

**Minutes of South Belfast District Policing and Community
Safety Partnership
Tuesday, 26th March, 2013, 5.00pm
Conor Room, City Hall**

Political Members

Ald. Tom Ekin (Chair)
Cllr. Deirdre Hargey

Independent Members

Mr. Trevor Greer
Ms. Debbie Hammill
Mr. Niall Kelly

Police Service of Northern Ireland

Chief Inspector Gaby Moran
Inspector Angus Mairs

Staff Present

Denise Smith, CS Coordinator
Edele Cleary, Project Officer
Jo Black, Partnership Support
Officer

Apology

Ms. Nuala Toman

1. Welcome & Routine Matters

- i. The Chair, Tom Ekin, welcomed the Members to the Policing Committee meeting of the South Belfast DPCSP.

2. Declarations of Interest

- i. The Chair highlighted the declaration of interest policy. There were no declarations of interest.
- ii. The Chair invited the Area Commander to give his report.

3. South Belfast Policing Committee Minutes

- i. The Chair proposed the minutes of the South Belfast Policing Committee on 30 January 2013.
- ii. **Area Commanders Update on Policing in South Belfast (oral representatives of the Police Service of Northern Ireland)**
 - i. The Area Commander suggested that the major good news story was that overall offences relating to St Patricks Day had been reduced by 88%.
 - ii. There were significant reductions in Anti-Social Behaviour. There had been increased patrols of the university area, around the Saint Patrick's Day events. Figures in the year to date show the level of incidents has decreased.
 - iii. Operations on St. Patrick's Day had been successful with joint working between PSNI and Belfast City Council.
 - iv. The Area Commander circulated the draft Policing Plan 2012-14 to Members. The Northern Ireland Policing Board had since met and the final version should be published shortly by PSNI.

- v. PSNI officers and Council officers are working jointly on a drugs disposal bins initiative in the South Belfast as detailed in the South DPCSP Action Plan. Location of bins is currently being discussed and updates will be provided.
- vi. The Chair asked the Area Commander if normal Policing had resumed within South Belfast since the flags protest. He informed members that policing was not fully back to normal however was very close to normal services.
- vii. Members asked about the implications of the G8 summit on South Belfast policing. The Area Commander stated that policing resources in Belfast would be increased as there could be the risk of protests, there will be additional policing in the City
- viii. A Member asked if PSNI officers who had been brought in for the Fermanagh G8 Protests from England would be directed by the Chief Constable. Accountability is still being discussed.
- ix. The Member asked if the year to date figures showed that alcohol related crime had decreased.
- x. The Area Commander explained that while violent crime had decreased the baseline figures are only being collected this year therefore we cannot comment or identify whether there has been a decrease. However some of the Anti-Social Behaviour figures could also be linked to alcohol although they were not explicitly so in the reports.
Approximately 40 per cent of Anti-Social Behaviour related to alcohol, 40 per cent related to incidents of violent crime.
- xi. A Member explained that to date there had been 124 arrests related to the flag protests. He explained that local papers had published some of the figures.
- xii. The Area Commander explained that the total arrests at this time were nearer 200 and that the PSNI would continue to follow up on identifications and prosecutions where appropriate. The Area Commander went on to explain that the Op Dulcet investigation team continued to be in place to investigate offences and disorder linked to flag protests.