

**Minutes of the West Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership
Private Meeting**

**1st Floor Conference Room, Cecil Ward Building
Thursday, 5th June, 2014**

Political Members

Councillor Tim Attwood
Councillor Matt Garrett
Councillor Marie Hendron
Councillor Billy Hutchinson

Independent Members

Harry Connolly (Vice-Chair)
Breige Brownlee
Bernie Reilly
Ann-Marie Weir

Statutory Designated Organisations

Tommy Boyle, H&SCT
Carole Carville, PBNI
Davy Harbinson, NIFRS
Chief Superintendent Nigel Grimshaw, PSNI
Aideen McLaughlin, YJA

John McLaughlin, BELB
Angela McKeown, BELB
Chief Inspector Anthony McNally, PSNI
Sergeant Christopher Robinson, PSNI
Inspector Alan Swann, PSNI

Locally Designated Groups

Paula Kerr, CRJI

Staff Present

Alison Allen, Safer City Manager
Alan Wardle, Safer City Coordinator
Paul Cleary, Project Officer
Katharine McCrum, Partnership Support Officer

Apologies

Alderman Frank McCoubrey (Chair)
Sharon Beattie, NIHE
Michael O'Hara, Upper Falls CS Forum
Malachy Turley, 50+ Forum

1. Welcome and Routine Matters

- i. In the absence of the Chair, the Vice-Chair welcomed Members to the meeting and noted the apologies provided.
- ii. The Vice-Chair suggested that a letter of condolence be sent to the family of Alderman Hugh Smyth who had been a proactive Member of the West Belfast DPCSP.

2. Declarations of Interest

- i. The Vice-Chair asked Members to declare any material interests which they may have in relation to any item of business to be considered during the meeting.

3. Minutes

- i. The minutes of 25th March, copies of which had previously been circulated, were taken as read and agreed as correct.
- ii. The actions arising from the minutes were noted as being covered within the next agenda item.

4. West Belfast DPCSP Action Plan 2014/2015

- i. The Safer City Coordinator reminded Members that since the approval of the West Belfast DPCSP Action Plan 2014-2015 in March, the budgets for the Bonfire Project and Policing Committee Grants had been altered, and that this had previously been agreed by Members via email.
- ii. Members were advised that the quotation relating to the procurement of localised, community led to deal with youth engagement and improving relationships with the PSNI would most likely be issued within the next 10 days.
- iii. Chief Inspector McNally suggested that benchmarking should be considered before projects begin to allow for a robust evaluation to be carried out. The Safer City Coordinator agreed, adding that the officers were keen to demonstrate more clearly the impact that DPCSP funded initiatives were having in the community.
- iv. Members subsequently reapproved the contents of the Action Plan for 2014/2015.

5. PCSP City Wide Projects

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised that as part of their Action Plan, Members had agreed to support a number of city wide initiatives led by the Belfast PCSP. The financial commitment to these projects was £12,000.
- ii. Members discussed the projects and agreed that the impact of these projects in West Belfast was unclear. Members felt that the Communications and Consultation Strategies, Drugs Campaign and Christmas Safety Event could be more effective if delivered locally. Members noted that, while the Human Trafficking/Anti-Slavery project was worthwhile, the issue was not a West Belfast priority. It was agreed that funding should respond to the needs of the local community.
- iii. Members suggested that the money could be utilised within West Belfast to deliver the same aims or to support additional Small Grants. It was also suggested that the Statutory Designated Bodies could be asked to contribute to the overall PCSP budget if additional funds were required.
- iv. A Member added that if local events were to be organised, both sides of the community would need to be included which may make it necessary to hold two local events.
- v. The Safer City Manager advised Members that a draft Communications Strategy would soon be available and that further steering group meetings would then be held. She reminded Members that £1,000 of funding had been agreed by the West Belfast DPCSP in order to take forward recommendations resulting from this Strategy.
- vi. With regards to the Consultation Strategy, the Safer City Manager advised that by pooling resources, the Partnerships would benefit from economies of scale while recognising the necessity of local consultation.
- vii. Members were supplied with a draft evaluation report of the Citywide Drugs Campaign which detailed the increase in calls to Crimestoppers as a result of the campaign. The Safer City Manager advised Members that the PCSP had been successful in securing £50,000 from the Assets Recovery Community Scheme (ARCS) to deliver the campaign again between January and March 2015.

- viii. With regards to the Christmas Crime Prevention and Safety Event, the Safer City Manager agreed to investigate the costs associated with delivering this locally.
- ix. In closing, the Safer City Manager advised Members that without the match funding the initiatives would not be delivered within West Belfast but accepted that Members felt that the initiatives did not fit with the West Belfast DPCSP priorities.
- x. Chief Inspector McNally commended the work that had gone into producing the Action Plan and suggested that the Partnership should consider adding value to existing work. He agreed that economies of scale were important especially with regards to the drugs campaign as people do move around the city. He added that the policing figures coming out of Operation Torus supported the success of the Campaign. He also stated that, while there was little human trafficking reported in West Belfast, the area could benefit from awareness raising.
- xi. Aideen McLaughlin, Youth Justice Agency, also welcomed the success of the 'Drug Dealers Don't Care' Campaign as it is a major issue for young people. She added that the Christmas Safety Event was always a success however large audiences were also possible at local events such as the Older People's Forum in Anderstonstown.
- xii. Following further discussion about the local impact of city wide projects, the Safer City Manager agreed that a 'Community Impact' section should be added to each of the project plans.
- xiii. The Vice-Chair suggested that the £3,000 allocated to consultation would be best spent by Members carrying out local consultation themselves, as would £1,000 on a local Christmas Crime Prevention and Safety Event. He added that the impact of the Drugs Campaign had been demonstrated and that the Human Trafficking awareness may be useful for taxi drivers.
- xiv. It was agreed that these initiatives would be reconsidered and agreed at a future meeting.

6. West Belfast DPCSP Project Briefs

- i. The Safer City Coordinator presented Members with project briefs for each of the projects outlined within the West Belfast DPCSP Action Plan. He advised that further work was needed but asked for Members' approval of them as the way forward.
- ii. A Member underlined the need for the Transient Youth Project and advised Members that the groups involved were keen to make a presentation to the DPCSP.
- iii. In supporting the project a Member requested that the work be extended to the IDB site on the Springfield Road as there was no work taking place with the young people in this area.
- iv. Members discussed the need for the project and the isolation that youth workers were experiencing in the St Michaels Youth Club as well as the key role of volunteers.
- v. It was agreed that the pilot project should be evaluated and the best parts of the model rolled out to other areas of need. It was also agreed that existing models should be examined and that a partnership approach was needed.

- vi. Chief Inspector McNally advised that a new police team was now operating in Finaghy due to the Service First restructuring and he welcomed the suggestions put forward. He suggested that linking generations models should be considered as they have been seen to build understanding and tolerance. He also noted that the Upper Springfield Road area had become problematic and welcomed the project operating in that area.
- vii. Members resolved to establish a working group in order to develop a number of the projects presented for approval.

7. Belfast PCSP Drugs Campaign Update

- i. Having received the evaluation report of the Citywide Drugs Campaign 'Drug Dealers Don't Care' during a previous agenda item, Members agreed to review the report and discuss it at a future meeting.

8. Anti-Social Behaviour Update

- i. The Anti-Social Behaviour Officer for West Belfast advised Members that meetings had taken place between the Community Safety Unit and Parks Department and that as a result, Park Wardens had now been carrying out operations at peak times to discourage anti-social behaviour. He also advised that community surgeries would be set up in order to gather information.
- ii. With regards to Anti-Social Behaviour Forums, Members were advised that the interagency meetings continued to be held to review cases and progress them where the evidence was available. The Anti-Social Behaviour Officer advised that information discussed was also used to inform Safer Neighbourhood Officer operations.
- iii. In response to a query regarding the number of cases being dealt with by the Forum, Members were advised that cases had doubled to 30 in the previous 6 months.
- iv. The Safer City Manager assured Members that she understood the call for community involvement in the Forums and advised that in reviewing the process, information sharing protocols for low level anti-social behaviour, such as those used in the Youth Engagement Programme (YEP), would be considered.
- v. Members welcomed these discussions stating that the answers existed within the community who needed to see change and be involved in the process.

9. Date and Theme of Next Public Meeting

- i. Members reviewed the previous Public Meetings and Events that the West Belfast DPCSP had hosted, noting that they were most successful when held alongside existing events.
- ii. Members agreed to approach the organisers of the West Belfast Féile about the possibility of holding an event during the festival. Suggested topics for the event included effective youth interventions, racism and legal highs.

10. Emerging Issues

Funding

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that Small Grants information sessions were being held during early June at which all Council departments would be present to offer advice to applicants. Members were also advised that the application form for Policing Committee Grants was being finalised and would be available online as part of an open call for funding.
- ii. Members were advised that CRJI had submitted a request for funding and that this had been referred to the Small Grants Process. During the discussion of this item, Paula Kerr, CRJI, left the room in line with the declarations of interest policy.

Drug Misuse

- iii. With regards to the DVD produced by Mothers Against Drugs, Members were advised that small edits were being made to the DVD before its production and that the result had been a powerful and emotive work.

Deputation

- iv. Members agreed to hear a presentation from Nuala McCallen of the Simon Community at the next meeting of the DPCSP.

Youth Awards

- v. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that the PCSP Youth Awards would take place in Autumn 2014 and asked for nominations to sit on a working group in order to develop the event. Councillor Matt Garrett volunteered, and other Members were asked to contact the PCSP Office if they wished to take part.

11. Date of Next Meeting

- i. Members agreed to hold a Private Meeting during July, with dates to be circulated, and a Public Event during August, as agreed during Item 9 of the agenda.