

Minutes of the East Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Private Meeting

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

Political Members	Independent Members
Councillor Adam Newton (Chair)	Mr Mark Houston (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Mervyn Jones	Mr Gareth Beacom
Alderman Gavin Robinson	

Designated Organisations	
Yvonne Adair, YJA	Chief Inspector Mark McEwan, PSNI
Yvonne Cowan, H&SCT	Inspector David Moore, PSNI
NIFRS Representative	Pauline Smart, BELB

Staff Present	Apologies
Phyllis Anderson, Safer City Coordinator	Councillor Claire Hanna
Heather Horner, ASB Officer, East Belfast	Mrs Lynda Gibson
Katharine McCrum, Partnership Support Officer	Mrs Olwen Lyner
Bernie Quinn, Project Officer	Mr Andrew Moorhead
	Jane Lappin, PBNI
	Alice Mills, NIHE

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. Minutes

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

4. Diversionsary Funding

- i. The Safer City Coordinator requested clarification from Members on how they wished to proceed with the future delivery of diversionsary funding, if this was required again in 2013/2014.
- ii. Members agreed not to meet until the need arose and requested that the existing documentation be circulated to Members via email and discussed at the next Private Meeting.
- iii. Members also agreed that while a quorum of 6 Members would be needed to make decisions regarding diversionsary funds, all Members would be invited to attend any such meetings.

5. Deputation from the Police Ombudsman

(Dr Michael Maguire, Police Ombudsman and Mr Tim Gracey, Director of Information at the Office of the Police Ombudsman attended in connection with this item.)

- i. Dr Michael Maguire, Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland, provided Members with information on the role of his Office and the changes that had been brought about since his appointment in July, 2012 following the Criminal Justice Inspectorate Report findings in 2011.
- ii. Members were advised that workshops had been organised with local communities to advise them on the role of the Office and on how to complain, particularly following flag related protests and disorder that had seen a large number of allegations made against police officers.
- iii. In response to a Member's query regarding how the DPCSP could best support and promote the work of the Office, Mr Gracey stated that statistics could be provided to the Partnership and asked Members to inform the Office of any communities that could benefit from a workshop on the role of the Police Ombudsman as understanding is key to the usefulness of the Office.
- iv. A Member asked for advice on what to do when a complaint is made during a youth conference and whether a report provided recommendations or findings alone.
- v. Dr Maguire suggested that a conference could continue as the complaint could be seen as a separate issue however this was to be assessed on a case by case basis. With regards to recommendations within reports, he stated that this was again on a case by case basis.
- vi. Members thanked Dr Maguire and Mr Gracey for attending the meeting and they subsequently retired from the meeting.

6. East Belfast DPCSP Public Event

- i. The Safer City Coordinator and the Area Commander explained the suggested changes to the Public Event in East Belfast Network Centre, Templemore Avenue on 27th June, including the change of topic from 'Crime Prevention' to an event focusing on the personal consequences and community impact of becoming involved in criminal activity and disorder. The Area Commander advised Members that the US Consul, NI Tourist Board and PSNI Tactical Support Group would be interested in attending and that the police would screen a DVD portraying the story of a young person who became involved in the criminal justice system.
- ii. Yvonne Adair explained that the Youth Justice Agency were beginning a Youth Engagement pilot project which would deal with the issues of criminal records and so would be keen to be involved in the organisation of the Event.
- iii. The Safer City Coordinator agreed to set up a meeting between the DPCSP Office, PSNI and Youth Justice Agency to explore this issue.

7. Schedule of Future Meeting Dates

- i. Due to the low number in attendance, Members agreed to postpone this agenda item until to the next Private Meeting on Thursday, 27th June.

8. 2013-2015 East Belfast Action Plan Update

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that the 2013-2015 East Belfast Action Plan had been submitted to the Joint Committee however a Letter of Offer had not yet been received. Members were further advised that no tender exercises would be required but 4 formal quotation processes would be needed.
- ii. Yvonne Cowan provided Members with an update on the work of the Drug and Alcohol Plan for East Belfast. Members were advised that a multiagency workshop facilitated by Alison Wightman would take place on 5th June between 9.30am and 1.30pm with two further dates provisionally scheduled for 19th June and 3rd July.
- iii. Members requested that this information be circulated via email and were invited to attend if they wished.
- iv. Members discussed the issue of underage drinking and lock-ins in local bars within East Belfast to which Inspector Moore advised that a Licensees Forum had previously been well attended but had not met recently. He suggested that if there was a clear message regarding alcohol issues, licensees would be likely to engage.

9. Possible Summer Intervention Funding

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members of the possibility that additional project funds may become available through the DOJ's Summer Intervention Fund in the weeks ahead.
- ii. Members were asked to consider any 'oven ready' projects which may be considered eligible for funding under this initiative if the opportunity were to become available.
- iii. No project suggestions were submitted.

10. Neighbourhood Watch Steering Group

- i. Following a request from the Safer City Coordinator, Mr Gareth Beacom volunteered to represent the East Belfast DPCSP on the Neighbourhood Watch Steering Group.

11. Date of Next Meeting

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that the next DPCSP Private Meeting would take place at 5.45pm prior to the Public Event on Thursday, 27th June in the East Belfast Network Centre at 7pm.

12. Any Other Business

- i. Members were advised that the Drugs Bin installed in Connswater Shopping Centre was now live and would be officially launched in the coming weeks.