with a South Belfast update on Belfast City Council ASB issues and local district hotspots including:
 - Holylands;
 - Dub Lane/QUB; and,
 - Botanic Underpass.
- ii. He advised Members that the information detailed in the report is based on Council statistics only.
- iii. The Vice Chair highlighted his concern regarding the number of needles located in the Botanic Underpass.
- iv. Chief Inspector Gavin Kirkpatrick advised Members on the needle exchange programme.
- v. The Safer City Coordinator suggested for discussion to be held with BDACT regarding needle disposal and waste of needles.
- vi. Following a discussion, Members requested for an update to be provided regarding the locations of needle exchanges in South Belfast.
- vii. He also provided Members with an update on the number of Service Requests received by Council and on the South Belfast ASB Forum.
- viii. Members noted the report and detail provided.

8. Belfast PCSP Action Plan/Budget Update

- i. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with an update regarding the current progress of South Belfast DPCSP 2018/2019 Action Plan.
- ii. He advised Members on the overall 2018/19 budget for South Belfast DPCSP:

(D)PCSP	Budget	Spent	Committed	Planned	Remaining
South	£99,419	£26,038	£50,937	£28,768	£5,980

- iii. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with an update on the delivery of all projects.
- iv. He further commented that a total of £5,980 of the 2018/19 budget remained. He also advised Members that there may be potentially additional underspends identified. However, he reassured Members that contingency projects had been identified that can be delivered if underspends are identified.
- v. The Vice Chair queried if the RADAR project would become operational once the Northern Ireland Policing Board are functioning again.
- vi. Brice Dickson, Member of Northern Ireland Policing Board advised Members that RADAR was a police lead project and it had been a decision made by the PSNI to withdraw funding on RADAR due to pressures on the PSNI budget.
- vii. Members noted the update provided.

9. PCSP Autumn Small Grants, Tranche 2

- i. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with an update regarding South Belfast DPCSP Small Grants Tranche 2.
- ii. He advised Members that Small Grants 2019/20 Tranche 1 is currently opened for applications. He asked Members to encourage local community organisations to apply. He further advised the closing date for applications is Friday 11th January 2019.
- iii. The Safer City Coordinator also informed Members of the Community Safety Showcase Event on Tuesday 11th December, 12.00pm-2.00pm, City Hall. He advised Members that the showcase is an opportunity to build the capacity of local community groups by explaining what evidence of need is and how to get it, what information we will ask them to give us during the life of the project and what evaluation returns look like and how to claim full funding.
- iv. Members noted the update provided.

10. Emerging Issues

- i. Members agreed not have a South DPCSP Meeting in December. Future South Belfast DPCSP Meetings to be circulated to Members.
- ii. A Member asked for an update in relation the recent incidents on Donegal Pass.

- iii. Chief Inspector Kirkpatrick advised Members that the incident had involved two rival groups from the Markets and Donegal Pass. He commented that it had been an arranged fight, which had spilled over a few nights. He informed Members that a PSNI resource had been dedicated to this area to try to prevent any further incidents occurring.
- iv. A Member also highlighted his concern regarding a recent article in the Belfast Telegraph regarding the number of attacks on vulnerable/elderly people.
- v. The Chair commented that a recent spike of burglaries had been reported in the Ballynafeigh area.
- vi. Chief Inspector Kirkpatrick advised Members that approximately 50% of burglaries occur in South Belfast. He commented that Ballynafeigh, Holylands and Botanic are particular hot spots for burglaries.
- vii. The Vice Chair asked in the PSNI had been aware of the incident in a local shop whereby staff were threatened with a syringe.
- viii. Chief Inspector Kirkpatrick advised that the PSNI are aware of the incident and ongoing investigations into the incident are ongoing.
- ix. A Member asked if the PSNI thought bail was granted too easily. Chief Inspector Kirkpatrick commented that bail is the responsibility of the Courts.
- x. The Vice Chair reminded Members that the Belfast PCSP in partnership with Department of Justice would host a Joint Briefing on Wednesday 28th November, 7.00pm in Ten Square Hotel. He advised Members the Briefing would focus on 'Sentencing Review Policy'. He encouraged Members to attend.

11. Policing Committee, District Policing Plan Report

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that the NI Policing Board have asked Members to give consideration to the following questions:
 - What views have the Policing Committee recorded on how well this work was undertaken by PSNI?
 - What difference has this work made within your policing district?
- ii. The Safer City Coordinator suggested for a draft response to be compiled and reviewed by Members before submission to the NI Policing Board. Members welcomed this suggestion.
- iii. He requested if Members had any comments for inclusion in the draft response to be forwarded to the Safer City Coordinator before Wednesday 5th December.

12. Date of Next Meeting

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that next South Belfast DPCSP Private Meeting would be confirmed in due course.
- ii. The Chair thanked everyone for attending.