

Minutes of the East Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Policing Committee Meeting

East Belfast Network Centre, Templemore Avenue, Belfast
Tuesday, 28th January, 2014

Political Members	Independent Members
Councillor Adam Newton (Chair)	Mr Gareth Beacom
Alderman Mervyn Jones	Mrs Lynda Gibson
Councillor Niall O'Donnghaile	Mr Andrew Moorhead
Police Service of Northern Ireland Representatives	
Chief Inspector Mark McEwan	
Staff Present	Apologies
Glenn Thomas, Safer City Coordinator	Alderman Gavin Robinson
Saranne Gallagher, Partnership Support Officer	Councillor Clare Hanna
	Mr Mark Houston (Vice-Chair)
	Mrs Olwen Lyner

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. East Belfast DPCSP Minutes

- i. The minutes of the East Belfast DPCSP Policing Committee Meetings held on 21st October 2014, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct.

4. Area Commanders Update

- i. The Area Commander commented that an operation against organised crime in East Belfast had been put in place since October, 2013 and as a result of the operation there had been a seizure of £50,000, over 30 houses searched and a small quantity of Class A and B drugs found.
- ii. The Area Commander informed Members that in addition to the above, a firearm and a number of offensive weapons had also been seized.
- iii. The Area Commander also commented that it had been reassuring that there had not been the anticipated level or amount of drugs in circulation as perceived by the PSNI and public.
- iv. The Area Commander commented that there had been some issues in relation to hate crime within East Belfast.
- v. A Member commented that the Partnership should consider the theme of Hate Crime/Race Relations for the theme of the next Public Meeting.
- vi. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that linkage could be made with the East Belfast Ethnic Minorities Group in relation to the Public Meeting.

- vii. A Member suggested that an alternative theme for the Public Meeting – ‘Do you know where your children are’. However, Members agreed that the theme for the next Public Meeting to be ‘Race Relations’.
- viii. A Member commented that there had been heightened frustration particularly in the Mount Pottinger Road area with regard to anti social behaviour.
- ix. A Member commented that if a diversionary programme had not been put in place for young people to attend, the faith and confidence of the local residents would have been lost.
- x. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members of the hub project which had been suggested by the Area Commander. Members were advised that it would involve the sharing of information among statutory organisations to allow for greater enforcement and joint up work to be conducted when dealing with issues such as anti social behaviour.
- xi. The Area Commander commented that the hub would involve the collation of information by statutory organisations and then the information would be analysed to assist with the identification of early intervention programmes that the young people and/or families would benefit from.

5. 6 Month Report On Performance Against The Policing Plan

- i. The Area Commander provided Members with an update on the 6 month report on performance against the Policing Plan.
- ii. The Area Commander updated Members on the recently introduced City Centre ID Scan system and how the system will operate in Belfast.
- iii. A Member asked if the drug bin had been operational in Connswater. The Area Commander confirmed that the drug bin is operational.
- iv. A Member requested that information regarding quantities and types of drugs disposed of in the drug bins to be relayed to the Partnership.

6. Date of Next Meeting

- i. Date of Next Meeting to be confirmed.