

Minutes of the East Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Private Meeting

Tuesday, 27th August 2019

East Belfast Network Centre, Templemore Avenue, Belfast

Political Members	Independent Members
Alderman Tommy Sandford (Chair)	Lisa McMaster (Vice-Chair)
Alderman Sonia Copeland	Jonathan Currie
Alderman Tom Haire	David Geddis
Statutory Designated Bodies	
Gary Ballantyne, NIHE	Dermot Magorrian, YJA
Yvonne Cowan, H&SCT	
Belfast City Council Staff	Apologies
Glenn Thomas, Safer City Coordinator (SCC)	Councillor Carole Howard
Katharine McCrum, Safer City Coordinator	Councillor Geraldine McAteer
	Michele Bryans
	Chief Inspector Christian Bradley, PSNI
	Mark McBride, EA
	Naomi Jackson, PBNI

1. Welcome and Routine Matters

- i. The Chair welcomed Members to the meeting, in particular Yvonne Cowan. Members noted apologies from the PSNI due to operational issues.

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. Jonathan Currie noted a possible conflict under Emerging Issues and was advised that he could leave the room during this discussion.
- ii. No further declarations of interest were noted.

3. Approval of Minutes

- i. The minutes of the East Belfast DPCSP Private Meeting held on Monday 24th June, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct.

4. Matters Arising

- i. The Safer City Coordination reviewed the actions from the previous meeting and advised Members that;

Action	Update/Outcome
Circulate East Belfast Draft Annual Report 2018/2019.	Complete
Circulate dates for ASB Workshop with Suzanne Gowling to Members	Complete, and the workshop has taken place
Update on provision of CCTV in Loop River Play Park	An update is still pending
Update on underage drinking and Off-Licence visits in Redcar Street/Portallo Street	An update is still pending
Isoline Street / Castlereagh Parade drug taking, needles and drug related paraphernalia to be followed up by ASB/Sharps Removal Officer to give update	There have been no further reports
Recirculate dates for upcoming PACT Meetings to Members	Dates have been recirculated

5. Chairs Update on PCSP

- i. Members were advised that the Criminal Justice Inspection (CJINI) Report on PCSPs had recently been received and circulated via email. The Safer City Coordinator advised that the report would be tabled at the next meeting of the DPCSP.

6. Updates from Statutory Partners

NIHE

- i. Gary Ballantyne, NIHE, advised Members that a threat had been issued against NIHE contractors but it was hoped that this would not be substantiated. He noted that the issue, until resolved, would have an impact on emergency call outs.
- ii. Members condemned the threat and asked what response could be given to residents who contacted their elected representatives.
- iii. Mr Ballantyne asked that calls were forwarded to NIHE for response and agreed to circulate an email to those present regarding the outcome of the incident once resolved.

YJA

- iv. Dermot Magorrian, YJA, advised Members that the PSNI/YJA pilot on Community Resolution Notices (CRNs) was currently being evaluated. He advised Members that the purpose of CRNs was to avoid the criminalisation of young people where possible.
- v. A Member suggested that in order to focus the reports provided by Statutory Partners, a template is circulated based on the OBA themes within the Action Plan.
- vi. Members agreed with this suggestion and the Safer City Coordinator agreed to produce and circulate this template ahead of the next meeting.

7. 2019/2020 Belfast PCSP Action Plan Implementation

- i. The Safer City Coordinator presented Members with 3 Project Description Documents for approval;

7a Feel Safer Theme:

East, South and North Belfast District PCSP's Older and Vulnerable Adults Project
Supplier: CM Works
Cost to East Belfast DPCSP: £3,747

7b Feel Safer Theme:

East, South and North Belfast Hate Crime Awareness Raising Project
Cost to East Belfast DPCSP - £7,500

7c Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse:

East, South, North and West Belfast District PCSP's Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse Awareness Raising and Training Project
Cost to East Belfast DPCSP: £1,875

- ii. Members were also advised that the Post Primary School Project within the Action Plan was now no longer taking place and therefore £5,000 was available to be reallocated, alongside £2,304 of underspend within the Small Grants Budget.
- iii. Members considered the Project Description Documents and approved their delivery, including the focus of the older and Vulnerable Adults project in the Ballymacarrett area. Members noted that a proposal to utilise the highlighted underspend would be brought under the Emerging Issues agenda item.

Proposed: David Geddis

Seconded: Councillor Sonia Copeland

8. Belfast City Council Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Report

- i. The Safer City Coordinator presented Members 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 Avoneil Park / Flora Street Play Park, Orangefield Park, Loop River Play Park, and the Short Strand interface. He also mentioned drug paraphernalia finds and service requests.
- ii. In response to a request from Members, the Safer City Coordinator agreed to include ASB reports from other areas of the City to act as a comparison in future months.
- iii. A Member questioned why Ormeau Park was not on the list of hotspots given that she had made a number of reports about the area. She also questioned whether it fell under South or East Belfast.
- iv. The Safer City Coordinator advised that the park fell under South Belfast however it could be the case that even with a number of reports, it would not necessarily be deemed a hotspot when compared to other areas. He agreed to bring back information on the area in future.
- v. A Member noted that following an arranged fight last week, the PSNI had called on parents to check where their children were.

- vi. Members were reminded that reporting incidents to the PSNI and/or Council would in turn help to build a picture and increase patrolling in areas of concern.

9. Small Grants Tranche 2 Update

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that the PCSP had approved an amended scoring, moderation and ratification process for Small Grants from this point forward whereby;
 - 3 Safer City Coordinators (SCC's) meet to agree a score for each application,
 - A Member Panel of (D)PCSP Members, including the Chairs and Vice-Chairs or nominated representatives, will then meet to ratify a sample of scores assigned by the SCC's for each area of the City (highest and lowest score from each)
 - Those applications which scored over 50% are recommended for funding subject to funding availability.
- ii. Members were also advised that 4 of the 6 submissions for East Belfast Tranche 2 were successful at a cost of £17,696, leaving £2,304 remaining within the Small Grants budget.
- iii. Members were asked to note the amended process for scoring, moderations and ratification of (D)PCSP Small Grants, agree to provide delegated authority to the (D)PCSP Member Panel, and to reallocate the identified underspend of £2,304 towards other project work to be discussed under the Emerging Issues agenda item.
- iv. Members agreed to the recommendations as laid out above.
Proposed: Alderman Tom Haire
Seconded: Alderman Sonia Copeland

10. 2019/2020 East Belfast DPCSP Action Plan Progress Report

- i. Members were provided with a progress report on delivery of the 2019/2020 DPCSP Action Plan up to 25th July 2019.
- ii. The Safer City Coordinator noted that when considering the additional projects just approved by Members, the Partnership was in a healthy position in terms of delivery.
- iii. Members were also advised that the Quarter 1 Performance Report for the Belfast (D)PCSPs was included in their papers.
- iv. Members noted the updates provided.
Proposed: David Geddis
Seconded: Lisa McMaster

11. (D)PCSP Audit and Governance Arrangements

- i. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with an update on the external audit carried out on behalf of the NI Policing Board relating to Belfast (D)PCSP expenditure during the 2017/2018 financial year.
- ii. Members were advised that the Chief Executive of the NI Policing Board (NIPB) had written to all Councils highlighting a number of general observations of poor procurement

practices that were found however that the observations were not specific to verification audits at Belfast City Council and were not specific to Belfast PCSP.

- iii. Members were also advised that a further internal audit of 2018/2019 files was ongoing within Belfast City Council.
- iv. Members noted the report.

12. East Belfast Approach to ASB

- i. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with an update on the ASB workshop on 6th August and the recommendations coming from these discussions. Members were advised that it had been suggested that funding from the East Belfast DPCSP should address the underlying issues that have an impact on preventing ASB such as addiction, risky sexual behaviour, on-line safety, violence and fighting, and build efficacy and embed a culture of change.
- ii. Therefore, Members were asked to consider the use of a rolling, restricted resource for short programs focused on specific interventions with target groups. The Safer City Coordinator noted that a steering group of 5 Members was suggested in order to manage the program and identify appropriate programs.
- iii. The Safer City Coordinator read through asked that Members agree;
 - a. To consider the input from East Belfast Family Support Hub, East Belfast Youth Practitioners Forum and Inner East Belfast Tension Monitoring Group and the Inner East Forum in order to refine the recommendations below.
 - b. To establish a working group of DPCSP Members to oversee the implementation of this project and scrutinise monitoring returns.
 - c. To delegate authority for this group to progress the project and authorise spend where necessary. As such, the working group must have 5 members and a quorum of 3 must be in attendance.
 - d. A restricted resource be made available to address the underlying issues identified by the on-street youth workers when they engage young people involved in problematic behaviours up to £17,001.
 - e. Subject to Chief Inspector approval, PSNI participation to discuss the impact of the issue in at least one session per programme is a condition of funding.
 - f. Members will receive monthly reports to consider the benefit of this restricted resource in addressing the underlying causes of the asb.
 - g. To fund a networking event between on-street workers, operational staff from relevant agencies and those organisations commissioned to deliver specialist services which address the underlying causes of asb, up to a value of £2,999.
 - h. To proactively support the community led on-street youth work in East Belfast and promote better operational relationships with Designated Member organisations.

- i. To determine the model for future activity by 31 November 2019 to facilitate invitations to tender being let in January 2020.
- iv. Members agreed to the recommendations and the 5 panel Members were confirmed as; Lisa McMaster, Yvonne Cowan, Ald Sonia Copeland, David Geddis, Declan Magorrian.
Proposed: Lisa McMaster
Seconded: Alderman Sonia Copeland
- v. A Member asked that approvals were accepted via email.

13. Emerging Issues

Race Relations Coordinator

- i. In line with his previous declaration of interest, Jonathan Currie left the room during discussion of this agenda item.
- ii. The Safer City Coordinator reminded Members that the East Belfast DPCSP had allocated £10,000 towards a Race Relations Coordinator during 2018/2019 alongside the Council's Good Relations Unit and Community Relations Council. He noted that there had been virtually no spend due to the late recruitment of the staff member, however the post was now progressing well.
- iii. He also noted that the funding had initially been for 2 years but as the project had not been included in the OBA planning process, the second year of funding had not been agreed, however in hindsight it should have been.
- iv. Members were asked to consider using the £7,304 of underspends identified throughout the meeting (through Small Grants and the Post Primary School Project) to support a second year of funding for the Race Relations Coordinator. The Safer City Coordinator undertook to circulate a full proposal via email.
- v. Members agreed to this proposal.
Proposed: David Geddis
Seconded: Lisa McMaster

Vice-Chair

- vi. Members were advised that the position of Vice-Chair would be fulfilled by Jonathan Currie from this point onward.

14. Date of Next Meeting

- i. Members were advised that the next meeting of the East Belfast DPCSP would be on 30th September 2019. The Safer City Coordinator added that this would include a Public Meeting themed around Hate Crime.