

Minutes of the West Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Private Meeting

Farset International, Springfield Road
Thursday, 29th August, 2013

Political Members	Independent Members
Councillor Máire Hendron (Chair)	Harry Connolly (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Tim Attwood	Breige Brownlee
Councillor Matt Garrett	
Alderman Frank McCoubrey	

Statutory Designated Organisations	
Sharon Beattie, NIHE	Inspector Christopher Robinson, PSNI
Tommy Boyle, Belfast H&SCT	Inspector Alan Swann, PSNI
David Harbinson, NIFRS	Inspector Jocelyn Wise, PSNI
Aideen McLaughlin, YJA	

Attendee
Ross Mullan, Blackmountain Action Group

Staff Present	Apologies
Alison Allen, Safer City Manager	Councillor Steven Corr
Glenn Thomas, Safer City Co-ordinator	Bernie Reilly
Katharine McCrum, Partnership Support Officer	T/Chief Inspector Mike White
Rosie Hamilton, Safer Neighbourhood Officer	Carole Carville, PBNI
Ronnie Hughs, Safer Neighbourhood Officer	Angela McKeown, BELB
	Michael O'Hara, Upper Falls CS Forum
	Terry Quinn, Greater Falls CS 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 the Private and Public Meetings held on 25th June, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct

4. Youth Engagement Project Update

(Kathy Watters, YEP Manager, attended in connection with this item)

- i. The YEP Manager provided Members with an update on the Youth Engagement Project within West Belfast and read a case study of a young person from the Upper Springfield Area who was being supported through the project.
- ii. Members were advised that an evaluation of the project was on-going and that a speaker from Lambeth Council's Young and Safe Programme was visiting Belfast to meet with the YEP Strategic Tier during which she would be delivering a briefing to PCSP and DPCSP Members.

5. PCSP Autumn Small Grants

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

- i. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with an overview of the Small Grants process and advised that the Member Panel had recommended the Partnership fund 6 of the 9 eligible applications received. She added that of the £30,000 that was allocated to Small Grants during 2013/2014, £29,385 worth of funding was agreed for summer grants leaving on £615 for autumn applications. Members were therefore advised that if the recommendations of the Member Panel were to be upheld, additional funding of £26,094 would need to be reallocated from another area within the West Belfast DPCSP Action Plan.
- ii. A Member lent his support for the Small Grants Programme due to the range of projects and the positive impact that they have on communities, however questioned the process which he felt disempowered Members who were 'rubber stamping' pre-approved applications rather than marking all submissions.
- iii. Ms.Gowling explained that the process in place was a corporate one designed to offer good governance and protection for the Partnership.
- iv. Several Members questioned the method used which they felt raised questions over Members potential objectivity and hence limited their accountability with members of the community.
- v. The Safer City Manager agreed to feed these comments back to the Central Grants Unit while the Safer City Coordinator advised that the Member Panels would be brought together during September in order to review the criteria of Small Grants adding that an independent evaluation would also be carried out.
- vi. In response to a Member's comment regarding the need to make the process more competitive by increasing the number of applications, Ms.Gowling stated that council officers were available to offer guidance and training is provided. Those present were requested to highlight the grants within their communities.
- vii. Alderman McCoubrey declared an interest in the Blackmountain application and subsequently left the room.
- viii. Members agreed to support the decision of the Member Panel to fund the 6 applications. Alderman McCoubrey was then invited to re-join the meeting.
- ix. Members also agreed to the recommendations that successful applicants would be asked to present the impact of their project to the DPCSP at a future meeting and encouraged to come to the Partnership's public events.

- x. The Safer City Coordinator agreed to bring a paper to Members at a future meeting regarding the 2014/2015 allocation of funds towards Small Grants given the expenditure during 2013/2014.

6. West Belfast DPCSP Action Plan Quarterly Update

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that a change control process was required by the Joint Committee when deviating from the agreed budget by more than 20% and highlighted the areas of the Action Plan where money could be reallocated to the Autumn Small Grants. He identified areas within the current Action Plan where monies could be potentially be realigned.
- ii. Members agreed to the suggestions on the proviso that contact was made with the officer working on the Lower Falls/Divis intervention to confirm that the funding committed by the West Belfast DPCSP (£8000) had not already been allocated to specific work in the area.
- iii. The Safer City Coordinator agreed to amend the Action Plan once discussions regarding Lower Falls/Divis had taken place and subject to approval from the Joint Committee. He also advised Members that the project team working in West Belfast would be meeting to develop projects laid out within the Plan in order to ensure that all the associated aims are met.
- iv. A Member enquired as to how suggestions regarding investments or projects should be raised? The Safer City Coordinator responded that working groups had been formed regarding specific issues and any such issues could also be raised with anti-social behaviour officers, safer neighbourhood officers or at Partnership Meetings.
- v. It was agreed that the interventions in Lower/Falls could be used as a model for other areas, for example Lenadoon. A Member stated that discussions regarding this area were ongoing within the West Belfast Area Working Group and suggested that an invitation to these discussions should be circulated to Members.

7. Draft Annual Report, 2012-2013

- i. The Safer City Coordinator presented Members with the West Belfast DPCSP Annual report for 2012-2013.
- ii. Members agreed to the submission of the Annual Report to the Joint Committee and to its publication on the PCSP website.

8. West Belfast DPCSP Public Event, September 2013

- i. The Safer City Coordinator reminded Members that the next meeting of the DPCSP would be at the Public Event on Thursday, 26th September in St Mary's University College. The theme of the Public Event is 'A Journey through the Criminal Justice System'.

9. Emerging Issues

- i. The Safer City Coordinator reminded Members that the Policing Board's Policing Priorities Questionnaire was currently open for completion.

- ii. Members were also advised that the Priority Youth Intervention Fund application regarding August Bonfires had been successful and a paper regarding this would be brought to a future meeting of the DPCSP.
- iii. Members were reminded that the PCSP was organising a Youth Event on 24th October to which children aged between 14 and 18 from across Belfast would be invited to attend.
- iv. The Chair commended the Vice-Chair for the good example of Partnership working which had taken place under his chairmanship at the recent Broadway Intervention meeting at the Iveagh Centre and welcomed the evaluation of the exercise.
- v. Members agreed that the partnership should write letters of condemnation to the regarding the recent sectarian attacks on Woodbourne Police Station and in the Suffolk area.
- vi. Members also discussed the distribution of lists purportedly naming those involved in drug dealing in West Belfast and discussed the usefulness of all statutory partners attending the Policing Committee meetings in order to be fully informed on such issues in the future.
- vii. The Safer City Coordinator agreed to discuss the issue of full attendance at Policing Committee Meetings with the PSNI prior to the next meeting.