

Minutes of the East Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Policing Committee Meeting

East Belfast Network Centre, Templemore Avenue, Belfast
Monday, 21st October, 2013

Political Members

Councillor Adam Newton (Chair)
Alderman Gavin Robinson

Independent Members

Mr Mark Houston (Vice-Chair)
Mr Gareth Beacom
Mrs Lynda Gibson
Mrs Olwen Lyner
Mr Andrew Moorhead

Police Service of Northern Ireland Representatives

Chief Inspector Mark McEwan

Staff Present

Alison Allen, Safer City Manager
Glenn Thomas, Safer City Coordinator
Saranne Gallagher, Partnership Support Officer

Apologies

Councillor Niall O Donnghaile
Councillor Clare Hanna
Councillor Mervyn Jones

1. Welcome and Routine Matters

- i. The Chair welcomed Members to the meeting and noted apologies.

2. Declarations of Interest

- i. No declarations of interest were noted.

3. Minutes

- i. The minutes of the East Belfast DPCSP Policing Committee Meetings held on 28th August, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct.
- ii. The Area Commander requested that Action 1 to be postponed until January 2014.

4. Area Commanders Update

- i. The Area Commander commented that the overall crime rate up to now is 14.8%.
- ii. The Area Commander further commented that non domestic violent crime is down by 5% and burglary is also down by 4.9%
- iii. Criminal damage crime is at 19.4% and this includes the recording of all crime and also interface is also recorded.

- iv. The Area Commander commented that ASB had increased by 6.8% and this is a direct result of the protest events.
- v. The Area Commander also commented on the PSNI's drugs enforcement campaign, TORUS. To date there had been numerous drug seizures and that the campaign had been extended by another three weeks.
- vi. A Member queried how premises in Belfast are still able to sell legal highs and why the shops were not being searched.
- vii. The Area Commander commented that there are ongoing issues regarding the substance that is being used in the legal highs/tobacco and that the substance can be changed very quickly. However, the PSNI are aware of this and are doing everything possible to stop the selling of legal highs/tobacco.

5. Date of Next Meeting

- i. Members noted date of next meeting. Meeting dates for next year to be circulated to Members.