

# Minutes of South Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership Meeting In Public

Wednesday, 27th November 2013, 7.00pm  
Agape Centre, Belfast

<b>Political Members</b>	<b>Independent Members</b>
Cllr. Deirdre Hargey (Chair) Cllr. Kate Mullan	Ms. Paula Bradshaw (Vice Chair) Mr. Trevor Greer Ms. Debbie Hammill Mr. Niall Kelly
<b>Statutory Designated Bodies</b>	
Chief Inspector Gaby Moran Gary Ballantyne, NIHE Christine Hunter, PBNI Yvonne McKnight, BHSC	
<b>Staff Present</b>	<b>Apology</b>
Denise Smith, CS Coordinator Keith Addy, Project Officer Saranne Gallagher, Partnership Support Officer Elaine McWilliams, ASB Officer	Ald. Ruth Patterson Cllr. Martin O'Mulleoir Ms. Nuala Toman

## 1. Welcome and Routine Matters

i. The Chair welcomed Members and guests to the meeting.

## 2. Presentations on Domestic Violence

- i. Margaret Kelly from Belfast Area Domestic Violence Partnership provided those present with a briefing on domestic violence.
- ii. Margaret provided an overview of the partnership activities and also how these activities compliment both the Tackling Violence at Home Strategy and Action Plan and the Belfast Domestic Violence Partnership Action Plan.
- iii. Margaret also detailed how the Partnership supported the work of the 4 working groups, how information was disseminated, and how activities had been coordinated between member agencies such as seminars, conferences and workshops to raise awareness around domestic violence and abuse.
- iv. Noelle Collins, Belfast and Lisburn Womens Aid also provided an overview on domestic violence and how she supports the local women's refuge in South Belfast.

- v. Christine Hunter, Probation Board for Northern Ireland, presented on the role of the Probation Board in tackling domestic violence.
- vi. Eleanor Jordan, Windsor Womens Centre, provided an overview of her role within the centre and detailed how the centre had provided advice, guidance and support for victims of domestic violence.
- vii. Sergeant Ailish McCrissican, PSNI, provided an overview of key statistics in relation to domestic violence and also trends in domestic abuse crimes. Sergeant McCrissican also made reference to the PSNI initial response protocol in relation to domestic abuse crime.
- viii. The Chair thanked all presenters.

### **3. Questions for the Public**

- i. A member of the public commented that only 1 of the 13 recommendations by the Criminal Justice Inspectorate had been achieved and asked the PSNI for a rationale why only one recommendation had been implemented.
- ii. The Area Commander commented that all call handling is managed centrally and all call handlers are trained to a high level. The Area Commander further commented that all call handlers had standardised call scripts and that all recommendations received in relation to improving reporting will be fully implemented.
- iii. A member of the public further asked had the crime rates, specifically regarding domestic abuse, increased due to police being abstracted from normal policing duties.
- iv. Sergeant McCrissican commented that some PSNI Officers were involved in the G8 Summit and also World Police and Fire Games, however this did not affect PSNI addressing all reports of domestic abuse and that no reported cases were left unattended.

### **4. Close**

- i. The Chair closed the meeting and thanked all for attending.