

**Minutes of the North Belfast District Policing and
Community Safety Partnership
Private Meeting
Wednesday, 26 February 2014, 6.00pm
1st Floor HR Conference Room, Cecil Ward Building, Belfast**

Members Present	
Councillors	Independents
Councillor Patrick Convery (Chair)	Ms. Jennifer Cornell (Vice Chair)
Councillor Mary Ellen Campbell	Ms. Bronach Graham
Councillor JJ Magee	Mr. Winston Irvine
Councillor Guy Spence	Mr. Pat McLarnon
Councillor Naomi Thompson	Mr. Ian McLaughlin
Designated Organisations	
Inspector Gavin Kirkpatrick	Davy Harbinson, NIFRS
Inspector Roy Watton	Martin Morgan, HSCT
	Malachy McKinney, NIHE
	Patricia Muldoon, YJA
	Mark Nicolson, PBNI
	Alan Wilson, BELB
Staff Present	Apologies
Richard McLernon, Safer City Coordinator	
Saranne Gallagher, Partnership Support Officer	

1. Welcome/Apologies/ Declarations of Interest

- i. The Chair, Cllr Patrick Convery, welcomed Members to the Private Meeting of the District Policing and Community Safety Partnership. He further welcomed Police Ombudsman, Dr Michael Maguire, his colleagues, and Claire O'Prey from Belfast City Council to the DPCSP Meeting.
- ii. The Chair advised Members that a letter would be sent to both Chief Inspector Freeburn and Chief Inspector Campbell to thank them for their support and commitment given to the Partnership.
- iii. The Chair highlighted the declarations of interest policy. No declarations of interest were recorded.

2. Items for Information – Audit Paper

- i. The Safer City Coordinator updated Members on the Audit and Governance Report.
- ii. Claire O'Prey, Audit Governance & Risk Services Manager, Belfast City Council advised Members of the Council's audit requirements and commented that PCSP's are required to be compliant with the Letter of Officer from the Department of Justice and also their financial guidelines.

- iii. Claire informed Members that there had been an audit scheduled for 2014/15 which PSCP's would be eligible for.
- iv. The Chair thanked Claire for her attendance and update around audit and governance procedures.
- v. Members noted the report.

3. **Presentation from Police Ombudsman**

(Dr Michael Maguire, Police Ombudsman, Adrian McAlister, Chief Executive and Tim Gracey, Director of Information, attended in connection with this item).

- i. Dr Michael Maguire, Police Ombudsman provided Members with information on the role of his Office and the changes that had been brought about since his appointment in July, 2012.
- ii. Dr Maguire advised Members that significant changes had been made following the Criminal Justice Inspectorate Report findings in 2011. He advised Members that his Office had been under taking a review of their Corporate Plan and if Members had any comments to forward them on for inclusion.
- iii. Dr Maguire also informed Members that there had been an increase of 17.5% in complaints received this year.
- iv. The Chair asked the Police Ombudsman if the volume of low level complaints had overloaded the office and if there could be another way how low level complaints could be managed.
- v. Dr Maguire commented that the office could manage low level complaints more effectively and suggested that low levels complaints could be dealt with at a local level through engagement with PSNI.
- vi. A Member asked if the increased number of complaints could be reflected as people having more confidence in the Police Ombudsman Office.
- vii. Dr Maguire commented that greater confidence in the office could be the reason, and that groups are now beginning to speak to each other.
- viii. A Member asked if there had been any movement in the historical cases that the office had been currently dealing with.
- ix. Dr Maguire commented that there are currently 204 historical cases and that the office had requested additional resources from Department of Justice to manage these cases.
- x. A Member asked what process is undertaken when an outcome goes against a family and how the office ensures that the family knows how the decision had been made.

- xi. Dr Maguire commented that officers had spent time with families, discussed the reports and how the outcome of investigation had been reached. He commented that by doing this, it provided families with an opportunity to ask questions regarding a case.
- xii. A Member asked how the Police Ombudsman's Office manages historical cases and in particular if they are become aware if an individual is involved in an investigation how they manage this.
- xiii. Dr Maguire commented that it is not the role of his office to investigate specific cases, their role is to look at police investigations and to assess if the police failed.
- xiv. A Member asked how the situation could be rectified particularly when PSNI do not take responsibility and a complaint is then made to the Police Ombudsman.
- xv. Adrian McAlister, Chief Executive, commented that legislation states that the Police Ombudsman's Office manage all complaints regarding the PSNI. He further commented that unless legislation is changed, all complaints had to be managed by the Police Ombudsman Office.
- xvi. A Member suggested that PSNI officers may need reminded how to manage complaints.
- xvii. Members thanked Dr Maguire and his officers for his briefing and for their attendance at the DPCSP Meeting.
- xviii. A Member suggested that extra notice should have been given to Members regarding the attendance of the Police Ombudsman attendance at the DPCSP Meeting.
- xix. The Safer City Coordinator commented that attendance of the Police Ombudsman had been included in the agenda for the meeting but noted the request.

4. **Minutes of North Belfast DPCSP Policing Committee**

- i. The Minutes of the North Belfast Private Meeting held on 29^h January, of which copies were previously circulated, were taken as read and correct.

5. **Community Safety Updates**

- i. A Member provided an update on the Youth Conference. He further commented that an opportunity had been missed to consult with the young people regarding Section 75 and suggested that a joint event should be held to review this.
- ii. A Member thanked Inspector Kirkpatrick for his assistance regarding Brown Square.
- iii. The Chair congratulated Councillor Thompson on a successful Domestic Violence Seminar which was held on 24th February.
- iv. A Member requested for information to be forwarded regarding attendance at the scheduled Onus training events in March.

- v. A Member advised Members that there should be a link between the DPCSP and CYCSP and commented that there had been a need for statutory agencies to attend future meetings. She informed Members that the next meeting had been scheduled for 11 March, in the 174 Trust at 11.00am.
- vi. A Member advised the Partnership of the NIFRS Campaign against Car Crime. He informed Members of the date of the Campaign and welcomed Members to attend.
- vii. Inspector Watton updated Members on issues around York Road and advised Members that the number of racist attacks had increased to 81 compared to a total of 31 last year. He commented that the PSNI are keen to work with other key agencies to try and resolve this issue.
- viii. A Member commented that he had been approached by a local youth worker who had a creative programme that deals with hate crime and commented that the group require support. He advised Members that the group has forwarded written correspondence to the PSNI requesting support and will update Members on the outcome of the letter at the next DPCSP Meeting.
- ix. A Member commented that the North Belfast Steering Group hosted a meeting and are looking at placing outreach workers in the area to deal with young people who are involved in issues around hate crime.
- x. The Safer City Coordinator suggested that Members participate in a Hate Crime Planning session to see how the Partnership can address the issue.
- xi. Members agreed to the meeting.

6. **Chair Update on Work with Belfast PCSP**

- i. The Chair informed Members that the PCSP are currently conducting an online consultation survey and advised Members to complete the survey and also promote others to complete the survey.
- ii. The Chair advised Members that the working group 'Policing in Confidence' would be hosting a meeting on Thursday, 27th February.

7. **Priorities for Action and Timetabling**

- i. A Member requested that the ongoing issues around children's care homes and for an update from political parties to be completed by 31st March.

8. **Items for Information – Electoral Paper**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator updated Members on the forth coming electoral period.
- ii. He asked Members to note the recommendation to adopt Belfast City Councils' Electoral Protocol and for all DPCSP's meeting to be cancelled during Purdah.

- iii. A Member commented that they were strongly against this proposal and protocol and could not understand why the business of the Partnership could not continue.
- iv. Members noted the report.

9. **Items for action**

- i. The Safer City Coordinator requested that Members review the Draft Action Plan 2014/15 and to forward any comments for inclusion.
- ii. A Member commented that the Draft Action Plan 2014/15 had an anticipated overspend of £49,000 and asked for clarification.
- iii. The Safer City Coordinator commented this additional indicative amount had been included on the basis that the Partnership could attract match funding from external partners.
- iv. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that there had been 17 applications received for small grants. He advised Members that five projects had been recommended for funding. Members agreed to fund the applications proposed by the assessment panel.
- v. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that Onus Training will be held on the 12th March (Belfast Castle) and 26th March (Crumlin Road Jail), from 12.00pm-2.00pm.

10. **Next Meeting**

- i. Members noted date, time and venue of next DPCSP Meeting.
- ii. Members agreed to change the date of the Public Meeting to the Wednesday 26th March and agreed the theme of the meeting would be 'Vulnerable People'.