

**Minutes of the North Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership
Private Meeting
Wednesday, 11 September 2013, 6.00pm
Conor Room, City Hall**

Political Members	Independent Members
Councillor Patrick Convery (Chair)	Ms. Jennifer Cornell (Vice Chair)
Councillor Mary Ellen Campbell	Ms. Bronach Graham
Councillor Guy Spence	Mr. Ian McLaughlin
Councillor Naomi Thompson	Mr. Pat McLarnon
Designated Organisations	
Chief Inspector Ian Campbell	Patricia Muldoon, YJA
Sergeant Oli Connolly, PSNI	Teresa McAllister, Belfast Trust
Chief Inspector Andy Freeburn, PSNI	Mark Nicholson, PBNI
David McComiskey, NIFRS	Alan Wilson, BELB
Staff Present	Apologies
Alison Allen, Safer City Manager	Cllr Conor Maskey
Mark Corbett, ASB Officer	
Saranne Gallagher, Partnership Support Officer	
Richard McLernon, Safer City Coordinator	

1. Welcome/Apologies/Declaration of Interest

- i. Councillor Patrick Convery welcomed Members to the meeting. The Chair noted the apologies provided.
- ii. No declarations of interest were recorded.

2. North Belfast DPCSP Private Minutes

- i. The minutes of 14th August 2013, copies of which had previously been circulated, were read by Members. Some amendments were noted.
- ii. With regards to actions points from the previous meeting, the Safer City Coordinator advised Members that no replies had been received to date regarding which groups should be consulted with regarding the Forthriver Innovation Centre and that there is still an opportunity to feed into the process.
- iii. Safer City Coordinator also commented that the allocation of small grants had been approved.
- iv. A Member commented that it was not collectively agreed that a presentation by Next Steps would be given to Members at the next meeting.
- v. Members also commented that the Attendance Section of the Annual Report should be amended, as the information currently presented is misleading, specifically in relation to Members attendance at compulsory meetings. Members requested that separate columns for briefings, private/policing committee meetings for recording attendance.

- vi. A Member highlighted a calculation error with regards Members meeting expenses and asked for this information to be reviewed and clearly detailed.
- vii. A Member commented that no further information had been received from Debbie Watters. As this had been requested to be pursued, a Member contacted the Policing Board but to date no response had been received. The Member agreed to forward correspondence on to Safer City Coordinator for follow up.
- viii. All actions detailed and discussed.

3. FASA Presentation

- i. Diane McMullan, FASA, gave a presentation to Members providing an overview on a number of work areas including:
 - a. Service available for Youth/Adults;
 - b. New Projects;
 - c. Issues and Emerging Trends; and,
 - d. Partnerships.
- ii. A Member asked the presenter if information could be provided regarding the types of unknown tablets. The presenter commented that there are cost implications for further testing on unknown tablets, and subsequently this information cannot be provided.
- iii. Members requested for the presentation to be circulated.

4. Chair Update on Belfast PCSP/Local Area Updates Subgroup

- i. The Chair commented that there was still an issue regarding youths being brought back to children's homes. The Chair informed Members that he requested that the PCSP write to Children's Service's Manager in the Health Trust regarding this issue.
- ii. A Member commented that there were youths gathering in the areas of Ballysillan, Ligoneil and Woodvale Park which had resulted in anti social behaviour and the play areas being damaged. Ongoing communication is continuing with local residents to try and stop any further incidents happening.
- iii. A Member commented that static rangers are in the parks who are currently working with neighbourhood police to resolve issue. Further partnership work is ongoing and a fun day for the local youths has been scheduled to take place.
- iv. A Member further commented that there is a growing issue surrounding the use of 'legal highs' within the Antrim Road area. The Member commented that contact has been made with the Council in relation to what powers exist to deal with premises selling illegal highs.
- v. A Member also suggested that it would be very beneficial for an North Belfast area project (BELB) to do a presentation to the DPCSP.

- vi. A Member also commented that the DPCSP can analyse all funding which is allocated to youth provision, specifically regarding the number of outreach workers but it is difficult to demonstrate the impact of this.
- vii. A Member provided an update in relation to the project 'Design out Crime'.
- viii. A Member also mentioned a consultation process conducted by BELB with young people about community safety.
- ix. A Member also provided information regarding the Youth Event scheduled for 24 October 2013. The Members requested that information regarding the event to be circulated.

5. Review of North Belfast DPCSP Action Plan

- i. The Safer City Coordinator presented Members with the North Belfast Action Plan which includes progress to date.
- ii. The Safer City Coordinator asked Members if they were aware of any groups or organisations that could provide ASB interventions across North Belfast. Members to forward suggestions of organisations to Safer City Coordinator.
- iii. Members agreed that items 7-13 on the agenda to be deferred and discussed at the planning day scheduled to take place on Friday 13 September 2013, at Belfast Castle.

14. Items for Information

- i. The Safer City Coordinator reminded Members of the date and venue of the next public meeting, 25th September at Hazelwood College, Belfast.
- ii. Members were asked if a panel discussion would be a suitable for the public event.
- iii. Following discussion, Members felt that people on the panel may not be able to answer the questions that will be asked by members of the general public.
- iv. A Member proposed that all questions received which are not relevant to the theme of the meeting, be addressed at the Belfast PCSP meeting on public order.
- v. A Member also highlighted that the general public see thematic meetings as an approach to deflect from current issues and become frustrated when their questions cannot be answered.
- vi. The Area Commander commented that the meeting on the 25th needs to be well structured in order to enable a productive and informative meeting.

- vii. A Member queried if a reply has been sent to the questions received previously. Safer City Coordinator commented that he has spoken to the member of the public, and will provide a response to the questions.
- viii. The Area Commander offered to meet with the member of the general public to answer questions.
- ix. A Member commented that there should be an opportunity for people from the local community to meet with the PSNI, as a collective group of North Belfast. However, Members are aware that these meetings need to have certain controls.
- x. The Members were supportive of conducting where members of the public could raise general questions including questions relating to public order meeting, however following discussion the DPCSP need to think carefully regarding the structure of the meeting and also of all concerned and credibility of all present.
- xi. A Member commented that public order is a city wide issue and needs to be addressed by the PCSP.
- xii. The Members proposed to write to the PCSP to facilitate a city wide event on public disorder.
- xiii. A Member asked if the wider public disorder meeting can be held before 25th September. Safer City Manager commented that this will not be practicable as the meeting of PSCP takes place on 24th September therefore not enough time for full approval from Belfast PCSP and to organise the event before 25th September.
- xiv. A Member commented that whoever is responsible for chairing North DPCSP Public meeting is clear from the outset that any questions other than questions relating to drugs and alcohol will not be addressed on 2th September.
The Members requested that date of next public order meeting to be available for disclosure at the next public meeting.
- xv. The Safer City Coordinator discussed the potential format of the meeting on the 25th. A Member requested that four presentations be reduced to two or three presentations but for care to be taken not to offend anyone at this stage.
- xvi. The Safer City Coordinator provided an overview on the structure of the DPCSP meetings. It was agreed by Members that meetings follow the current format with the policing committee first followed by the private meeting. Members agreed that a room would be provided for Designated Members to wait in until Policing Committee meeting has finished.

15. Items for Action (Tension Monitoring Briefing)

- I. The Safer City Coordinator provided an update in relation to the Tension Monitoring paper and how it linked to the North Belfast DPCSP Action Plan, specifically emergency response fund.

- II. The Safer Coordinator reassured members that the Emergency Response Fund will not fund the Tension Monitoring Process. The Emergency Response Fund will be allocated by North DPCSP.
- III. A Member requested a more formal briefing to be provided to the Members.

16. Next Meeting

- I. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that the date of next meeting has been amended to Monday 18 November 2013, 6.00pm. The Partnership Support Officer to confirm the venue details with Members.