

Minutes of the East Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Private Meeting

Skainos Building, Newtownards Road
Wednesday, 28th August, 2013

Political Members	Independent Members
Alderman Gavin Robinson (Acting Chair)	Mrs Lynda Gibson
Councillor Claire Hanna	Mr Gareth Beacom
Councillor Mervyn Jones	Mrs Olwen Lyner

Designated Organisations	
Yvonne Cowan, H&SCT	Dermot Magorrian, YJA
Karl Dorris, NIFRS	Alice Mills, NIHE
Jane Lappin, PBNI	

Staff Present	Apologies
Alison Allen, Safer City Manager	Councillor Adam Newton (Chair)
Phyllis Anderson, Safer City Coordinator	Mr Mark Houston (Vice-Chair)
Heather Horner, ASB Officer, East Belfast	Councillor Niall O Donnghaile
Katharine McCrum, Partnership Support Officer	Chief Inspector Mark McEwan

1. Welcome and Routine Matters

- i. The Chair welcomed Members to the meeting and noted the apologies provided. In the absence of the Chair, Members agreed that Alderman Robinson would take on this role.

2. Declarations of Interest

- i. No declarations of interest were recorded.

3. Minutes

- i. The minutes of the East Belfast DPCSP Private and Public Meetings held on 27th June, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct.

4. Youth Engagement Project Update

- i. The Safer City Manager provided Members with an update on the work of the Youth Engagement Project (YEP) and asked Members who had been involved in the project to provide input from their perspective.
- ii. A Member stated that Charter NI were working directly with 32 young people with a further 100 people indirectly involved. He added that there had been concerns regarding the information sharing protocol to begin with, however, they were now seeing this process working very well.
- iii. The Safer City Manager advised Members that the PCSP would be holding a Joint Briefing on 19th September with a speaker from Lambeth Council who managed a

similar project to YEP. She added that this would be an excellent opportunity to discuss the future options for the Project.

- iv. Members discussed the sustainability of such projects and the time taken for interventions to 'bed in'. The Safer City Manager stated that an interim evaluation had been carried out, that the final document would be due in December and that Members would continue to be updated on the progress of YEP.

5. 2013-2015 East Belfast Action Plan Update

- i. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with a colour coded update illustrating the progress of the East Belfast DPCSP Action Plan and requested that delegated authority be provided to officers in order to take forward projects costing no more than £1,000.
- ii. Members approved the proposal of granting delegated authority to officers and discussed the need for statutory partners to provide presentations to the Partnership to ascertain how they could best engage with the DPCSP and feed into the Action Plan.
- iii. Members agreed that this would be a useful conversation to have in private rather than at a Public Meeting.

6. Emergency Response Funding

- i. The Safer City Manager outlined 3 possible options which would allow the East Belfast DPCSP to respond swiftly in an emergency situation whilst ensuring good governance and compliance with Council financial regulations.
- ii. Members agreed that the term 'emergency' would be difficult to define, particularly for the Chair and so it was agreed that an initial conversation would be held with the Chair if the situation arose, after which a meeting would be convened to approve the delivery of funding with a quorum of 6 Members required.
- iii. Following discussion Members agreed that a combination of option 2 and 3 would offer the best service to the community and so the following actions were agreed:
 - Letter to be sent to groups operating in East Belfast to ascertain whether they would be in a position to respond on behalf of the East Belfast DPCSP in the event of urgent community need.
 - An application would be developed and sent to respondents which would include questions regarding the group's ability to make up front payments while awaiting DPCSP funds, their area of work, period of commitment and how quickly they could respond.
 - The resulting information could then be gathered into a matrix to be used when the need arises.
- ii. The Safer City Manager also asked Members to consider the level of funding assigned to this action at a future meeting.

7. PCSP Autumn Small Grants Approval

- i. Members were advised that 5 eligible Small Grants Applications had been received from groups in East Belfast, 2 of which had been recommended to receive funding by the Member Panel. Members were also advised that the Panel had requested that a 3rd application was rescored due to the variation in scores given by Community Safety staff, which resulted in the application scoring 59.
- ii. Following lengthy discussion regarding the variation in marks, the track record of groups, and the disparity between details in an application and the good work carried out, Members agreed to fund the application in question with appropriate conditions attached.
- iii. Members also agreed that capacity building with groups was important and that attendance at training events and DPCSP Public Meetings should be encouraged.

8. East Belfast DPCSP Draft Annual Report

- i. The Safer City Coordinator presented Members with the draft 2012/2013 Annual Report for the East Belfast DPCSP which was subsequently approved.

9. Public Event, 26th September 2013

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that the next Public Meeting of the East Belfast DPCSP would take place on Thursday, 26th September in Wandsworth Community Centre with the theme of Crime Prevention and Home Safety. Members were further advised that presentations would be provided by Crime Prevention Officers, the NI Fire and Rescue Service and information on Crime mapping would also be available.
- ii. Following a Member's request, it was agreed that the RECALL service, which provides befriending and home safety advice, would also be profiled at the event in order to encourage referrals in the Wandsworth area.

10. Emerging Issues

- i. The Health and Social Care Trust representative advised Members that the Drug and Alcohol Action Plan was nearing completion however the question of ownership and who would be the driving force behind it was still to be resolved.
- ii. The Safer City Coordinator advised that £10,500 had been allocated towards Drug and Alcohol initiatives within the East Belfast DPCSP Action Plan however the plan in question could be driven by another agency.
- iii. Members were advised that the overarching Belfast PCSP had begun to convene meetings with groups involved in the Drugs Support Sector however Members agreed that the East Belfast DPCSP also had a role to play. Members subsequently agreed to consider communication and information sharing issues with regards to drug and alcohol misuse including strategic direction, legislation, policing issues and community intelligence.

- iv. The Safer City Manager stated that discussion had taken place regarding a PCSP Member sitting on the Belfast Drug and Alcohol Coordination Team (BDACT) however a Member felt that it was important that the DPCSPs were represented.

11. Date of Next Meeting

- i. At the request of the Safer City Coordinator, Members agreed to hold the next Private Meeting of the East Belfast DPCSP on Monday, 21st October in the East Belfast Network Centre, Templemore Avenue.
- ii. It was agreed that this meeting would include an information sharing session from the Statutory Partners, as discussed earlier, as well as conversations regarding improved communication with the PSNI and the roles of each Member.
- iii. Members also agreed to hold a Private Meeting prior to the Public Event on Thursday, 26th September.