

**Minutes of the West Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership
Policing Committee Meeting**

**1st Floor Conference Room, Cecil Ward Building
Monday, 27th January, 2014**

Political Members	Independent Members
Councillor Marie Hendron (Chair)	Breige Brownlee
Councillor Tim Attwood	Bernie Reilly
Councillor Steven Corr	
Councillor Matt Garrett	
Councillor Billy Hutchinson	
PSNI Representatives	
Inspector Mike White	Sergeant Christopher Robinson
Inspector Alan Swann	
Staff Present	Apologies
Alistair Charles, Safer City Co-ordinator	Harry Connolly (Vice-Chair)
Michael Burns, Project Officer	Alderman McCoubrey
Katharine McCrum, Partnership Support Officer	Chief Inspector Emma Bond

1. Welcome and Routine Matters

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

2. Declarations of Interest

- i. The Chair asked Members to declare any material interests which they may have in relation to any item of business to be considered during the meeting. No declarations of interest were declared.

3. Minutes

- i. The minutes of 11th December and 17th January, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct.

4. Area Commanders Update on Policing

- i. Inspector White advised Members that overall crime figures had fallen by 1.27% with reductions in anti-social behaviour, violent crime and a significant reduction in burglary figures. He noted that drugs seizures were down and that work was continuing in this area to improve on the figures, however the previous year had seen considerable successes in both seizures and arrests.
- ii. Inspector Swann added that there was still room for improvement in burglary figures as up to 40% of break-ins were through open doors and windows.
- iii. Members queried how underreporting of crime was being tackled and what analysis was being done on this issue.

- iv. Inspector Swann reiterated the importance of reporting crime in order to allow the police the chance to assist and prevent evidence from being lost.
- v. A Member questioned how caller satisfaction was measured and noted how the frustrations felt by the community impacted on confidence, and thus reporting levels.
- vi. Inspector White advised that follow up calls were made after 10 days and then again after 28 days which were currently measuring satisfaction at between 80% to 90%. During these follow up calls, the level of satisfaction was gauged and if a caller was not satisfied with the service they received, the reasons were recorded.

5. West Belfast Policing Plan

- i. Inspector White advised Members that a consultation questionnaire regarding the West Belfast Policing Plan for 2014-2015 had been circulated however there had been a poor response.
- ii. In response to a Members query regarding further discussion on the responses and the development of the Plan, Inspector White advised that the Plan was similar to the Corporate Plan, focusing on Burglary, Drugs and Anti-Social Behaviour, and that while further reviews could be carried out, in the absence of further external comments, the Plan remained largely unchanged.
- iii. In light of this, Members agreed that no further review was necessary.

6. Emerging Issues

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that a Policing Committee application had been received from St Agnes Parish Centre in order to distribute a number of home safety packs to vulnerable households, at a cost of £1,000.
- ii. Members approved the funding and asked that links were made between this initiative and the NIFRS and Belfast City Council's Safer Homes programme.
- iii. In response to a Member's query regarding a serious assault in Black's Road, Inspector White advised that he would seek further details and contact the Member personally after the meeting.