

Minutes of South Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Private Meeting

Wednesday 20th February 2019, 5.00pm

Room AD1H, 9 Adelaide Street, Belfast

Political Members	Independent Members
Councillor McDonough-Brown (Chair)	Richard Kennedy (Vice Chair)
Councillor Donal Lyons	
Statutory Designated Bodies	
Anita Duff, EA	Paul McCombe, NIHE
Chief Inspector Gavin Kirkpatrick, PSNI	Melissa Spence, PBNI
Inspector Ian McCormick, PSNI	Yvonne McKnight, H&SCT
John O'Hare, NIFRS	Declan Davey, YJA
Belfast City Council Staff	Apologies
Glenn Thomas, Safer City Coordinator (SCC)	Michael Boyle
Alyson Crompton, Safer City Project Officer	Dermot Magorrian, YJA
Denise Smith Safer City Assistant Manager	

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 read out the conflict of interest statement and 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 forthcoming.

3. Minutes Matters Arising

- i. The Minutes of the Private Meeting held on 27th November, copies of which were previously circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct.

4. Matters Arising

- i. No matters arising were noted.

5. Chairs Update

- i. The Chair read out the following statement from the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services to Members; ***“Issues were raised with the City Solicitor in relation to the conduct of the PCSP meeting on 11th February relating to budget allocation for the forthcoming financial year. The City Solicitor has considered the issues raised and has advised me that the decision taken by the PCSP will have to be revisited. Specifically the concerns related to the failure to take into account and consult the DPCSPs on proposals and proper***

consideration of the equality implications identified as existing within the report but in respect of which there was no further information and therefore no active consideration of mitigations. I have directed that DPCSPs consider the suggested projects and outcomes, as determined at the recent planning workshops, and for a report to be brought back to the PCSP. I have also asked that the equality issues identified as potentially existing are also presented for consideration.”

- ii. Members were advised that the projects in the Belfast PCSP 2019/2020 Action Plan would be discussed under Item 7.

6. Update from Statutory Partners

PBNI

- i. Melissa Spence, PBNI advised Members that if they had any issues with Graffiti to contact her directly.
- ii. She also informed Members that funding stream for projects that the PBNI could support would close on 28th February.

NIHE

- i. Paul McCombe, NIHE advised Members that they were encountering difficulties with housing allocations due to ‘locals only’ housing requests, with continuing incidents of Graffiti on house walls showing no signs of abating.

EA

- i. Anita Duff, EA advised Members that she had recently attended the launch of the Nubia YC and Greater Village Regeneration Trust (GVRT) ASB video, made for young people by young people, which had proved very successful and was funded by South Belfast DPCSP. She also suggested that if anyone is interested in seeing the video that they contact Lauren Hall.

YJA

- i. Declan Davey, YJA provided Members with an update regarding the recently commissioned by YJA, ‘Strung Out’, a new play by Spanner in the Works Theatre Company, the play had been performed in a number of venues across Northern Ireland. YJA are currently sourcing funding for the play to go on a Northern Ireland wide tour similar to the “Banjaxed” play.
- ii. He further provided Members with an update on the school programme.

PSNI

- i. Chief Inspector Gavin Kirkpatrick advised Members that crime in South Belfast is up 2%. Robberies remain a prevalent issue within South Belfast, particularly within the City Centre.
- ii. He also highlighted that drugs remain a widespread problem particularly in the City Centre with nine deaths (4 in south) from use of a variety of drugs stating that there was only one death attributed to Heroin.

- iii. There remains issues with Hate Crime in loyalist areas particularly around housing, although overall Hate Crime is down.
- iv. Chief Inspector Kirkpatrick also informed Members that planning was well underway for St Patrick's Day/Weekend, with a focus on the Holylands. He made mention of the fact that there was a number of other events planned for the weekend including the parade, fun run and football matches.

H&SCT

- i. Yvonne McKnight, H&SCT advised Members that the Feel Safer project for vulnerable adults was producing valuable engagement, with an Older Peoples Event due to take place in the Devenish Arms, at which the trust will have a display stand.
- ii. She also spoke about the value of the partnership working between the Trust and the NIFRS delivering successful fire safety talks to older peoples groups.

7. 2019/2020 Belfast PCSP Action Plan

- i. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with an overview of the Belfast PCSP 2019/2012 Action Plan.
- ii. Members were advised that following the last Belfast PCSP Meeting, held on Monday 11th February, Belfast PCSP had requested each DPCSP review the project proposals in the context of their own Partnership. Comments received from each DPCSP will be shared at the next PCSP Meeting in order to assist with how funding will be allocated to each DPCSP in 2019/2020 and what funding model would be employed.
- iii. The Safer City Coordinator detailed each project in the Action Plan and invited comments from the Members.
- iv. **Meetings** – No comments noted
- v. **Strategic Assessment and Action Plan 2020** - No comments noted.
- vi. **Cyber Safety Project 2020** – No comments noted.
- vii. **Home Security Service 2021** –

A Member asked how this would be accessed for residents who had not actually been burgled but had a fear of burglary. The Safer City Coordinator advised that access was through the PSNI Neighbourhood Policing Teams and the crime Prevention Officers and was also open to those who had a fear of burglary.

A Member asked what budget was allocated to this project. The Safer City Coordinator advised that this was a Citywide project with no area specific budget.
- viii. **RADAR Project 2020** – No comments noted.
- ix. **Consent Project 2020** -

A Member asked who had been awarded this contract, as it was a very emotive subject; the Safer City Coordinator advised that it was NEXUS NI and they had been awarded the contract following a quotation exercise.

- x. **Crisis Support Project** – No comments noted.
- xi. **Stewarding Project 2020** – No comments noted.
- xii. **Sharps Removal Contract** – No comments noted.

DPCSP Commentary

Members stated that they acknowledged that the projects had been discussed at length during the respective workshops and for that reason they are confident in all the projects listed.

- xiii. **Policing Committee Grants** – No comments noted.
- xiv. **Community Safety Small Grants** - No comments noted.

DPCSP Commentary

Members stated that they recognised that the grants are a valued, longstanding way of getting money to groups in the district.

- xv. **Preventative Safeguarding** – No comments noted.
- xvi. **Neighbourhood Watch** – No comments noted.
- xvii. **Drug and Alcohol Support Services** – No comments noted.
- xviii. **Improving Policing and Community Safety in the City Centre** – no comments noted.
- xix. **Dual Diagnosis/SISS** –

A Member asked what is the budget allocated to this project? The Safer City Coordinator advised that last year's budget for the Dual Diagnosis project was £35k and SISS £15k. He was unable to confirm next year's budget as this has yet to be agreed but likely to be reduced in the hope that Extern and PHA will secure further match funding.

A Member stated that the partnership recognise the importance of projects of this nature.

- xx. **Christmas Safety Event** – No comments noted.

DPCSP Commentary

Members stated that they recognised the importance of these projects and that they are happy to support them.

- xxi. **DSVA Awareness Raising and Training** – No comments noted.
- xxii. **Post Primary School Project** –

A Member commented on how difficult it was for the PCSP to gain access to the schools and that working with the Education Authority (EA) on this block is of particular importance.

The Youth Justice Agency (YJA) representative advised that they had also found this difficult. They further stated that some of the schools were now requesting engagement due to pupils having been involved with the YJA and for this reason this difficulty had eased.

Members recognised the historic issue of school engagement being difficult; however, working in partnership with EA and YJA should ease this.

xxiii. **Feel Safer Project** –

Members recognise the significance of this project.

xxiv. **Conversation Piece** –

Members support this project but have asked that during the tender/quotation process that there is input from the statutory agencies to ensure the gaps are identified and that this project compliments ongoing work and does not duplicate it.

xxv. **Hate Crime Projects** – No comments noted.

xxvi. **ASB Project** – No comments noted.

DPCSP Commentary

Members recognise the importance and impact of these projects.

Recommendations

As there was no quorum at the meeting the Safer City Coordinator advised that he would email the partnership asking them to approve the following report recommendations and in particular recommendation c:

- a) Note the projects in the Belfast PCSP 2019/2020 Action Plan and that Citywide projects will report local activity to DPCSPs on a quarterly basis.
- b) Note that there will be 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.
- c) 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.

8. Belfast City Council ASB Reports

- i. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with a South Belfast update on Belfast City Council ASB issues and local district hotspots including:
 - Dub Lane/QUB
 - Botanic Underpass.
 - Holylands

- ii. He advised Members that the information detailed in the report is based on Council statistics only.
- iii. Following a discussion, the Chair asked about the date of the incident in Palestine Street, Holylands. Chief Inspector Kirkpatrick was unable to provide the date at the meeting but would confirm.
- iv. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with an update on Graffiti in Ballynafeigh and Ormeau Park, PBNI have been involved with the removal of the graffiti.
- v. He also provided Members with an update on the number of Service Requests received by Council and on the South Belfast ASB Forum.
- vi. Members noted the report and detail provided.

9. PCSP Summer Small Grants, Tranche 1

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that Small Grants 2019/20 Tranche 1 closed for applications on Friday 11th January 2019, and that 7 (subject to confirmation following marking) applications had been received which are specific to South Belfast.
- ii. Members noted the update provided.

10. Emerging Issues

- i. No emerging issues were raised.

11. Date of Next Meeting

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that the next South Belfast DPCSP Private Meeting would be held on Thursday 14th March at 6.00pm.
- ii. The Chair thanked everyone for attending.