

Minutes of the Belfast Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Private Meeting

Conor Room, City Hall
Thursday, 28th February, 2013

Political Members

Councillor Jim McVeigh (Chair)
Councillor Matt Garrett
Councillor Claire Hanna
Councillor John Hussey
Councillor Colin Keenan
Alderman Jim Rodgers

Independent Members

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

Invited Organisations (Proposed Future Designated Bodies)

Chief Superintendent George Clarke, PSNI
T/Superintendent Emma Bond, PSNI
Superintendent Nigel Goddard, PSNI

Patricia Muldoon, YJA
Trevor Murphy, BELB
Geoff Somerville, NIFRS
Paul Thompson, PBNI

Staff Present

Lorna Somers, DPP Manager
Katharine McCrum, Partnership Support Officer

Apologies

Councillor Janice Austin
Alderman Tom Ekin
Alan Hamill, NIFRS
Eva Grosman
Stephen Graham, NIHE
Chief Superintendent Alan McCrum, PSNI

1. Routine Matters and Matters Arising

- i. The Chair welcomed Members to the meeting.

2. Declarations of Interest

- i. No declarations of interest were recorded.

3. Minutes

- i. The minutes of the Belfast PCSP meeting held on 28th January were taken as read and agreed as correct.

4. 2013/2015 PCSP Action Plan

- i. The DPP Manager provided Members with an updated copy of the Belfast PCSP Action Plan for 2013 to 2015 which had been formulated using the 2012 to 2014 Action Plan as agreed by Members at their meeting on 28th January.

- ii. Members agreed that a further evening meeting should be convened to reflect on the updated Action Plan in order to ensure that a strategic focus was achieved. Members also agreed that a facilitator should be retained to support the Partnership in this work.
- iii. Although it was initially suggested that Members should replace the next Private Meeting on 11th March with a planning session, Members requested that an additional date be scheduled and so it was agreed that a single item agenda meeting be called on 13th March for this purpose.

5. Update on the PCSP Public Event, February 2013

- i. The DPP Manager provided Members with an update on the PCSP Public Event which focused on early intervention which was held on 19th February in the Hilton Hotel.
- ii. Those Members who were in attendance commented on the success of the event and on the excellent presentation by Karyn McCluskey, Co-Director of the Strathclyde Violence Reduction Unit.
- iii. The Chair advised Members that the Council was facilitating a return visit for Ms. McCluskey due to her wealth in practical advice and experience and that once dates were confirmed, this information would be circulated to Members. He also noted his disappointment at the attendance level.
- iv. A Member stated that several community groups were also interested in meeting with Ms. McCluskey and commented on the need for the police and voluntary organisations to be included in any meetings or events.
- v. Members discussed the lobbying role of the PCSP as the importance of education and multi-agency approaches had featured heavily in the presentation which highlighted the need for the re-design of services.
- vi. Members agreed that lobbying was an important role and that several specific initiatives mentioned could be taken forward. A Member also commented on the need for policy makers at Stormont to meet with Ms McCluskey.
- vii. Patricia Muldoon, Youth Justice Agency, advised Members that links should be made with the Belfast Outcomes Group of the Children and Young Peoples Strategic Partnership when looking at future initiatives and Action Plans.
- viii. The DPP Manager advised that an Officer within the Community Safety Team had begun to engage with these groups and to investigate how the PCSP could work effectively with this Partnership.
- ix. It was agreed that these issues would be reviewed again during the planning session on 13th March.

6. Presentation by Belfast Education and Library Board

- i. Trevor Murphy, Head of Youth Services for the Belfast Education and Library Board (BELB) gave a presentation to Members on the work of the Youth Service including its funding, provision of clubs and projects, divisional area plans, needs assessments and areas for future collaboration.

- ii. Members thanked Mr. Murphy for his presentation and noted the good work that was taking place with a limited budget and support.
- iii. In response to a Member's query about the opening hours of youth clubs, Mr. Murphy advised that the board did not dictate opening/closing times nor were there restrictions on opening hours although these were subject to staffing levels which could be a problem. He added that, were communities seek to run youth service provision in their areas, board buildings could be made available, under agreement, in order to extend the opening hours and suggested that Members take such issues through the District PCSPs for a local solution.
- iv. In response to a Member's question regarding a strategy for facilities, Mr. Murphy advised that many of the buildings were old and therefore maintenance costs were high and facilities were not always attractive to young people. He added that a review of the cost benefit of new builds as opposed to repairing older buildings was on-going.
- v. Mr. Murphy stated that document relating to the condition survey of current facilities was an internal document to be used to plan for maintenance and new build proposals.

7. (D)PCSP Financial Expenditure Report, April, 2012 to February, 2013

- i. The DPP Manager presented Members with details of financial expenditure for the Belfast PCSP and each of the DPCSPs for the period from April, 2012 to February, 2013.
- ii. Members noted the contents of this report.

8. Deputation from the Police Ombudsman Request

- i. The DPP Manager advised Members that the Police Ombudsman's Office had been in touch with the PCSP Office following the presentation which was given in November, 2012 to request the chance to meet with the PCSP to talk about the changes which had been initiated since Dr Maguire's inception in April, 2012.
- ii. Members agreed to invite Dr Maguire to the PCSP's meeting in April, 2013.

9. CRJI/Alternatives Diversionary Project

- i. Mr Harry Maguire advised Members that CRJI and Alternatives were working together to develop a joint project which would work with young people looking at the consequences of becoming involved in flag related disturbances and include diversionary activities.
- ii. The Chair thanked Mr. Maguire for this information and asked that the Partnership be kept up to date with this project. He concurred with the need to avoid young people becoming involved in the criminal justice system if possible.
- iii. Representatives from the police and Youth Justice Agency also welcomed this initiative.