

Safer Stockton Partnership

A meeting of Safer Stockton Partnership was held on Tuesday, 19th March, 2013.

Present: Geoff Lee (Chair - Tristar Homes), Miriam Robertson (YOS), Mike Batty, Caroline Wood, Cllr Jim Beall, Emma Champley, Kerry Anderson (SBC), Paul Green (Safeguarding Adults Committee), Richard Phelan (HMP Home House), Lynn Beeston (Cleveland Police), Lucia Saiger-Burns (Probation), Sarah Wilson (Office for the Police and Crime Commissioner), Rob Donaghy (Stockton Police), John Bentley (Safe in Tees Valley), James Hadman (Catalyst); Sam Gibbons (Junior Neighbourhood Watch), Christine Goodman (Victim Support).

Officers: Lisa Lyons, Steph Stephenson, Claire Sills (DNS); Tanya Harrison (LD).

Also in attendance: Geoff Laws (UK Border Agency)

Apologies: were submitted on behalf of Evaline Cunningham.

1 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 5th February 2013 were agreed as a correct record.

AGREED that the minutes be approved.

2 Matters Arising

(a) 16/17 year olds in hostels and B&Bs (item 2(a) refers)

(b) Restorative Justice training - identification of practitioners to take part (item 2(e) refers)

(a) There were currently 5 16 and 17 year olds placed in Bed and Breakfast accommodation and 3 requiring emergency placement.

(b) The training for Restorative Justice would be held in May.

3 Area Partnership Boards - reports back

There were no reports back.

4 Any other Business

None

5 Harassment of Asylum Seekers - discussion with Geoff Laws, UKBA and Duncan Wells, G4S

Geoff Laws was in attendance at the meeting to provide members with information on the UK Border Agency Asylum Support.

A service had been provided to asylum seekers in the region for 10 years. G4 had been awarded the contract to supply housing to asylum seekers and had subcontracted regionally to Jomast.

They had supported 580 families and individuals in the Stockton area. For those that return to their country a package of funding could be provided but many do not want to go back to their country. It was noted that it was easier to keep track of families but individuals would sometimes drop off the radar.

Discussion was held on responsibility for removing people who were denied permission to stay in the UK. It was stated that there was an appeal process and timescales to follow. There could also be difficulties in liaising with officials in other countries. There was a weekly joint operation with the Police and UK Border Agency.

Members discussed cases of anti social behaviour and how departments could work in partnership to address these issues. It was felt that an asylum support team would be useful. All appropriate providers needed to be included such as Tristar, Housing Options, Police, Enforcement, Diversity etc.

Members were informed that asylum seekers were initially placed in Wakefield, they would be given an information pack and have a discussion with an interpreter who would explain the assistance provided, contact numbers for Doctors, Police etc.

Members were informed that voluntary organisations also provided good support in Stockton.

AGREED that consideration be given for ways to improve communication links.

6 Recorded Crime & Disorder

Members were provided with the recorded crime and anti-social behaviour figures for April 2012-February 2013 compared to the same time period in 2011/12. The table below shows that total crime has reduced by 3.7%, equating to 398 fewer victims of crime.

Members were pleased with the figures . The figures for hate crime weren't available at the moment but it was anticipated that they would be available in the next quarter.

AGREED that the recorded crime and disorder figures be noted.

7 DAAT Q3 Performance

Members were provided with the DAAT quarterly performance figures.

Members were informed that there had been an increase in housing needs and it was expected that this may rise due to the changes in housing benefits.

AGREED that the DAAT Quarter 3 performance figures be noted.

8 Planned Reports 2013/14

Members were provided with the planned reports for the meetings to be held during 2013/14.

It was suggested that a report on the impact of welfare reform be included for the next meeting in May.

It was suggested that for the October meeting where Violent Crime was being

discussed that domestic violence be included within this.

It was also suggested that discussion be held on the impact of the budget cuts within departments to identify the impact this would have on services. There may also be questions on the Cleveland Police restructure. Members suggested that consideration be given to the projects that SSP has funded and the value. Mike Batty would draw a report together for a future meeting.

AGREED that the suggestions above be incorporated within the planned reports for 2013/14.

9 CCTV Code of Practice

On 7th February the Home Office issued a 21 page consultation document on a draft Code of Practice for Surveillance Cameras, requiring responses by 21st March 2013.

The Code of Practice would be promoted by a Surveillance Commissioner, but he or she would have no power of sanction. However, the Code of Practice would be a reference document for other legal proceedings.

A draft letter had been produced as the Partnerships response.

AGREED that the draft letter be approved as the Partnership's response.

10 PSA Recommendations

Members were provided with the Partnership Strategic Assessment 2012 recommendations for the forthcoming Strategic period.

AGREED that the recommendations be approved.

11 Policy on under 10s

At the Safer Stockton Partnership meeting on the 18th December 2012 Members discussed the development of a policy for dealing with children aged under 10 years old who were involved in anti-social behaviour . It was agreed that the policy would be amended taking into account the comments made by both colleagues from Children, Education and Social Care (CESC) and the District Commander for Stockton, Alastair Simpson.

Members were provided with a copy of Policy and discussion was held on ensuring that all relevant Partners were made fully aware of it.

AGREED that the Policy for under 10s be approved.

12 Impact of Public Sector Cuts update

Members held discussion on the value of this item due to capacity issues and the ability to provide quality information.

AGREED that the update be noted.

13 ANEC/NOMS

Work was currently being carried out to produce an interim report. Mike Batty will gather further information for the next meeting.

AGREED that the item be considered at the next meeting.

14 Hate Crime Assessment

Members discussed at the last meeting the Tees-wide Hate Crime Group. It was reported that Mick Walker set up the group and was leading on this piece of work across the Tees Valley, each local authority area was undertaking a mapping exercise on their approach to safeguarding vulnerable adults to identify how to respond to hate crime, highlighting any gaps in service, or best practice using recommendations from the Equality Human Rights Commission (EHRC) as a guide.

The report set out the current position for the monitoring of hate crime reports, how the hate crime meeting was tackling the issue and how Stockton fits in with the Equality Human Rights Commission (EHRC).

Members held discussion on the report and felt that there was more work to be done in this area.

AGREED that the current position be noted, and that once a more robust template was available, a further report be brought to the Partnership to identify further best practice or gaps in provision.

15 Shoplifting

From April 2012 to the end January 2013 there had been 1181 offences, this was an increase of 16% on the same time previous year and equates to 163 more crimes. This averages at 3.85 shoplifting offences a day or 118 crimes per month.

Shoplifting accounted for 24.4% of all acquisitive crime offences (4835 crimes), this again compares to 19.9% in April 2011-Jan2012. Shoplifting was also the only crime category within the acquisitive crime group that was increasing.

When compared with the three other local authorities Stockton was the only borough to see an increase; Hartlepool (reduction of 37 crimes/-5.7%), Middlesbrough (reduction of 145 crimes/-8.4%) and Redcar (reduction of 16 crimes/-2.2%).

However, Stockton District was also responsible for Teesside Retail Park, which attracted a wider criminal audience from all over Cleveland and travelling criminals. There had been 124 crimes during the researched period, when compared to 89 same period in 2011/12 (April-Jan). This was an increase of 39% for this one shopping location.

On-going proactive work and initiatives were in place to tackle shoplifting, and

Shoplifting was reviewed on daily basis by police analysts in Stockton, and was discussed at daily intelligence meetings. This included identifying any new locations of note and offenders. The Community Safety ASB Team also reviews any offenders who have been violent when detained or arrested in order to ascertain suitability for an ASBO/ CRASBO.

Shoplifting also formed part of the monthly acquisitive crime meetings, led by DCI Donaghy, Stockton Police.

A study was also underway by Durham University in relation to first time offenders. A copy of the questionnaire sent to those identified was provided for Members information.

Members held discussion on reasons for shoplifting and evidence supporting this. Members would be interested in seeing the results of the University study.

AGREED that the report be noted and that a further report be received in due course.

16 Public Health Update

Members were provided with an update on Public Health. Contracts and Structures were being reviewed. Consideration was being given to future partnership working with all health providers.

AGREED that the update be noted.

17 Transforming Rehabilitation

Members were provided with a copy of the response to the Consultation Paper 'Transforming Rehabilitation - A revolution in the way we manage offenders' submitted by the Safer Stockton Partnership on 22nd February 2013.

AGREED that the response be noted.

18 Reports Back

(a) Renaissance

(b) DAAT Groups

- Adults & Young Peoples Commissioning Group

- Reducing Reoffending and Harm Group

There were no reports back.

19 Date of next meeting - Tuesday 7 May 2013 at 9.30 a.m.

Please note change of venue for next meeting.