

Minutes of the Belfast Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Private Meeting

Conor Room, City Hall
Tuesday, 25th September, 2013

Political Members	Independent Members
Councillor John Hussey (Chair)	Frank Mulhern (Vice Chair)
Councillor Janice Austin	Valerie Allen
Councillor Patrick Convery	Harry Maguire
Councillor Colin Keenan	John MacVicar
Councillor Adam Newton	Mark Vinton
Alderman Jim Rodgers	
Designated Organisations	
T/Supt Andy Freeburn	Supt John McCaughan, PSNI
Alan Hamill, NIFRS	Patricia Muldoon, YJA
Liam Kinney, NIHE	Paul Thompson, PBNI
Staff Present	Apologies
Alison Allen, Safer City Manager	Councillor Matt Garrett
Lorna Somers, Safer City Assistant Manager	Councillor Deirdre Hargey
Katharine McCrum, Partnership Support Officer	Councillor Máire Hendron
	Claire Canavan
	Alan Wardle
	Chief Superintendent George Clarke, PSNI
	Chief Superintendent Alan McCrum, PSNI
	Eithne McIlroy, PBNI
	Cecil Worthington, H&SC Trust

1. Welcome and Apologies

- i. The Chair welcomed Members to the meeting and noted the apologies provided.
- ii. Members were introduced to Marie Patterson, DOJ, Jennifer Douglas' replacement, who would be attending the meeting.

2. Declarations of Interest

- i. No declarations of interest were recorded.

3. Minutes

- i. The minutes of the Belfast PCSP meeting held on 27th August, copies of which were previously circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct.

4. Matters Arising/Chair's Business

- i. The Safer City Assistant Manager reviewed the action points from the previous meeting noting that an evaluation of the Youth Engagement Project would be provided at a future meeting as would information on Neighbourhood Watch Schemes.

- ii. The Chair requested that Members approve the change of the Neighbourhood Watch Steering Group representative to Valarie Allen.
- iii. Members approved the change of representative.

5. Tension Monitoring Update

(Richard McLernon, Safer City Coordinator attended in connection with this item)

- i. The Safer City Coordinator distributed an update to Members of the progress of the Peace III Tension Monitoring Project and advised that further updates would be provided once an initial evaluation of the project was complete and on the progress of the Atlantic Philanthropies project.
- ii. Members noted the contents of the report.

6. Options Paper on Raising Agenda Items

- i. The Safer City Manager presented Members with a paper outlining 4 options which would allow the Belfast PCSP to agree a process for discussing emerging issues or any other business.
- ii. On reviewing the paper, Members felt that option 1, which detailed the process by which Members would add items to the agenda in advance of papers being distributed, was already in place and should continue to be an option open to Members.
- iii. While some Members felt that an additional agenda item was required in order to deal with emerging or emergency issues, others raised concerns that this would lead to lengthy meetings with little control or process.
- iv. Members resolved to bear in mind that if they wished to have items tabled on the agenda they should contact the PCSP office no later than 7 days before the meeting to allow time for this to be included on the agenda and a paper written. However, if the issue had recently arisen or would not require a written report, then contact should be made with the PCSP office or the Chair as soon as possible and, if appropriate, it would be raised under Chairman's Business or Strategic Issues.

7. Drugs Stakeholder Working Group

- i. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised Members that a second Drug Stakeholder Working Group had taken place on 17th September at which attendees agreed to take forward a Northern Ireland wide drugs strategy focusing on a PSNI and Crimestoppers campaign, an education programme and a communications plan.
- ii. Members were further advised that the Campaign would be delivered between January and March, 2014, and it was suggested that DPCSPs would hold public information events during this time to support the campaign, as would other PCSPs across Northern Ireland.
- iii. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised that a smaller Working Group would now be working to develop an Action Plan and would be in a position to present this to the PCSP at the Joint Briefing on 11th November, after which it could be ratified at the 26th November Meeting if approved.

- iv. In response to a Member's comment regarding the design of the campaign, the Safer City Assistant Manager assured Members that communications advice would be sought from the appropriate Council, PSNI, NIPB and DOJ departments, and that social media would also be utilised.
- v. A Member asked that the list of stakeholders involved in the Working Group was circulated to Members.
- vi. Members approved the work of the Stakeholder Working Group to date and agreed to receive an update on the Action Plan at the Joint briefing on 11th November.

8. Assets Recovery Community Scheme Funding Applications

- i. The Safer City Manager advised Members that the DOJ's Protection and Organised Crime Division had invited PCSPs from across Northern Ireland to submit bids to the Assets Recovery Community Scheme (ARCS) with a deadline for submissions of 4th October. Members were also advised that a second round of funding was expected to be opened in December for projects beginning in April, 2013.
- ii. She advised Members that four projects had been suggested by Officers for consideration;
 1. 2FAST2SOON Road Safety Car Crash Simulator
 2. NOMAD Cage Sports
 3. Citywide Youth Engagement Project
 4. Strategic Citywide Drugs Media Campaign
- iii. Several Members stated that evaluations would be useful in determining the impact that the Car Crash Simulator and Cage Sports projects had had in other PCSP areas, and would be important when considering the allocation of large sums of money.
- iv. In response to questions, the Safer City Manager advised Members that if funding was received, the assets would be made available to community groups and statutory partners however the delivery agent would need to be decided upon at a later date.
- v. Following discussion regarding the existence of the Northern Ireland Safety Centre, which already has a car crash simulator, and the fact that road safety is outside the remit of the PCSP Action Plan, Members agreed to defer a decision on projects 1 and 2 until the next meeting of the PCSP when more information would be available.
- vi. Members agreed that the Citywide Drugs Media Campaign linked directly with the PCSP Action Plan and as conversations were already ongoing with the stakeholders, as discussed under the previous item, it should be submitted to the DOJ for consideration.
- vii. A Member commented on the need to support the extension of the YEP Project as feedback to date had been positive and key processes were already established. Members agreed that this too was a worthwhile project and agreed to submit the proposal to the DOJ.
- viii. Members requested that officers contact the other statutory partners to gather alternative project ideas for the next round of ARCS funding in December with detailed proposals available at a future meeting of the PCSP.

9. Human Trafficking Awareness Event Proposal

- i. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised Members that the Belfast PCSP had been approached by the PSNI Serious Organised Crime Branch who were seeking support to assist in the organisation and delivery of an educational and information sharing event to address human trafficking and exploitation.
- ii. Members were further advised that the event would take place in January, 2014 with an invited audience which would include front line service providers such as hotel staff at a cost to the PCSP of approximately £2,500.
- iii. Members approved the allocation of £2,500 towards the event and noted that landlords and taxi companies should also be included in the audience.

10. Public Meeting Request from the North Belfast DPCSP

- i. The Safer City Manager advised Members that a letter had been received from the Chair of the North Belfast DPCSP requesting that the Belfast PCSP host a citywide public meeting on parades, public order and protests.
- ii. The Chair of the North Belfast DPCSP further explained the rationale of the Partnership explaining that the public's frustration regarding these issues is clear however local DPCSP meetings are not able to provide the answers as they are beyond the remit of those in attendance.
- iii. Several Members felt that such an event could be destructive to both the community and PCSP Members given the current climate and that the appetite for such a meeting may not exist in other areas of the City. Members also noted that holding such a meeting was not in the remit of the PCSP and may be an issue for the Northern Ireland Policing Board. A Member suggested that the PCSP write to Richard Haass regarding the issue.
- iv. Superintendent McCaughan stated that the purpose of such an event would need to be clear, whether to hold police to account or two find a way to move forward on the issues raised on a city wide basis. He added that police would always be available to have open and accountable conversations in order to improve confidence however other bodies and those involved in protests would also need to be open to conversations.
- v. A Member thanked Superintendent McCaughan for his comments which were most welcome and commended his clarity on the issue.
- vi. Following further discussion about the possibility of providing a space for the discussions to take place, rather than event, Members agreed to defer the decision to a future meeting once conversations had taken place with the Northern Ireland Policing Board regarding their role.

11. Youth Event Update

- i. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised Members that the speakers for the PCSP Youth Event on 24th October had been confirmed and invites had been sent to secondary schools, youth organisations and clubs. She also encouraged Members to

attend the event, particularly the lunch time session, in order to engage with the young people in attendance.

- ii. Members noted the progress of the event.

12. Christmas Crime Prevention and Safety Event

- i. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised Members that the Christmas Crime Prevention and Safety Event would take place on 4th December in the Great Hall, City Hall and asked for Members to make themselves available to staff the stand during the day.
- ii. Members were also advised that stall holders had been contacted regarding their attendance and that an advert would be appearing in November edition of City Matters.

13. Strategic Issues

- i. A Member suggested that future (D)PCSP Joint Briefings should be informed by the Members, for example Members may know of a project within an organisation which may be of use, alternatively statutory partners could deliver a brief on their work to the 5 Partnerships. Members also suggested that home grown best practice should be profiled.

14. Business Performance – (D)PCSP Financial Expenditure – April to August, 2013

- i. The Safer City Assistant Manager briefed Members on the financial expenditure of the 5 Partnerships between April and August, 2013. She noted that due to a delay in the receipt of a Letter of Offer from the Joint Committee, expenditure was less than would be expected, however this was beginning to be rectified and was unlikely to have any adverse effects on the annual spend of the Partnerships.
- ii. Members noted the contents of the report.

15. Date of Next Meeting

- i. The Chair advised Members that the next PCSP Meeting had been scheduled to take place on Monday, 7th October, however as no business was due to be discussed, he proposed that this meeting was cancelled. Members were subsequently reminded that a Joint Briefing was scheduled to take place on Monday, 11th November, as earlier discussed, and a Policing Committee and Private Meeting would be held on Tuesday, 26th November.
- ii. A Member requested that communication take place via email regarding additional projects which could be considered under ARCS funding in December, with the information provided in full at the meeting on 26th November.
- iii. In response to a request from a Member, Marie Patterson, DOJ, agreed to provide the Safer City Manager with the scoring matrix for the ARCS funding.