

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

Wednesday, 24th October, 2012

Political Members

Councillor Jim McVeigh (Chair)
Councillor Janice Austin
Councillor Claire Hanna
Councillor John Hussey
Councillor Gareth McKee
Alderman Jim Rodgers
Councillor Guy Spence

Independent Members

John MacVicar (Vice-Chair)
Valerie Allen
Liz Groves
Harry Maguire
Frank Mulhern
Mark Vinton
Alan Wardle

Invited Organisations (Proposed Future Designated Bodies)

Chief Superintendent George Clarke, PSNI
Superintendent John McCaughan, PSNI

Patricia Muldoon, YJA

Staff Present

Lorna Somers, DPP Manager
Katharine McCrum, Partnership Support Officer

Apologies

Alderman Tom Ekin
Councillor Matt Garrett
Alan Hamill, NIFRS
Maurice Johnston, NIHE
Chief Superintendent Alan McCrum, PSNI
Eithne McIlroy, PBNI
Mary Brannigan, YJA
Paula Jack, YJA

1. Routine Matters and Matters Arising

- i. The Chair advised Members that Patricia Muldoon was in attendance to provide a presentation on the work of the Youth Justice Agency under item 7 of the agenda.

2. Declaration of Interests

- i. No declarations of interest were recorded.

3. Minutes

- i. A Member questioned the progress made with regards to allocating funding to the three PCSP Small Grants which were discussed at the previous meeting.
- ii. The DPP Manager advised Members that several of the issues raised had been resolved and that she, the Chair and Vice-Chair would meet to agree the next steps following the close to this evening's meeting.
- iii. A Member thanked the Officers for bringing all outstanding minutes to the meeting.
- iv. The minutes of the Policing Committee on 25th September and of the PCSP on 25th September and 8th October, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and signed as correct.

4. Domestic Violence Partnership Conference

- i. The DPP Manager advised Members that, following a meeting between the Domestic Violence Partnership and several Members of the PCSP, an invitation had been extended to two Members to attend a conference titled 'Children: The Invisible Victims of Domestic Violence'.
- ii. **ACTION:** Mrs Valerie Allen volunteered to attend on behalf of the Partnership, and as no other nomination was forthcoming, it was agreed that the invitation would be distributed to Members again via email.
- iii. The DPP Manager confirmed that travel expenses were available to all Members attending such events.
- iv. **ACTION:** Members also agreed that the Domestic Violence Partnership would be invited to make a deputation to the PCSP at a future meeting.

5. Christmas Crime Prevention Event

- i. The DPP Manager asked Members to approve funding and delegated authority to Officers in order to progress with the organisation of the Christmas Crime Prevention and Safety Event which was previously agreed to within the Action Plan for 2012-2014.
- ii. Several Members commented upon the success of the event in previous years and voiced their support for its continuation.
- iii. In response to a query from a Member regarding the transport costs, the DPP Manager advised Members that a bus service had in the past been offered to schools to facilitate their attendance. She added that this service could be extended to older peoples groups also.
- iv. Members agreed to the allocation of funding detailed within the report and to grant delegated authority to Officers. Members also suggested that the DPCSPs should be encouraged to organise their own small scale local events.

6. PCSP Branded Promotional Items

- i. Members agreed to the allocation of £5,500 towards the purchase of Belfast PCSP branded promotional items for use at future public events including the Christmas Crime Prevention and Safety Event.

7. Presentation by the Youth Justice Agency

- i. Patricia Muldoon, Youth Justice Agency, provided Members with a presentation on the work of the Youth Justice Agency, copies of which were circulated.
- ii. In response to Members comments regarding community buy in, Patricia advised Members that a Community Engagement Strategy was currently under development

and it was hoped that this would address issues of public confidence and awareness.

- iii. A Member questioned how often a young person would be offered youth conferencing before prosecution was sought, and in what way success was being measured. He also requested information on the costs of the service and queried the extent of the agencies representation in less deprived areas.
- iv. Ms. Muldoon advised that there is no legislation governing the number of times that a young person can be offered youth conferencing and that prosecution decisions would be made by the Courts Service. She advised that she was aware of a number of cases where more than one conference had been offered and agreed to investigate the costs of the service.
- v. With regards to measuring success, Ms Muldoon advised Members that a Victims Satisfaction Survey is carried out following each conference and again once the agreed order is completed. She added that success was also determined by comments from young people and their guardians as well as their return rate. She continued by stating that representation in all areas was difficult due to the small size of the Agency and that focus was directed at the area's most in need, which for the most cases meant areas of deprivation.
- vi. In response to Members questions regarding the demographics of offenders and the action plans submitted to the Court, Ms Muldoon advised that most clients were 17 year old males. She added that the Court accepted most recommendations however in the case of riotous behaviour, amendments were occasionally made.
- vii. Members discussed the incidents of reoffending and the multi-agency approach which would be needed to keep at risk young people out of the judicial system, particularly the role of education in addressing numeracy and literacy issues that many of these young people present with.
- viii. **ACTION:** Members agreed to convene a meeting between the Youth Justice Agency, Chair, Vice-Chair and PCSP staff to discuss further how the PCSP could support initiatives of the YJA.

Future Presentations by Statutory Agencies

- ix. **ACTION:** Members agreed that a rolling programme of presentations by the statutory agencies on the Belfast PCSP should be continued.
- x. Chief Superintendent Clarke advised Members of a radio based project which he could present to Members at the next meeting in November.
- xi. **ACTION:** The DPP Manager agreed to speak to the District Commander regarding this suggestion.