

Minutes of the Belfast Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Private Meeting

Lavery Room, City Hall
Tuesday, 26th November, 2013

Political Members

Councillor Janice Austin
Councillor May Campbell
Councillor Patrick Convery
Councillor Matt Garrett
Councillor Deirdre Hargey
Councillor Colin Keenan
Councillor Adam Newton

Independent Members

Frank Mulhern (Vice Chair)
Valerie Allen
Claire Canavan
Liz Groves
Harry Maguire
John MacVicar

Designated Organisations

Chief Superintendent George Clarke, PSNI
Nigel Evans, NIFRS
Liam Kinney, NIHE
Eithne McIlroy, PSNI

Patricia Muldoon, YJA
Trevor Murphy, BELB
Cecil Worthington, H&SCT

Staff Present

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

Apologies

Councillor Máire Hendron
Carmel McKinney
Chief Superintendent Alan McCrum
Alan Hamill, NIFRS
Geoff Somerville, NIFRS

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 minutes of the Belfast PCSP meeting held on 24th September, 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 the evaluation of the YEP project would be provided when ready and that work was ongoing with regards to liaising with Partner Agencies to secure potential match funding for the Council's £20,000 funding of Local Community Safety Services.

- ii. She added that no bids had been received in respect of the quotation exercise to undertake consultation work for Belfast PCSP and that this would be reissued. The remaining items were covered within the agenda of the meeting.
- iii. A Member asked that the outstanding action of obtaining funds for partner agencies be progressed as soon as possible.

5. PCSP Drugs Campaign

(Alistair Charles, Safer City Coordinator attended in connection with this item)

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that the Assets Recovery Bid with regards to organising a Northern Ireland wide Drugs campaign had not been successful; however the stakeholder group continued to meet and were keen to continue to run the campaign throughout Belfast using PCSP and partner agency funds.
- ii. Members were advised that the campaign would continue to have three strands; a media campaign, a health element in conjunction with the Public Health Agency and a communication aspect which would include awareness events.
- iii. A Member asked that consultation with relevant agencies take place when developing the Citywide Drugs Campaign to ensure that any visuals used are effective and audience appropriate.
- iv. The Vice-Chair stated that it had been a surprise the £100K bid to the ARCS Fund had not been successful and that feedback would be sought. He felt that the Partnership should continue with a Belfast campaign with match funding from the DPCSPs, Crimestoppers, PHA and the PSNI.
- v. The Safer City Coordinator confirmed that the budget was likely to be in the range of £40K - £50K.
- vi. Following further discussion, Members approved the development of a Belfast Drugs Campaign.

6. 2014/2015 Assets Recovery Community Scheme Funding

- i. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised Members that the second round of bids to the Assets Recovery Community Scheme (ARCS) would open, most likely, in mid December with a closing date in January. She advised Members that further detail on the 2FAST2SOON Road Safety Car Crash Simulator and the NOMAD Cage Sports were contained within the papers.
- ii. Members were further advised that, as agreed at the previous PCSP Meeting, a meeting would take place with Statutory Partners on 29th November to discuss additional submissions which would then be brought to the PCSP Meeting on 9th December.
- iii. Members noted the information provided and agreed that the two existing suggestions, the 2FAST2SOON Road Safety Car Crash Simulator and the NOMAD Cage Sports, should be written up into project proposals.

7. 2013/2014 PCSP Action Plan Review

- i. The Safer City Manager advised Members that a resubmitted PCSP Action Plan would be expected by the NI Policing Board by the end of March, 2014. Members were further advised that officers were currently carrying out a desk top review of relevant statistics which could inform discussions; however community feedback was also important and this would be secured through the consultation exercise which would be reissued early December.
- ii. Members were advised that the Governor at Maghaberry Prison had offered to host the PCSP in January, 2014, to facilitate a planning session and to allow Members the opportunity to discuss their role in promoting social inclusion as a means to reduce offending and to further develop the PCSP Action Plan for 2014-2015.
- iii. Members were therefore asked to schedule some time at the PCSP Meeting on 9th December to review Member's roles and responsibilities and to accept the invitation to visit Maghaberry Prison in January, 2014.
- iv. Members agreed to both planning sessions and asked that linkages with other agencies involved with the prison system also be made.

8. Joint Enforcement Operation – Legal Highs

- i. The Safer City Manager advised Members that Joint Enforcement Operations targeting on street drinking and legal highs would continue and that the shops found to be selling legal highs were being monitored. She also advised that legal avenues of recourse were ongoing.
- ii. Members praised the operations but warned that the closing of shops in Belfast was displacing the problem to other towns. Members also asked if the work being carried out in Belfast was being communicated to other Councils.
- iii. The Safer City Manager advised Members that there had been external interest in the operations however due to the ongoing legal proceedings; communication of the work remains sensitive at this time.

9. Belfast Neighbourhood Watch Schemes

- i. The Safer City Manager advised Members that the total number of Neighbourhood Watch Schemes across Belfast was 105 and asked Members to agree that the £3K allocated within the 2013/2014 PCSP Action Plan be utilised to encourage involvement of communities in the Neighbourhood Watch/Business Scheme through a promotional campaign.
- ii. A Member asked that a similar report be brought to the West Belfast DPCSP Meeting with consideration given to the existing Community Safety Forums which include residents associations and the West Belfast Traders Forum.
- iii. Members agreed to grant delegated authority to Officers to take forward the promotional campaign.

10. Health and Social Care Trust Response

- i. The Safer City Assistant Manager advised Members that the a letter had been received from the Children's Services Manager in response to a letter sent from the PCSP Chair regarding Anti-Social Behaviour originating from Children's Care Homes.
- ii. Mr Worthington, Director of Social Work within the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, advised Members that many of the issues raised had since been resolved as those responsible were no longer in the unit in question.
- iii. The North Belfast DPCSP Chair advised that PSNI officers were still concerned regarding the number of run-a-ways and the resources spent on dealing with these, points which Mr Worthington agreed to feed back to his colleagues.
- iv. Members discussed the alternative accommodation available including secure accommodation and juvenile justice centres and that lack of available bed spaces.
- v. Ms. McIlroy reminded Members that a consultation had been circulated during October on Custodial Arrangements for Children in Northern Ireland.

11. 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 November, 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 at this stage, however this was beginning to be rectified and was unlikely to have any adverse effects on the annual spend of the Partnerships.
- ii. Representatives from the North and West Belfast DPCSPs confirmed that no problems with spend were anticipated and that authority was being delegated to Officers for particular projects to be progressed and change control processes completed as and when necessary.
- iii. Members noted the contents of the report.

12. Strategic Issues

- i. Nigel Evans, NIFRS, advised Members that the draft Prevention and Protection Strategy for Northern Ireland, 2014-2019 was currently out for consultation. He added that the Strategy for the Eastern Region, which included Belfast, would then be drafted from this document.
- ii. The Safer City Assistant Manager reminded Members about the following dates:
 - PCSP Small Grants – Launched 11th November, Closing 12noon 8th January
 - Linking Generations Event, Tuesday, 3rd December, Banqueting Hall, City Hall
 - Christmas Crime Prevention and Safety Event, Wednesday, 4th December, Great Hall, City Hall.
 - Human Trafficking Event – Tuesday, 14th January, City Hall
- iii. Members were asked to confirm their attendance at the above events.

13. Date of Next Meeting

- i. Members were advised that the next PCSP Meeting would be held on Monday, 9th December at 6.30pm.