

Minutes of the East Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Private Meeting

Park Avenue Hotel, Belfast
Friday 29th November, 2013

Political Members

Councillor Adam Newton (Chair)

Independent Members

Mr Mark Houston (Vice-Chair)

Mr Gareth Beacom

Mr Andrew Moorhead

Police Service of Northern Ireland Representatives

Chief Inspector Mark McEwan

Inspector Angus Mairs, PSNI

Designated Organisations

Yvonne Adair, YJA

Gary Ballantyne, NIHE

Yvonne Cowan, H&SCT

Jane Lappin, PBNI

Trevor McClurg, NIFRS

Pauline Smart, BELB

Staff Present

Glenn Thomas, Safer City Coordinator

Saranne Gallagher, Partnership Support Officer

Apologies

Alderman Gavin Robinson

Councillor Claire Hanna

Mrs Lynda Gibson

Alice Mills, NIHE

Karl Dorris, NIFRS

1. Welcome

- i. The Chair welcomed Members to the meeting and 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 Private Meeting held on 21st October, of which copies were previously circulated, were taken as read and correct.

4. East Belfast Response to Drugs and Alcohol (Presentation from East Belfast Community Development Agency)

- i. Representatives from East Belfast Community Development Association (EBCDA) presented to Members an update regarding the East Belfast Drug and Alcohol Action Plan.
- ii. Jonny Currie informed Members that there had been three themes within the Action Plan - Enforcement, Education and Awareness and Services Support. Jonny further informed Members of how East Belfast DPCSP could help support EBCDA in delivering the Action Plan.
- iii. Jonny commented how a collaborative working approach between EBCDA and East Belfast DPCSP could be developed and implemented whereby Members could

attend future meetings of the Action Plan Stakeholder Group and if possible provide funding to support relevant actions from the Plan.

- iv. A Member asked what linkage EBCDA had with local schools. Jonny commented that EBCDA had worked in partnership with three secondary to raise awareness against drugs and alcohol. He further commented that drugs and alcohol had been placed on the curriculum and EBCDA work with schools to ensure that the information provided had been fit for purpose.
- v. Members thanked representatives from EBCDA for attending the meeting, and for all the work they had been doing in East Belfast. Members also commented that they support the work of EBCDA and would like to commence a working partnership in the near future.
- vi. A Member requested an update regarding the usage of the drug bins that are located in East Belfast. The Safer City Coordinator commented that the information will be provided at the next DPCSP meeting.

5. Belfast PCSP Drugs Campaign

- i. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with an update on the Belfast PCSP Drugs Campaign.
- ii. The Safer City Coordinator informed Members that the Belfast PCSP had made an application for funding from Assets Recovery Community Scheme to launch a Northern Ireland wide drugs campaign to address the ongoing issues of drugs within local communities. The Safer City Coordinator informed Members that the application for funding had been unsuccessful.
- iii. The Safer City Coordinator informed Members that the Belfast PCSP could self fund the campaign at a lower level with the direct financial support from each of the DPCSP's.
- iv. The Safer City Coordinator provided Members with an overview of what resources involved and also the timeframe for the Campaign.
- v. The Safer City Coordinator suggested that the East Belfast DPCSP support the Campaign.
- vi. Members agreed to make a contribution of £5,000 towards the Campaign and for Andy Moorhead and Yvonne Cowan to represent East Belfast DPCSP on the Drugs Campaign Working Group.

6. Project Proposals

- i. The Safer City Coordinator presented to Members a report detailing 34 project proposals. All project proposals compliment the East Belfast DPCSP Action Plan and had a cross community focus.
- ii. The Safer City Coordinator requested that Members to support all project proposals. Members agreed on all project proposals.

7. Emerging Issues

- i. The Safer City Coordinator informed Members that the Belfast PCSP/North Belfast DPCSP had been in discussions with the Policing Board regarding the facilitation of a public disorder meeting.
- ii. The Safer City Coordinator informed Members that the Policing Board recommended a series of targeted consultations to take place rather than a public meeting on public disorder.
- iii. The Safer City Coordinator commented that the Belfast PCSP/North Belfast DPCSP had requested that two representatives from each DPCSP to attend a working group to discuss the best way forward regarding this issue.
- iv. Cllr Adam Newton and Mark Houston agreed to attend the working group on behalf of East Belfast DPCSP.
- v. The Area Commander updated Members on the recent drug searches and seizures.

8. Date and Venue for next Public Meeting

- i. Safer City Coordinator to circulate new date, venue and time to Members.