

# Minutes of the Belfast Policing and Community Safety Partnership

## Private Meeting

Reception Room, City Hall  
Monday, 9 December, 2013

### Political Members

Councillor John Hussey (Chair)  
Councillor Máire Hendron  
Councillor Colin Keenan  
Councillor Adam Newton  
Alderman Jim Rodgers

### Independent Members

Frank Mulhern (Vice Chair)  
Valerie Allen  
Claire Canavan  
Harry Maguire  
John MacVicar  
Carmel McKinney  
John Topping

### Designated Organisations

Chief Superintendent George Clarke, PSNI  
Alan Hamill, NIFRS  
Ian McCrickard, NIHE

Patricia Muldoon, YJA  
Trevor Murphy, BELB

### Joint Committee Representatives

Mary Lemon, DOJ  
Marie Patterson, DOJ

Amanda Stewart, NIPB

### Staff Present

Alison Allen, Safer City Manager  
Lorna Somers, Safer City Assistant Manager  
Katharine McCrum, Partnership Support Officer

### Apologies

Councillor Janice Austin  
Chief Superintendent Alan McCrum  
Eithne McIlroy, PBNI  
Cecil Worthington, H&SCT

## 1. Welcome and Apologies

- i. The Chair welcomed Members to the meeting and noted the apologies provided. Members were also introduced to the new PCSP Independent Members, Carmel McKinney and John Topping.

## 2. Declarations of Interest

- i. No declarations of interest were recorded.

## 3. Minutes

- i. The minutes of the Belfast PCSP meeting held on 26th November, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct.
- ii. The Safer City Manager reviewed the action points from the previous meeting noting that:

- Neighbourhood Watch was being promoted in West Belfast at events to be held on 11th and 12th December,
- The Linking Generations Event on 3rd December had been well attended with an introduction provided by the Justice Minister,
- The YEP Evaluation would be complete by mid-January, 2014, and
- The deadline for submissions to the PCSP Consultation Exercise was 20th December.

#### **4. Matters Arising/Chair's Business**

##### Citywide Drugs Campaign

- i. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised Members that a graphic design company had been tasked with considering the concept and images to be used in the Citywide Drugs Campaign and that Working Group meetings were ongoing. She confirmed that 12 PCSPs from across Northern Ireland had confirmed support for the campaign so far, and that it was anticipated that once further conversations were had, an additional 23,000 could be garnered from the PCSPs alongside funding from the Belfast DPCSPs.
- ii. Members were further advised that a launch date for the campaign had not yet been agreed and that details would be circulated once confirmed.

##### Members visit to Maghaberry

- iii. The Safer City Manager advised Members that the Maghaberry visit would take place on Thursday, 30th January and that the theme would be Social Inclusion and Offending. She advised that the visit would involve a tour alongside information on linking with offender's families, education and probation programmes.

#### **5. PCSP Roles and Responsibilities**

- i. Mary Lemon, Head of Partnership Development, DOJ, and Amanda Steward, Head of Partnership, Planning and Performance, NIPB, spoke to Members about the vision of the Joint Committee for PCSPs, the role of designated organisations and the specific role of the Belfast PCSP. They added that recent years had brought transition with the establishment of PCSPs and that this would continue due to Local Government Reform.
- ii. Mrs Lemon advised that the purpose of PCSPs was to make communities safer, ensure that communities felt that their voices were being heard and that they felt empowered to develop local solutions to local problems. She stated that the strengths of the Partnerships came from the range of partners involved and the skills and resources that they could bring to the table.
- iii. With regards to Designated Organisations, Mrs Lemon stated that the partners had been chosen based on their substantial role in the delivery of Community Safety and it was hoped that information could be shared and Action Plans developed with joint responsibility for delivery. She added that the representatives attending should be able to fully engage and contribute and be a decision maker within the organisation.

- iv. When looking specifically at Belfast, Mrs Lemon advised that the PCSP should be providing leadership and acting as a forum for consultation, engagement and taking a lead on issues of mutual concern that would affect the entire City.
- v. Ms. Stewart spoke to Members about the operation of the Policing Committees and acknowledged that the DPCSP Policing Committees appeared to be working well however the absence of a police district and policing plan had caused problems for the overarching PCSP and advised that the focus should be on thematic, citywide issues.
- vi. Members were advised that the Policing Board also felt that thematic events drew larger audiences and encouraged engagement and dialogue with the community and used the example of discussions on protests as an instance of the community welcoming open discussion on an issue of importance to them.
- vii. Ms. Stewart advised Members that the PCSP could also investigate models of best practice and organise round table discussions regarding issues such as the night time economy and the delivery of policing.

#### Members Questions and Comments

- viii. The Vice-Chair advised the representatives that in the past year the PCSP had been attempting a thematic approach and had held briefings focussing on best practice examples. He added that the South Belfast DPCSP were leading on night time economy issues and that while he would welcome discussions with Belfast City Centre Management, he was conscious that this may encroach on area policing and the role of the DPCSP.
- ix. Ms. Stewart suggested that the PCSP work with DPCSPs in order to ascertain their issues and stated that the Policing Board would be willing to support these discussions.
- x. A Member suggested that the aims of the DOJ and Community Safety Unit were outdated and that there was a need to lobby for statutory change to enable information exchange. He added that there were no common measures within the Policing Plans and that strategic issues could not be looked at without robust evidence and a platform for obtaining this.
- xi. While Mrs Lemon agreed that more evidence was required and that community planning may be able to deliver this, the Member added that there was no legal basis to assist in achieving these aims.
- xii. A Member commented upon the links between social conditions, education and criminality and stated that restorative practices within the education sector could make significant changes however finances were limited in this sector. Mrs Lemon stated that early intervention was at the top of the agenda and added that community planning would hopefully look at the issue of education.
- xiii. A Member raised concerns about the lack of training and bonding sessions that had been offered to the PCSP and the impact that this had had on the utilisation of skills and experience.
- xiv. Mrs Lemon stated that each PCSP should have looked at this during the initial set up however the Joint Committee had carried out a training needs analysis and would be looking at how to best support Members moving forward.

- xv. Members agreed that while the PCSP was the mechanism for delivering a coordinated approach to Community Safety, the removal of Clause 34 from the Justice Act meant that legal and statutory backup was not in place.
- xvi. With regards to the Criminal Justice Inspectorate Report of PCSPs which would be carried out in the New Year, both Members and Joint Committee representatives felt that this may offer an opportunity for change.
- xvii. Following comments that there was a lack of connectivity between Policing Board Members and the PCSP, the Vice-Chair welcomed this evening's meeting and requested that regular quarterly meetings take place with the Joint Committee Members which was agreed to by all present.

## **6. 2014/2015 Assets Recovery Community Scheme Funding**

- i. The Safer City Manager advised Members that a meeting had taken place with statutory agencies regarding ARCs bids and that no further ideas had been forthcoming. Members were therefore asked to agree that the existing two applications for the 2FAST2SOON Road Safety Car Crash Simulator and the NOMAD Cage Sports were submitted alongside the resubmission of the Regional Drugs Campaign and a review of Anti-Social Behaviour Forums.
- ii. A Member commented that the ARCs funding appeared to be a duplication of effort and as the PCSPs were seen as a direct route to communities, it would be an idea to direct the funds to PCSPs without the need for an applications process.
- iii. Mary Lemon agreed to feed this comment back to the DOJ and provide feedback to the PCSP on the matter.
- iv. Members subsequently agreed to submit all four suggestions with priority given to the drugs campaign.

## **7. Schedule of 2014 PCSP Meetings**

- i. Members noted the draft schedule of meetings between January and May, 2014, as follows:

### January

- PCSP Human Trafficking Event - Tuesday, 14th January, 10am-2pm, City Hall
- PCSP Private Meeting – Monday, 20th January, 5.45pm
- PCSP Members visit to Maghaberry – Thursday, 30th January, 3pm - 7pm

### February

- (DPCSP) Joint Briefing Session – Monday, 10th February, 6.30pm
- PCSP Policing Committee (5pm) Private Meeting (6pm) – Monday, 17th February

### March

- PCSP Private Meeting – Monday, 24th March, 5.45pm

#### April

- PCSP Policing Committee (5pm) Private Meeting (6pm) – Monday, 14th April

#### May

- PCSP Private Meeting – Monday, 12th May, 5.45pm

### **8. Strategic Issues**

#### Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service

- i. Group Commander Alan Hamill, Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service, reminded Members that the Prevention and Protection Strategy was currently out for consultation.
- ii. He also informed Members that the NIFRS hoped to work collaboratively with the DPCSPs in the coming months in order to find a solution to deliberate fire setting which was a key priority for the Service.

#### Christmas Crime Prevention and Safety Event

- iii. A Member noted her disappointment at the poor attendance by Members at the Christmas Crime Prevention and Safety Event which was held on 4th December whilst praising the work of the staff and Members who were in attendance.

### **9. Date of Next Meeting**

- i. Members were advised that the next PCSP Meeting would be held on Monday, 20th January at 5.45pm in line with the previously agreed schedule.