

**Minutes of the North Belfast District Policing and
Community Safety Partnership
Policing Committee
Monday, 18 November 2013, 5.00pm
1st Floor HR Conference Room, Cecil Ward Building, Belfast**

Members Present	
Councillors	Independents
Councillor Patrick Convery (Chair)	Ms. Jennifer Cornell (Vice Chair)
Councillor Guy Spence	Ms. Bronach Graham
Councillor Naomi Thompson	Mr. Winston Irvine
	Mr. Pat McLarnon
	Mr. Ian McLaughlin
PSNI	
Chief Inspector Ian Campbell	
Sergeant Oli Connolly	
Inspector Robin Gouk	
Inspector Gavin Kirkpatrick	
Inspector Roy Watton	
Staff Present	Apologies
Edele Cleary, Project Officer	Councillor Mary Ellen Campbell
Saranne Gallagher, Partnership Support Officer	
Richard McLernon, Safer City Coordinator	

1. Welcome & Routine Matters

- i. The Chair, Cllr Patrick Convery, welcomed Members to the Policing Committee of the District Policing and Community Safety Partnership.
- ii. Apologies noted for Cllr Mary Ellen Campbell.

2. Declarations of Interest

- i. The Chair highlighted the declarations of interest policy.
- ii. No declarations of interest were recorded.

3. Minutes of North Belfast DPCSP Policing Committee

- i. The Minutes of the North Belfast Policing Committee Meeting held on 09th October, of which copies were previously circulated, were taken as read and correct.
- ii. The Safer City Coordinator updated Members on the agreed actions from the previous North Belfast DPCSP Meeting. The Safer City Coordinator commented that a response had been received from DOJ in relation to Care Homes and the response had been circulated to Members.
- iii. A Member asked what had been the thoughts from the PSNI on the response received.
- iv. Chief Inspector Ian Campbell informed Members that arrangements had been in place but they are not fit for purpose.

- v. Inspector Gavin Kirkpatrick commented that it had been very frustrating for the PSNI regarding the amount of policing hours spent when young people go missing. However, he had been pleased to see that a group had been set up to deal with young people and also the robust actions that would be implemented.
- vi. The Chair commented that there needed to be additional legislation from the Assembly as there had been a limitation of what staff could do to prevent young people walking out of care homes.
- vii. A Member commented that there had to be balance and that the safety of young people is paramount, however the Partnership needs to be mindful that care homes do not become prisons.
- viii. A letter had to be sent to the Department of Justice in relation to this issue.

4. **Area Commanders' Update Report**

- i. Chief Inspector Ian Campbell provided an update on criminal statistics.
- ii. Chief Inspector Ian Campbell commented that there had been increase in overall crime rates in North Belfast compared to this time last year.
- iii. The Chief Inspector advised Members that there had been a decrease of 5% in domestic burglary.
- iv. The Chief Inspector advised Members that there had been a slight increase in drug seizures and a decrease in the number of arrests.
- v. It was reported that ASB figures had increased by 9%.
- vi. The Chief Inspector commented that the headline issues for North Belfast remain the ongoing situation at Twadell, with some hate crime being reported.
- vii. A Member made reference to a recent incident regarding a robbery on York Road. Inspector Gavin Kirkpatrick commented that the PSNI had been trying to get photographs of the items stolen for circulation.
- viii. A Member commented that the crime mapping statistics available on the PSNI website, regarding assault/sexual assault are directly linked. The Member requested that the information is separated, as the information being provided is currently incorrect.
- ix. Sergeant Oli Connolly advised Members that the PSNI website is run nationally and as a result there had been a bit of a delay with the information on the website. However, he will flag the issue internally.
- x. Members discussed the possibility of the provision of an item for keeping valuables in to reduce theft. The Chief Inspector commented that personal security is a personal responsibility not that of the DPCSP.
- xi. A Member commented that the Partnership needed to be proactive rather than reactive and suggested that the Partnership to do a media campaign around home security.

- xii. The Chair suggested that the media campaign could be complimented with an advert or possibly something on the front cover of City Matters as the magazine would be distributed city wide.

5. **Policing Plan Consultation Update**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with an update regarding the Policing Plan Consultation.
- ii. The Safer City Coordinator commented that Belfast PCSP had been currently procuring a consultation process which will inform both the future action plans of Belfast and local DPCSPs.
- iii. The Safer City Coordinator informed Members that it had been proposed that the survey be used to support the current PSNI consultation and would be sent to community groups, schools, youth clubs and other contacts in North Belfast with responses being received in December 2013 which would be analysed by PSNI.
- iv. The Safer City Coordinator requested that Members support the consultation process and for Members to circulate the survey through their own community groups.
- v. Members requested for amendments to be made to the survey and to be circulated for review.
- vi. Members agreed to support the consultation process.

6. **Forthcoming policing events/issues**

- i. No issues were discussed

7. **Members Written Question and Responses**

- i. No written questions received.

8. **Date of next meeting**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Member that the date of the next meeting is 29 January 2014.