

Minutes of the Belfast Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Private Meeting

Lavery Room, City Hall
Monday 11 February 2019

Political Members	Independent Members
Councillor Brian Heading (Chair) Councillor Emmett McDonough-Brown Councillor Claire Canavan Councillor Matt Garrett Councillor John Hussey Councillor JJ Magee Councillor Ryan Murphy Alderman Jim Rodgers Alderman Tommy Sandford	John MacVicar (Vice Chair) Debbie Hammill Mary Lambe John Loughran Michael O'Hara Susan Russam Anne-Louise Toal
Designated Organisations	
Chris Fee, NIFRS Patricia Muldoon, YJA	Roisin Muldoon, PBNI Chief Superintendent John Roberts, PSNI
Staff Present	Apologies
Ryan Black, Neighbourhood Services Manager Suzanne Gowling, Safer City Coordinator Katharine McCrum, Safer City Coordinator Saranne Gallagher, Partnership Support Officer	Michael Hogg, EA Carmel McKinney Bryan Nelson, H&SCT

1. Welcome and Apologies

- i. In the absence of the Chair, the Vice Chair welcomed Members to the meeting and noted the apologies provided. He advised that the Chair would be joining the meeting shortly.
- ii. The Vice Chair congratulated Katharine McCrum in her recent appointment as Safer City Coordinator.

2. Declarations of Interest

- i. The Vice 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 noted.

3. Belfast PCSP Minutes

- i. The minutes of the Belfast PCSP Private Meeting held on 14th January, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct.
- ii. Suzanne Gowling provided Member with an update on the on the actions from the last PCSP Meeting.

- iii. Chief Superintendent John Roberts advised Members of the role of the Public Protection Unit within the Police and further clarified the purpose of their presentation to the PCSP.
- iv. Following a discussion, Members agreed for the Public Protection Unit to present to the PCSP first, and then for multi-agency presentation regarding Public Protection Arrangements to be presented at a future PCSP Meeting.

4. Chairs Update

- i. The Vice Chair thanked Members for their attendance at the recent OBA Planning Workshops.
- ii. He reminded Members of the forthcoming event 'Engage with Diversity' on Tuesday 26th February, 7.00pm in the Banqueting Hall and invited all to attend.

5. Update from Designated Members

NIFRS

- i. Group Commander Chris Fee advised that the NIFRS Fire Safety Audit Strategy continues to be focused on Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMO). He also advised Members that NIFRS continue to work in partnership with Belfast City Council Licensing to ensure compliance of licensed premises and places of entertainment.
- ii. The Group Commander also advised Members of the "Your Choice" Programme, which is targeted at young drivers in the 16 to 24 year old age group and key significant events for the NIFRS.
- iii. A Member commended the work of the NIFRS in relation to their handling of a fire on 31st January.

YJA

- iv. Patricia Muldoon advised Members that the YJA had recently commissioned 'Strung Out', a new play by Spanner in the Works Theatre Company and the play had been performed in a number of venues across Northern Ireland. She highlighted the YJA feel the medium of drama is key to helping getting messages again to young people.
- v. She further advised Members of the recent success of the YJA art exhibition in the Ulster Museum.
- vi. Ms. Muldoon also informed Members that the YJA Duncairn Gardens Offices are due to close next month. YJA will relocate the Waring Street, Belfast.
- vii. A Member asked if any formal announcement had been made in relation to the closure of the YJA Duncairn Gardens office closure. Ms. Muldoon advised that no formal announcement had been made and the reason for the closure had been due to budget constraints.

PSNI

- viii. Chief Superintendent John Roberts noted the following points within his update:
 - PSNI are currently investigating the murder of Mr Ogle. He advised that 14 people had been arrested, 20 searches had been conducted and 1 person charged with murder.
 - There have been 7 suspected drug related deaths this month, 3 males in West Belfast, 1 male in South Belfast, 1 female and 1 male in North Belfast and 1 homeless male in Belfast City Centre. He commented that this had been a slight increase on last month when there were 6 suspected drug related deaths.
 - Drug arrests and incidents throughout Belfast.
- ix. A Member commended the PSNI on the recent drug arrest in the Cregagh area.
- x. A Member also commended the PSNI in relation to the work conducted regarding the death of Mr Ogle.
- xi. A Member asked if there had been any update regarding the death of Mr Donegan. Chief Inspector Roberts advised that the investigation was ongoing.

PBNI

- xii. Roisin Muldoon, Assistant Director provided Members with an update regarding the positive work being undertaken by the Graffiti Removal Service (GRS) in partnership with Belfast City Council. She advised that PBNI hope to introduce a similar service within other parts of Northern Ireland.
- xiii. Ms. Muldoon advised Members that relevant PBNI staff attended and participated in all five of the OBA Planning sessions that took place during January 2019.
- xiv. She further commented that PBNI look forward to participating on the panel during the forthcoming event 'Come Along and Engage With Diversity' scheduled to take place on Tuesday 26 February 2019 in Belfast City Hall. She encouraged all Members to attend.
- xv. A Member commented that the Belfast City Council staff member quoted in the report provided by PBNI, was greatly missed and thanked the PBNI for recognising his work.
- xvi. Ms. Muldoon advised Members that PBNI would be moving to the YJA Duncairn Garden offices.

6. 2018/2019 Belfast PCSP Action Plan Implementation

Project Approval

- i. Members were presented with 2 project description documents to confirm final approval for delivery:

Project Name	Action Plan Theme	Budget
Too Fast Too Soon Enhancement	Feel Safer	Up to £2,000
Workshop Exiting Prostitution	Feel Safe	Up to £1,500

- ii. Members were advised that the purchase of branded jackets within the Too Fast Too Soon project had been removed following consultation with Chief Superintendent Roberts.
- iii. A Member asked why had the PSNI made a request for the jackets initially, to later withdraw the request.
- iv. Suzanne Gowling, Safer City Coordinator advised Members that an informal conversation had taken place with the PSNI regarding the purchase of jackets.
- v. Chief Superintendent John Roberts advised Members that he was unaware of the communication that took place regarding the purchase of jackets, and he would not be in agreement for the purchase of jackets.
- vi. The Safer City Coordinator also requested for Members to approve an increase of £500 to the Feel Good February project that had originally been approved at the last PCSP Meeting. She advised Members that she understood the additional funding had been requested to allow for another two sessions to be delivered.
- vii. Members agreed to support the following projects:
 - Too Face Too Soon Enhancement (up to £150) for the purchase of the car cover;
 - Workshop Exiting Prostitution (up to £1,500); and,
 - Feel Good February (£500).

7. 2018/2019 Belfast (D)PCSP Action Plan/Budget Updates

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that summary Action Plan Updates for each (D)PCSP providing progress against each project were contained within the papers.
- ii. She noted that 93% of the total (D)PCSP Budget for 2018/2019 was now committed, planned or spent.
- iii. She further advised Members that full spend of the Joint Committee grant had been anticipated this year.
- iv. Members noted the content of the paper provided.

8. 2019/2020 Belfast (D)PCSP Action Plan

- i. Members were presented with the Belfast (D)PCSP Strategic Assessment and 2019/2020 Action Plan.
- ii. Members were advised that the document will be subject to public consultation..
- iii. Members were asked to review the content of the document and forward any comments to Katharine McCrum by the end of February.
- iv. Members were also advised that the OBA Planning Workshops had taken place and had good representation from Designated Members.
- v. Members are asked to:

- Approve the Belfast PCSP 2019/2020 Action Plan and its submission to the Joint Committee (finance detailed in Item No 9.).
 - Agree to hold a Workshop of all (D)PCSP Members after six months to analyse current budget spend and to consider options in relation to reallocation of any significant underspends which have been identified.
 - Note that the Citywide projects will report local activity to DPCSPs on a quarterly basis.
 - Provide delegated authority to the Safer City Assistant Manager to approve the release of the funding for any projects which have completed the DPCSP governance/due diligence processes and this funding will be reported retrospectively at each PCSP meeting in line with the process used in 2018/19.
- vi. Members agreed content of the report provided.

9. 2019/2020 Belfast (D)PCSP Funding Model

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that an addendum paper had been circulated to allow for further information to be provided regarding the 2019/2020 (D)PCSP Funding Model.
- ii. Members were advised that each year the Joint Committee provides each PCSP with an indication of what their overall funding allocation will be for the incoming financial year. This allows each PCSP to develop their annual Action Plans.
- iii. Members noted that the Joint Committee funding agreement is between it and Belfast PCSP and it is for Belfast PCSP to determine how the funding is managed.
- iv. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that the 2019/2020 planning process had assumed the same level of funding as the previous year, as initially indicated by the Joint Committee. This would mean that the Belfast Letter of Offer should be for approximately £826,517 of which £570,325 would be ring-fenced for project costs.
- v. Members were also informed that Belfast City Council had also provided in its estimates a financial contribution of £120,000 towards the project costs for the Partnerships. This would provide the (D)PCSP with a total ring fenced budget allocation of £690,325 towards project costs.
- vi. Members were reminded that Belfast PCSP 2019/2020 Action Planning Process had been agreed by Belfast PCSP in October 2018 and subsequently a detailed Action Plan of projects and associated budgets (Item 8) within Strategic Objectives 2 and 3 had been developed.
- vii. The Safer City Coordinator recommended that these projects are delivered on a Citywide basis in order to secure best value for money and a consistent standard of service.
- viii. The Safer City Coordinator highlighted to Members that options regarding financing these suggestions had been detailed for consideration.
- ix. The project costs associated with the recommendations of the OBA Planning Sessions, totalled £268,500.
- x. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that of these, £141,200 are existing projects with ongoing contractual spend. She recommended that these costs, as well as costs associated with holding Private, Policing Committee and Public Meetings are subtracted from the total budget for projects before funding is allocated to DPCSPs.

Table 1

Available Budget for Projects	£690,325
Ongoing Contracted Projects	£141,200
Recommended Budget for Meeting Costs	£16,000
Remaining Budget to be Allocated	£533,125

- xi. Members were asked to consider the 3 models of funding in relation to the remaining £533,125:

OPTION 1

- Split the remaining budget equally between the 5 Partnerships. This would provide the PCSP and each DPCSP with £106,625.
- Once each District funds the recommended projects which were developed by the OBA Workshops, each DPCSP would be allocated a budget of £62,406.25 for Policing Committee Grants, Community Safety Small Grants and localised spend (including Consult and Engage).

OPTION 2

- Funding to cover PCSP Small Grants is removed (£15,000) and the rest of the PCSP project funding is shared on a proportional basis across the Districts.
- The split is based on a similar funding model used by the Joint Committee for the PCSPs. This model provides a (30%) basic allocation equally to all DPCSPs and then additional allocations based on (45%) population and (25%) deprivation and has been used by the Belfast PCSP since 2016.
- DPCSPs would then be asked to equally contribute to the recommended projects which were developed by the OBA Workshops. Table 2 outlines the resulting DPCSP budgets for Policing Committee Grants, Community Safety Small Grants and localised spend (including Consult and Engage):

Table 2

DPCSP Budgets Option 2	
North Belfast DPCSP	£71,939.75
South Belfast DPCSP	£39,867.81
East Belfast DPCSP	£62,406.25
West Belfast DPCSP	£75,411.19

OPTION 3

- A fifth of the budget (20%) is removed to cover the delivery of PCSP Projects which require citywide delivery in order to succeed.
- The remaining budget is then allocated on a proportional basis, as described above. Table 3 outlines the resulting DPCSP budgets:

Table 3

DPCSP Budgets Option 3	
North Belfast DPCSP	£114,473
South Belfast DPCSP	£88,072
East Belfast DPCSP	£106,625
West Belfast DPCSP	£117,330

- Each DPCSP would then be required to confirm whether they wish to purchase the projects and services recommended through the OBA Planning Workshops by contributing towards them. The contribution will come from their DPCSP allocation noted in table 3.
 - However, if Members opt out of a particular project the District will not benefit from the associated service delivery in 2019/2020.
- xii. A Member welcomed the additional paper. He highlighted that his preferred budget allocation would be Option 3. He commented that this option would allow for funding to be allocated to each district based on need and population. He further reiterated that this option would allow each district to develop grassroots projects and to allow for confidence in policing to be increased at a local level. He also commented that Option 3 would allow subgroups the autonomy to develop at a local level. Therefore, he proposed that Option 3 would be the preferred way for budgets to be allocated for 2019/2020.
 - xiii. A Member highlighted Option 1 as the preferred funding model. He commented that this option allowed for each district to receive funding equitably. However, the Member highlighted the total amount allocated in Table 1 for Meeting Costs (£16,000) and recommended that all (D)PCSP Meetings are held in the City Hall in the first instance.
 - xiv. Members were advised that only 1 Partnership held their meetings outside the City Hall/Adelaide.
 - xv. An additional Member highlighted his preferred choice of Option 1.
 - xvi. The Neighbourhood Services Manager provided Members with an overview as to why the additional paper had been presented to the Partnership.
 - xvii. A further Member proposed Option 3 to be preferred model of funding used. He commented that this option would allow for confidence in policing to be addressed. He further commented that Option 1 would not support areas who have high levels of crime.
 - xviii. A Member highlighted his concern regarding the funding models proposed and the implications that the City Centre may face.
 - xix. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members work related to City Centre would be supported through all three funding options.
 - xx. An additional Member highlighted her preference would be Option 1. She commented that South Belfast had funding via the Neighbourhood Renewal funding. Therefore, if any other funding model was applied, other than Option 1, South Belfast could suffer further.
 - xxi. A Member asked why alternative funding models are being proposed. He further asked why the existing funding model could not be used again to proportion funding for the (D)PCSP's for 2019/2020.
 - xxii. The Neighbourhood Service Manager explained that the new funding allocation models are being proposed to ensure that no predetermined decisions are taken and subsequently individual districts do not lose out.
 - xxiii. A Member highlighted that an ASB project currently being delivered in North Belfast, cannot be evaluated until the end of March. He queried how this could impact on the delivery of ASB projects next year.

- xxiv. Members discussed the different approaches undertaken by each (D) PCSP regarding the delivery of ASB projects.
- xxv. A Member highlighted his concern regarding the allocation of approximately £250k over a three year period, with limited information being provided regarding the detail of the projects to be delivered. He commented that additional information regarding previous projects/underspends etc may assist Members in deciding which model of funding would be best utilised to determine how funding is allocated for 2019/2020.
- xxvi. The Neighbourhood Service Manager advised Members that the paper being presented detailed information regarding allocation model. The Safer City Coordinator advised that the governance processes require a more detailed project description be brought to the PCSP for approval before any project would commence.
- xxvii. A Member commented that he understood the rationale for Option 1. However, Option 1 does not provide any opportunity for each District to opt in or out of Citywide projects. He also highlighted his concern that if Option 1 is the preferred allocation model, Districts may not utilise all the funding allocated to them.
- xxviii. A Member commented that he had attended two of the OBA Planning Workshops and recent statistics showed that reports of domestic violence incidents were considerably higher in North Belfast. He also commented that North Belfast had a higher rate of death by suicide in comparison to other areas of Belfast. He commented that North Belfast DPCSP are best placed to decide how to utilise their funding and Option 3 would allow for North Belfast DPCSP to do this.
- xxix. Following an in-depth conversation, the Chair initiated a voting process to confirm the preferred funding allocation model to be applied:

Option 1	For	Against
	Cllr Emmett McDonough Brown Debbie Hammill Cllr John Hussey John MacVicar Mary Lambe Ald Jim Rodgers Ald Tommy Sandford	
Option 3	For	Against
	Cllr Claire Canavan Cllr Matt Garrett John Loughran Cllr JJ Magee Cllr Ryan Murphy Michael O'Hara	

- xxx. The vote was summarised as follows:
 - 7 Members voted for Option 1; and,
 - 6 Members voted for Option 3.
- xxxi. A Member highlighted his concern regarding the outcome of the vote. He commented that there had been a suggestion by a Member to review project information before taking any further action.
- xxxii. The Chair asked the Member in question if he had made a formal proposal for consideration, in addition to the Options discussed.

- xxxiii. The Member confirmed that he did not make a formal proposal for the Partnership to consider in addition to the Options discussed.
- xxxiv. A Member advised that she did not vote in favour of either Option 1 or 3, as she thought an additional proposal would subsequently be considered by the Partnership.
- xxxv. A Member commented that due to the preferred option voted for by Members, North Belfast would have less funding to address anti-social behaviour. He highlighted his concern how the Partnership can allow for this to happen.
- xxxvi. A Member asked what would the outcome be if the (D)PCSP's do not accept the decision made by Belfast PCSP. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members the legislation states that the financial agreement is between Belfast PCSP and the Joint Committee. The Member commented this process would mean that the (D)PCSP's are not autonomous bodies who can make their own decisions.
- xxxvii. A Member asked whether, due to the confusion among Members regarding the vote, the vote would need to be re-run.
- xxxviii. The Neighbourhood Services Manager, advised that if Members believed there had been confusion over the vote taken, then Members would need to confirm this.
- xxxix. A Member confirmed that she did not vote as she was unsure what was being voted on.
 - xl. A Member reiterated that he preferred Option 3. He commented that Option 1 gives an equitable split across all districts, however Option 1 does not allow for each (D)PCSP to opt in and out of Citywide projects.
 - xli. Another Member suggested that a vote could not be re-run because the outcome was not the preferred option for some.
 - xlii. A Member highlighted that the voting procedures needed to be made clear, especially for Independent Members. She further commented that she did not think the vote taken had been democratic and therefore suggested a re-vote be taken.
 - xliii. It was however agreed that the Chair had acted appropriately before the confusion had arisen.
 - xliv. Following discussion, Members agreed that legal advice would need to be sought regarding how the vote had been taken and if required, a re-vote would be taken.
 - xlv. The Neighbourhood Service Manager agreed to seek advice from Council's Legal Department to the regarding voting procedures, and update Members accordingly.

10. Date of Next Meeting

- i. Members were advised that the next meetings of the Belfast DPCSP would be;
 - Belfast PCSP Private Meeting, Monday 11th March, 5.30pm, Lavery Room, City Hall.