

# Minutes of the East Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership

## Policing Committee Meeting

Lavery Room, City Hall  
Thursday, 23rd May, 2013

### Political Members

Councillor Adam Newton (Chair)  
Alderman Gavin Robinson

### Independent Members

Mr Mark Houston (Vice-Chair)  
Mrs Lynda Gibson  
Mr Gareth Beacom

### PSNI Representatives

Chief Inspector Mark McEwan

Inspector David Moore

### Staff Present

Phyllis Anderson, Safer City Coordinator  
Heather Horner, ASB Officer, East Belfast  
Katharine McCrum, Partnership Support Officer  
Bernie Quinn, Project Officer

### Apologies

Councillor Claire Hanna  
Mrs Olwen Lyner  
Mr Andrew Moorhead

## 1. Welcome and Routine Matters

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

## 2. Declaration of Interests

- i. No declarations of interest were recorded.

## 3. Update on Policing in East Belfast

### Policing Statistics

- i. Inspector Moore provided Members with an update on the Policing in East Belfast stating that burglary was down over 13% when compared with last year's figures, that anti-social behaviour had increased slightly and that there had been a significant increase in drugs seizures.
- ii. A Member questioned the Area Commander about the media reports suggesting that violent crime is on the increase and asked if this was perception rather than fact as the stories were not supported by the police statistics.
- iii. Chief Inspector McEwan suggested that small increases in crime can often look more severe when converted to percentages. He added that the media's portrayal of crime was an issue that the police could look at across East Belfast.
- iv. In response to a Member's question regarding burglary in Inner East Belfast, the Area Commander stated that burglary in the Pottinger area had increased however most burglaries were due to open doors and windows.

- v. A Member added that there had been less community discussion on the issue of burglary and that regular Facebook updates and the distribution of window alarms had helped to calm community fears.
- vi. In response to query regarding dissident activity in the Short Stand area, the Area Commander confirmed that there was no 'home grown threat' and that positive community influences were in place to deal with such issues.

#### Cardiff Talks

- vii. At the request of a Member, the Area Commander provided an update on the talks held between the PSNI, politicians and community leaders in Cardiff. Chief Inspector McEwan stated that the talks had been positive and had reinvigorated efforts among the partners. He added that the group had arranged to meet again in the Skainos Centre in order to maintain communication.

#### Public Meeting

- viii. Police and Members discussed the forthcoming Public Event and following discussion resolved to change the topic from 'Crime Prevention' to an event focusing on the personal consequences and community impact of becoming involved in criminal activity and disorder. It was also agreed that the meeting would take place on Thursday, 27th June in the East Belfast Network Centre, Templemore Avenue.
- ix. The Area Commander advised Members that the US Consul, the NI Tourist Board and the PSNI Tactical Support Group would be interested in attending and that the police were hoping to screen a DVD portraying the story of a young person who became involved in the criminal justice system.
- x. Members welcomed the opportunity to have these discussions but cautioned that the young person would need to be resident in East Belfast in order to capture local community interest.
- xi. The Area Commander agreed with this suggestion and asked that Members contact him with suitable suggestions.

#### **4. Minutes**

- i. The minutes of the Policing Committee Meeting of the East Belfast DPCSP held on 24th April, copies of which had been previously been circulated via email, were taken as read and agreed as correct.