

**Minutes of the West Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership
Policing Committee Meeting**

**St Agnes' Parish Centre
Tuesday, 28th May, 2013**

Political Members	Independent Members
Councillor Marie Hendron (Chair) Councillor Steven Corr Councillor Matt Garrett Alderman Frank McCoubrey Alderman Hugh Smyth	Ms Carol Larkin
PSNI Representatives	
T/Chief Inspector Mike White, PSNI Inspector Jocelyn Wise, PSNI	Inspector Christopher Robinson
Staff Present	Apologies
Glenn Thomas, Safer City Co-ordinator Katharine McCrum, Partnership Support Officer	Aideen McLaughlin, YJA Ross Mullen, Blackmountain Action Group Upper Springfield Community Safety Forum

1. Welcome and Routine Matters

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

2. Declarations of Interest

- i. The Chair asked Members to declare any material interests which they may have in relation to any item of business to be considered during the meeting.

3. Minutes

- i. The minutes of 26th March, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct.

4. Update on Policing in West Belfast

- i. The Area Commander provided Members with an update on policing in West Belfast for the period ending 31st March stating that that overall crime had fallen by 3.4% however detection rates were also down by 0.5%. Members were advised that domestic burglary was down by 19.58%, violence crime had reduced, drug seizures had increased by 43% and that both arrests and charges relating to drug offences were also up.
- ii. Members questioned whether the drug offences were being carried out by repeat or new offenders and as to the types of drugs that were being seized.
- iii. The Area Commander advised that arrests were made of up both repeat and new offenders and that a lot of 'self use' seizures were being encountered. He advised that

the most common drug to be found was cannabis however ecstasy and cocaine were also being seized.

- iv. In response to a Members question, the Area Commander agreed to explore the possible reasons for the decline in overall crime but fall in detection rates.

5. Date of Next Meeting

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that the next meeting of the Policing Committee would be held on Thursday, 29th August. Members requested that Farset International be considered as the venue for this meeting.
- ii. Members agreed to hold future Policing Committees at the later time of 5pm, followed by Private Meetings at 5.30pm.