

Minutes of the East Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Private Meeting

East Belfast Network Centre, Templemore Avenue, Belfast
Tuesday, 19th March, 2019

| Political Members | Independent Members |
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| Alderman Tommy Sandford (Chair) Councillor Aileen Graham Councillor Sonia Copeland | Lisa McMaster (Vice-Chair) Jonny Currie David Geddis |
| Designated Organisations | |
| Gary Ballantyne, NIHE Naomi Jackson, PBNI Dermot Magorrian, YJ | Act. Chief Inspector Keith Hutchinson, PSNI Alan Wilson, EA Gabi Mornhinweg, H&SCT |
| Staff Present | Apologies |
| Glenn Thomas, Safer City Coordinator Andy Claydon, Anti Social Behaviour Officer | Michelle Bryans |

1. Welcome and Routine Matters

- i. The Chair welcomed Members to the meeting and noted the apology provided.

2. Declaration of Interests

- i. Members were asked to declare any material interests which they may have in relation to any item of business to be considered during the meeting.
- ii. No declarations of interest were noted.

3. Approval of Minutes

- i. The minutes of the East Belfast DPCSP Private Meeting held on 26th November, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct.
Proposed: Cllr Graham
Seconded: Johnny Currie

4. Matters Arising

- i. None.

5. Chairs Update on PCSP

- i. No Chairs update was delivered.

6. Updates from Statutory Partners

PSNI

- i. Acting Chief Inspector (Act CI) Keith Hutchinson commented on the three murders in East Belfast, stating that it was extraordinary to have this number of murder investigations in such a short space of time. He informed the Partnership that investigations were ongoing and community engagement was positive and that arrests had been made in each of the cases.
- ii. A Member thanked the PSNI for their work within the communities following these incidents which served to give confidence back to the residents.
- iii. A Member enquired if any of the murders were knife related and what, if anything, the PCSP could do to assist in the battle against knife crime. In response, Act CI Keith Hutchinson reported that the lines of investigation were not yet finalised and as such, nothing could yet be ruled out as a factor in the murders. He continued to suggest that media campaigns were being explored to shine a light on knife crime and that PCSP could play a significant part in raising awareness.
- iv. Gary Ballantyne informed the Partnership that a lady had been reported as pulling a knife in a drug related incident in Clarawood.
- v. An Independent Member suggested that people were frightened to speak out and that the PSNI needed to show people that they will be protected from Paramilitary's.
- vi. An independent member asked about event planning in the light of the recent tragic deaths in Cookstown. Act CI Keith Hutchinson reported that planning for the larger events is normally very tight but is not always a policing matter.
- vii. The Chair reminded Members of the book of Condolences that he had opened in the City Hall for the people killed in Cookstown.
- viii. The Safer City Coordinator informed Members that after struggling to fill places for the Stewarding project, the DPCSP has inserted a caveat into some of the funding agreements for events which requires groups to send staff on the stewarding course.

7. 2019/2020 Belfast PCSP Action Plan

- i. The Safer City Coordinator introduced the report on the 2019/20 Belfast PCSP Action Plan to advise Members of the funding allocation model as agreed by the Belfast PCSP. The PCSP also confirmed that:
 - Meeting costs would be kept in a central budget for ease of administration
 - It would honour all contracted projects in 2019/2020
 - It would deliver a number of projects citywide
 - Citywide projects will provide quarterly updates about delivery within East Belfast

- ii. The Safer City Coordinator informed Members that the district allocation is currently £104,126 and advised that the partnership were to confirm which Citywide projects it would fund from this allocation.
- iii. Members are asked to confirm if they will continue the Policing Committee Grants in 2019/2020. If agreed, the community safety team can work with local community organisations to develop proposals for Member consideration. The decision making for any grant award requires a quorum of 5 voting Members and as such cannot take place until BCC has nominated DPCSP Elected Members. This can only take place after the first Council Meeting following elections in May.
- iv. Members approved the following recommendations:
 - Members noted the citywide projects that Belfast PCSP have agreed for 2019/2020 and considered how best to pull service delivery into the local area
 - Members noted that any East Belfast small grant applications which score the 50% threshold will be funded from the district allocation
 - East Belfast DPCSP confirmed the citywide projects (below) that they will purchase in 2019/2020
 - East Belfast DPCSP agree to offer Policing Committee Grants in 2019/2020 and confirm the initial amount
 - East Belfast DPCSP grant delegated authority to a quorum of 5 Members, consisting of Independent and Designated Members (one of whom must be the PSNI District Commander) to approve any Policing Committee Grants

| Project | Description | Budget |
|--|---|----------------|
| Community Safety Small Grants (T1) | Up to £5K for groups to manage local policing and community safety issues; available twice a year. 6 projects will be recommended for funding at Members Panel costing £27,306 | £27,490 |
| Community Safety Small Grants (T2) | Second Tranche of Small Grants for activity between October and March (£21.8K allocated in 2017/2018) | £20,000 |
| Policing Committee Grants | Up to £2K for groups to respond to local policing and community safety issues; rolling programme for a timely response which is likely to include positive use of time activities. | £13,511 |
| DSVA Awareness Raising and Training | Provide information/training sessions to local groups to raise awareness of domestic and sexual violence and abuse, and be confident in reporting any concerns. Sessions will also provide signposting to localised support services. Cost - £1,875 | £1,875 |
| Post Primary School Project | Provide a coordinating resource to develop a universal policing and community safety programme in schools across the city; particularly building on the work of YJA. Cost - £5,000 | £5,000 |
| Feel Safer Project | Support local groups of adults at risk of harm to feel safer and have confidence in PCSP Member organisations. Cost - £3,750 | £3,750 |
| Conversation Piece | Support local groups of young people to explore confidence in policing and embedding a “culture of lawfulness”. | £5,000 |

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| | Cost - £5,000 | |
| Hate Crime Projects | To implement the recommendations of a review of hate crime and fear of hate crime projects across Belfast. Cost - £7,500 | <i>£7,500</i> |
| ASB Project(s)? | Coordinate with local services to source and deliver consistent outreach youth work and enhanced services at key dates, particularly school holiday Local small scale activities to divert young people should tensions arise Support youth workers to provide a consistent approach to young people across the city | <i>£20,000</i> |
| | Budget Total to equal | £104,126 |

8. Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Update Report

- i. Members were presented with a report relating to Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) and hotspots within East Belfast. The Safer City Coordinator noted key points and action taken to date at Flora Street Play Park, Orangefield Park, Loop River PlayPark and Redcar Street.
- ii. A Member enquired about Ormeau Park, in particular incidents of violence and serious drug use which has led to the closure of the public toilets at inconvenient times. The Safer City Coordinator assured Members that he would convey these issues to the Parks department.
- iii. Members were also provided with a breakdown of 48 service requests by type of ASB and lifts of drug paraphernalia at Ravenhill Rest Gardens and Bridge End.
- iv. The Safer City Coordinator advised that the South and East Belfast ASB Forum was currently discussing the behaviour of 12 people in East Belfast.
- v. A Member requested a statistical comparison of other areas of the city for the next meeting.
- vi. Members noted the contents of the report.

9. Small Grants Update

- i. The Safer City Coordinator informed Members that submissions would be marked at 2pm the following day at City Hall.

10. Emerging Issues

- i. The Chair informed Members of an incident in the Cregagh estate in which an older lady had a close call in which a burglar was interrupted by a neighbour. The resident was made to feel safer by a visit from the ASB Officer who had offered her a Beat the Burglar pack. The Chair enquired about the possibility of funding more beat the burglar packs. The Chair also enquired about the length of time it had taken the PSNI to chase up some CCTV a neighbour had retrieved of the burglar.

- ii. The Safer City Coordinator stated that due to the difficulties in distributing the packs it was unlikely that the partnerships would fund any more, however the Home security project is a positive alternative to address this need.
- iii. Members briefly discussed confidence in Policing following the arrest for murder of a man from the Cregagh estate.
- iv. The Safer City Coordinator pointed to the fact that this could be the last meeting for some elected members and thanked them for their service to date. He also thanked the Chair for the dedication he had shown in his role.

11. Date of Next Meeting

- i. Members were advised that the next meeting of the East Belfast DPCSP would be post election in June 2019