

# Safer Stockton Partnership

A meeting of Safer Stockton Partnership was held on Tuesday, 10 July, 2018.

**Present:** Cllr Steve Nelson (Chair), Cllr Jim Beall (Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health), Jamie McCann, Marc Stephenson, Craig Willows, Claire Sills (SBC – Community Services), Sarah Wilson (Office of the PCC), Marc Anderson (Cleveland Police), John Bentley (Safe in Teesside), Angela Connor (SBC – Adults and Health), Cllr Mick Stoker (CFA), Gary Knight, Neil Mitchell (SBC – Housing Services), Jo Wright (IOM Team), Sandra Clement (HMPPS), David Morton (SBC – Procurement), Miriam Sigsworth (Early Help YOT), Dave Willingham (Youth Direction).

**Officers:** Peter Bell (SBC – Democratic Services)

**Also in attendance:** None.

**Apologies:** Alastair Simpson, Steve Rose and Steve Hume.

## **1 Introductions / Apologies**

Introductions and apologies for absence were given.

## **2 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **3 Minutes**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 15 May 2018.

AGREED that the minutes be approved.

## **4 Matters Arising**

Partnership Strategic Assessment

Members had received a definitive response to the restricted crime figures.

The report on Stockton Borough Town Centres was being prepared for a future meeting.

## **5 Minutes of the Adult Safeguarding Board, Stockton-on-Tees Local Safeguarding Children Board and YOT Management Board**

Members were presented with the minutes of the Adult Safeguarding Board Management Board held on 22 February 2018, the minutes of the Stockton-on-Tees Local Safeguarding Children Board held on 24 May 2018 and the YOT Management Board held on 1 May 2018.

AGREED that the minutes be noted.

## **6 In Depth Discussion – Stockton Town Centre – Selective Licensing - Housing**

Members were presented with a report on Selective Licensing of Private Rented Accommodation.

Approval had been granted to implement an area based, targeted intervention approach which would provide a visible, neighbourhood management presence to some of the more vulnerable local communities, specifically those areas which tend to experience high levels of low value private rented accommodation (the central Stockton area and the Victoria area in Thornaby). As part of this proposal approval had been given to explore Selective Licensing as a tool to address low housing demand and tackle irresponsible landlords.

Formal consultation had commenced on the proposed implementation of a Selective Licensing designation. Selective Licensing would provide an additional 'tool' which would work alongside other existing activities undertaken by the Council to provide a period of 'intensive care' for areas of the Borough (specifically 'Central Stockton' and 'North Thornaby'). It was proposed that Selective Licensing was required within each of the two proposed locations on the basis that the areas were, or are likely to become areas of low housing demand, had high concentrations of private rented properties (well above the national average) and were experiencing high levels of deprivation.

The proposal was further underpinned by evidence that these areas also experience significant and persistent anti-social behaviour and levels of crime. The Council would charge a fee to cover the cost of operating a Selective Licensing scheme, this would be a ring-fenced account solely in connection with the scheme. As the Council sought to support responsible landlords, it was proposed to offer a £100 per property discount for landlords who were members of the Council's Voluntary Accreditation Scheme and/or those who were members of nationally recognised landlords associations.

Members noted that running in parallel with the 10-week selective licensing consultation, work would also be ongoing on the wider Targeted Action Area project which was aimed at supporting the broader central Stockton and Victoria area in Thornaby.

The fees were outlined to Members and it was noted that legally the Council was not allowed make any profits from the scheme. The response to the scheme had been mixed from landlords within the Borough. It was felt that the scheme would take time to "bed in" as it had done at Blackpool. Blackpool had benefitted greatly from a similar scheme.

Support for the scheme was given from Cleveland Police and there was hope that this would improve links that were already good between partners.

Members felt that the scheme was very positive and that residents, good landlords and businesses in the areas would benefit. In particular the scheme in Stockton Town Centre would help with the overall regeneration plan.

AGREED that:-

1. The report be noted.
2. The comments made from the partnership be noted.

## **7 Recorded Crime and Disorder - Restricted**

Members were presented with a report on recorded crime and disorder.

The report provided an overview on a variety of data sets regarding crime and disorder that had been recorded by Cleveland Police relating to the period between April 2018 and May 2018.

It was noted that the ASB figures had substantially reduced against a backdrop of diminishing resources for all agencies involved. The Partnership felt that this was because of the good partnership working with Cleveland Police, Enforcement Services, outreach work and other agencies.

Clarification was given by Cleveland Police regarding the increase in the domestic violence figures. It was noted that people were more likely to report a domestic violence incident than previously. Social media and malicious communication were now also recorded as crimes which had also lead to the rise.

The Partnership outlined that the communication from Cleveland Police had greatly improved about when crimes were happening, asking for information and feeding back on outcomes.

AGREED that the report be noted.

## **8 Community Safety Partnership Comparative Data - iQuanta**

Members were presented with a restricted report that provided an overview on crime comparisons against other similar CSPs utilising iQuanta.

The Partnership felt that clarification should be sort from the LJCB regarding reducing re-offending measures.

AGREED that the report be noted.

## **9 CSP Q4**

Members were presented with a report on the CSP Q4 figures. It was reported that the updated figures would be emailed to Members.

AGREED that the report be noted.

## **10 DAAT Q4**

Members were presented with a report on the DAAT Q4 figures.

AGREED that the report be noted.

## **11 Prevent / Counter Terrorism Update**

Members were presented with a report that provided an update on issues relating to Prevent both at a national level and within Stockton.

The Prevent Duty came into effect on the 1st July 2015; local authorities were

required to fulfil a range of responsibilities as articulated in the Prevent guidance. Broadly this work fell into the following categories:

- Partnership
- Risk Assessment
- Action Plan
- Staff Training
- Use of local authority resources
- Other agencies and organisations supporting children
- Out of school settings supporting children

Since 2013 the number of Counter Terrorism arrests had increased and a number of Islamic and Right Wing extremist plots had been foiled. The decision to list National Action as a proscribed organisation in December 2015 has also led to a number of arrests.

The Home Office had taken on board feedback and consultation in relation to information sharing and the use of the Counter Terrorism Local Profile (CTLP). A minimum standards document had been issued to LA Chief Executives, highlighting the key partners who needed to be consulted as a minimum as part of the local Counter Terrorism exchange. Previously the CTLP had been classified as a highly secure / sensitive document and as such this had led a difficulties in seeking meaningful engagement with some partners with a perception that the document and its subsequent recommendations and actions were owned by the Police. The importance of partnership contributions and collective responsibility in addressing issues has led to the Home Office reissuing guidance that the document should be written at the Official tier and as such this reduced the need for individuals to have Security Clearance prior to its dissemination.

The Government published its revised Contest Strategy on the 4th June 2018. In light of the events which took place last year, the revised strategy outlined new powers for Police and Security Services, tougher prison sentences and revised partnership arrangements at a local level. In summary new areas include:

- Publication of the new Counter Terrorism Bill which will ensure that the Police and CPS have the necessary powers to disrupt activity.
- Amend existing terror offences to account for the growth in online extremism
- Tougher sentencing framework
- Enable overseas terror offences to be prosecuted in the UK
- Pilot new multi-agency approaches to share information and data with a broader set of partners as well as support more local interventions within communities
- Increased safeguarding approach through Prevent
- Seek new and strengthened partnerships with the private sector

In 2017 the Government also announcement the setting up of a commission for Counter Extremism which will have responsibility for policy work and would provide support to Local Authorities and the voluntary and community sector. To facilitate this process, a newly created Home Office position of Lead Commissioner for Counter Extremism had been established. Sara Khan was

appointed to this role in February 2018.

Prevent operated in the 'non-criminal' space, and as such this had a number of implications for local authorities and partners. Therefore a key element of Prevent was the Channel programme which required local authorities and partners to provide support for people who were deemed vulnerable and at risk of being drawn into terrorism. The aim of Channel was to provide support at the earliest stage to reduce the risk of an individual committing an offence. The multi-agency approach adopted by Channel aimed to identify those at risk, assess the nature and extent of the risk and develop a plan for support. Essentially the process was similar to other safeguarding approaches which were carried out by local authorities and partners on a day to day basis.

To support the Channel process the government announced in 2016 that there would be changes, with the aim of reiterating the safeguarding aims of the process by transferring some elements from the police to local government. The rationale for this move was to position Prevent closer to communities and improve links with Safeguarding and other partnership activity. This approach, known as Operation Dovetail was piloted in 9 local authorities in 2017 (Oldham, Kirklees, Lancs (including Blackburn and Blackpool), Kent, Croydon, Haringey, Brighton, Swansea and Luton) an evaluation of the pilots was published in August 2017, and the Home Office is now proposing to introduce Dovetail across England and Wales in the form of a regional roll out of new arrangements.

Under the Dovetail proposal, the police would continue to be key partners and retain the counter-terrorism risk. They would still be responsible for checking that individuals assigned to Channel were not under investigation and that referrals were not being made maliciously. However, the remaining elements of Channel would be transferred to local authorities.

Local authorities chair Channel panels and under the new arrangements this would continue, however local authorities would have responsibility for gathering information about referred individuals, assessing individual's level of risk, commissioning support from intervention providers, reviewing progress and risk over time as well as providing the administrative support and updating information databases.

In terms of responsibility for making initial visits to the referred individual / family and seeking consent, under Dovetail this would be carried out by the individual / service deemed 'the most appropriate' and was likely to be a case worker or professional who was known and currently working with the family. Under the current arrangements this visit was carried out by Police and while in the main this had been effective, there was a commitment to further reduce the risk of individuals feeling criminalised and encourage improved engagement in the process.

The proposed model for Dovetail would work on a regional basis, with support being provided by Home Office funded Local Authority Channel Co-ordinators (LACC's) it was envisaged that these posts would co-ordinate processed and arrangements for a number of Channel panels across local authority boundaries. LACC's would be managed by Supervisors who would also be Home Office funded. The posts would be located in Regional Hubs within

selected local authorities servicing a number of panels across the region.

The Home Office conducted a number of regional feedback sessions on the proposals last autumn to seek the views of local authorities. Following consultation the Home Office had agreed to pilot the new arrangements on a regional basis in the North West with a view to implementing the learning across other areas in due course.

Over 1,000 members of staff over 49 sessions from Stockton Borough Council had received Prevent training. A number of awareness sessions had been carried out with management teams and service areas. In addition to this, training and awareness had also been rolled out to schools and there was a learning resource available online which had been utilised across a number of Local Authority areas nationally. General information in relation to Prevent was also available on the Stockton Borough Council website along with details on how to report any concerns.

While it was clear that there was a clear pathway in place and good awareness within the local authority and school settings there was a need to ensure that arrangements were reviewed within schools to ensure that this continued, particularly in relation to how future training and awareness needs would be resourced.

The Chair report that he had attended the first regional Prevent event. It was also attended by the Home Office and senior police officers.

AGREED that the report be noted.

**14 Reports Back**

There were no reports back.

**15 Date and time of next meeting: Tuesday, 11 September 2018**

AGREED that the date of the next meeting be noted.