

# Minutes of the Belfast Policing and Community Safety Partnership

## Private Meeting

Lavery Room, City Hall  
Tuesday, 27th August, 2013

### Political Members

Councillor John Hussey (Chair)  
Councillor Patrick Convery  
Councillor Deirdre Hargey  
Councillor Matt Garrett  
Councillor Colin Keenan  
Alderman Jim Rodgers

### Independent Members

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

### Designated Organisations

T/Superintendent Emma Bond, PSNI  
Stephen Graham, NIHE

Alan Hamill, NIFRS  
Patricia Muldoon, YJA  
Paul Thompson, PBNI

### Staff Present

Lorna Somers, Safer City Assistant Manager  
Katharine McCrum, Partnership Support Officer

### Apologies

Councillor Janice Austin  
Councillor Adam Newton  
Chief Superintendent George Clarke, PSNI  
Eithne McIlroy, PBNI  
Chief Superintendent Alan McCrum, PSNI  
Trevor Murphy, BELB

## 1. Welcome and Apologies

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

## 2. Declarations of Interest

- i. No declarations of interest were recorded.

## 3. Minutes

- i. The minutes of the Belfast PCSP meeting held on 10th June, copies of which were previously circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct.

## 4. Matters Arising/Chair's Business

### Actions

- i. The Safer City Manager reviewed the Summary of Actions with Members noting that Include Youth would be willing to provide Members with training however an outline of Members' requirements would be needed. Members were advised that Priority Youth Intervention Funding had been secured for the August Bonfires project and that

discussions were ongoing with partner agencies regarding match funding for local community safety services.

#### Meeting of the Independent Members

- ii. The Vice-Chair asked if Independent Members would be willing to share their contact details in order for a pre-meeting to be arranged prior to the next Private Meeting. Members agreed to this and resolved that the details of any pre-meeting would be added to the agenda which would be sent to Members along with their papers.
- iii. Members discussed the forthcoming (D)PCSP Joint Briefing and agreed that the invite should be distributed to community groups as the topics discussed would be of interest. It was also agreed that the briefing would be held in the Ulster Hall to allow for the additional numbers.
- iv. The issue of attendance at these briefings was discussed with one Member suggesting that it may be time to reconsider the inclusion of Locally Designated Groups on the PCSP. It was however agreed that groups should be invited to attend when a relevant strategic matter arose rather than formally inviting additional members.

#### Care Homes

- v. Councillor Convery brought Members attention to the high levels of anti social behaviour that was originating from Children's Care Homes, an issue which had been raised by the North Belfast DPCSP.
- vi. The Chair agreed to write a letter to the Children's Services Manager regarding the issue.

#### Raising Agenda Items

- vii. The Chair asked Members to consider the current structures in place for raising agenda items, particularly amongst the Independent Members.
- viii. While several Members were content that any issues could be raised during a meeting and papers presented at future date, others felt that a mechanism was needed to allow issues to be discussed as they happen.
- ix. Members discussed the possibility of reconvening Joint Chair and Vice-Chairs meetings which had been held in the previous year. A Member also felt that the previously discussed pre-meeting of the Independent Members would help to empower Members and lead to increased participation at the full Partnership meetings.
- x. Following further discussion, the Safer City Manager agreed to present Members with a paper which would consider options on how best raise agenda items and deal with emerging issues.

### **5. Youth Engagement Project Update**

- i. The Safer City Manager provided an update on the progress of the Youth Engagement Project and advised Members that both phases were still open to referrals.
- ii. In response to Members comments regarding an evaluation of the project, the Safer City Manager confirmed that this would be provided to Members once completed and that the interim evaluation would be provided to Members at the next PCSP Meeting.

## **6. PCSP Draft Annual Report**

- i. The Safer City Manager presented Members with the draft Annual Report and asked Members to approve its contents, submission to the Joint Committee and its publication on the PCSP Website.
- ii. A Member noted the absence of forewords from the Chair and Vice-Chair, to which the Safer City Manager confirmed that the report would not be finalised without this section.

## **7. PCSP Autumn Small Grants**

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

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that the Member Panel had approved funding for 5 projects totalling £21,442.50 which would require an additional £6,442 of funding as currently only £15,000 was allocated towards PCSP Autumn Small Grants.
- ii. Members discussed reallocating money, whether funding should be allocated above the available funds and if each project could be offered less funding to keep within the budget. While Members felt that further consideration should be given to budget limits in the future, it was agreed that reducing funds could impact upon delivery.
- iii. Following further discussion Members agreed to reallocate the additional £6,442 needed to Small Grants as some existing areas of the Action Plan were ambiguous and front line services which were responding to community need represented a worthwhile investment of funds.

## **8. Youth Event Update**

- i. The Safer City Manager advised Members that Mark Pollock had been secured as the motivational speaker for the PCSP Youth Event. Members were also provided with an update on the four key sessions; Speed Networking with the PSNI, a Quizdom session on the Criminal Justice System, a facilitated drug themed drama workshop and a debating session in the Council Chamber.
- ii. Members noted the progress of the Working Group and the development of the event.

## **9. Strategic Issues**

- i. The Safer City Manager advised Members that a well attended stakeholder event had taken place with drug and alcohol service providers in order to determine what their key issues were. The outcome was a need for coordination and agreed messages on topics such as enforcement, health and education. It was also suggested that a representative from the PCSP could sit on the Belfast Drug and Alcohol Coordination Team.
- ii. Following discussion Members agreed that a further meeting with the groups would be organised in order to develop a solid plan of action and the outcomes of this meeting fed back to the PCSP at its next meeting on 24th September.

## **10. Business Performance – Review of Action Plan**

- i. The Safer City Manager guided Members through the 2013-2015 Belfast PCSP Action Plan, looking in particular at areas which had not yet been progressed.
- ii. It was suggested that a working group be formed to consider communications in more detail.
- iii. With regards to Neighbourhood Watch, a Member requested that a progress report be tabled at the next meeting to include an update on schemes developed with businesses as well as in residential areas.

## **11. Date of Next Meeting**

- i. The Safer City Manager advised Members that the next PCSP Meeting would be held on Tuesday, 24th September at 5.45pm in the Conor Room, City Hall. Members were also reminded of the Joint Briefing which would be held on Thursday, 19th September at 6pm in the Ulster Hall.