

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

Wednesday, 25th September 2013, 7.00pm
Crescent Arts Centre, Belfast

Political Members	Independent Members
Cllr. Kate Mullan	Ms. Paula Bradshaw (Vice Chair) Mr. Trevor Greer Ms. Debbie Hammill Mr. Niall Kelly
Police Service of Northern Ireland	
Chief Inspector Gaby Moran	
Statutory Designated Bodies	
Anita Duff, BELB Gary Ballantyne, NIHE	Christine Hunter, PBNI Yvonne McKnight, BHSCT
Staff Present	Apologies
Denise Smith, CS Coordinator Keith Addy, Project Officer Saranne Gallagher, Partnership Support Officer Elaine McWilliams, ASB Officer	Cllr. Deirdre Hargey (Chair) Ald. Tom Ekin Cllr. Martin O'Mulleoir Ms. Nuala Toman

1. Welcome and Routine Matters

- i. The Vice Chair welcomed Members and guests to the meeting and noted the apologies provided. Those present were advised that during the event, a BBC Radio Reporter and a photographer would be present. No objections were raised in relation to this.

2. Presentation on Drugs and Alcohol – James Scott (FASA)

- i. James Scott provided those present with a briefing on the current drug trends and issues in South Belfast and City Centre.
- ii. James Scott also spoke about the prevalence of drug issues and drug use for the period 2010/11. James provided key statistics for the BHSCT, SEHCST and Northern Ireland wide during this period.
- iii. James also provided an overview on the types of drugs that are currently used and highlighted the dangers of such drugs. James also commented that through the drugs bins that were funded by DPCSP, assisted with the monitoring of what drugs are being used on the streets of South Belfast.

3. Presentation on Drugs and Alcohol – Kelly Gilliland (PHA)

- I. Kelly Gilliland provided those present with an overview of the PHA and the tiers of services that they provide to assist with drugs and alcohol misuse.
- II. Kelly further commented that the services provided are for everyone – services for adults, services for families, services for everyone and services for specific groups.
- III. Kelly provided an overview of BDAC and the incident response protocol.
- IV. The Chair thanked both presenters for their presentation and offered the South Belfast DPCSP's assistance in tackling the issues raised which were of community concern across Belfast.

4. Questions for the Public

- I. A member of the public asked why a number of PSNI officers were in attendance at the meeting. The Area Commander replied that there were additional officers present as they were receiving certificates for their assistance with removing drugs off the streets.
- II. A member of the public asked why students were not spoken to before their arrival into the Holyland area. The Area Commander commented that there was work undertaken in partnership with the universities, PSNI and the Council to circulate information to students in advance regarding alcohol and drug misuse. The Area Commander commented that this is a difficult task as there is no parental control but that work is still continuing and commitment given to resolve issues.
- III. A member of the public raised their concerns regarding that the educational process is failing and that the PSNI are unable to police the situation as they are attending other situations and as a direct result of this, residents feel let down. In response to this James Scott commented that he is willing to work with local residents (PACT) and offered to meet with PACT.
- IV. The Area Commander commented that there were a number of students in the area last night. However, the Area Commander welcomed the positive step of the university organising team leaders to assist with getting students home safely.
- V. A member of the public further asked how far do we have to go to get a collaborative approach implemented. Kelly Gilliland replied that there is an element of joint planning and pathways currently embedded but there is further work to be under taken to allow for the resolution of ongoing issues to be achieved.
- VI. A member of the public raised their concern regarding the number of limited places available on residential courses. Kelly Gilliland commented that she is aware of the waiting lists for residential courses but there are other agencies, such as DAISY, that would support individuals and provide services until residential courses become available.
- VII. A member of the public made reference to binge behaviour and asked if a breach of licence conditions was being committed serving alcohol to drunken people. The Area Commander commented that the PSNI do enforce licensing laws throughout Belfast City and they work in partnership with Pubs of Ulster. The Area Commander provided

an update in relation to arrests and ASB issues that had occurred. He commented that there is enforcement but it is not solution, partnership and education is key to addressing and resolving issues.

- VIII. A member of the public commented that residents feel they have no rights and that students do not bring any economic benefit and that all student accommodation should not be in residential areas.
- IX. A member of the public raised their concern regarding ongoing activities in Ormeau Park. The Area Commander commented that the park falls within the remit of East Belfast. James Scott also commented that he is aware of the ongoing issues and that FASA have currently been involved in resolving the ongoing issues but a lot of work still needs done.
- X. It was further commented by the Area Commander, that there is a misconception that the PSNI are to keep communities safe. In order to make a difference, people need to come together, do something different and implement a collaborative approach.
- XI. A member of the public asked if research had been conducted in relation to binge drinking/drugs. Kelly Gilliland commented that there was some research available but further research is required.
- XII. A member of the public asked if any legislation going through regarding 'legal highs'. The Area Commander commented that legislation has been implemented in the South and with reference to Northern Ireland there is some discussion ongoing with the Home Office regarding a workable solution to control drugs.
- XIII. A member of the public asked what is being done regarding prescription drugs. Kelly Gilliland commented that prescription medication is an issue and there is currently a trust based service being implemented to help patients with prescribed drugs misuse. The Area Commander further commented that there is ongoing work with the Medical Control Agency in relation to the importation of prescribed drugs.

5 Close

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