

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

**Conor Room, City Hall
Wednesday, 24th April, 2013**

Political Members	Independent Members
Councillor Marie Hendron (Chair)	Mr Harry Connolly (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Tim Attwood	Carol Larkin
Councillor Steven Corr	Mrs Bernie Reilly
Councillor Matt Garrett	
Alderman Frank McCoubrey	
Alderman Hugh Smyth	
Statutory Designated Organisations	
T/Chief Inspector Mike White, PSNI	Constable Robert McKay, PSNI
Inspector Jocelyn Wise, PSNI	Sharon Beattie, NIHE
David Harbinson, NIFRS	Aideen McLaughlin, YJA
John McLaughlin, BELB	Carole Carville, PBNI

Locally Designated Groups
Karol McKee, Greater Falls Community Safety Forum
Michael O'Hara, Upper Falls Community Safety Forum

Attendees
Jimmy Keenan, West Belfast Older Peoples Forum

Staff Present	Apologies
Glenn Thomas, Safer City Co-ordinator	Annette Conlon, Upper Springfield Community Safety Forum
Katharine McCrum, Partnership Support Officer	Paula Kerr, CRJ
Rosie Hamilton, Safer Neighbourhood Officer	Angela McKeown, BELB
Ronnie Hugh's, Safer Neighbourhood Officer	

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 Lower Falls/Divis Intervention and Operation Echinus

(Louise Monaghan, Stevie Lavery, Emer Boyle and Constable McKay attended in relation to this item)

Lower Falls/Divis Intervention

- i. Louise Monaghan, Programme Support Officer, presented Members with an update on the work of the targeted area intervention in the Lower Falls/Divis area.
- ii. Members welcomed the intervention and questioned how the pilot would be rolled out to other areas of need across West Belfast and how long the Council would be dedicating resources to the area.
- iii. Stevie Lavery, Programme Manager, advised Members that the package of work was one that Council would hope to roll out to other areas of need across Belfast in the future and that the work was being developed by the Area Working Groups.
- iv. A Member clarified that each Area Working Group had committed £100K towards such interventions and stated that support from Ministers would be needed to maintain the momentum.
- v. While supporting the intervention, a Member questioned why the areas of Highfield and Springmartin had not been included into the pilot as these were recognised areas of deprivation.
- vi. Mr. Lavery acknowledged that the areas would benefit from the package of support and stated again that Council would be keen to expand the service in to other areas if possible.
- vii. Members thanked the Officers for their time, congratulated Mrs. Monaghan on her management of the project, and commented upon the improved confidence in Policing and other Statutory Agencies as a result of the targeted intervention.
- viii. On conclusion of the presentation the council Officers retired from the meeting.

Operation Echinus

- ix. Constable McKay provided Members with an update on Operation Echinus, stating that the operation had been designed as a new approach to policing in the area rather than a limited intervention with the aim of disseminating the learning of officers who had experience of working in the area.
- x. Members were advised that the Operation continue in earnest until June, 2013 at which point it would be scaled back due to large scale operations during July and August, and then reviewed again in September, 2013.
- xi. Constable McKay advised members that in addition to the visible zero tolerance policing, work was ongoing with partner agencies, residents groups, victims of crime, and with B District colleagues. He advised Members that the multi agency approach was seen to be delivering results and a positive response from residents was also becoming visible.
- xii. In response to a Members query regarding the difference between this and previous operations, Constable McKay stated that previous operations were established to deal with a specific issue however Echinus had been developed as a sustainable model and the benefits of this approach were evident.
- xiii. A Member commented upon the positive impact that the operation was having but raised concerns regarding its suspension during the summer months.

- xiv. T/Chief Inspector White stated that the summer period would bring large scale operations such as the G8 Summit and so it would be necessary to scale back policing however officers would still be in the area and the partnership approach would continue.

5. Draft Action Plan for West Belfast, 2013-2015

- i. The Safer City Coordinator requested that Members consider the draft Action Plan for 2013-2015 and make any final comments before its submission to the Joint Committee.
- ii. Members raised several points of clarification which Mr Thomas agreed to include into the Action Plan. Members were advised of the tendering and procurement rules governing spend and the rough timescales involved in issuing these.
- iii. Councillor Corr and Mr McKee declared an interest in the discussions and subsequently left the room.
- iv. Members agreed to form two working groups (as detailed below) to develop particular projects:

2u - Commissioning Localised, Community Led Services

Councillors Garrett and Attwood, Mr Connolly and Ms. Larkin

1d – Focused Interventions (Lenadoon)

Councillors Attwood and Garrett, Ms McLaughlin (YJA) plus representatives from SLIG and Upper Falls Community Safety Forum

- v. Members agreed to the Vice-Chair holding a meeting with the Falls Community Council to develop engagement around item 11 - Building the capacity of local communities. Members noted that engagement with the Highfield and Springmartin communities would be an important aspect of this work. Mr Connolly agreed and suggested that there should be a proportional split.
- vi. Members discussed the support that had been given to BELB in 2012/2013 regarding issues in the Finaghy Road North area and highlighted the need to sustain these efforts.
- vii. The Safer City Coordinator agreed to meet with Mr McLaughlin, BELB to discuss peer mentoring under item 2j and bring a paper to the DPCSP following this.
- viii. In response to a Members request, Mr McLaughlin agreed to circulate information regarding the additional resources which had been agreed for the BELB Youth Service.

6. West Belfast Public Event, 25th June, 2013

- i. The Safer City Coordinator asked Members to consider a theme and venue for the Public Event scheduled for Tuesday, 25th June.
- ii. Following discussion Members agreed to hold the event in Highfield Community Centre focusing the impact of drugs on the community and successful drug seizures.

- iii. Members also agreed to hold an event in the future which would guide people through the stages of the criminal justice system, from arrest to trial, youth justice interventions and probation.

7. Request for Deputation from the Police Ombudsman

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that the Police Ombudsman had requested the opportunity to attend a meeting of the West Belfast DPCSP to update them on the changes that had taken place in recent months.
- ii. Members agreed to receive this deputation at their May, 2013 meeting.

8. Date of Next Meeting

- i. The DPP Officer advised Members that the next meeting of the West Belfast DPCSP would be held on Tuesday, 28th May with a Policing Committee Meeting at 4.30pm followed by a Private Meeting at 5.30pm.
- ii. Members agreed that the venue should be community based and asked the Safer City Coordinator to investigate a suitable room given the increased size of the Partnership.

9. Any Other Business

- i. Newly invited attendee, Mr Keenan, thanked Members for his inclusion in the meeting and asked when it would be most appropriate to raise individual issues, for example dog fouling.
- ii. The Safer City Coordinator agreed to speak to Mr Keenan after the meeting to discuss his concerns and point him in the direction of the appropriate Council department.

Safer Neighbourhood Officers

- iii. The Safer City Coordinator introduced Members to Rosie Hamilton and Ronnie Hughes, the newly appointed Safer Neighbourhood Officers for West Belfast.
- iv. Members welcomed a report of the role of the Officers and the DPCSPs role in directing their deployment.

World Police and Fire Games Conference

- v. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that, prior to the World Police and Fire Games, a two day global leadership conference would be held with the title 'Partnerships in Safety - Building Safe and Just Societies', at a cost of £250 per delegate.
- vi. Members agreed to consider allocating places using their training budget once details were circulated via email.

Karyn McCluskey

- vii. A Member advised the partnership that Karyn McCluskey of the Strathclyde Violence Reduction Unit would be returning to Belfast on Tuesday, 21st May and encouraged members to attend the events organised.
- viii. Members agreed that this would be worthwhile and asked for details to be circulated.