2018/2019
Annual Report

West Belfast
District Policing and Community Safety Partnership
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Introduction from the Chair

As the Chairperson of the West Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership (DPCSP), I am delighted to welcome the publication of our Annual Report for the year April 2018 to the end of March 2019.

I am delighted to be a part of a multi-agency partnership that has focused on delivering projects that support a Safer West Belfast.

Our Partnership is keen to improve the safety of all those living in West Belfast.

Our partnership is comprised of elected and independent members, Council officers and representatives of statutory bodies including the PSNI, the Housing Executive, NI Fire and Rescue Service, Youth Justice Agency, Probation Board, Education Authority NI and Belfast Health and Social Care Trust.

To ensure effective, transparent and accountable delivery of the Partnership’s objectives, the DPCSP also includes community-designated representatives, from existing local structures, who add value to the overall effectiveness of the Partnership.

It is this unique range of partners that continues to allow effective, collaborative work to be conducted both with our partners and in partnership with communities. This partnership approach and in particular working with communities is the key to success when endeavouring to address key issues relating to a wide spectrum of crime and anti-social behaviour.

In order to carry out this work the Members of the partnership work through a process of Outcomes Based Accountability that is designed to produce an effective Action Plan and one based on related statistics that evidence need. This process supports effective planning of work designed to address crime and other areas of concern. It also allows that work to be scrutinised through the effective monitoring of agreed outcomes and as such adds an additional layer of accountability to those groups funded by the West Belfast DPCSP to carry out work on its behalf.

Throughout my term as Chair I have enjoyed the support of all Members of the partnership as we strived to improve community safety and policing across West Belfast. We recognise that ASB and low-level crime remains an issue in certain areas and as such we know that there remains much work to be done.

This Annual Report sets out how the West Belfast DPCSP has carried out its work in addressing issues as identified in its 2018/2019 Action Plan.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to commend the work of community groups and those volunteers who work tirelessly to improve the lives of those living in their areas. These groups and the volunteers within them help partnerships such as ours make a positive contribution to tackling local issues. I would also like to thank all the Partnership members, and particularly the publicly appointed Independent Members who volunteer their time to improve policing and community safety in West Belfast.

Councillor Claire Canavan
Introduction from Joint Committee

PCSPs receive annual funding (£4.25m in 2018/19) from the Joint Committee (the Department of Justice and NI Policing Board) with a legislative aim to work with their local community to help address crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour issues.

There have been many examples of good practice highlighted to Joint Committee by PCSPs throughout the 2017/18 year which showcase the good work being carried out on the ground. Joint Committee has also provided support to PCSPs to use an Outcomes Based Approach (OBA) as a more consistent and better means of measuring impact and improving transparency and accountability in the delivery of their work in local communities.

Whilst still early days, PCSPs are now routinely using all aspects of OBA in their work, with an action plan being completed using indicator and performance measure information; a project card template being used for each initiative and thematic report cards being submitted to Joint Committee every quarter from a governance perspective.

To support PCSPs in their transition to this new way of working, the Joint Committee developed PCSP planning guidance which incorporates the following:

- Information on the OBA process;
- An action plan template which includes a review and summary synopsis to capture the rationale for continuing, amending or not progressing projects from one year to another;
- A set of agreed performance measures for generic projects;
- A project card template to be completed for each initiative;
- A thematic report card template to be used to help highlight impact at a more strategic level; and
- A framework showing how the work of PCSPs and their use of OBA supports the common Programme for Government Outcome 7 - We have a safe community where we respect the law and each other.

The NI Audit Office has also recognised the good work that PCSPs are doing with regard to using OBA and has included PCSPs as one of two case studies within the recently launched Performance Management for Outcomes good practice guide for public bodies – published on 15 June 2018.
Membership of West Belfast DPCSP

Political Members

Councillor Claire Canavan (Chair)
Sinn Fein

Councillor Matt Garrett
Sinn Fein

Councillor Billy Hutchinson
PUP

Councillor Brian Heading
SDLP

Alderman Chris McGimpsey
UUP

Alderman Brian Kingston
DUP
Independent Members

Briege Brownlee
(Vice Chair
April 2018- Feb 2019)

Elizabeth Groves

Eoin McShane

Lauren Slane
(No photo available)

Designated Members

The following statutory organisations are represented on Belfast Policing and Community Safety Partnership:

- **Belfast Health and Social Care Trust**
  [http://www.belfasttrust.hscni.net](http://www.belfasttrust.hscni.net)
- **Education Authority (EA)**
  [https://www.eani.org.uk](https://www.eani.org.uk)
- **Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service (NIFRS)**
  [https://www.nifrs.org](https://www.nifrs.org)
- **Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE)**
  [https://www.nihe.gov.uk](https://www.nihe.gov.uk)
- **Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI)**
  [https://www.psoni.police.uk](https://www.psoni.police.uk)
- **Probation Board for Northern Ireland (PBNI)**
  [https://www.pbnl.org.uk](https://www.pbnl.org.uk)
- **Youth Justice Agency of Northern Ireland (YJA)**
  [https://www.justice-ni.gov.uk/topics/youth-justice](https://www.justice-ni.gov.uk/topics/youth-justice)
West Belfast DPCSP Meetings Held
01 April 2018 to 31 March 2019

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Profile of Council Area

Belfast is the capital of Northern Ireland (NI) with a population of 340,220 in the city and over one million people in the Belfast region. The Belfast City Council area accounts for 18 per cent of the population and 30 per cent of all jobs in Northern Ireland. The city has a young population with 43 per cent of people under 30 years old.

Ethnicity, Identity, Language and Religion

On Census Day 27th March 2011, in Belfast Local Government District, (LGD) 3% of the population were from an ethnic minority population and the remaining 97% were white (including Irish Traveller).

49% belonged to or were brought up in the Catholic religion and 42% belonged to or were brought up in a ‘Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related)’ religion. 43% indicated that they had a British national identity, 35% had an Irish national identity and 27% had a Northern Irish national identity (NB. Respondents could indicate more than one national identity.

Economic Activity

Belfast’s economy supports 30% of all jobs in Northern Ireland with an employment rate of 69%. The city contributes to over a quarter (28%) of the region’s productivity while the economy supports over 210,000 jobs, 92% of which are in the services sector and 31% in the public sector.

Belfast’s knowledge economy is growing quickly. Its creative industries sector is the fourth fastest growing in the UK, with 1,646 businesses supporting 11,545 jobs.

Deprivation

In 2017, the Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measures (NIMDM) indicated that five of the ten most deprived Super Output Areas (SOAs) are in North Belfast (Ardoyne 2, Ardoyne 3, Water Works 2, Woodvale 1, New Lodge).

For the NIMDM Crime and Disorder Domain, 45 of the 100 most derived SOAs are in Belfast, accounting for 26% of its 174 SOAs; the highest proportion of all LGD. The top five most deprived SOAs within Belfast, according to the Crime and Disorder Domain, include: Falls 2, Shankill 2, Botanic 2, Water Works 3, Falls 3.

Health

Average life expectancy in Belfast is lower than the Northern Ireland average for both males (76.0 years) and females (81.1 years). In Belfast, the average life expectancy for a man in the most deprived areas is 9.4 years less than in the least deprived areas. For women, the average life expectancy in the most deprived areas is 6.4 years less than in the least deprived areas.

Education

79% of pupils in Belfast achieved at least 5 GCSE grades A*-C (or equivalent), less than the Northern Ireland average of 81.7% while 58.5% of pupils in Belfast achieved 2+ A-levels (or equivalent), more than the Northern Ireland average of 57.3%.

68% (3,526) of school-leavers went on to further or higher education; 28% of the working age population has a university degree or higher. The two universities in the city have 45,000 students, whilst the Belfast Metropolitan College serves 20,000 students each year.
Belfast PCSP and Community Planning

The Belfast Agenda is Belfast’s first community plan, created by a strong partnership led by Belfast City Council. It identifies the work that will be focused on to unleash the energy and ability that exists in Belfast’s people and communities.

Defining the Belfast Agenda has been a cooperative effort involving people across the city sharing their views of the challenges and opportunities we face and talking about the Belfast they want to live and work in.

The Belfast Agenda has been produced by a partnership of organisations involved in delivering services across the city. It is ambitious and dynamic and will drive action plans for Belfast over the years to come. Partners have committed to work together, with Belfast communities, to improve the city and ensure its long-term success.

The work of the Policing and Community Safety Partnership is included within the ‘Living Here’ theme of the Belfast Agenda. This theme aims to make life better for all residents by providing a great place to live, good houses, excellent local facilities and open spaces, healthy and safe neighbourhoods.

This priority recognises that Belfast must provide the opportunity for all of its residents to lead healthy, engaged and fulfilling lives as part of vibrant, growing, welcoming and sustainable communities and neighbourhoods. A thriving and healthy Belfast enables and empowers its residents to reach their full potential at every stage of life.

When asked how satisfied they were with Belfast as a place to live, 92 per cent of people answered the question positively. However, many citizens continue to live parallel lives with some communities still separated by physical barriers with the poorest neighbourhoods in Belfast continuing to be those located in and around interfaces and flashpoint areas.

There has been significant partnership work over the years to ensure that people in Belfast feel safe and are safe. Overall crime and most types of crime in Belfast have decreased over the last ten years.

The Belfast Agenda encompasses the continued work of the Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnerships to ensure that local communities are safe and free from the fear of crime. Building relationships across communities is also central to achieving the vision for Belfast.

Ensuring neighbourhoods are safe remains a key priority for everyone in Belfast and strong partnership working has meant that we have good foundations on which to build. The Belfast Agenda underlines the commitment to work with the Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnerships to deliver an integrated programme of work to improve all aspects of community safety across the city, including hate crime, antisocial behaviour and domestic abuse.
Belfast PCSP and DPCSP Funding

In 2018/2019, West Belfast DPCSP contributed to most of the city wide projects that are found in the Belfast PCSP Annual Report. That report provides cumulative achievements for the year across Belfast and is available from the website.

This annual report reflects the West Belfast specific projects that the DPCSP has funded in 2018/2019.

The Structure of Belfast Policing and Community Safety Partnerships

Strategic Priority 1

To successfully deliver the functions of West Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership

In 2018 – 2019, West Belfast DPCSP held 9 Private Meetings and 3 Policing Committee Meetings

Members attended 5 OBA Planning Workshops
- Confidence in Policing
- Feel Safer
- Drugs and Alcohol
- Antisocial Behaviour
- Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse

1 Public Meeting:
- 4 October 2018 hosted a public meeting about the PSNI/Policing Board’s Local Policing Review with 22 members of the public in attendance

West Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership’s Community Safety Strategy in 2018/2019 was invested under the heading of Consult and Engage.

It provided the following three projects:
- West Professional Witness
- West Belfast Community Safety Strategy
- West Belfast Community Safety Strategy in Upper West and Colin

West Belfast Professional Witness Pilot Project
The Professional Witness Pilot Project is designed to support residents to report crimes and antisocial behaviour to the appropriate statutory organisations, to enable appropriate enforcement action to be taken. NI Housing Executive has part funded this project for the last 3 years.

- 42 Clinics held
- 176 meetings held
- 46 local people were supported
- 148 incidents were reported to the professional witness
- 28 - 100% partners feeling supported, confident and equipped to deliver their objectives
- 28 - 100% partners reporting improved partnership working with other key stakeholders
- 28 - 100% partners reporting increased ability to engage with wider community members

Types of incidents reported were car crimes, burglary, and damage to property, crime against the person, general antisocial behaviour, drugs, and bonfire materials.

Referrals made to PSNI, NIHE, Belfast City Council ASB Officer, Local community organisations and local political representatives.

West Belfast Community Safety Strategy
Falls Community Council won the quotation to deliver the West Belfast Community Safety Strategy which involved practical support to the community based community safety partnerships across West Belfast. Below are some comments from the evaluation of the project which was undertaken by Locus Management.
The West Belfast Community Safety Partnerships are rooted in the community and this was recognised by all consulted with as its great strength. The structures provide a mechanism for residents to air their concerns, to learn about the work and services being provided locally and to interact with the PSNI and other key agencies.

“Monthly meetings held with the PSNI held in Falls Community Council have been really beneficial from both sides. I get a better idea of their work and they get a chance to hear the views of the community groups working at the coalface”

Through the Community Safety Partnerships concerns were raised, and the police agreed to meet with residents to share and discuss the process required to build up enough evidence to take to the PPS. This was an extremely positive engagement process which would not have happened in the absence of Community Safety Partnership structures.

“We have been able to make contacts across the community which makes it easier for us to carry out our job”

One of the great strengths of partnership working has been in response to ASB hotspots and the incidents occurring in these areas. The partnership is community led and can respond to incidents as they arise in a quick and coordinated fashion.

Finally, at a time when confidence in policing is reported as being poor in republican or nationalist areas the partnerships play a valuable role in providing a local vehicle for dialogue and problem solving. They have an important role to play if confidence in policing is to be enhanced and the ‘curve turned’ in West Belfast.

The evaluation confirmed that on the whole partners felt that they were ably supported to deliver the objectives set for the partnership. Meetings were convened by the lead partner, agendas circulated, meetings facilitated in a professional manner and all partners provided the opportunity to contribute to discussions and subsequent problem solving.

Feedback provided during the evaluation emphatically supports the work of the West Belfast Community Safety Partnership and local structures. The partnerships do not work or exist in isolation of other organisations and partnership structures, however the consultations highlighted the high regard the partnership is held. The community-led, bottom up approach is particularly important in West Belfast, community capacity is high, and the structures, networks and relationships exist to facilitate partnership working.

The monitoring reports for the project concludes that:
- Total of 120 meetings including weekly community safety representatives, targeted meetings with local youth providers and supporting local activity to prevent unwanted bonfires
- 392 participants involved
- 32 partners engaged
  - 100% partners feeling supported, confident and equipped to deliver their objectives;
  - 100% partners reporting improved partnership working with other key stakeholders
  - 100% partners reporting increased ability to engage with wider community members

As part of the Strategy, a West Belfast Community Safety Survey was undertaken and the report provided the following information:
- 42% respondents had been a victim of crime
22% did not report it
53% whom reported and were not satisfied
68% of respondents did not have confidence in the PSNI dealing with crime in their area

**Upper West and Colin Community Safety Strategy**

Poleglass Community Association at Sally Gardens won the contract to deliver this project. Throughout they have been working with groups from upper West including:
- Andersonstown Safer Neighbourhood Project
- Colin Safer Neighbourhood Project
- Footprint Women’s Centre
- Ionad na Fuiseoig
- Mount Eagles
- Poleglass Community Association
- Twinbrook Community Group

Phase 1, to December 2018 delivered a number of training courses to local volunteers including:
- OCN Level 1 Community Safety Awareness
- Conflict resolution
- Effective communication
- Suicide awareness raising
- Drug and alcohol awareness raising

Phase 2 of the project delivered more training in drug and alcohol awareness raising, OCN Level 1 and Level 2 in Community Safety Awareness, suicide awareness raising and First Aid training.

- 18 people attended a Suicide Awareness/Safe Talk
- OCN L1 in Community Safety Awareness – 13 people
- OCN L2 in Community Safety Awareness – 16 people
- 119 people attended Drug and Alcohol Awareness Training
- 80% - 95 participants have improved knowledge or understanding of the issue
- 89% - 106 of participants feel supported to become more involved in community safety issues
- 80% - 95 participants report that this training is going to be valuable/useful in their volunteer role
- 90% - 107 participants feel more confident to address the issue of community safety
Strategic Priority 2

To improve community safety by tackling actual and perceived crime and antisocial behaviour

In 2018/2019, West Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership funded specific projects, which are detailed below.

Addressing Antisocial Behaviour in West Belfast
Antisocial behaviour is a significant issue in West Belfast and the District Policing and Community Safety Partnership has invested in a range of projects over 2018/2019. With a particular focus on preventing unwanted bonfires across West Belfast, the DPCSP approved the following projects on 29 June 2018.

Black Mountain/Moyard Intervention Project
The project held a family fun evening attended by 638 people on 8 August. They also took 22 young people go karting with 40 more going to the Dance night at Feile.
Colin Youth Engagement Diversionary Project
The Colin Safer Neighbourhoods Project delivered 4 facilitated workshops/Bonfire Diversionary scheme over the July and August Bonfires period.

4 facilitated workshops were held for local young people and included:

- Effects and outcomes of marching bands, the future of marching bands and discussion on how this impacts local families and the wider community
- Anti-social behaviour – the effects of local bonfires and how this impacts on Community Safety and how safe people feel. Discussion on what activities would encourage young people to stay away from bonfire building.
- Internment, impacts on the individual, the family; and the wider community of internment and how bonfires have negative connotations to those who experienced internment. Discussion on how we can move forward without bonfires.
- Informal session which included discussions around PSNI and reduction in anti-social behaviour. This session was less formal to encourage young people to stay in the premises on 8th August.

A total of 85 participants attended the workshops.
Falls Residents Bonfire Awareness Programme
During July and August, the project delivered six relevant group work sessions to 20 young people:
- NIHE Officer and the Community Safety Officer – Provided information on the draw back in antisocial behaviour
- Protestant/Unionist/Loyalist – Cultural difference around bonfires
- Community Activist – Discussion on Ballymurphy Massacre
- Local resident – Impact on the area around time of fire
- MLA Fra McCann – History of the fires from perspective of ex internee
- NIFRS – Dangers of bonfires, personal safety and one day LIFE scheme programme

There was also a trip to Formula Karting, Newry on 7 August and the evaluation of the project confirmed that the participants learnt about community safety, history of the bonfires, history of internment, partnership working. The young people are better informed to make safer choices, are aware of the ramifications of ASB and therefore less likely to take part.

Whiterock, Ballymurphy and Springhill Diversionary Project
The project provided a range of diversionary activities, encouraging families and young people to attend together to enjoy family friendly day-time and evening time social events:
- August Camp Out – overnight camp out for up to 50 young people.
- Ballymurphy Health and Fun Day at Whiterock Leisure Centre had more than 2000 people in attendance including community safety staff
- Whiterock Westrock Evening Event – moved to the following day, a total of up to 500 people attended the event.
Willowbank Bonfire Diversionary Project
157 young people attended a range of diversionary activities including sports, indoor and outdoor games at Willowbank Sports facility on 6, 7, 8 August with a trip to Funtasia on 9 August. The activities were facilitated by sports coaches.

Mount Eagles Mini Soccer Tournament
This project provided a mini soccer tournament, mini golf, a barbeque and a DVD night on the 8 August for 43 people.

Belfast PCSP’s Transient Youth Project
Belfast PCSP has funded West Belfast Outreach in Belfast City Council’s Falls Park and City Cemetery and the surrounding areas in February and March 2019. Over 12 sessions outreach staff from Holy Trinity, St Peter’s, St Theresa’s and Corpus Christi Youth Clubs were on street on Friday and Saturday nights from 6 – 11pm.
The nightly reports showed engagement with between 80 and 100 young people each night and these were passed to Belfast City Council’s Community Safety Unit’s Operational Team to inform and be informed by the interagency tasking process.
Strategic Priority 3

To support community confidence in policing

West Belfast DPCSP offers a number of opportunities for local groups to secure funding to improve confidence in policing.

Community Safety Small Grants make up to £5,000 available for work between April and September or October to March each year.

Projects which are funded by policing and community safety small grants must clearly link to at least one of the small grant themes. These are to:

- build confidence in policing
- prevent, reduce or address antisocial behaviour
- prevent, reduce or address crime
- help people feel safer

In 2018/2019, West Belfast DPCSP funded 9 Policing and Community Safety Small Grants:

1. Féile An Phobail – No Move Shift
   To recruit 10 young people for their participation in a film documentary and radio reporting programme exploring social isolation and loneliness.

   **Target 10 with 12 engaged** - young people recruited for the project involving working with local film makers and a local recording studio. To engage with the Black, Minority Ethnic community, older community, those with disabilities and young people to effectively tell their stories of social isolation and the impacts of this, **Target 10 with 14 engaged** - Engaged with the Black Minority Ethnic (BME) community through Homeplus NI, Whiterock Children’s Centre; Older people through Colin Men’s Shed, Sally Garden’s Older People’s Group, and Upper Andersonstown Community Forum Older People’s Project; Action Ability; Sally Gardens Youth Project, Féile Youth Sub Group, and Féile Community Engagement Sub Group

   To reduce social isolation by engaging directly with marginalised young people, older people, the BME community and those with disabilities by creating awareness of support services that exist in the local community. **Target 10 with 12 engaged** - Engaged directly with target groups making them aware of services. Used medium of film and radio to reduce social isolation by promoting the issue and services available.

   To increase confidence in the PSNI through direct engagement and relationship building, **Target 20 with 18 engaged** – No engagement by police despite the organisation’s efforts to do so. There was however engagement with the Youth Justice Agency (YJA) on a number of occasions. To deliver a Social Isolation in our Society public discussion during the August Feile festival – Held on the 6th August in St Mary’s University.

2. Roden Street Community Development Group – Grosvenor Safe Together
   Foster shared measurement techniques related to anti-social activity to highlight gaps in process and communicate the benefits of reporting to community members.
**Target 178 with 182 engaged** - Measurable change in attitude to reporting locally and reporting to agencies. Illustrated in measurement of issues such as illegal parking and negative activity. The workshop reports of Grosvenor Safe Together indicated approximately 92% of parents in attendance felt that drugs, in all forms, are the greatest issue facing local communities, with parking second. Beneficiaries recognised the value of group work, particularly around the community clean up, picnic event on the 8th August and honest discourse in workshop sessions.

**Decrease spike times by providing awareness of triggers which stimulate activity and provide practical opportunities over the contentious and vulnerable Summer period for adults.** - Awareness generated related to lifestyle choices and the impact this can have on issues such as street fighting (as a result of trolling).

3. **Colin Neighbourhood Partnership – Transport Safety Initiative**  
   Protect life and significantly reduce the risk of serious injury to those involved in this issue.

**Target 200 with 350 engaged** - NI Rail ASB and vandalism incidents at Dunmurry halt reduced to virtually 0 with Police now able to significantly reduce patrols and manpower hours.

4. **Ulster Wildlife Trust (operating As Ulster Wildlife) - Bog Meadows Community Engagement 2018**  
   To deliver a programme of fun, educational and recreational activities to encourage local people of all ages to experience and enjoy Bog Meadows Nature Reserve and the health and well-being benefits it offers. The activities will be planned so they all have a clear message about why ASB affects the reserve and local people.

**Target 160 with 183 engaged and Talks to schools Target 800 with 1650 engaged** - Summer of Wildlife at Bog Meadows successfully ran 9 community events aimed at adults and children alike (a total of 183 participants) along with a 5 day summer camp for 15 local children and 19 school assembly talks to 1650 Year 8, 9 and 10 pupils at 6 local schools. The school assembly talks were jointly delivered by local conservationist Aidan Crean and a PSNI Neighbourhood Officer.

5. **Bardic Educational Arts and Media (BEAM) West – Cyber Safe**  
   Deliver 24 age appropriate, prevent and deter cyber safety drama based workshops to approximately 600 Key Stage 2 children targeting all primary schools around West Belfast. We will distribute a teacher resource pack with hint/tips for parents and give copies to participating schools.

   The project aims to increase children’s understanding of the importance of e-safety and how to keep themselves safe. The project did increase children’s understanding of the importance of e-safety and how to keep themselves safe online (See overall evaluation of all areas).

   Children will gain knowledge of cyber bullying and how it affects those involved, the criminal implications of online misuse. Children did gain more knowledge of cyber bullying and how it affects everyone involved. Children were advised of the criminal implications of online misuse.

   Children will know where to access help or advice should they experience online abuse. A range of options on where to get help was discussed in detail with pupils, if they should experience online abuse.
Children will gain coping strategies with regards cyber bullying and e-safety which will contribute to a safer shared society. This project will have assisted the PCSP towards raising public awareness regards to e-safety, reducing cyber-crime and online safety issues in the West Belfast area.

Children were given coping strategies with regards to cyber bullying and e-safety. This project has assisted in raising public awareness around e-safety, reducing cyber crime and online safety issues in the West Belfast area.

Parents will be supported by learning different strategies and mechanisms to keep their child safe on-line - A hints and tips guide was emailed along with the teachers resource pack. Teachers agreed to distribute this to parents/guardians for their pupils.

Teachers will be given a comprehensive, age appropriate e-safety teaching resource pack which will be updated. This will allow them to continue to deliver the project to other pupils. - Teachers were emailed a resource pack to help them deliver this project to other year groups.

Teachers learn new innovative and interactive techniques for learning - Evaluations collected from a cross-section of pupils in every workshop, highlighted that children and teachers did benefit from our style of message and delivery. The interactive workshops aided in improving understanding of the impact of online misuse. The learning techniques used, enabled participants to retain and understand key messages in a fun and safe environment.

Delivered: Children and Teachers - 732 Parents and families of those children - 900

6. St Pauls - ABC Midnight Boxing
Deliver a midnight boxing programme from October in the lead up to Christmas, consulting and engaging with young people through informative and educational sessions alongside boxing to facilitate a reduction in ASB and develop positive relations between the PSNI and young people within West Belfast.

Promote a Safer Community - Working with children at grassroots and learning them the dangers of ASB.

Young people & adults will learn about and understand more the dangers of antisocial behaviour. Getting them to sit and chat about social problem and listen to advice from government bodies i.e. the PSNI.

Young people & adults will learn about and understand more the dangers of drugs and alcohol misuse - Listen to peoples experiences of how their lives have changed by taking drugs and the dangers of drinking.

Young people & adults will learn about and understand the role of PSNI in our community - Young members were able have a Q&A with local PSNI. Our target audience of 30 young people & adults will gain more confidence in policing within the local area - members interact and ask questions to PSNI officers.

St Pauls ABC will form a stronger link with the local police; working together much closer to combat antisocial behaviour in the local community - we formed a closer link with the PSNI, and they have called in to our club on training nights.

Delivered: Young People & Young Adults Project Participants - 14
7. Mount Eagles Community Association - Promoting a Safer Halloween

This project will promote community safety over the Halloween period, working with 30 young people aged 12-18 who are actively engaged in underage drinking, drug abuse and anti-social behaviour and other crime related activity including vandalism, fireworks within the community.

"To create a social, educational and informative community safety programme for young people from West Belfast which enhances their access to services and enhances their understanding of policing and crime in Northern Ireland - Through the internet safety workshops the young people were fully engaged in a programme that is a part of their daily lives. They are now aware of the dangers of using the internet. Some are very much enlightened to the concept of 'prevention is better than cure' as an internet user.

To involve young people in a programme that provides positive interactions and experiences with the police - Members of the PCSP where invited into the internet safety workshops. This was a great vehicle to broaden the minds of the young people by giving them a better insight into the work of the police and policing partnerships in particular.

To improve perceptions and attitudes among young people regarding community safety, involvement in crime and policing - The young people are now fully aware of the positive contribution that policing brings to the internet world. There was genuine appreciation for the hours of hard labour that is put into bringing those who abuse the internet to justice such as trolling and grooming etc.

To reduce participation and involvement of young people in anti-community behaviour - All the young people that participated in the workshops where active and engaged. Through attendance alone they where occupied at times when they would normally stand at Mount Eagles Square.

To promote a safer community - The workshops have educated the young people on the causes and consequences of internet crime and how to stay safe as an internet user."

Delivered:
Young people aged between 12 and 18 years: 26
Local community - 100 beneficiaries
Children aged between 5 and 11 years: 30

8. Poleglass Community Association @ Sally Gardens - Colin Youth & Community Intervention

The project was aimed at young people and residents. The funding will build on last year's Christmas programme that tackled antisocial behaviour, and community tensions. The programme will focused on personal development, youth crime, restorative justice and equality. The project will also target transient youth gathering in the Colin area.

Young People "Reduced crime and antisocial behaviour - The Christmas intervention was specifically designed to get young people involved in activities and not 'hanging about the area' feedback from local community groups indicated a reduction in ASB issues.

Recruit transient young people and divert into positive youth based activities - 20 young people that had been recruited onto the project are now attending regular youth drop in.

Provide educational themed interventions for young people - Two accredited programmes have been successfully delivered to 20 participants:
Provide volunteering and community based activities - 12 young people volunteered at the Christmas Intervention and also have volunteered at two Senior Citizens Tea Dances and participated in a community art project to address graffiti in the area.

Target young people not engaged in youth provision - 50% of participants engaged in the project had never attended any youth provision in the area"

9. Footprints Women’s Centre – Surviving Domestic Abuse
10 women fully engaged in the project. These women have been empowered by Footprints Women’s Centre to make choices at a difficult time, this has been life changing and life saving in some cases.

The women were identified by both internal and external agencies 6 women self referred and were in crisis at that particular time. The other 4 came from agencies within the Colin Community.

Initial Needs Assessments and Risk Assessments were carried out with all 10 women. Individual person centred support packages developed and agreed upon. These were reviewed 4 weekly and if there was a significant change that had occurred in the women’s life.

Support included 10 safety plans, 10 emotional safety places and crisis intervention. All women received personal safety devices that were purchased from the funding of this project. 3 women obtained a Non Molestation Order. 7 women were referred to Women’s Aid for additional and ongoing support & parenting programmes were necessary.

10 women received Complimentary Therapies alongside 1:1 individual support, 6 women referred to stress management classes within Footprints Women’s Centre. 8 women engaged with support and women’s empowerment groups within the centre. 5 women were referred to Mental Services for on-going support, 8 women have been referred to Counselling Services.

The Women’s Support Worker and the Support Services Manager encouraged the Women to report and work with the PSNI in reporting and attending the PSNI station and courts. All of the women reported an increase into the issue of Domestic Abuse and the impact this had on their children.

10 women reported levels of stress reduced and their overall emotional well being has improved. All women reported they felt less isolated and they are not on their own.

10 Women reported the support they received from Footprints was critical to help them effectively engage in other key agencies when their overall confidence and self esteem was hindered. 8 of these Women availed of the day-care spaces on more than one occasion - they have reported to be thankful for this service. It is also reported that the children attending the day-care at Footprints demonstrated improved confidence and communication skills as a result of positive play experiences and social interaction with children of their own age.

Ensure women are aware of all services available to them an they can access services. Footprints aim to offer transport and childcare respite to ensure there are no barriers to effective and full engagement.

Women that had no transport of their own availed of the transport support offered to them by the Women’s Support Worker. At times women were to upset and anxious to enable themselves to attend appointments that were necessary. The women support worker provided transport to and
from other services. Childcare places were provided by Footprints Day-care for women to attend appointments in crisis situations, this service has been beneficial to the running of this programme. Women are assured that their children are safe and in a safe environment.

Footprints to take the lead in organising and co-ordinating a community wide awareness raising event (Circle of Hope) with the aim to target all local statutory, voluntary & community professionals and residents to stand together and send out a clear message that Domestic Abuse is wrong and the Colin area has a zero tolerance to this.

Footprints led on the co-ordinating and organising of the Circle of Hope. This event took place on Friday 8th March & was held as the new Colin Town Centre. Agencies from within the Colin area attended such as Northern Ireland Housing Executive, Sure Start, Community PSNI, Social Services, Health Visiting Team, HereNI, Cara Friend, local councillors, Colin Neighbourhood Partnership and local women. The project aims to respond immediately to women in a crisis as a result of Domestic Abuse offering immediate safety plans, practical & emotional support

**Delivered:** 80 people from the Colin Ward
Policing Committee Grants
The main aim of the Policing Committee Grants is to improve confidence in policing by increasing engagement with the police to improve community safety locally. A secondary benefit of many of the projects was preventative safeguarding.

In 2018/2019 West Belfast DPCSPs funded 4 Policing Committee projects:

Colin Neighbourhood Policing Team’s Primary School Project
Road Safety Competition with local Primary Schools within the Colin Area including Dunmurry PS, Christ The Redeemer PS, Our Lady Queen of Peace PS, The Good Shepherd PS, Holy Evangelists' PS, Scoil Na Fuiseoge and St Kieran’s PS. Approx. 400 P7 children have taken part by creating a poster and slogan on the theme.

6 of the best entries from each school were selected and those pupils were invited to attend the RADAR Centre. Each pupil receive a PCSP branded reflective drawstring bag for participating in the competition and RADAR visit.
- 36 children from Colin area attended RADAR on 17 April

Holy Trinity Safety Project
Police attended The RADAR Centre on 29/5/18, 30/5/18, 31/5/18 and 1/6/18 with 4 groups of 30 young people, 120 in total; from 4 local youth centres - Holy Trinity, St Teresa’s, Matt Talbot and Corpus Christi. These visits were followed by engagement sessions with Police and embodied the Police principals of “Keeping People Safe”. It also aided the PSNI to further integrate with the local community through engaging with the local youths in a less formal manner.

The RADAR Centre covered Road Safety, ASB and Home Awareness with participation of the members of the Youth Club.

P6 Word Cup Tournament
Police organised and refereed a successful Cross Community P6 schools 5-a-side football tournament on 15/6/18 and CASE lessons to all P6 schools in the Colin Community. CASE lessons took place in schools from 26th to 29th June 2018. Schools included: Our Lady Queen of Peace PS, Good Shepherd PS, Christ the Redeemer PS, St Kierans PS, Ballymacash PS and Killowen PS.

The tournament was followed by case lessons focusing on keeping safe during the school holidays, bike safety awareness and stranger danger.
- 110 participants involved in football tournament
- 400 involved in CASE lessons

The project strengthened community relations with the local primary schools and also provided an opportunity for younger children who would not get the opportunity to engage with Police and other children from different community backgrounds.

Intergenerational Tapestry Project
A PSNI led intergenerational project with St John the Baptist Primary School Primary 7 pupils and Fruithill Fold Housing. There were 70 participants in the project which took place over a 6 week
period. The project was hosted in the Primary School and Charlotte Bosanquet, an accomplished local artist.

The finished product will be a wall hanging, which will be shared and displayed between the Fold Housing Group; and the school. The subject will be “Then and now” a history of our area.

The finished item is a collaboration between the 2 age groups who came together on a weekly basis to work together with the PSNI facilitator in an inclusive and supportive environment. This project supplied the group with positive tools to enhance their own surroundings and lives both now and in the future.

This project was a finalist in the PCSP Awards for their work in building Confidence in the Police.

- Number of participants - 70
- Number of participants report improved confidence in policing – 100% (ALL PARTICIPANTS OVER 18)
- Percentage of participants who report their participation as positive/beneficial – 100%
- % increase of people more likely to engage with police – 100%
- % increase of people more likely to report crime – 100%

A video about the project can be viewed on twitter:
Budget Statement

To be included once finalised
Falls Community Council

Evaluation of West Belfast Community Safety Co-ordination and Development of Partnership Working

APRIL 2019
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1.0 Introduction

The following review has been completed on behalf of Falls Community Council to assess the effectiveness of funding received to support the West Belfast Community Safety Co-ordination and Development of Partnership Working. Following a meeting with the Council it was agreed that the evaluation should seek to address “is anyone better off” performance measures including:

1. Partners feel supported, confident and equipped to deliver their objectives
2. Partners reporting improved partnership working with other key stakeholders
3. Partners reporting increased ability to engage with wider community members

The evaluation was carried out through the following methodology:

- Desk based review of submitted reports
- Meeting with the Chairs of the West Belfast Community Partnership including Cllr Matt Garrett, Seamus Finucane, Gerry McConville, Cllr Steven Corr and Aisling Heath
- 1:1 meeting with Aisling Heath
- 1:1 meeting with Gerry McConville
- Telephone consultation with Michael Donnelly, USDT, Paul Maskey, MP, Sinn Fein, Paul Cleary, Belfast City Council, Uel Boyd, PSNI, Michael George, Colin Neighbourhood Partnership, Davy Harbinson, Fire & Rescue Service and Mark Copeland, Active Communities.
2.0 Partnership Working

2.1 Bottom-up, Community led

The West Belfast Community Safety Partnerships are rooted in the community and this was recognized by all consulted with as its great strength. The structures provide a mechanism for residents to air their concerns, to learn about the work and services being provided locally and to interact with PSNI and other key agencies. Indeed, several consultees thought these local partnerships were much more valuable than the PCSP.

“Monthly meetings held with the PSNI held in FCC have been really beneficial from both sides. I get a better idea of their work and they get a chance to hear the views of the community groups working at the coalface”

“I find attendance at the community partnerships more beneficial than the PCSP meetings - provides a grass roots understanding of the issues”

“Bread and butter stuff which we need to be involved in”

“We get more done when we are eyeballing one another in the one room”

“West Belfast has come on leaps and bounds through the work of Falls Community Council and others”

2.2 At a time when community confidence in policing is poor

Confidence in policing across West Belfast is poor and there are limited mechanisms for the community to engage with PSNI and other justice agencies. It is within this context that the WB Community Safety Partnership structures are invaluable. They provide an opportunity for residents, their political representatives and statutory agencies to engage in a meaningful way, to discuss issues and how they should be dealt with. One consultation spoke of the maturing engagement process facilitated by the Community Safety Partnerships. In the past when residents were invited or requested to attend meetings it generally evolved into a shouting match, where the pure frustration of residents would often spill over. Now what tends to happen is residents meet with political and community representatives to discuss issues and these are teased out and approaches to the Community Safety Partnership agreed in advance of formal meetings. This has resulted in a more positive engagement process and one in which actions are agreed and positive outcomes facilitated.

“Community buy in is the key to successful policing and we wouldn’t be able to do it without Falls Community Council”

2.3 Deals with local issues

Several consultees thought that the PCSPs tend to be more strategic in their work and do not deal with local issues and concerns. This is where the West Belfast Community Safety Structures has proven useful, both from a community perspective and from a statutory and policing perspective. These meetings provide the platform to share information, discuss ASBs, hotspots, individuals who are offending / at risk of offending, forthcoming events etc. It supports and facilitates inter-agency collaboration and cooperation which address issues of community concern.
For example, Active Communities, through information gathered at Community Partnership meetings, were able to deliver diversionary interventions which targeted youth at risk of offending at the City Cemetery / Falls Park. A further example was provided by Cllr Steven Corr of community frustration at the perceived lack of police action at local drug dealers in the Whiterock area. Through the Community Safety Partnership these concerns were raised, and the police agreed to meet with residents to share and discuss the process required to build up enough evidence to take to the PPS. This was an extremely positive engagement process which would not have happened in the absence of Community Safety Partnership structures.

“We have been able to make contacts across the community which makes it easier for us to carry out our job”

2.4 Supports capacity building

The work carried out through the Community Safety Partnership structures has led to enhanced capacity across the community sector. It hasn’t been a primary objective for the partnerships to develop capacity but by the very fact that partnerships are dealing with often complex issues which require inter-agency interventions result in an enhanced knowledge and understanding of the justice system. On the policing side it also helps the statutory organisations build a better understanding of the communities they serve, the issues, the people, the terrain and the history of policing in the area. This enhanced capacity supports better engagement and community safety practice across West Belfast.

2.5 But there have been challenges

There have been challenges with respect to the effective delivery of the West Belfast Community Safety partnership structure, not least being the stop-go nature of the yearly cycle of funding provided through the Council. The yearly funding cycle has been characterized by:

- Yearly application process commencing in financial new year (April) whereby application is approved in May/June and funding received August / September. A one-year programme is crammed into 6 months resulting in inconsistency across service delivery, community organisations taking the ‘heavy lift’ with respect to employing staff, organising meetings, reacting to local issues etc.
- Staff mobility because of funding not being in situ resulting in people being moved around into other posts which have secured funding.
- Meetings not happening because there is no one / no organisation funded to convene meetings, take minutes, send out agendas, organise venues, follow up on actions taken etc.
- Administrative bureaucracy in respect to over complicated monitoring and reporting systems relative to the value of funding secured.

“When they operate they operate well”
“Need resources to get them all working effectively”
“The focus provided by the local structures is exactly where it needs to be”
3.0 Anti-Social Behaviour

3.1 Priority for policing in West Belfast

The consultation with the PSNI highlighted that ASB is by far and away the greatest priority for policing in West Belfast. The PSNI spends most of its time/resources dealing with ASB (albeit that ASB has declined in last year). The consultation with the PSNI highlighted the benefit for local policing in participation in the West Belfast Community Safety Partnership and local structures. It kept the PSNI plugged into local issues and concerns and provided them with the intel to respond in an agreed and coordinated fashion. It provided local contacts across the community sector including community organisations, youth groups, faith based organisations, sporting and cultural groups etc. which were beneficial with respect to local policing and supported effective neighbourhood delivery.

3.2 Transient Youth a big issue especially since the introduction of the Glider service

Transient youth was raised on several occasions and the fact that introduction of the new Glider service has exacerbated the problem as young people from across the city have much easier access to West Belfast hotspots. Although this is also opening cross community opportunities, it is not in the fashion and manner envisaged. Translink are engaged with the Community Safety Partnership and innovative solutions will be considered, particularly with respect to dates/events which are known for increased ASB behavior. This is another example of the partnership supporting innovative responses to new problems.

3.3 Hot Spots

One of the great strengths of partnership working has been in response to ASB hotspots and the incidents occurring in these areas. The partnership is community led and can respond to incidents as they arise in a quick and coordinated fashion. When incidents occur at the Falls Park or City Cemetery for example, partnership members are often the first to be alerted because they are on the ground and live in the local community. Through the work of the partnership and their understanding of the different statutory organisations and their responsibilities they can ensure the right calls are made and the response provided is appropriate and balanced. The strength of the partnership does not, however, end there. Partnership members from the local community are also best placed to send out strong messages of condemnation when things go wrong (recent incident at football pitch in Falls Park) and mobilise local support against such actions. Community condemnation is a stronger and more lasting response than anything statutory agencies can ever bring to the table.

A current example of this type of partnership approach is with respect to Falls Park. Because of the recurring problems with Falls Park Cllr Steven Corr convened several meetings focused solely on the park and included BCC, PSNI, youth providers, Translink, Feile, Bog Meadows group, Coiste and local political representatives. An Action Plan has been developed which includes contact numbers which can be shared between members and their responsibilities. This has led to a general reduction in incidents and a more coordinated approach and response.
“Everyone is much more aware of their role and their responsibilities”

Another example provided of this type of partnership work has been with respect to Dunville Park. The park was recently closed because of damage caused in the park through vandalism and fires. The Dunville Management Committee has been supported to put together a plan, one of the initial ideas is around better lighting in the park. Falls Community Council help support this group and have convened a partnership including Belfast City Council, youth providers, resident association and political representatives. This is an example of the very localized partnership approach developed to redress an ASB issue using the Broadway/M1 template for moving forward.

3.4 Colin great example of working with youth at risk

The consultation with Colin Neighbourhood Partnership (CNP) highlighted the great work being carried out week on week in an area with a high concentration of young people and historically major problems with ASB. Although CNP would see the work undertaken with the youth in Colin as something they developed and piloted themselves, they acknowledged the significant contribution made by the West Belfast Community Safety Partnership with respect to learning from others, networks and shared experiences. They also acknowledged that ASB has not been eradicated in the Colin area and that the Glider service makes it easier for young people from Colin to access hotspots across the city. Services provided include a diversionary programme every weekend to which young people identified by volunteers can be referred to, community volunteering scheme, training and support for young people at risk of offending, sound referral systems and shared contact numbers. These actions have help reduce ASB in the Colin area year on year (2018/19 has seen a 20% reduction).

3.5 ASB is not just about young people

The consultations highlighted that when discussing ASB we all tend to focus solely on young people when in fact there are a range of ASB incidents across West Belfast, many caused by drink and drugs, domestic / family or holiday occasions. Again, the work of the Community Safety Partnership was recognised as being proactive across all these areas, for example working with off licenses during parading season, pharmacies for drug amnesties etc.

3.6 But the reality is that ASB will remain a problem

ASB will never be eradicated completely from West Belfast. The work of the partnership and other agencies with a responsibility in this area must be to ensure that young people and the community in general are safe and that ASB, when it does occur, is dealt with in a responsive and balanced fashion.

Conflicting sides of an argument were provided during the consultations for example with respect to hotspots. Having large numbers of young people congregate in the Falls Park or City Cemetery was seen by some as being a problem and the removal of these young people in such numbers the ultimate objective for community safety work. Others thought that having these large groups in the one or two areas meant that agencies could deal with the issues and incidents arising in a more coordinated manner. Ultimately, young people will always want to gather, drink, take drugs no matter what we may do or provide as alternatives. Interesting discussion with no right or wrong answer.
4.0 Bonfires

4.1 2018 was the first year that there were no bonfires in West Belfast

All consultees highlighted the work of the partnership and its success in the fact that in 2018 there were no bonfires in West Belfast. It was pointed out that this was the first time in 50 odd years that there had been no bonfires, and this was down to partnership working across several areas including:

- Youth services
- Outreach work
- Feile
- Removal of bonfire materials immediately they were placed on site
- Removal of rubbish and debris which could have been used for bonfire or indeed riot material
- Diversionary programmes which takes youth at risk away during the August bonfire period

“You know who to phone to get wood collected and everyone knows who was doing what”

“Hopefully they are gone and gone forever”

No one partner was responsible for delivering on all the above, but it was recognised by the PSNI amongst others that the work carried out at a grassroots level, supported by the West Belfast Community Safety Partnership was a key contributing factor to the peaceful, no bonfire summer experienced in West Belfast in 2018. Meetings convened in April / May of each year by Falls Community Council staff supported this positive outcome.

4.2 But don’t think because there was no bonfire that the job is done!

There is a risk that because there were no bonfires in 2018 that funders and statutory bodies think the work is done, now let’s move onto something else. Consultations conducted highlighted that this position should not be accepted and that these successes not taken for granted but built upon and supported for the foreseeable future. Funding for partnership work needs to continue and resources provided to extend the success in West Belfast to neighbouring areas.

4.3 Work also carried out in Loyalist community should be recognized

The success of recent years with respect to bonfires is not only confined to West Belfast. Indeed, it was highlighted that the partnership and its lead partner Falls Community Council were engaged and active within neighbouring loyalist communities where continuous bonfires were built close to / next to an interface. Work carried out by FCC meant that these bonfires were moved to a less visible, contentious area, ultimately resulting in a reduction in community tensions in republican areas on the 11th bonfire night.
4.5 Feile a major contributor

Feile and its major ‘Dance Event’ was identified as being a massive contributor towards the removal of bonfires, reduction in ASB during the traditional August period of civil unrest in West Belfast. Young people caught repeatedly offending in the run up to Feile do not receive tickets to the event which is a major factor in better behavior amongst the ‘at risk’ group of young people. Secondly, young people at risk are now provided with training and employment opportunities provided at the event which supports capacity development and employability skills. Finally, although the dance night provides its own challenges re: ASB and drug and alcohol abuse, in comparison to what was the norm in years gone by it is a total success.
5.0 Broadway

5.1 History of Interface Violence

A history of violence at the Broadway interface is nothing new. For many years there have been incidents of violence between young people from West Belfast and the Roden Street / Village area of South Belfast. However, it escalated around 2010/11 culminating on the 12th July 2011 when rioting broke out and 22 police officers were injured, 51 plastic bullets fired, 40 petrol bombs thrown, and a bus hijacked and burnt. The cost of these riots was in the hundreds of thousands and that doesn’t take account of the damage to community relations within local communities and the image of the area portrayed across the world. Its location next to one of Belfast’s major hospitals also meant that people using the hospital were impacted upon which only exacerbated the problem. It was obvious that the PSNI and other statutory agencies were not going to be able to transform or make the changes necessary for long term change. Falls Community Council through the Community Safety Partnership model facilitated an approach that to this day continues to make a positive contribution to community cohesion and safety in the area.

“Because no major incidents have occurred in recent years is its success”

5.2 Partnership Approach was the Key Difference

From its humble beginnings when FCC convened a meeting of concerned stakeholders Broadway/M1 has become a model of real partnership working. It was recognized early on that no one, two or three organisations held the key to successfully delivering change in the Broadway / M1 area with respect to community safety. A partnership approach was adopted with each partner having an agreed role and responsibility as articulated in a yearly intervention action plan. The Broadway /M1 partnership included:

- Belfast City Council
- PSNI
- West & South DPCSPs
- Youth Justice Agency
- Probation Board
- Housing Executive
- Belfast Health Trust
- Fire & Rescue Service
- Park Centre
- Community organisations
- Wildlife Trust, and
- McDonalds

The partners developed an action plan which included several specific actions and timescale for completion, who was responsible and supporting notes. The work of the partnership has had a transformative impact upon the Broadway/M1 area and reduced incidents of community violence dramatically. The riots of 2011 are hopefully confined to the past and incidents when they do arise now are dealt with in a coordinated and responsive fashion.
5.3 Transferable Model and Template for future work

The partnership model developed for the Broadway/M1 has been adopted by Belfast City Council and others as a model of best practice and the action plan template used in other parts of the city. Falls Community Council through the Community Safety Partnership were responsible for developing this model and should be recognised for having done so. Like other community safety issues, the absence of any large-scale riots like seen in 2011 should not be interpreted as work completed. Broadway/M1 like other continuous interfaces require continuous support to ensure that progress made is enforced and developed beyond the absence of violence.
6.0 Welcome Centre

6.1 Community concerns around drugs being brought into local area

The partnership has played an active role in responding to community concerns which have arisen from the Welcome Centre located in Townsend Enterprise Park. In 2017 a car was driven into the front of the building and service users physically and verbally attacked by youths in the area and windows smashed in Townsend Enterprise Park. The partnership contacted youth provides in the area and worked with the PCSP to provide diversionary programmes for youth in the area. This was followed up by the provision of information sessions with local youth on ASB and the impact of these actions on their communities. A 6-week programme was also developed and provided to youth from the Divis area in the Frank Gillen Centre which helped participants to better understand the consequences of their actions and impact on others.

The partnership held a meeting with local MLA, Fra McCann and agreed a multi-agency approach was the best way forward and two meetings have taken place to-date. The meetings have been chaired by Gerry McConville, FCC and include representatives from the BHSCT, Probation Board, Belfast City Council, PSNI, NIHE, Townsend Enterprise Park, local political representatives and the manager of the Welcome Centre. The first meeting focused on the issues and the second meeting on an agreed way forward.

6.2 Partnership Approach

Building on the template developed and tested at Broadway /M1 Falls Community Council convened a meeting with key stakeholders to discuss the issues arising from the Welcome Centre. The way forward is through a partnership approach with each individual partner taking responsibility for actions which they can impact upon and through the partnership reporting back on progress and problem solving.
7.0 Parades, Flags and Interfaces

7.1 Whiterock & Suffolk

Although there hasn’t been major community unrest at either Suffolk or the Whiterock in recent years this is because of the work of the partnership and its members, many of whom took personal risks to move the parades issue forward at key interfaces across West Belfast. Both Whiterock and Suffolk suffered year on year from violence around the marching season, paramilitary flags flying and generally poor community relations. Work supported through the partnership and by Falls Community Council brought key local interests to the table and through constructive dialogue solutions agreed to deal with community tensions. This has had a transformative impact upon these local communities and those consulted wanted the work of the partnerships to be recognized for their role in addressing these contentious parades and issues.

7.2 Tension reduced across West Belfast

The summer marching season is reasonably peaceful across West Belfast and the partnership were recognized for their role in moving the situation forward. This has helped to contribute not just towards community safety but greater community cohesion across West Belfast and surrounding neighbourhoods. Tension has reduced dramatically across West Belfast and whilst there are still sporadic incidents in hotspot areas there is a notable reduction in the frequency and ferocity associated with these incidents.
8.0 Conclusion

8.1 Partnership Works

Feedback provided during the evaluation emphatically supports the work of the West Belfast Community Safety Partnership and local structures. The partnerships do not work or exist in isolation of other organisations and partnership structures, however the consultations highlighted the high regard the partnership is held. The community-led, bottom up approach is particularly important in West Belfast, community capacity is high, and the structures, networks and relationships exist to facilitate partnership working. Partners expressed frustration at the funding cycles which hinder rather than support the work carried out and felt that a longer term, possibly a 3-year funding cycle should be provided by Council.

“The partnerships have been an unmitigated success in policing terms”

It should also be recognised that the partnership model and template developed for the Broadway/M1 is accepted as best practice and there are many recent examples of where partnerships are established to deal with specific problematic areas, for example Dunville Park, Falls Park and the Welcome Centre. No one organization can deliver effective community safety measures across West Belfast. The community partnership model is the only effective model which can address local issues in a coordinated and agreed manner.

8.2 Partners feel supported, confident and equipped to deliver their objectives

The evaluation confirmed that on the whole partners felt that they were ably supported to deliver the objectives set for the partnership. Meetings were convened by the lead partner, agendas circulated, meetings facilitated in a professional manner and all partners provided the opportunity to contribute to discussions and subsequent problem solving. The issue around insufficient funding was raised several times and it was felt that this was having a negative impact upon the work and ability of the partnerships to deliver their objectives. The model exists, it works and in the ‘big picture’ the funding required is relatively modest. Feedback provided supported the continuation of funding for the partnerships and felt that longer term funding would allow the partnerships to operate more effectively.

8.3 Partners reporting improved partnership working with other key stakeholders

The partnership has delivered meaningful relationship building, problem solving and sharing with and between key stakeholders. Feedback from the PSNI and Fire and Rescue highlighted the value that they place on working at a local level and the value they put on their participation on the West Belfast Community Safety structures. From a community perspective they valued the ability to be able to lift the phone up and talk to someone they knew. These contact points make it much easier to share information and to ask the right person and organization to respond to issues.
8.4 Partners reporting increased ability to engage with wider community members

The partnership has greatly enhanced the ability for partners to engage with wider community members including residents, resident groups, community and voluntary organisations, private businesses, other statutory organisations, local sporting and youth-based projects. The example of the Broadway /M1 partnership highlights the benefits of relationship building and sharing responsibility across a broad stakeholder base, each partner has their own role to play no matter how small or great it might be. The PSNI and Fire and Rescue Service placed a great value on relationships built up through participation on the partnership. These relationships make it easier for them to carry out their duties and working with the community has for example helped to reduce the number of attacks on the fire service. And when incidents do occur they know who to call and talk to and problem solve at a local level.

Finally, at a time when confidence in policing is reported as being poor in republican / nationalist areas the partnerships play a valuable role in providing a local vehicle for dialogue and problem solving. They have an important role to play if confidence in policing is to be enhanced and the ‘curve turned’ in West Belfast.
West Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Belfast City Council,

City Hall,

Belfast,

BT1 5GS

Tel: 02890270556

E: pcsp@belfastcity.gov.uk

W: www.belfastcity.gov.uk/pcsp