

East Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Policing Committee Meeting

East Belfast Network Centre
Tuesday, 19th February, 2019

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

1. Welcome and Routine Matters

- i. The Vice 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. Minutes of the East Belfast DPCSP Policing Committee Meeting held on 30th October, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct.
Proposed: Davy Geddis
Seconded: Johnny Currie

4. Area Commanders Update

- i. Acting Chief Inspector Hutchinson provided Members with an update on crime statistics between April and December noting that overall crime was down by approximately 7% when compared with the previous year. He continued to report that Robberies were down 27% and burglaries down 5%.
- ii. Theme 1: Communication and Engagement.- Members received details about the work of Crime Prevention Officer, Neighbourhood Watch and the PSNI use of the Next Door App which is proving to be a positive resource.

- iii. Theme 2: Protection of People and Communities - Acting Chief Inspector Hutchinson reported that ASB had decreased Citywide, with a decrease of 13% recorded in East Belfast.
- iv. Members were informed that burglaries had decreased and noted some notable arrests.
- v. Reports of Hate Crime in East Belfast had not changed whilst a small increase had been noted in West and North of the City
- vi. There have been 64 Domestic Abuse referrals between October and December.
- vii. Theme 3: Reduction in Offending - Acting Chief Inspector Hutchinson reported a 10% increase in drug offences in East Belfast which was representative of a general increase citywide.
- viii. Members were informed of notable arrests including a seizure of 50kg of cannabis in East Belfast which led to the arrest of 3 people.
- ix. ROU are currently managing 103 offenders
- x. Acting Chief Inspector Hutchinson reported that the PSNI were investigating the murder of Ian Ogle. Eleven people have been arrested and interviewed although there are still people that the PSNI wish to question. One person has been charged in relation and remains in prison. The PSNI are keen to encourage reporting in the aftermath and have issued a media appeal for anyone who may have information.
- xi. Acting Chief Inspector Hutchinson informed Members that PSNI had a system to evaluate threats which was done on an individual basis. He also commented on the positive visible support for the family in the area and that a message had been sent that East Belfast does not condone this type of activity.
- xii. When asked by a Member if any differences had been noticed since the Policing Board had reconvened, the Acting Chief Inspector suggested that some stability was now in place and that a number of temporary assignments could now be made permanent, although any senior posts would still be held back as they needed to be passed by Stormont.

5. Emerging Issues

- i. No emerging issues were discussed.

6. Date of Next Meeting

- i. Members were advised that the next meeting of the Policing Committee has yet to be confirmed.