

Minutes of the Belfast Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Private Meeting

Conor Room, City Hall
Monday, 28th January, 2013

Political Members

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

Independent Members

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

Invited Organisations (Proposed Future Designated Bodies)

Stephen Graham, NIHE
Alan Hammill, NIFRS

Patricia Muldoon, YJA

Staff Present

Eve Bremner, Safer City Manager
Lorna Somers, DPP Manager
Katharine McCrum, Partnership Support Officer

Apologies

Alderman Tom Ekin
Councillor Claire Hanna
Alan Wardle
Chief Superintendent George Clarke, PSNI
Chief Superintendent Alan McCrum, PSNI
Eithne McIlroy, PBNi
Trevor Murphy, BELB

1. Routine Matters and Matters Arising

- i. The Chair welcomed Members to the meeting and apologised to the Statutory Organisations for the delay in commencement.

2. Declarations of Interest

- i. No declarations of interest were recorded.

3. Minutes

- i. The minutes of the PCSP meeting held on 12th December were taken as read and agreed as correct.

4. 2013/2015 PCSP Action Plan

- i. The Safer City Manager provided Members with a recap on the planning process that had taken place to date for the period ending March, 2014. She further advised that the Joint Committee had now requested that a two year plan covering 2013 to 2015 be submitted by 28th February.

- ii. The Safer City Manager suggested that, as the existing plans were developed using local consultation and Members input, consideration be given to transferring the existing two year plan to the new template and reviewing this at the February meeting of the PCSP.
- iii. Members agreed that a lengthy process had taken place to inform the current plan and agreed that no fundamental changes would be necessary and therefore approved the transfer of the existing plan to the new format.
- iv. A Member commented that monitoring of the plan was also important and asked that this become a regular agenda item at future meetings.
- v. In response to a Member's query regarding the Open Call for Funding, the DPP Manager confirmed that, given the timeframes in place, the funding had been a success with a positive number of applications in most areas. A DPCSP Chair concurred, adding that a good coverage of areas and projects had been submitted.
- vi. The DPP Manager advised Members that the DPCSP's had not met to consider this request and therefore asked that the PCSP grant delegated authority to officers to transfer the DPCSP plans in a similar way, again for approval by the District Partnerships at their February Meetings.
- vii. Members approved this request.

5. PCSP February Public Event

- i. The DPP Manager reminded Members that the PCSP was hosting a Public Event on Tuesday, 19th February at 10am with a suggested venue of Titanic, Belfast. She added that the event would close with lunch and invitations would be sent to Members and Statutory Partners for wider circulation as well as DPP databases and advertised in the press.
- ii. Members raised concerns at the choice of venue and suggested that City Centre hotels and conference centres may be suffering as a result of recent flag protests proposed that the PCSP support them by changing the location.
- iii. The DPP Manager advised Members that the venue had been chosen to facilitate parking but agreed to investigate alternative City Centre locations.
- iv. Members also queried the need to provide lunch for the delegates but agreed that a simple, low cost option would help in facilitate discussion and networking.

6. Criminal Confiscation Receipts Fund Update

- i. The DPP Manager advised Members that the DOJ had funded £27,000 towards the Belfast Good Morning Scheme and £13,600 towards the RIO Project through the Criminal Confiscation Receipts (CCR) Fund. She added that, following agreement at the PCSP Meeting on 12th December, the PCSP would now be funding £45,000 towards the Design Out Crime Training and the remaining £27,000 towards the Belfast Good Morning Scheme.
- ii. The DPP Manager also advised Members that a place had been allocated to a Member of the PCSP and each of the DPCSPs to attend the Design Out Crime Training and

asked for nominations from the Partnership, noting that full attendance was necessary to attain accreditation.

- iii. As no nomination was forthcoming, the DPP Manager agreed to circulate the opportunity to designated partners who may wish to avail of the training.
- iv. Councillor Austin expressed an interest in attending but sought clarification on the dates in question.

7. PCSP/DPCSP Meeting Expense Payment Policy

- i. The DPP Manager reminded Members that a policy governing eligible payment of Members expenses had been agreed by the PCSP in June, 2012 with a 6 month review period. She added that, due to a query from the North Belfast DPCSP requesting that the Partnership extend the eligibility criteria to include additional business meetings generated by officers, Members were now being asked to review this policy. In doing so, Members were asked to take note of the number of meetings held to date and those expected to take place before the end of the financial year.
- ii. A Member suggested that the current policy remain in place as, by including all meetings as eligible for payment, attendance may dwindle towards the end of a year if the maximum limit of 20 paid meetings was reached at an early stage.
- iii. Another Member suggested that this request be considered in the new financial year as it would be difficult to revisit all events, meetings and conferences that were attended above and beyond the paid meetings.
- iv. Several Members felt that there were increasing numbers of unpaid meetings and that as the Partnerships developed, this would only continue.
- v. Following further discussion, Members agreed to continue with the current policy and review the matter again in 6 months time.

8. Youth Awards 2013

- i. The DPP Manager advised Members that a provisional date of Thursday, 30th May had been proposed to hold the 2013 Youth Awards, however clarification would be given at a later date.