

**Minutes of the North Belfast District Policing and
Community Safety Partnership
Policing Committee
Wednesday, 09 October 2013, 5.00pm
1st Floor 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. Minutes of 11th September 2013 were agreed by members.
- ii. The Safer City Coordinator updated Members on the agreed actions from the previous North Belfast DPCSP Meeting. The Safer City Coordinator commented that it had been agreed by Members to support a PSNI funding application. Members were also advised that a letter had been sent to DoJ regarding care homes, but to date no response had been provided.
- iii. A Member asked when the letter was sent and if there were any requirements regarding the timeframe for response. The Project Officer commented that the letter had been sent on 19th September 2013.

- iv. Members requested for an update to be provided when a response had been received.

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 a marginal increase in overall crime rates in North Belfast.
- iii. Domestic burglary had remained the same as last year. The Chief Inspector commented that the detection rate for burglary was down by 2% and the reason for this was that PSNI officers had not been distracted by other policing duties.
- iv. The Chief Inspector advised Members that there had also been a decrease in the amount of arrests made in comparison to last year.
- v. The Chief Inspector advised Members that there had been a recent drug seizure worth a street value of £20,000.
- vi. It was reported that ASB figures had increased, and this had been mainly due to the ongoing situation at Twadell.
- vii. A Member commented that media outlets had been trying to make headway with the ongoing issues at Twadell and lower level crime.
- viii. The Chief Inspector commented that the overall crime statistics is no different when compared to this time last year, regardless of the ongoing situation at Twadell. The Chief Inspector further commented that the relationships and the level of support for the PSNI had been very evident.
- ix. A Member asked the Chief Inspector what the impact of officers being taken from other areas to police the Twadell situation had on levels of crime. The Chief Inspector commented that he was unsure of the impact the situation had on level of crime.
- x. A Member commented that following an attack on young people within the Ballysillan area, the police who were informed of the attack had a lack of local knowledge and were unable to pursue the attackers. The Member commented the importance of neighbourhood team being in the relevant area to assist with resolving local issues.
- xi. The Chief Inspector commented that he was aware of police operating in different jurisdictions and the impacts this had and how it had been problematic.
- xii. A Member commented that there had been huge distress among the greater Shankill Community due to a mainstream republican event scheduled for later this month. The Member asked if the PSNI had taken on board what had happened previously and if the PSNI could give assurances that the previous situation would not happen again.
- xiii. The Chief Inspector commented that every policing operation is planned on events, if weapons were produced before, PSNI would take this onboard but could not give assurances that similar activity would be avoided.
- xiv. A Member asked if an update would be available to determine the types of drugs that could be related to the number of deaths in the City. The Chief Inspector commented that this information had not yet been made available.

5. **Review of the previous month's policing issues**

- i. The Chair commented that there had been a more proactive discussion around policing issues.
- ii. The Chair advised Members that the Policing Report will be reformatted from next month and there would be the production of a Police Newsletter.
- iii. A Member commented that it had been brought to her attention that PSNI officers had spoken inappropriately to young people in the area. The Member commented that this type of behaviour was unacceptable from the PSNI.

6. **Forthcoming policing events/issues**

- i. The Chief Inspector highlighted the forth coming seasonal issue surrounding Halloween and fireworks.
- ii. The Chief Inspector also advised Members of the ongoing anti drug campaign - TORUS.
- iii. A Member congratulated the PSNI on the success of their campaign.

7. **Date of next meeting**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Member that the date of the next meeting is 18 November 2013.