

Minutes of South Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Policing Committee

Tuesday, 17th December 2013, 5.00pm
Conor Room, City Hall, Belfast

Political Members	Independent Members
Cllr. Deirdre Hargey (Chair)	Ms. Paula Bradshaw (Vice Chair)
Ald. Tom Ekin	Ms. Debbie Hammill
Cllr. Kate Mullan	Mr. Trevor Greer
	Mr. Niall Kelly
Statutory Designated Bodies	
Chief Inspector Gaby Moran	
Belfast City Council Staff Present	Apologies
Denise Smith, Safer City Coordinator	Ald. Ruth Patterson
Saranne Gallagher, Partnership Support Officer	Cllr. Martin O'Mulleoir
	Ms. Nuala Toman

1. Welcome & Routine Matters

- i. The Chair, welcomed all Members to the Policing Committee Meeting of the South Belfast DPCSP.
- ii. Apologies were noted for Ald. Ruth Patterson, Cllr. Martin O'Mulleoir, and Nuala Toman.

2. Minutes and Matters Arising

- i. The Minutes of the South Belfast Policing Committee Meeting held on 29th October, of which copies were previously circulated, were taken as read and correct.

3. Area Commander Update

- i. The Area Commander provided Members with updated figures until the end of October 2013. The Area Commander commented that there had been an increase of 11.4% in all offences.
- ii. The Area Commander commented that operational figures (up to the middle of December) had shown a 12.8% increase in overall crime in comparison to the previous year.
- iii. The Area Commander commented that the majority of the increase had been in relation to violent crime without injury.

- iv. The Area Commander further commented that the level of burglary had increased by 22.3% and that for the period in question there had been a total increase of 134 burglary offenses. The Area Commander commented that 30% of all burglaries in South Belfast had been due to unlocked doors and windows.
- v. The Area Commander commented that there had also been an increase in the number of harassment allegations, particularly in city centre businesses.
- vi. The Area Commander reported that levels of shoplifting had been reduced in South Belfast.
- vii. A Member asked the Area Commander in relation to the new identification system going into bars within the City, who would be responsible for the reviewing of the implementation of the ID scan process in individual premises.
- viii. The Area Commander commented that the PSNI will review premises who had implemented ID Scans and analyse if the scans had reduced crime rates. In doing so, if they are effective, the PSNI will work directly with local pubs and clubs throughout the City to highlight the outcome and support wider implementation of the scheme.
- ix. A Member asked the Area Commander, on reviewing the information given in relation to recent crime statistics, was the increase in crime rates a one off?
- x. The Area Commander commented that if crime rates are analysed, it would identify that there had been a decrease in crime over a five year period, but there is a notable increase in crime rates since last year. The Area Commander commented that this had been mainly due to PSNI officers being abstracted from normal policing duties to police public disorder, G8 Summit and World Police and Fire Games.
- xi. A Member asked had there been a drop in detection rates regarding weapon offences.
- xii. The Area Commander commented that the numbers are relatively small and that the detection rate had dropped to 60%. This related to 4 fewer detections.
- xiii. A Member further asked if there had been an increase/decrease regarding bicycle theft.
- xiv. The Area Commander commented that bicycle theft is currently increased by 22% or 58 additional offences. The Area Commander commented that

it is difficult to detect bicycle theft however a number of recent operations had identified some key offenders and cases were going before the courts. This was still for a relatively small number of detections (10 offences).

- xv. The Chair commented in relation to the number of burglaries in South Belfast, how the DPCSP could make local people more aware of the consequences of unlocked doors/windows. The Chair commented that it could be feasible to have an advert in City Matters regarding this issue.
- xvi. The Area Commander commented that the PSNI are facilitating vulnerability training to all uniform officers. The Area Commander commented, if possible and dependent on budget availability, that the PSNI would offer this training to all its operational response and NPT officers who work on the night time economy. They also wish to extend the training to approximately 300 door and bar staff. He further commented that this training would cost £5,000 and all venues would all be provided. The Area Commander commented that the DPCSP consider potentially funding this training as it will assist with reducing crime and vulnerability.
- xvii. The Chair commented that this could be considered at the next DPCSP Private Meeting.
- xviii. The Safer City Coordinator commented that two applications had been received for the Policing Committee, one application from Mornington Centre and second from University of Ulster.
- xix. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with an overview of both projects.
- xx. The Safer City Coordinator commented that the Mornington Centre project seeks to work with women in the Essex Grove Area of the Ormeau Road. She commented that there had been some work carried out in the area over the last number of months to improve the environment and tackle under-reporting of crime however in the absence of a resident group Mornington had maintained contact with the local women on a weekly basis. She informed Members that the purpose of this funding is to sustain contact and inform them of support services available to improve their own safety, home safety, raise awareness of drugs and alcohol issues and encourage the reporting of crime.
- xxi. The Safer City Coordinator commented that the project proposal submitted by the University of Ulster Students Union would seek to engage residents, students and landlord to improve a stretch of land on the Stranmillis embankment. She further commented that the project seeks to improve the relations among all by working together to address the environmental needs of the area.

- xxii. The Safer City Coordinator informed Members that both applicants requested financial support of £1,000 and requested that Members consider both applications for funding. However, the Safer City Coordinator commented that further information regarding breakdown of costs to be reviewed for the Mornington Centre project.
- xxiii. A Member recommended that the Mornington Centre could link directly with the South Belfast Neighbourhood Project in relation to the delivery of their project.
- xxiv. A Member asked if the University of Ulster had made linkage with the PSNI within their application. The Safer City Coordinator commented that the PSNI had been represented and had been included on the PACT structures and will be involved in the delivery of the proposed project.
- xxv. The Chair requested that further clarity is sought for the Mornington Centre project and to confirm PSNI's involvement with in the University of Ulster project. The Chair further commented that based on Members receiving this information in due course, for all Members to respond to the Safer City Coordinator by 10th January.

4. Draft Northern Ireland Policing Plan

- i. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with information regarding the Draft Northern Ireland Policing Plan 2014-17.
- ii. The Safer City Coordinator commented that Members are aware of the statutory functions of the Northern Ireland Policing Board.
- iii. The Safer City Coordinator asked Members to note the Draft Northern Ireland Policing Plan and if Members had any comments on the Plan, to forward to Officers no later than 23rd December.

5. Written Questions

- i. No written received.

6. Emerging Issues

- i. No written received.

7. Date of Next Meeting

- i. Date, time and venue for the next Policing Committee of South Belfast DPCSP to be confirmed.