

# Minutes of South Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership

## Policing Committee Meeting

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2019, 6.15pm

Lavery Room, City Hall, Belfast

<b>Political Members</b>	<b>Independent Members</b>
Councillor Emmett McDonough-Brown (Chair)	Richard Kennedy (Vice Chair)
Cllr Sarah Bunting	Michael Boyle
Cllr Geraldine McAteer	Paul McDonnell
<b>Statutory Designated Bodies</b>	
Chief Inspector Gavin Kirkpatrick, PSNI	John O'Hare, NIFRS
Sergeant Marcella McKay, PSNI	Melissa Spence, PBNI
<b>Belfast City Council Staff</b>	<b>Apologies</b>
Glenn Thomas, Safer City Coordinator (SCC)	Cllr Aine Groogan
Alyson Crompton, Safer City Project Officer	Cllr Gary McKeown
	Paul McCombe, NIHE

### **1. Welcome and Routine Matters**

- i. The Chair welcomed Members to the Policing Committee Meeting and noted the apologies provided

### **2. Declarations of Interest**

- i. No declarations of interest noted.

### **3. Minutes/Matters Arising**

- i. The Minutes of the Policing Committee Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2019, copies of which were previously circulated, were noted and agreed.

### **4. Performance against Local Policing Plan**

- i. Chief Inspector Gavin Kirkpatrick provided an update to the Members on the performance against the South Belfast Local Policing Plan.
- ii. Members noted that:
  - a. Overall crime had increased by 9%, a contributing factor bicycle crime is up 80% in the city centre, particularly high end items
  - b. ASB has decreased by 26%.
  - c. Burglaries have decreased by 9% with residential burglary up 7%.
  - d. Hate Crime up 25%
  - e. Crime against older people has decreased by 11%.

- f. An increase of 32% in relation to crimes involving domestic motivation, this might be due to increased reporting.
- g. An increase of 63% in the number of drug offences, due to increased detections and arrests with a clearance rate of 90%. Drug activity displaced from the city centre due to increased patrols, into Botanic and Ormeau parks. Heroin is a major issue with dealers carrying smaller amounts.
- iii. A Member asked about the significant increase in the drug offence figures, could this be broken down into street drugs and prescription drugs? Chief Inspector Kirkpatrick advised that the figures include a full range of drugs detected, the police are experiencing dealers carrying less drugs which is easier to conceal and harder to detect with a number of arrests.
- iv. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that the Annual District Policing Report is due next month and that he will bring a report to the August meeting relating to drug usage citywide.
- v. A Member asked had the arrests made for drug offences been the result of a targeted campaign? Chief Inspector Kirkpatrick stated that the arrests are due to stop and search and not related to a specific campaign, there is an incredible demand for drugs and therefore more dealers. The displacement of the drug dealers into the two parks has resulted in more reports from park users and residents, the police have therefore upped the stop and searches.
- vi. A Member asked what does the 90% clearance rate mean? Sergeant Marcella McKay explained this is the percentage of arrests dealt with by cautions or prosecution and closed. A large amount of the people arrested for another offence are then found to have drugs on them following a search. Ms Spence PBNI added that 90% of the caseload they deal with are drug related often with complex needs and involve linking in with other agencies.
- vii. The Members noted the report.

## **5. Policing Committee Grant Applications**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with an update on the Policing Committee Applications. Up to £2,000 is available per project and 2 grants can be provided per group, per year however the projects must be different from each other. Projects must actively involve the PSNI in delivery and the Neighbourhood Inspector for the area must sign the application.
- ii. The Safer City Coordinator advised the Members that South Belfast DPCSP has allocated £10,000 towards the Policing Committee Grants during 2019/2020. To date one application had been received with two pending.
- iii. Members were asked to:
  - a. Promote Policing Committee Grants within their communities and wider networks.
  - b. Agree to extend delegated authority to a Members Panel for awarding Policing Committee Grants for time-bound projects to a working group of 5 Members, to include a PSNI representative, with a quorum of 3 voting Members (Political and Independent) required to approve

decisions. Approved funding reported retrospectively at subsequent Policing Committee Meetings.

- c. Review the level of funding allocated towards Policing Committee Grants in November 2019, and reconsider as appropriate.
- iv. A Member welcomed Policing Committee Applications in South Belfast particularly in Balmoral.
- v. Members noted and agreed to the recommendations as listed above.

**6. Emerging Issues**

- i. There were no emerging issues.

**7. Date of Next Meeting**

- i. The date of the next meeting of the Policing Committee will be circulated to Members.