

**Minutes of South Belfast District Policing and Community
Safety Partnership – Policing Committee
Lavery Room, City Hall, Wednesday, 26th September, 2012**

Political Members

Cllr Kate Mullan

Independent Members

Paula Bradshaw
Trevor Greer
Debbie Hammill
Nuala Toman (Vice Chair)

**Police Service of Northern Ireland
Representative**

Chief Inspector Gaby Moran

Staff Present

Denise Smith, CSP Coordinator
Jo Black, Partnership Support
Officer

Apologies

Ald T Ekin
Cllr Mairtin O'Muilleoir
Yvonne Adair, YJA

1. Welcome and Apologies

- i. The Vice Chair, Nuala Toman, welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the South Belfast Policing Committee.

2. Declarations of Interest

- i. No declarations of interest were recorded.

3. Area Commander's Report

- i. The Area Commander presented the South Belfast PSNI Quarterly report to members.

4. Questions from Members

- i. A Member asked about levels of racially motivated crime within South Belfast
- ii. The Area Commander stated that racially motivated crime was down by 22 incidents. Detections have also increased where crimes have proceeded to enforcement with non-crime incidents decreased. Sectarian incidents had increased from 22 crimes to 24. In East Belfast this had dropped massively by 44 incidents. Homophobic incidents were down to 8. None of these had proceeded to enforcement. The number of incidents was down from 27 to 14 in the year to date. Disability related crime was down to 2 in the year to date.

- iii. A Member raised concern that a Hate Crime Officer no longer attended the South Belfast Roundtable meetings. The Member requested that updated hate crime figures would be forwarded in the absence of the officer.
- iv. The Area Commander informed Members that he would endeavour to have an officer at future meetings of the South Belfast Roundtable.
- v. A Member suggested the DPCSP spend time focussing on under reporting of crime.
- vi. The Area Commander commented there were many reasons for under reporting. The PSNI formally liaise with Chinese, Polish, LGBT groups to cross check figures. These are focused on then where they are not matching.
- vii. A Member stated there were some incidents where victims would not wish police to attend their homes in a marked car.
- viii. The Area Commander explained that police can attend homes in unmarked cars and that this was accommodated where they perceived victims were uncomfortable.
- ix. A Member asked about Fresher's Week activities in South Belfast. Area Commander updated Members on the preparations for Freshers. He informed Members that PSNI are working with a number of agencies reference targeted operations on key nights within the area.
- x. A Member suggested that 45 minutes was not sufficient for the Policing Committee meeting particularly given that the meeting was quarterly. The Member felt there were still questions which would have discussion at the end of this meeting.

On behalf of the South Belfast DPCSP the Vice Chair, thanked the Area Commander for his report. The Area Commander thanked the Vice Chair for her comments.