

# Minutes of the Belfast Policing and Community Safety Partnership

## Private Meeting

Lavery Room, City Hall

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2019

<b>Political Members</b>	<b>Independent Members</b>
Councillor Micheal Donnelly (Chair)	John MacVicar (Vice Chair)
Councillor Claire Canavan	Mary Lambe
Councillor Fred Cobain	John Loughran
Councillor Steven Corr	Michael O'Hara
Councillor Michelle Kelly	Anne-Louise Toal
Councillor Emmet McDonagh-Brown	
Councillor Brian Smyth	
Councillor Carl Whyte	
Alderman Tommy Sandford	
<b>Designated Organisations</b>	
Chief Superintendent John Roberts, PSNI	Patricia Muldoon, YJA
Chris Fee, NIFRS	Roisin Muldoon, PBNI
Michael Hogg, EA	
<b>Staff Present</b>	<b>Apologies</b>
Alison Allen, Neighbourhood Services Manager	Jennifer Hawthorn, NIHE
Lorna Somers, Safer City Assistant Manager	Carmel McKinney
Alyson Crompton, Project Officer	Susan Russam

### 1. Welcome and Apologies

- i. The Chair welcomed Members to the meeting, he introduced the new Members and District Partnerships Chairs and noted the apologies provided.

### 2. Declarations of Interest

- i. The Chair advised Members that they were required to declare any material interests that they may have in relation to any items on the agenda.
- ii. No declarations of interest were noted.

### 3. Belfast PCSP Minutes

- i. The minutes of the Belfast PCSP Private Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> March, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct.
- ii. A Member requested clarity on the 2019/2020 Belfast (D)PCSP Funding Model after the removal of Option 3 from the original proposal following legal advice and equality screening.
- iii. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised Members that in previous years, Members would have been presented with all 3 models, and advised that Option 3 to provide an equal split of the funding was unlikely to meet equality screening criteria, and therefore Members would have ruled this out on Officer's advice.

- iv. In response to a further query as to why the model was presented in February, and then screened out in March, the Safer City Assistant Manager agreed that this would need to be more clearly articulated in future.
- v. Members noted the clarification regarding the options presented and the equality implications.

#### **4. Chairs Update**

- i. The Chair advised that at the recent PCSP Community Safety Awards held on the 29<sup>th</sup> May, Belfast PCSP had two nominations short-listed.
- ii. Belfast PCSP, East and North DPCSP's Youth Outreach and Engagement Project in conjunction with Ardoyne Youth Enterprise and East Belfast Community Development Agency won the Award for Outstanding Impact in Tackling Anti-social Behaviour.
- iii. West Belfast DPCSP's Intergenerational Tapestry Project with Fruithill Fold and St John the Baptist Primary School were runners up in the Confidence in Policing Award.
- iv. The Chair also reminded the Members to return their completed Declarations of Interest Forms.

#### **5. Update from Designated Members**

##### PBNI

- i. Roisin Muldoon provided Members with an update regarding the ongoing work of the Probation Board, advising that PBNI had embarked on their 2019/2020 Business Plan.
- ii. She further advised Members that PBNI would be embarking on a comprehensive consultation process both internally and externally in relation to the formulation of their 2020/2023 Corporate Plan.
- iii. Ms. Muldoon informed Members that PBNI were also preparing for a comprehensive CJINI Inspection.
- iv. A Member asked for an update on the problem solving courts - Substance Misuse within Belfast and Domestic Violence within the North West.
- v. Ms. Muldoon advised that she would provide this information when it's produced. She added that Judge Fiona Bagnall had stated that the Belfast Substance Misuse Court was going very well however the North West Domestic Violence Court had not been as well received possibly due to the possible stigmas surrounding Domestic Violence.
- vi. A Member noted that he had recently attended a Transforming Justice Seminar in East Belfast where an excellent presentation on the Substance Misuse Court was delivered. He asked if the Members could get a copy of the presentation to which Ms. Muldoon advised that a presentation could be made available to the Members on the Substance Misuse Court if required.

## NIFRS

- i. Group Commander Chris Fee advised Members that the NIFRS Fire Safety Audit Strategy continues to be focused on Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMO). He also advised Members that the 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 about the “Your Choice” Programme, which is targeted at young drivers in the 16 to 24 year old age group as well as the introduction of fire safety advice for those who are socially isolated.
- iii. Members were advised that the NIFRS had attended:
  - a. a total of 50 major fires and 80 secondary fires during March 2019
  - b. a total of 44 major fires and 163 secondary fires during April 2019
  - c. a total of 49 major fires and 222 secondary fires during May 2019
- iv. He further advised Members of his concern regarding the setting of deliberate fires including wheelie bins, industrial bins and skips and also grass/gorse fires and fires involving rubbish/bonfire material.
- v. He further advised Members over the increasing number of attacks on firefighters:
  - a. a total of 5 attacks on firefighters during March 2019
  - b. a total of 8 attacks on firefighters during April 2019
  - c. a total of 11 attacks on firefighters during May 2019
- vi. He requested that the Members use their influence within communities to reduce the number of attacks on NIFRS personnel and the deliberate setting of fires. Members expressed their alarm over the increase of attacks on firefighters.
- vii. Group Commander Fee further advised Members that the NIFRS Bonfire Engagement Programme commenced on 3<sup>rd</sup> June, he added that the NIFRS have no legislation to remove bonfires and do not risk assess bonfires.
- viii. There followed a discussion on the stealing of bins and the need for this to be reported to the PSNI as Belfast City Council require a Crime Reference number to replace the bins free of charge.
- ix. A Member asked if it would be possible to use the Handyman service to secure bins for residents and the Safer City Assistant Manager agreed to circulate information about the service. Group Commander Fee stated that the NIFRS would try to identify hot spots regarding bin fires however the NIFRS statistics don't record whether they are Council owned or other bin types.

## YJA

- i. Patricia Muldoon advised Members that the Youth Justice Agency is developing their approach to Earlier Stage Intervention. The YJA had a visit to Cardiff to see the new model they have developed for working with young people.
- ii. She further advised that the Community Resolution Notice (CRN) pilot is continuing and that the figures for this in Belfast could be circulated to Members.
- iii. A report on the successful Schools Programme is to be provided at the next meeting.

## PSNI

- i. Chief Superintendent John Roberts advised that the current police priorities for Belfast were drugs, including tackling heroin abuse, paramilitary style assaults, anti-social behaviour, bonfires and parades.
- ii. Chief Superintendent Roberts advised that additional police resources would be in place on Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings over the summer period.
- iii. Chief Superintendent Roberts provided an update on the following points within his update:
  - Counterfeit electronic items seized in Lisburn and Belfast.
  - Three males charged with robbery related to an incident in a shop on Kings Road.
  - Male charged with membership of a proscribed organisation and drug offences.
  - Attempted murder of police officer in east Belfast, investigation ongoing.
  - Teenager arrested for vehicle crime in west Belfast.
  - Shots fired at house in north Belfast, investigation ongoing.
  - Robbery of a taxi driver in north Belfast, a male and a female arrested charged with robbery and possession of an offensive weapon.
  - Burglary of an ATM in east Belfast. four men arrested, three charged investigation ongoing
  - Aggravated burglary in south Belfast, male was arrested, investigation ongoing.
  - Male charged with drug and firearm offences in east Belfast.
  - Aggravated Burglary in north Belfast, police have appealed for information.
  - Armed robbery in east Belfast, police have appealed for witnesses and information.
  - Vehicle hijacked in north Belfast.
  - Shots fired at house in north Belfast, investigation ongoing.
  - Update on the murder of Jim Donegan, man arrested in England assisting with enquiries, police have appealed for witnesses and information.
  - Male and female charged by Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Unit.
  - Three men charged with assault in south Belfast.
  - Male charged with robberies in east Belfast.
- iv. He also advised Members of upcoming events including Belsonic and a number of parades.
- v. There were no comments or questions from the Members.

## EA

- i. Michael Hogg provided Members with an update regarding work being undertaken by the Education Authority over the summer.
- ii. He advised Members that the Education Authority Youth Service (EAYS) had contributed £4,500 to each voluntary unit across Belfast who had been previously successful in applying for funding to ensure a consistent and co-ordinated approach.
- iii. Mr Hogg advised Members that EA's Youth Intervention Scheme received 58 applications in Belfast with 41 of these being successful in receiving funding.

- iv. Mr Hogg advised Members that the Education Authority Youth Service (EAYS) is piloting a Safer Bonfires Project in south Belfast in Sandyrow, Belvoir and Taughmonagh.
- v. Mr Hogg also advised Members that the Start Project was currently under review and would be released next year.

#### **6. 2018/2019 Belfast PCSP Action Plan – Quarter 4 Progress Report**

- i. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised that Belfast PCSP Action Plan, Quarter 4 Progress Report would be presented to Members in August 2019.

#### **7. 2019/2020 Belfast (D)PCSP Action Plan Implementation**

- i. The Safer City Assistant Manager updated Members on the 2019/2020 Belfast (D)PCSP Action Plan which was approved by Members in February 2019 and subsequently submitted to the Joint Committee for approval.
- ii. She confirmed that resources for the 2019/2020 Belfast (D) PCSP Action Plan had been allocated to projects in line with the amounts approved by Belfast PCSP Members on 11 March and by DPCSPs at their meetings in late March 2019.
- iii. She reminded Members of the (D)PCSP procurement procedures including for direct award projects and the arrangements in place to ensure value for money and due diligence.
- iv. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised Members that detailed project descriptions were contained within the two booklets 'PCSP Project Descriptions' and 'DPCSP Project Descriptions' accompanying the report, each of which was grouped into three categories;

#### **PCSP Projects**

##### **Continuation Projects**

Projects developed as 2 year projects during 2018/2019 or have ongoing contracts in place. Monitoring and evaluation of project delivery and performance is ongoing regarding the continuation projects listed below:

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Action Plan Theme</b>	<b>Budget</b>
Strategic Assessment and Action Plan	Effectiveness	£5,500
Cyber Safety Project	Feel Safer	£25,000
Home Security Service	Feel Safer – At Home	£30,000
RADAR Project	Feel Safer – Young People	£7,500
Consent Project	Sexual Violence and Domestic Abuse	£19,950
Crisis Support Project	Sexual Violence and Domestic Abuse	£19,950
Stewarding Project	Drugs and Alcohol	£18,300
Sharps Removal Contract	City Centre	£15,000

### **Progressing Projects**

These projects were presented in detail to Members as part of the 2019/2020 PCSP Action Plan therefore Officers have been able to progress delivery over recent months:

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Action Plan Theme</b>	<b>Budget</b>
Neighbourhood Watch	Feel Safer	£1,000
Christmas Safety Event	Feel Safer – At Home	£7,500
SISS/Dual Diagnosis	City Centre	£30,000

### **Projects under Development (requiring final approval from Members)**

These projects were included in the 2019/2020 PCSP Action Plan but were not at developed stage and so further approval will be required from Members before delivery commences:

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Action Plan Theme</b>	<b>Budget</b>
Preventative Safeguarding	Feel Safer	£20,000
Drug and Alcohol Local Support Services	Feel Safer	£27,500
Improving Policing and Community Safety in the City Centre	Feel Safer - Hate Crime	£10,000

### **DPCSP Projects**

#### **Progressing Projects**

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Action Plan Theme</b>	<b>Budget</b>
Conversation Piece	Confidence in Policing	£20,000
Older and Vulnerable Adults Project	Feel Safe – At Home	£11,250
Wider University Area Capacity Support Project ( South Belfast)	Consult and Engage	£11,619
Interim Community Safety Project (West Belfast)	Consult and Engage	£8,750

#### **Projects under Development (requiring final approval from Members)**

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Action Plan Theme</b>	<b>Budget</b>
Anti-Social Behaviour	ASB	£57,924
Post Primary School Project	Feel Safe – At Home	£15,000
Hate Crime	Feel Safer - Hate Crime	£22,500
West Belfast Community Safety Strategy (West Belfast)	Consult and Engage	£61,250
Domestic and Sexual Violence/Abuse Awareness Raising and Training	Sexual Violence and Domestic Abuse	£7,500

- v. Members were asked to:
  - a. Note the Continuation Projects contained within Part 1 of the PCSP Project Description Document Booklet.
  - b. Retrospectively approve the PCSP and DPCSP Progressing Projects contained within Part 2 of the PCSP and DPCSP Booklets.
  - c. Note that further detail will be brought to future (D)PCSP Meetings regarding the projects contained within Part 3 of the PCSP and DPCSP Booklets.
- vi. Members noted the projects outlined in both booklets and agreed to the recommendations outlined above.

## **8. (D)PCSP Audit and Governance Arrangements**

- i. The Safer City Assistant Manager provided Members with an overview of the (D)PCSP Audit and Governance Arrangements.
- ii. The Safer City Assistant Manager asked Members to note the report and support its implementation.
- iii. Members noted the request and agreed to support its implementation.

## **9. Belfast City Council ASB Report**

- i. The Safer City Assistant Manager drew Members attention to the Anti-social Behaviour (ASB) Report produced by the Community Safety Operational Team relating to March, April and May 2019.
- ii. Following discussion, the Neighbourhood Services Manager agreed to provide Members for clarity regarding Belfast City Council's Policy around the installation of CCTV in play parks.
- iii. A Member asked for a definition of Belfast City Centre to which the Safer City Assistant Manager explained that the city centre as an area had been designated as the responsibility of the PCSP in order to allow the district budgets to be spent on projects in their specific areas. She agreed to circulate a map of the area boundaries to Members.
- iv. A Member asked about the high incidents of substance misuse and needle finds in north Belfast. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised that this may be due to Dunbar Link and the Cathedral Quarter falling under north Belfast and agreed to provide an update at the next meeting.
- v. A Member asked for further information regarding the timeline for the repair to the play park gates at Loop River. Update to be provided at next meeting.
- vi. Members noted the contents of the report.

## **10. 2018/2019 (D)PCSP Annual Reports**

- i. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised Members that the 2018/2019 Belfast (D)PCSP Annual Reports would be submitted in draft to the Joint Committee on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019 and then brought to the August Meeting for final approval.
- ii. Members noted this update.

## **11. Date of Next Meeting**

- i. Members were advised that the next meetings of the Belfast PCSP/Policing Committee would be held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2019.

## **12. Query**

- i. A Member asked for further information on the review of the “Lenadoon Halloween Fireworks Display” funding decision and a reply to the letter they had sent containing this request, which had been sent to the Neighbourhood Services Manager.
- ii. The Member was advised that information had been disseminated from the Council’s Legal Department, as previously requested, but a second copy would be posted. The Neighbourhood Services Manager confirmed that she had received a letter and would respond to it directly.
- iii. Following further discussion regarding the decision to reject unsolicited applications, the importance of adhering to agreed processes was noted.