

**Minutes of the East Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership  
Private Meeting**

**Conor Room, City Hall  
Wednesday, 27th March, 2013**

<b>Political Members</b>	<b>Independent Members</b>
Councillor Claire Hanna (Chair)	Mr Mark Houston (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Deirdre Hargey	Mrs Olwen Lyner
Councillor Mervyn Jones	Mr Andrew Moorhead
Councillor Adam Newton	
Alderman Gavin Robinson	
<b>Statutory Designated Bodies</b>	
Yvonne Adair, YJA	Alice Mills, NIHE
Yvonne Cowan, H&SCT	Inspector Davy Moore, PSNI
Aidan Jennings, NIFRS	Pauline Smart, BELB
<b>Staff Present</b>	<b>Apology</b>
Sean McCormick, DPP Officer	Mr Gareth Beacom
Katharine McCrum, Partnership Support Officer	
Bernie Quinn, Project Officer	

**1. Welcome and Routine Matters**

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

**2. Declaration of Interests**

- i. No declarations of interest were recorded.

**3. Local Policing Plan**

- i. The Chair advised Members that no comments had been received in relation to the draft Local Policing Plan for East Belfast, copies of which had been previously circulated.
- ii. Members raised no issues at the meeting and subsequently endorsed the East Belfast Local Policing Plan.

**4. Minutes**

- i. The minutes of the Policing Committee Meeting of the East Belfast DPCSP held on 24th January, and Private Meetings held on 24th January, 13th February and 25th February respectively, copies of which had previously been circulated via email, were taken as read and agreed as correct.

**5. Nomination of a Vice-Chair**

- i. The DPP Officer advised Members that Mr Mark Houston had accepted his re-election to the role of Vice-Chair for the period of 1st April, 2013 to 31st March, 2014.

## **6. Small Grants Approval**

(Suzanne Gowling, Safer City Coordinator, attended in connection with this item.)

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that ten Summer Small Grant Applications had been received from groups in East Belfast, six of which were recommended for funding by the Members Panel.
- ii. Members discussed the application received from the SOS Bus and agreed that a more strategic approach, possibly led by the PCSP, should be investigated to support the service in the future.
- iii. The Safer City Coordinator advised that she would be drafting a paper regarding this issue as the South Belfast DPCSP had also commented upon the need for a joint approach.
- iv. Yvonne Cowan, H&SCT, undertook to investigate what funding the Health and Social Care Trust were providing to the SOS Bus.
- v. Following further discussion, Members agreed to fund the six applications, as recommended, while noting that this would increase their agreed allocation of funding from £25,000 to £27,160.

## **7. Formal Designation of Statutory Bodies**

- i. The DPP Officer advised Members that the draft Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (Designated Organisations) Order (Northern Ireland) 2013 had been approved by the Northern Ireland Assembly on 18th February, therefore, the formal designation of statutory organisations was now a legislative requirement. He added that no action was necessary as the seven listed organisations were already present on the East Belfast DPCSP.
- ii. Yvonne Cowan, H&SCT, requested that the names of the designated representatives attending each of the other Partnerships be circulated.
- iii. The DPP Officer agreed to do so once the representatives were known. He also asked Members to keep their own contact details up to date with the PCSP staff.
- iv. Members discussed the protocol for responding to emails, the regularity of last minute requests and the level of work involved in the DPCSP. They agreed that this had exceeded initial forecasts and requested that their concerns be fed back to the PCSP and Joint Committee.

## **8. Equality Scheme**

- i. The DPP Officer advised Members that, as PCSPs are designated as public bodies, each Partnership was required to submit an Equality Scheme to the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland. He added that two responses had been received and incorporated into the Schemes following public consultation.
- ii. In response to a query regarding the absence of the Youth Justice Agency in the list of consultees, the DPP Officer advised Members that the schemes had also been available online but agreed to bring the comment back to the Equality Officer.

- iii. In response to a Members query regarding the protocol for submitting and answering written questions to the DPCS and the possible equality implications, the DPP Officer advised Members that a paper regarding this issue would be brought to the next meeting of the DPCSP scheduled for April.
- iv. Members subsequently approved the contents of the East Belfast DPCSP Equality Scheme.

## **9. Youth Engagement Project Update**

- i. Members noted the contents of the report outlining the progress of the Youth Engagement Project (YEP) to date.

## **10. Tension Monitoring Project Update**

- i. Members noted the contents of the report outlining the progress of the Tension Monitoring Project (YEP) to date.

## **11. Draft Action Plan**

(Liam McStravick, Copius Consulting, attended in connection to this item.)

- i. Liam McStravick, Copius Consulting, asked Members to review the existing 2012-2014 Action Plan and outlined the additional requirements of the Joint Committee for the 2013-2015 Plan.
- ii. In addition to the items retained from the 2012-2014 Plan, Members commented on the need for the following;
- iii. Information Sharing
  - Police statistics to be made available to all partners and Action Plan priorities to be aligned to those of the Local Policing Plan.
  - DPCSP Plans for other areas to be reviewed for areas of good practice.
  - Establish and maintain links with Good Relations and Tension Monitoring Projects.
- iv. Anti Social Behaviour
  - Circulate the Youth Engagement Project Mapping exercise to partners.
  - Consider an annual good practice event on the theme of anti social behaviour.
  - Establish an emergency working group that can come together quickly to respond to emerging issues.
- v. Organised Crime
  - Consider the inclusion of hate crime into the plan.
- vi. Drugs and Alcohol
  - Look at existing programmes such as the Big Lottery funded Health and Social Care Trust programme.

- vii. Burglary
  - Establish an immediate response to burglary spates through community workshops offering advice and crime prevention equipment.
- viii. Training
  - Hold a re-introduction event to allow discussion and clarification now that the Partnerships are established.
  - Improve links between the PCSP and DPCSPs and clarify the role of Members at each.
  - Consider the role and input of Statutory Partners following their formal designation.
- ix. Mr McStravick and the DPP Officer undertook to incorporate the comments into the new Action Plan template which would then be emailed to Members for comment before its final approval at the next meeting.

## **12. Date of Next Meeting**

- i. The DPP Officer advised members that the next meeting of the East Belfast DPCSP would be held on Wednesday, 24th April with a Policing Committee Meeting at 4.45pm followed by a full Partnership Meeting at 5.45pm.