

Minutes of the East Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Private Meeting

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

Political Members

Councillor Adam Newton (Chair)
Alderman Gavin Robinson
Councillor Claire Hanna
Councillor Mervyn Jones

Independent Members

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

Designated Organisations

Chief Inspector Mark McEwan, PSNI
Yvonne Adair, YJA
Gary Ballantyne, NIHE
Yvonne Cowan, H&SCT

Jonny Currie, NIFRS
Dermot Magorrian, YJA
Pauline Smart, BELB

Staff Present

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

Apologies

Councillor Niall O Donnghaile
Karl Dorris, NIFRS
Jane Lappin, PBNI
Alice Mills, NIHE

1. Welcome

- i. The Chair welcomed Members to the meeting and informed Members that Glenn Thomas will now be the Officer who will be responsible for the management of the East Belfast DPCSP. The Chair also noted the apologies provided.

2. Declarations of Interest

- i. Two Members declared an interest in items on the agenda.

3. Minutes of East Belfast DPCSP Private and Public Meetings

- i. The minutes of the East Belfast DPCSP Private and Public Meetings held on 26th September were taken as read and agreed as correct.

4. Update on development of Smartphone App

- i. Mr. Jonny Currie, East Belfast Community Development Agency provided Members with an update in relation to the development and implementation of a Smartphone App.
- ii. Mr. Currie commented that the app will allow for youth services in East Belfast to provide information to all young people regarding the available provision within their local area. He explained that the objective of the app would be to collate a directory of youth services in East Belfast and that a workshop could be arranged to engage with young people regarding how the app could be developed and adapted. He also

suggested that the app could be further updated by the Youth Practitioner Forum and this could help to develop collaborative working relationship with the Forum.

- iii. Members welcomed the idea of the app, however a Member asked how the app could be used to get more engagement in programmes and also who would manage the information.
- iv. Mr. Currie explained that EBCDA would seek to facilitate a Sub Committee of the Youth Forum and they would be responsible for updating the app.
- v. The Chair welcomed the idea and commented that other DPCSPs could adapt the idea and implement within their local areas.

5. Presentations from Statutory Partners on Roles and Expectations for the Partnership

- i. Each designated Member provided an update in relation to their work area and how each Member could contribute to the work of the DPCSP.
- ii. Members agreed that all statutory organisations could adopt a collaborative working approach which would allow the DPCSP to be more effective.
- iii. The Area Commander commented that the agenda for the DPCSP meetings could be reflective of specific issues, for example, housing issues, and in doing this the meeting could be more effective and proactive.
- iv. A Member commented that due to the timing of meetings, it may be difficult to follow through on certain issues and this could prove a challenge for what the DPCSP could aim to do.
- v. A Member further commented that communities could be missing opportunities for sharing information with the DPCSP, as the community do not understand what the role of the DPCSP is.
- vi. The Area Commander commented that the DPSCP does not have an operational tier. The Area Commander commented that an operational tier could allow for the partnership to identify issues and to meet regularly focusing on the resolution of key issues. In doing so, the Area Commander commented that this could enable the partnership to tie everything together.
- vii. A Member suggested that PACT meetings could possibly be used as a platform to help the Partnership more forward to becoming more interactive with the community.
- viii. The Safer City Coordinator informed Members that the West DPCSP had invited attendees to sit on their partnership. Whilst they are involved in discussions, they have no voting rights. The Safer City Coordinator commented that East Belfast DPCSP might want to consider this as a mechanism for achieving additional input from community representatives.
- ix. The Area Commander suggested that an analysis could be conducted to identify the top five issues between each statutory organisation and then develop a way on how each issue could be resolved.

- x. A Member commented that the East DPCSP faced many challenges, particularly its functionality, its arrangements, the role of statutory organisations, environmental factors, operational and strategic issues. It was further commented that the DPSCP could facilitate a Planning Day to air any issues and that only by airing and articulating these issues will move the DPCSP forward.
- xi. A Member stated that East Belfast was experiencing problems mainly due to the environment surrounding East Belfast and as a result external factors could lead to additional strain on the Partnership.
- xii. A Member further commented that the reason for additional strain could be due to transition challenges.
- xiii. Members agreed that they could spend some time identifying what they want to achieve and how they could achieve what they want.
- xiv. Members proposed that the East Belfast DPCSP could establish an operational tier whereby statutory representatives could review, identify issues and develop a way of possible resolution. However, Members were unsure if any legislation could prevent this.
- xv. A Member commented that it could be useful to select an area, identify key issues that are affecting the area, identify how the issues can be resolved and report back to the Partnership. It was further commented by the Member that this could avoid working in isolation.
- xvi. The Area Commander agreed and commented that if designated Members could meet before DPCSP meetings to discuss issues and provided an update at meetings, it could allow for a more structured approach.
- xvii. The Safer City Coordinator commented that a planning exercise had been carried out with the West DPCSP. The exercise allowed for the identification of a number of projects that complimented the Action Plan. The projects were presented to Members to ratify.
- xviii. The Safer City Coordinator proposed that this could be completed for East Belfast DPCSP whereby financial input could be identified and linkage with statutory organisations. In doing this the Safer City Coordinator commented that this could allow the Partnership to move forward and implement delivery on the ground.
- xix. The Safer City Coordinator to work with the statutory and community organisations to identify possible projects.
- xx. Members agreed to a half day Planning Day to review the Action Plan and priorities for the DPCSP.

6. Action Plan/Spend Update

- i. The Safer City Coordinator commented that Members are aware of the Action Plan and the level of funding allocated in Year 1 and 2.
- ii. The Safer City Coordinator highlighted to Members that there are only four months left of Year 1 and an agreed mechanism of how to go forward is essential.
- iii. Members agreed for the Safer City Coordinator to develop a report on how funding was to be allocated, identify eligible projects and the associated outcomes.

7. Draft Annex to the Code of Practice on Arrangements for Belfast

- i. The Safer City Manager provided Members with an update on the Draft Annex Code of Practice for all (D)PCSPs.
- ii. The Safer City Manager commented that the functions and powers remain the same as any PCSP/DPCSP in Northern Ireland.
- iii. The Safer City Manager commented that the document is in draft format and if Members had any comments on the document, to forward to the Safer City Coordinator and that a full report will be made available at a future DPCSP meeting.

8. Publicity Leaflet

- i. The Safer City Coordinator presented Members with the draft leaflet regarding the role and functions of East Belfast DPCSP.
- ii. Two amendments regarding Members names were noted
- iii. Members agreed the format, cost and production of the leaflet.
- iv. Members were asked to review and forward any amendments to the Safer City Coordinator by Friday, 25th October.

9. Project Proposal - Ravencroft Womens Group

- i. The Chair requested for Members to declare any interests. Andy Moorhead and Mark Houston declared an interest in the project and left the meeting.
- ii. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with an overview of the proposal and commented that the proposal submitted could focus on developing an educational/recreational programme for the group.
- iii. The Safer City Coordinator commented that the topics that could be delivered could include drug and alcohol abuse, anti social behaviour, neighbourhood policing, hate crime and domestic violence.

- iv. The Safer City Coordinator stated that the project proposal complimented the East Belfast DPCSP Action Plan and that the Group had requested £2,000 to support this project.
- v. Members agreed to fund £2,000 towards the project.

10. Project Proposal – East Belfast Minority Support Network

- i. The Chair requested for Members to declare any interests. Andy Moorhead and Mark Houston declared an interest in the project and left the meeting.
- ii. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with an overview of the proposal and the level of funding requested.
- iii. The Safer City Coordinator reminded Members that there had been an allocation of funding against Hate Crime within the Action Plan.
- iv. A Member queried how the impact of projects could be monitored. The Safer City Coordinator explained that all projects completed evaluation forms and could be used to inform future projects
- v. Members agreed to fund £1,000 to support the implementation of the proposal.

11. Priority Youth Intervention Project

- i. The Safer City Coordinator updated Members on the application submitted to the Department of Justice regarding the 'preventing Unwanted August Bonfires'.
- ii. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with an overview of the project and detailed the aims of the project.
- iii. The Safer City Coordinator asked Members to confirm Short Strand as being the preferred site for the inclusion in the Preventing Unwanted August Bonfires Project.
- iv. A Member queried whether or not this project was already covered by Good Relations, and that there needs to be one collective approach not individual tiers.
- v. Members requested that the Safer City Coordinator to speak directly to Good Relations to ensure that there was no duplication.
- vi. The Safer City Coordinator stated that this would be reviewed and information forwarded to Members as requested.

12. Report on 'Intervention Response Fund'

- i. The Safer City Coordinator updated Members on the Emergency Response Fund.
- ii. Members were informed that letters had been circulated to all groups in East Belfast requesting them to express an interest for their organisation to be utilised in emergencies for diversionary programmes.
- iii. An update at the next DPCSP meeting will be provided to Members in relation to the responses received.

13. Update on Quotation Submission

- i. The Safer City Coordinator updated Members that only one application had been received from Charter NI and that a report will be provided at the next DPCSP meeting.
- ii. A Member queried why only one application form had been received.
- iii. A Member further commented that there may be a need for capacity building required to help local groups to be in a better position to apply for funding.
- iv. The Safer City Coordinator explained that the DPCSP could facilitate a workshop for low capacity groups to assist with the completion of funding applications.

14. Emerging Issues

- i. No emerging issues were discussed.

15. Date and Venue for next Public Meeting

- i. Members agreed to the next DPCSP Public Meeting, but requested that the meeting be held during the day to accommodate older people.
- ii. Safer City Coordinator to circulate new date, venue and time to Members.