

Minutes of the West Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Private Meeting

Conor Room, City Hall
Thursday, 24th July, 2014

Political Members

Alderman Frank McCoubrey (Chair)
Councillor Tim Attwood

Independent Members

Bernie Reilly
Ann-Marie Weir

Statutory Designated Organisations

Carole Carville, PBNI
Inspector Jamie Hughes, PSNI
Aideen McLaughlin, YJA

John McLaughlin, BELB
Angela McKeown, BELB
Inspector Mike White, PSNI

Staff Present

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

Apologies

Councillor Matt Garrett
Councillor Máire Hendon
Councillor Billy Hutchinson
Harry Connolly (Vice-Chair)
Chief Inspector Anthony McNally
Davy Harbinson, NIFRS
Sharon Beattie, NIHE
Paula Kerr, CRJI

1. Welcome and Routine Matters

- i. The Chair welcomed Members to the meeting and noted the apologies provided.
- ii. As the PSNI representatives were unable to stay for the duration of the meeting, the Chair asked for an update on policing over the summer period.
- iii. Members were advised that the summer parades had passed off relatively peacefully and that diversionary activities were in place over the weekend of 8th August. Inspector White asked for community support over the period in order to keep young people from gathering at bonfire sites.

2. Declarations of Interest

- i. The 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 9th June, 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 having been completed.

4. Simon Community Presentation

(Nuala McCallum, Simon Community Service Manager, attended in relation to this agenda item)

- i. Nuala McCallum provided Members with a presentation on the work of the Simon Community across Belfast, focusing on the case load and issues within West Belfast. Members were advised that 17 staff were working in West Belfast with a shared Service Manager.
- ii. In response to a query regarding the number of homeless rising over the summer months, Ms. McCallum advised that there were 183 beds in Belfast all of which were full. She added that the numbers were rising and that a large percentage of clients presented with complex needs. Members were also advised that the numbers of people aged between 17-26 was high, many of whom had issues with drugs, alcohol and suicide.
- iii. The Chair thanked Mc McCallum for her presentation and she retired from the meeting.

5. Update from the Belfast PCSP

- i. On behalf of the Chair, the Safer City Coordinator advised Members that a further paper on the previously deferred issue of PCSP contributions would be brought to the August meeting.
- ii. Members were further advised that the 2014 PCSP Youth Awards would be discussed during item 8 of the agenda.

6. Anti-social behaviour Update

- i. Paul Cleary, Anti-Social Behaviour Officer for West Belfast, provided Members with an update on the ASB Forum, City Cemetery and Falls Park, and the number of reports of ASB within West Belfast.
- ii. In response to a query regarding the ages of those dealt with by the Forum, the ASB Officer advised that they ranged from 12 years of age to those in their mid-20's.
- iii. A Member asked about the impact of the multi-agency Divis Intervention, and requested that another presentation on the work was provided to the DPCSP.
- iv. The ASB Officer advised that the intervention had made a huge impact and had led to improved communications with the local community which had been a positive step.

7. West Belfast DPCSP Action Plan 2014/2015

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that the Letter of Offer had been received from the Joint Committee on 18th July however this had not impacted the delivery of Small Grants or the development of the Project Plans for the year.
- ii. He reminded Members that due to reduced funding from the Joint Committee, the budget had been reduced to £121,630.
- iii. Members were advised that the 2nd round of PCSP Small Grants had now closed and a large number of applications meant that the West Belfast DPCSP were oversubscribed.

He advised that Officers would score the applications prior to a Members panel which would be held in late August to ratify the scores.

- iv. Members approved the progress to date.

8. PCSP Youth Awards 2014

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that the working group established to develop the PCSP Youth Awards had requested a contribution of £1,500 towards the event which would include a West Belfast DPCSP Award.
- ii. John McLaughlin, BELB, advised that the Education and Library Board felt that this was an important event and were also providing £1,500 of funding, as were the Youth Justice Agency. He advised that the usual PCSP budget for the event had been halved and as such match funding would be required.
- iii. Members agreed to allocate £1,500 from the West Belfast DPCSP budget towards the delivery of the PCSP Youth Awards 2014.

9. Localised Services Quotation Update

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that the Localised Services quotation had been put out with responses due by 31st July. He advised that Officers would score the returns along with representatives from the Central Grants Unit.
- ii. Members noted the progress of this work.

10. West Belfast Public Event, August 2014

- i. Members were advised that a slot had been secured within the West Belfast Féile schedule for the DPCSP to host a public event of the subject of Legal Highs on Wednesday, 6th August at 5.30pm in St Mary's University College.
- ii. Members were further advised that the DVD developed by Mothers Against Drugs, which was funded by the DPCSP in the previous year, would be showcased and a panel discussion held with various agencies and relevant groups represented. Members were asked to promote the event.
- iii. In response to a query regarding the legality of the footage, the Safer City Coordinator advised that changes had been made to the DVD to ensure that the current legal proceedings would not be undermined.

11. NIPB Consultation on Policing Plan Refresh

- i. The Members noted the request for responses to the Northern Ireland Policing Board's consultation on refreshing the 2015/2016 period of the 2014/2017 Policing Plan.

12. Letter of Support for Falls Community Council

- i. The Safer City Coordinator advised Members that Falls Community Council had written to the West Belfast DPCSP seeking a letter of support with regards to possible cuts to their Community Drugs Programme currently funded by the Belfast Trust.
- ii. Members agreed that the DPCSP should provide such a letter to the group.

13. Date and Theme of Next Public Meeting

- i. Members were advised that the next meetings of the West Belfast DPCSP would be held at 5.30pm on the following dates:
 - Thursday, 28th August, Private and Policing Committee Meeting
 - Monday, 29th September, Private Meeting
 - Wednesday, 29th October, Private and Policing Committee Meeting
 - Monday, 24th November, Private Meeting