

**Minutes of the East Belfast District Policing and Community Safety
Partnership – Policing Committee
Skainos Centre, Tuesday, 23rd October, 2012**

Political Members

Cllr Claire Hanna (Chair)
Cllr Deidre Hargey
Cllr Mervyn Jones
Cllr Adam Newton
Cllr Niall Ó Donnaghaile
Ald Gavin Robinson

Independent Members

Mark Houston (Vice-Chair)
Gareth Beacom
Lynda Gibson
Olwen Lyner
Andrew Moorehead

**Police Service of Northern Ireland
Representatives**

Chief Inspector Mark McEwan
Inspector Angus Mairs

Staff Present

Phyllis Anderson, DPP Officer
Sean McCormick, DPP Officer
Jo Black, Partnership Support
Officer

1. Welcome and Routine Matters

- i. The Chair, Councillor Hanna, welcomed Members and the representatives of the Police Service of Northern Ireland to the meeting of the East Belfast Policing Committee of the East Belfast DPCSP.
- ii. No Declarations of Interest were recorded.

2. Area Commander's Update

- i. The Area Commander, Chief Inspector McEwan, reported that the number of burglaries had decreased by 30% and antisocial behaviour incidents had fallen by 8.9% compared to the same period last year. He stated that there had been an increase in the number of drug seizures including the discovery of three cannabis factories in East Belfast with a value of £85,000. The Area Commander advised the Partnership of the policing plans for the Halloween period
- ii. Inspector Mairs explained how the community engagement programme 'One Makes a Difference Campaign' had organised a litter collection in the Pottinger area involving 80 volunteers who collected 40 bags of rubbish. A further event was planned for spring 2013. The Area Commander thanked the Members for their support of the campaign.

3. Questions from Members

- i. A Member enquired if there was any monitoring of shops selling fireworks. The Area Commander informed Members that an appeal had been issued via social media, requesting information on shops selling fireworks. He advised that there had been reports of taxis' selling fireworks and that there had been seizures in the Pottinger area and in some instances the fireworks did not meet EU standards.
- ii. In response to a query from a Member concerning the increase in thefts in the area, Inspector Mairs stated that this was often linked to petty theft in public places and these could be difficult to target.
- iii. A Member congratulated the PSNI on Operation TORUS.
- iv. A Member congratulated the PSNI on their detection rates and drug seizures.

4. Quarterly Police Report

- i. The Partnership agreed the proposed format of the quarterly statistical analysis provided by the PSNI.

5. Policing Committee Funding – 'Obtaining the Cooperation of the Public'

- i. The DPP Officer presented a draft application form for funding from the 'Obtaining the Cooperation of the Public' stream. The proposed form contained a section requiring a counter signature from the PSNI.
- ii. Following discussion the Partnership agreed that the form was suitable, while being comprehensive it was not too detailed to prohibit applications.
- iii. The DPP Officer agreed that any applications received would be brought forward at future Policing Committee meeting agendas.

6. Launch Event

- i. The DPP Officer explained that the Department of Justice had only agreed to the launches of the DPCSPs and the PCSP and not to their Action Plans as these had to be presented and agreed by the Joint Committee before being launched at a public event.
- ii. A Member asked why the decision of the partnership to hold a launch of its Action Plan had been overturned. Another Member explained that they understood that all Action Plans had to be approved by the Joint Committee. Following discussion the Members requested that the Minutes formally record the disquiet of the Partnership that the launch of the Action Plan as advertised, was prohibited by the Joint Committee.
- iii. The Chair requested that the Officers reflect the discussion in a letter to the Joint Committee and invite a representative to a future meeting.

7. Date of the Next Meeting

- i. The next meeting of the Policing Committee will take place in City Hall on 27th November at 4.45pm.