

Minutes of the Belfast Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Private Meeting

Conor Room, City Hall
Monday, 20th January, 2014

Political Members

Councillor John Hussey (Chair)
Councillor Janice Austin
Councillor Patrick Convery
Councillor Matt Garrett
Councillor Máire Hendron
Councillor Adam Newton
Alderman Jim Rodgers
Alderman Christopher Stalford

Independent Members

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

Designated Organisations

T/Superintendent Andrew Freeburn, PSNI
Alan Hamill, NIFRS
Superintendent John McCaughan, PSNI
Ian McCrickard, NIHE

Eithne McIlroy, PBNI
Patricia Muldoon, YJA
Trevor Murphy, BELB

Staff Present

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

Apologies

Liz Groves
Chief Superintendent George Clarke
Chief Superintendent Alan McCrum
Cecil Worthington, H&SCT

1. Welcome and Apologies

- i. The Chair welcomed Members to the meeting and noted the apologies provided.

2. Declarations of Interest

- i. No declarations of interest were recorded.

3. Minutes

- i. The Vice-Chair asked that the minutes of 9th December, copies of which had previously been circulated, were amended to read:

Item 5, 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.’

Item 6, iii – ‘Mary Lemon agreed to feed this comment back to the DOJ and provide feedback to the PCSP on the matter’.

- ii. With the amendments agreed by all, the minutes of the Belfast PCSP meeting held on 9th December were taken as read and agreed as correct.

4. Matters Arising/Chair's Business

PCSP Citywide Drugs Campaign

- i. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised Members that the 3 concepts devised by the graphic design company that had been tasked with considering images for the Citywide Drugs Campaign had been explored by focus groups and the most suitable decided upon. She advised that additional work was required in order to refine the images and that this should be complete by the end of the week at which point they could be circulated to Members.
- ii. Members were presented with draft images which focused on drug dealing, its community impact and the loss of a loved one. Ms. Somers advised that the campaign had taken several months to develop with input from a wide range of agencies and groups working on the issue of substance misuse as well as the relevant communications officers.
- iii. In response to queries regarding consultation with young people's groups and suicide awareness groups, the Safer City Assistant Manager confirmed that contact had been made with Children's Law Centre and Include Youth however none of the current images involved children. Members were advised that the focus groups had called for the images to be more 'hard hitting' however communications officers from various agencies had cautioned against the use of young children and graphic scenes.
- iv. A Member suggested that the PCSP should not shy away from portraying the true effects of drug use. Ms. Somers reiterated that this had been the opinion of focus groups however the campaign was also being guided by professional advice that suggested otherwise.
- v. Ms. Somers confirmed that 13 PCSPs from across Northern Ireland had agreed to support for the campaign so far, garnering an additional £21,000 of funding alongside that already confirmed from the Belfast DPCSPs.
- vi. In response to queries regarding how people would know to report drug dealing, and how the drug user would be targeted, Ms. Somers advised that the strap line would read 'Drugs Dealers Don't Care, Do You?' alongside the telephone number for Crimestoppers. She added that a range of images were being used in order to target all sections of the community and that localised events would be held following the campaign's launch in order to raise awareness and allow people to avail of services in their local area.
- vii. At the request of the Safer City Assistant Manager, Members agreed that finalised images would be circulated to Members prior to distribution alongside a briefing note detailing how the campaign had been developed.

Members visit to HMP Maghaberry Prison

- viii. The Safer City Assistant Manager reminded Members that the site visit to Maghaberry Prison would take place on Thursday, 30th January and asked that Members confirm their attendance with the Partnership Support Officer following the meeting. Members

were advised that their full name and car registration would be required in advance of the visit and that photographic ID would be required on arrival.

2014/2015 PCSP Small Grants

- ix. Members were advised that 11 applications had been received for the Summer 2014 PCSP Small Grants Funding. Members were further advised that the Central Grants Unit were compiling score sheets for Officer panels ahead of Member panels which would be held during mid-February.
- x. Members agreed that Mr. Mulhern and Mr. Maguire would continue to represent the PCSP on the Member panel.

Human Trafficking Event

- i. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised Members that between 160 and 200 people attended the PCSP Human Trafficking Event on 14th January, including front line Council staff, hotels, B&Bs, community and voluntary groups.
- ii. Members were further advised that the issue remained as a Department of Justice Strategic Objective. Members agree to continue to develop this work as part of the 2014/2015 PCSP Action Plan.

Get Home Safe Re-launch

- iii. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised Members that stakeholders involved in the former Get Home Safe Partnership, including Belfast City Centre Management and Traders Groups, had contacted the PCSP Office regarding their eagerness to revitalise the Partnership.
- iv. Members were further advised that a small scale Get Home Safe Campaign was delivered in South and East Belfast over the Christmas Period and that meetings had taken place with partners and groups involved in the night-time economy.
- v. The Safer City Assistant Manager confirmed that a recommendation report would be brought to Members in February or March at which point they could agree on how to progress this piece of work.

West Belfast DPCSP Update

- vi. The Chair of the West Belfast DPCSP advised Members that a special Policing Committee Meeting had taken place on 17th January regarding the road racing incident that took place on New Year's Eve and the serious concern among residents at the police response. She added that the meeting had been a positive one with open discussion about the issue of community confidence.

5. NIFRS Presentation

- i. Group Commander Alan Hamill, NIFRS, provided Members with a briefing on the work of the Fire and Rescue Service, its key campaigns, education activities and its partnership approach to community safety, engagement and awareness raising.

- ii. In response to a query regarding the number of hoax calls received in Belfast on a weekly basis, Mr. Hamill advised that the NIFRS boundaries were slightly different than those of the Council and Police but that he would obtain figures for the Eastern Area Command which included Greater Belfast.
- iii. The Member also noted the important work of the Service and suggested Members would benefit from a site visit to a station in order to fully understand the work carried out. Mr. Hamill confirmed that a visit could be arranged to the Bankmore Street station which houses specialist rescue equipment.
- iv. In response to questions regarding the frequency and cost involved in running the LIFE and RACE education programmes for young people, Mr. Hamill advised that 4 schemes were operated per year with 14 identified participants in each. He added that funding was not the only factor involved in operating the 1 week long schemes as Officer resourcing was also an issue. He also stated that it was possible to arrange 1 day Educational Awareness Schemes on a one-to-one basis at little cost.
- v. A Member questioned the measurable outcomes from the programmes to which she was advised that community feedback was sought however it was difficult to measure fires or hoaxes that had not happened.
- vi. The Chair thanked Mr. Hamill for his presentation.

6. (D)PCSP Training on Audit and Governance Procedures

- i. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised Members that the Community Safety Unit was subject to review by Internal Audit on an annual basis due to the large sums of money distributed. She added that one of the recommendations from the last audit report had been that staff and Members undertake training on governance, risk, audit procedures and accountability.
- ii. Members noted this requirement and agreed to undertake training once dates had been organised.

7. PCSP Consultation Process

- i. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised Members that a quotation document had now been issued twice in order to find a company to carry out the consultation progress and that no responses had been received. Members were further advised that PCSP staff would now have to proceed with developing and issuing a survey/questionnaire and then analysing the results.
- ii. In response to a query regarding why no responses had been received, Members were advised that the Christmas period may have had a negative effect on the first issue however when the quotation was re-issued in January, 2014, again no responses were received.
- iii. In response to the circulated draft survey, Members agreed that time should be taken to review the document and it was suggested by a Member that experts at Belfast's Universities may be able to assist adding value to the exercise.
- iv. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised that appropriate procurement procedures had been used in issuing the two quotation documents and to approach the

Universities to carry out a piece of work of the same size would require a similar procurement exercise.

- v. Several Members suggested that existing research could be utilised and warned against leading questions and how these may raise unrealistic expectations amongst the respondents.
- vi. The Safer City Assistant Manager agreed to contact the Universities about conducting a small piece of work in order to develop appropriate questions using their expertise in such work which could then be circulated by PCSP Staff, resulting in more valuable data which would inform the 2014-2015 PCSP Action Plan.
- vii. Members also agreed that the survey should include questions relating to all partners rather than being PSNI focused, that issues of literacy, format and ease of use be considered, that existing research should be utilised and that outcomes were PCSP Action Plan focused.

8. Scrap Metal Consultation

- i. The Safer City Assistant Manager presented Members with documentation relating to a consultation on a Scrap Metal Dealers Bill which was received from Mr. Beggs, MLA.
- ii. Members noted the information provided and agreed to respond on an individual basis if they wished to do so.

9. Strategic Issues

Planning Meeting

- i. At the Safer City Assistant Manager's request, Members agreed to schedule an additional Planning Meeting on Wednesday, 4th March at 5.45pm in order to begin developing the 2014/2015 PCSP Action Plan.

Neighbourhood Watch

- ii. The Safer City Assistant Manager reminded Members that Neighbourhood Watch was listed within the 2013/2015 PCSP Action Plan and that the Steering Group had been re-established. She added that concerns had been raised regarding the lack of new schemes and so a 2 week media campaign was planned to begin on 24th March in order to encourage new Neighbourhood, Leisure, Business and School Watch Schemes.
- iii. Members were further advised that during November, 2013, information sessions had been held in West Belfast where participation was particularly low and that feedback had been very positive. Ms. Somers added that meeting would now be held between PCSP Staff, Members and Community Safety Forums in West Belfast in order to progress this work.
- iv. Members approved the development of the Neighbourhood Watch media campaign.

Communications Strategy

- v. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised Members that 2 responses had been received to the Communications Strategy Quotation and that once these had been scored, Members would receive a report detailing the proposed strategy.

Criminal Justice Inspectorate

- vi. At a Member's request, the Safer City Assistant Manager undertook to circulate the terms of reference for the Criminal Justice Inspection for Northern Ireland (CJINI) review of PCSPs.

10. Date of Next Meeting

- i. Members were advised that the next PCSP event would be the visit to HMP Maghaberry Prison on Thursday, 30th January and that the next Private Meeting would be held on Monday, 17th February at 6pm.