

**Minutes of the Belfast Policing and Community Safety Partnership
Private Meeting
Lavery Room, City Hall**

Wednesday, 12th December, 2012

Political Members

Councillor Jim McVeigh (Chair)
Councillor Janice Austin
Alderman Tom Ekin
Councillor Matt Garrett
Councillor Claire Hanna
Councillor John Hussey
Councillor Colin Keenan
Alderman Jim Rodgers
Councillor Guy Spence

Independent Members

John MacVicar (Vice-Chair)
Valerie Allen
Eva Grosman
Harry Maguire
Mark Vinton
Alan Wardle

Invited Organisations (Proposed Future Designated Bodies)

Chief Superintendent George Clarke, PSNI
Alan Hammill, NIFRS
Eithne McIlroy, PBNI

Patricia Muldoon, YJA
Trevor Murphy, BELB

Staff Present

Lorna Somers, DPP Manager
Katharine McCrum, Partnership Support Officer

Apologies

Liz Groves
Stephen Graham, NIHE
Chief Superintendent Alan McCrum, PSNI
Frank Mulhern

1. Routine Matters and Matters Arising

- i. The Chair welcomed Members to the meeting and noted the apologies supplied. Members expressed their well wishes to those affected by the recent violence in Belfast.

2. Declarations of Interest

- i. No declarations of interest were recorded.

3. Minutes

- i. A Member requested that an amendment be made to the minutes of 29th November, copies of which had previously been circulated, to reflect the attendance of Councillor Guy Spence.
- ii. The minutes of the PCSP on 29th November were subsequently taken as read and agreed as correct.

4. Presentation by the Probation Board for Northern Ireland

- i. Eithne McIlroy, Director of PBNI, provided Members with a briefing on the structure and work of the Board.
- ii. A breakdown of the number of cases across Belfast was supplied and Members were advised that more in-depth local information could be made available.

- iii. In response to a Member's query regarding criticisms towards the service, Ms Mcllroy confirmed that reports which are provided to the Courts are based on offender and PSNI information and are more objective now than in previous years. She added that Community Orders, while seen as an easy option by some, can in fact offer a harder and more effective route for offenders and allow the core issues behind the offence to be addressed.
- iv. A Member commented positively on the active community element of the service and the restorative angle that can be utilised. Ms Mcllroy added that staff are based in localised offices and address wider offending issues through partnership working with other statutory and local agencies.
- v. It was agreed between NIFRS and PBNI that a joint approach towards tackling fire offences in older offenders could be advantageous.
- vi. Ms Mcllroy concluded by stating that PBNI were committed to contributing to the PCSP Action Plan were possible and that work would continue to support the Lower Falls Initiative, Youth Engagement Project and other Community Safety initiatives to challenge offending behaviour and bring about change.
- vii. The Chair thanked Ms Mcllroy for her presentation and assured Members that follow up meetings with the agencies offering presentations to the PCSP were ongoing.
- viii. A Member requested that the PSNI be included in the schedule of presentations however it was agreed that additional time at the Policing Committee meetings would meet this requirement and allow for further discussion.

5. PCSP Christmas Crime Prevention and Safety Event

- i. The DPP Manager advised Members that the Christmas Crime Prevention and Safety event had been a great success with over 1,500 members of the public in attendance including several schools, and over 30 exhibitors.
- ii. Members commended staff on a positive event but noted that attendance from Members could be improved upon in future years.

6. Youth Justice Agency Follow Up Meeting

- i. The Chair advised Members that a follow up meeting had taken place with Patricia Muldoon following her presentation to the PCSP in October with the resulting suggestion that a large scale crime prevention event for young people be organised in 2013.
- ii. Members approved this suggestion and agreed to form a Working Group to develop an interactive and engaging event focusing on preventive work and the obstacles to a young person's future if they were to enter the criminal justice system.
- iii. Members commented upon the need to encourage attendance from those not involved in education or youth groups and to include primary school aged children.
- iv. Councillor Garrett, Councillor Keenan, Alderman Rodgers, Eva Grosman, Harry Maguire and Trevor Murphy agreed to participate in the Working Group.

7. West Belfast DPCSP Halloween Safety Initiative

- i. Councillor Garrett extended an open invitation to Members to attend an awards ceremony for school children involved in a Halloween Safety Competition organised by the West Belfast DPCSP.