

**Minutes –  
The Central Area Partnership Board  
29<sup>th</sup> October 2009  
Stockton Central Library, Stockton-on-Tees**

**Chair:**

**Paul Thomas** (Tilery Residents Association)

**Members:**

Jim Beall (Vice Chair), Cllr Mrs S Fletcher (SBC), Anne Howard (Neighbourhood Watch Group), Edna Chapman (St John's Living Well), Gareth Rees (Thorpe Thewles Residents Association), Edna Brown (Over 50's Assembly), David Headland (Salvation Army), Judith Turner (Stillington & Whitton), Stan Slater (Stockton Physically Handicapped Group), Alex Bain (Parkfield Residents Association),

\* Members are representing their nominating body.

**Advisors:**

Sarah Upex (SBC), James Hadman (SRCGA)

**Observers:**

Cllr Rix (SBC), David Whiting (Community Chaplain), Cllr Roberts (SBC), Cllr A Cains (SBC)

**Safer Stockton Partnership Panel**

Geoff Lee (Chair of the Safer Stockton Partnership), Marilyn Davies (Stockton Borough Council), Mike Batty (Stockton Borough Council), Dave Brunskill (Cleveland Police), Sarah Wilson (Cleveland Police), Claire Duston (Crown Prosecution Service), Mr Porteus (Probation Service), Emma Champley (DAAT Team)

**Apologies**

Marc Mason (SBC), Jill Anderson (SBC), Cllr Cockerill (SBC), Barbara Warren (Bishopsgarth Residents Association)

ITEM/ISSUE	ACTION
<p><b>1. Welcome and Apologies</b></p> <p>Geoff Lee Chaired the session as the chair of the Safer Stockton Partnership.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p><b>2. Declarations of Interest</b></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>	<p>No</p>

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<p><b>3. Face the People Session</b></p> <p>The Central Area Partnership Board were thanked for handing the meeting over to the Safer Stockton Partnership.</p> <p>Members were informed that the Face the People Sessions have been to the Area Partnership Boards. It is mandatory for these to take place once a year, however the Safer Stockton Partnership have conducted two per year. It provides the opportunity for the community to let the Safer Stockton Partnership how they feel about the work of the partnership and how well the partnership is performing.</p> <p>There was a discussion that levels of crime and disorder are significant in some localised areas of the borough and it can usually be anticipated where these are going to be. It was noted that in the last few years significant progress has been made in reducing crime and disorder.</p> <p>The Chair opened up the session for questions and discussions, as reflected below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was raised that magistrates and the judiciary service should attend these sessions It was noted that magistrates are not represented on the Safer Stockton Partnership, however they could attend meetings as they are open to the public. Hearing the views from the community at various arenas provides a line of communication.</li> <li>• Residents are feeding back that crime is not a major issue, it is more around low levels of anti social behaviour It was discussed that often things are not a crime, for example a group of young people meeting at the shops, however this often makes older people reluctant to go out at night, therefore the fear of crime is a big issue.</li> <li>• It is important to encourage those people who have received good service from the police to promote this as older people living on their own often receive lots of headlines of bad news from the TV and newspapers.</li> <li>• It was noted that who delivers the message is important. The media have a responsibility to report more sensibly about what is going on and the community have the right to know the truth about crime and disorder and provide a more balanced and responsible reporting.</li> </ul>	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was noted that the Safer Stockton Partnership have focussed on the fear of crime issue. It was noted that people do not always trust the figures and it is important who delivers the message to the community.</li> <li>• Key thing is to work in partnership, it is key for the community and makes a difference.</li> <li>• Dave Brunskill provided the meeting with some figures on anti social behaviour and the numbers of telephone calls received for the month of September 2009 for Stockton is 5,000. From this 5,000 there were 1,048 crime incident recorded, 1,637 were anti social behaviour incidents and 1,588 public safety and welfare incidents. This means that around 3,000 calls are about perception and fear of crime. It was noted that the British Crime Survey ‘cold call’ people every month (not always those people who had made a call) in 2003/04 13,500 were victims of crime. The latest figures for the last 12 months were 7,265 victims of crime, highlighting 46% reduction in crime. This mirrors the actual statistics for Cleveland Police and a reduction in crime of around 40%. It was noted that the only crime which has increased is the theft of peddle bikes. It was noted that the quality and standard of recording has improved over the last few years.</li> <li>• A discussion took place on Restorative Justice. Restorative Justice gives victims the chance to tell offenders the real impact of their crime, to get answers to their questions and to receive an apology. It gives the offenders the chance to understand the real impact of what they’ve done and to do something to repair the harm. Restorative Justice holds offenders to account for what they have done, personally and directly, and helps victims to get on with their lives.</li> <li>• It was noted that for the victims, having closure makes a big difference and hopefully will make a difference on the levels of re-offending.</li> <li>• It was noted that there are a number of national restorative justice pilots and from the real life case studies, this has had a positive impact on re-offending.</li> <li>• The Prison Reform Trust conducted a study in Northern Ireland on restorative justice, 70% went on to re-offend, however after mediation and restorative justice, this went down to 40%.</li> <li>• It was noted that Cleveland Police are trialling something similar this week were young people are being stopped doing anti social behaviour at the issue notice stage and the pilot takes them home and a positive effect is being seen.</li> </ul>	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was noted that Unite do restorative justice and anger management programmes and should be used more as a resource.</li> <li>• The panel were asked how the Safer Stockton Partnership is involved with educating and providing information on schemes in schools. The Roach programme is designed for young people in Years 6 and 7 and encourages young people to think for themselves and know when things are wrong and who they should contact. Cleveland Police also have a school liaison officer and schools invite them in which is very positive.</li> <li>• It was noted that regular complaints are received from the community regarding the amount of time something is reported to the amount of time that the problem is resolved. However it was noted that this is often due to different agencies being involved which can delay things.</li> <li>• It was noted that Government Office North East have opened up dialogue with the Safer Stockton Partnership and have offered funding for Intensive Local Engagement, which some of the funding could be used to keep people informed of what is going on in the area so that are aware why queries have not been dealt with straight away.</li> <li>• A query was raised regarding how drug and alcohol misuse is being dealt with in Stockton Town Centre. It was noted that in terms of drugs all treatment services have been recomissioned and are looking to provide outreach for other areas across the borough. Also go into schools to deliver a risk taking behaviour programme.</li> <li>• It was noted that there has been a decrease in heroin treatment for young people in Stockton, there is more young people needing treatment for alcohol and cannabis.</li> <li>• It was noted that it is important to not lose sight of the harm that alcohol can do.</li> <li>• Cleveland Police have a dedicated drugs unit and community intelligence is essential.</li> <li>• There is also a dedicated alcohol unit, which has recently met with the management team of a local nightclub and agreed to not serve alcohol in glass bottles.</li> </ul>	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was noted that the Think B4 U Drink is a national campaign which was born in Stockton and is a multi agency approach. It is done deliberately in a non serious way e.g. messages on beer mats and posters. The enforcement side of the operation work with Pub Watch.</li> <li>• It was raised that many alcohol problems stem from supermarkets selling extremely cheap alcohol. It was noted that Balance is a regional group working with supermarkets to look at pricing alcohol sensibly.</li> <li>• The alcohol arrest and referral scheme is a brief intervention (1 hour session) which highlights the impact alcohol is having on them and the community. This has been proven to work nationally as often the individual does not realise how much they are drinking.</li> <li>• It was raised that there is very little after care for alcoholics and there is no system in place to help them recover. It was noted that when drugs were creating a big problem across the country, the government nationally ringfenced money for drug treatment programmes, however this has not been the same for alcohol misuse. Alcohol related hospital admissions have doubled over the last 5 years. The new Alcohol Strategy for the Borough highlights evidence that more treatment is needed for alcohol.</li> <li>• It was raised that alcoholics on benefits often use their benefits to buy alcohol. Locally, there is a new DAAT coordinator in job centres and their role is to help those with drug problems access treatment and this needs to be introduced for alcohol.</li> <li>• The Crown Prosecution Service informed that they want to work more with the community and it might be useful for them to attend at least one area partnership board meeting per year.</li> <li>• It was noted that the PCT and the Police have poor attendance at the Central Area Partnership Board meeting.</li> </ul> <p>The panel were thanked for their time and for the useful and informative discussion.</p> <p><b>Comments and Decisions</b> Dave Brunskill to look who should attend the Central Area Board meetings in the future for Cleveland Police.</p>	<p>SU to invite the CPS to a future board meeting.</p> <p>Dave Brunskill to raise this and look who should attend the meetings in the future.</p>

DOI – Declaration of Interest

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<p><b>Does it need council/ Cabinet approval/ endorsement?</b> No</p> <p><b>Are any other boards affected?</b> No</p> <p><b>Any Declarations Of Interest?</b> None</p>	No
<p><b>7.Any Other Business</b> None</p>	No
<p><b>8.Date of Next Meeting</b></p> <p>The next meeting of the Central Area Partnership Board will be held on:</p> <p>Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2009, 10am, Stockton Business Centre</p> <p>Central Area Board members are invited to forward any proposals for agenda items for future meetings to Sarah Upex.</p>	No