

**Minutes of South Belfast District Policing and Community
Safety Partnership
Wednesday, 27th February, 2013, 7.00pm
Chinese Welfare Association, 1 Stranmillis Embankment,
Belfast BT7 1GB**

Political Members

Ald. Tom Ekin (Chair)
Cllr. Deirdre Hargey
Cllr. Kate Mullan
Cllr. Mairtin O'Muilleoir
Ald. Christopher Stalford

Independent Members

Ms. Paula Bradshaw
Mr. Trevor Greer
Ms. Debbie Hammill
Mr. Niall Kelly
Ms. Nuala Toman (Vice Chair)

Police Service of Northern Ireland

Chief Inspector Gaby Moran

Invited Organisations (Proposed Future Designated Bodies)

Gary Ballantyne, NIHE
Christine Hunter, PBNI

Staff Present

Lorna Somers, DPP Manager
Denise Smith, CS Coordinator
Jo Black, Partnership Support
Officer
Elaine McWilliams, Alcohol
Misuse Officer
Edele Cleary, Project Officer
Keith Addy, ASB Officer

Apology

Aidan Jennings, NIFRS

1. Welcome & Routine Matters

- i. The Chair, Tom Ekin, welcomed the Members to the Public to the Public Meeting. He gave the safety instructions in the event of evacuation.
- ii. The Chair explained the role of the District Policing and Community Safety Partnership which was to reach out into the community in South Belfast. The role of the DPCSP was also to provide PSNI accountability. However this was via employing innovative methods and suggestions from the community were invited.
- iii. The Chair introduced 'Josh', a performing arts group composed of the diverse ethnic backgrounds of the Indian community within South Belfast. They would perform to open the meeting.
- iv. The Chair thanks group for their performance.

2. Presentations

- i. Denise Wright gave a presentation of South Belfast Roundtable events. Denise introduced Stephanie Mitchell from the South Belfast Roundtable to make a presentation.

- ii. Stephanie Mitchell to give background on the South Belfast Roundtable. Stephanie Mitchell gave a presentation on the background to the friendship club.
- iii. Denise Smith, Community Coordinator for South Belfast, gave a presentation on the Belfast City Council Welcome Pack. The pack was available in languages spoken by Minority groups in South Belfast.
- iv. PSNI Area Commander, Chief Inspector Gabriel Moran, was introduced by the Chair. The Chair demonstrated the Crime Mapping software using the postcode for Musgrave Street Police Station.
- v. The Chair, Tom Ekin thanked all presenters. South Belfast included B district. This coterminosity within B district offered the opportunity to work in partnership with the East Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership.

3. Questions from Members of the Public

- i. A Member of the Public asked about a member of the Ulster Unionist Party. The Member of the Public wished to know if there was hypocrisy among politicians regarding views on racism.
- ii. A Member of the public asked about deplorable racial attacks in South Belfast.
- iii. The Area Commander explained that the PSNI website did not provide a breakdown of statistics on race related crime independently of other incidents in the Hate Crime category. However, these statistics were provided to the South Belfast DPCSP by the PSNI on a quarterly basis.
- iv. South Belfast Round Table Coordinator Denise Wright explained her view that minority communities were stereotyped. She also explained in her view that the media did not always draw on specific factual data when preparing their reports.
- v. A Member of the Public stated their view that positive activity could not always be explained as it would highlight poor behaviour.
- vi. A Member of the Public asked if statistics on the website could be further broken down.
- vii. The Area Commander explained that the figures would be provided on a quarterly basis to March 2013, and then this suggestion could be considered. The Area Commander explained that convictions statistics were not available using Crime Mapping software.
- viii. A Member of the Public asked if 2003-2004 race incidents were included in the figures available on the PSNI website. As the Chair of the South Belfast Partnership he had set up the South Belfast Roundtable on Racism. The Member felt that previous incidents at this time had led to the demonization of the community in South Belfast in particular.

- ix. A Member of the Public asked if employment statistics for ethnic minorities in South Belfast were available.
- x. Denise Wright responded that while education statistics were available for Belfast there were not education statistics available within South Belfast.
- xi. Stephanie Mitchell explained that the Friendship club was an organisation for adults of any background and a breakdown of data was not available.
- xii. Eileen Chan Hu, Chief Executive of the Chinese Welfare Association explained that NICVA had lobbied for funding for the Chinese Welfare Association for language classes for minority groups. The future ethnic minority fund had also been lobbied for. However sometimes those from an ethnic minority background could drop out of these programmes and end up in the traditional industries again.

4. Closing remarks

- i. The Vice Chair, Nuala Toman, thanked the Chinese Welfare Association for hosting the February South Belfast DPCSP Meeting in Public. She explained that she was grateful to the Chinese Welfare Association for hosting their first meeting in public of the newly constituted South Belfast DPCSP.
- ii. The Vice Chair thanked 'Josh' for their presentation at the beginning of the meeting.
- iii. The Vice Chair explained that there were challenges linked to the transient community in South Belfast many of these had been highlighted which could be used to address the issues.
- iv. The Vice Chair outlined the aims of the South Belfast DPCSP Action Plan. In South Belfast the DPCSP would focus its priorities on tackling: better partnership working and providing local leadership, hate crime, drugs and alcohol, personal safety and crime prevention, antisocial behaviour and violent crime and gender based violence. They would do this through providing support via small grants, working with licensees and bar staff to prevent drug use on licensed premises, promoting personal safety and crime prevention, supporting victims of violent crime and gender based crime, hate crime and mobile CCTV deployments within the area.
- v. The Vice Chair highlighted that South Belfast was a diverse community within the wider community which present a number of these issues.
- vi. The Vice Chair highlighted that South Belfast DPCSP funded a number of initiatives. This included the 'World on a Plate' initiative aimed at promoting shared culture through a cook book and culinary event.
- vii. The Vice Chair explained that the South Belfast DPCSP would also work in partnership with established community organisations in the area to include

Lower Ormeau Action Group, Beat the Burglar and the Street by Street initiative.

- viii. The Vice Chair thanked the Chair, the panel members and members of the public for attending the event.