

Safer Stockton Partnership

A meeting of Safer Stockton Partnership was held on Tuesday, 4 December, 2018.

Present: Cllr Steve Nelson (Chair), Steve Hume, Claire Sills (SBC – Children’s Services), Marc Stephenson, Craig Willows, (SBC – Community Services), Marc Anderson, (Cleveland Police), Marty Challener (Cleveland Fire Service), Gary Knight (SBC – Housing Services), Tanya Evans (SBC - YOT), Carolyn Chubb (Youth Direction), Darren Redgwell (DTV CRC), , Angela Corner (Thirteen Group), Steve Rose (Catalyst), Chris Dyer (HMP Holme House), Sarah Wilson (OPCC)

Officers: Nigel Hart (SBC – Democratic Services), Jemma Day (SBC Community Services)

Also in attendance: Aidan Wheller (IMLT Loan Shark Team) Simon Smart (Cleveland Divert)

Apologies: Cllr Jim Beall (Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health); John Bentley (Safe in Tees Valley), Jane Smith (SBC – Public Health), Miriam Sigsworth (Youth Offending Team Manager), Dave Willingham (SBC Childrens Services), Jamie McCann (SBC Director Community Services)

1 Introductions / Apologies

Introductions and apologies for absence were given.

2 Declarations of Interest

There were no interests declared.

4 Minutes

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 30th October 2018.

AGREED that the minutes be approved.

5 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

6 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 held on 5th September 2018, YOT Management Board held on 6th November 2018 and the restricted minutes of the Stockton-on-Tees Local Safeguarding Children Board held on 16th August 2018.

AGREED that the minutes be noted.

7 In Depth Discussion – Hate Crime

Members received an overview of hate reporting and crimes that had been recorded by Cleveland Police as having occurred within Stockton Borough. Details were also provided of the work being undertaken to raise awareness and recognise hate across Stockton, along with feedback from the Hate Crime Group.

Definitions were provided for both hate crime and hate incidents. It was noted that the latest annual statistics (end of March 2017) indicated a 29% rise nationally in the number of hate incidents and crimes recorded; with Stockton Borough itself experiencing a 16% increase. Within the last 12 months, Stockton had recorded 300 reports; 266 of which had been recorded as a crime. With the exception of Redcar & Cleveland, each of the Tees Valley Authorities had experienced an increase. A breakdown was provided of the various prejudicial strands of hate crime that made up the total 266 crimes recorded; e.g. those that were racial or transgender based, targeted towards disability or religion; or based on sexual orientation. The vast majority of hate crimes fell within the category of racial prejudice. The location of where an offence had occurred showed that they were predominantly in wards where crime and ASB was also high.

The Partnership noted the work being undertaken tackling, responding to and raising awareness of hate crime and welcomed future restorative work linking in more in future with Holme House Prison.

It was noted that there was a potential area to improve on school involvement in some of the awareness raising activities; which could perhaps be attributed to other competing curriculum activities. It was suggested that all Councillors on School Governing Bodies could encourage greater involvement by schools and noted that a Scrutiny Review on Hate Crime was currently underway within the Authority which itself may promote more awareness raising once complete. Taxi drivers were also encouraged to look out for and report any incidents of hate crime.

AGREED that:-

1. The discussion be noted.
2. The comments made from the Partnership be noted.

8 Recorded Crime and Disorder

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

The report provided an overview on recorded crime and anti-social behaviour incidents in the borough of Stockton for the time period April 2018 to the end of October 2018.

The bulk of the statistics utilised for this report had been obtained from Cleveland Police crime statistic database with the figures correct at the time of writing (06.11.18). The data that was extracted from live systems therefore remained the subject of on-going operational activity, audit and scrutiny, and may result in slight amendments to some of the statistical information in future

publications.

Crime details for Darlington, who form part of the Tees Valley area, were not available at the time of writing.

The report would be not provide any detailed analysis unless there were any significant changes to patterns or trends.

Members noted the 18.9% increase in publicly reported crimes compared to last year, with increases particularly experienced in violence against the person, stalking and harassment on the increase locally and nationally, and shoplifting being a continuing problem.

AGREED that the report be noted.

9 Community Safety Partnership Comparative Data – iQuanta - RESTRICTED

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

This report was a restricted document due to the statistical information only made available as an intelligence tool for partnerships until released by the Home Office.

AGREED that the report be noted.

10 Loan Sharks Presentation

Members received a presentation from Aidan Wheller, Northern Area Representative for the England Illegal Money Lending Team (IMLT) which was originally set up in 2004 and today was responsible for investigating and prosecuting illegal money lenders while supporting those who have borrowed money from a loan shark.

Each regional team is comprised of specialist investigators and Liaison Officers who have previously worked for the police, trading standards, and debt advice services. Together the investigators and Liaison Officers work to prosecute illegal money lenders while supporting people who owe money to a loan shark. Since 2004, the England IMLT had supported over 28,000 people and written off over £73,000,000 of debt.

It was estimated that there were 310,000 people in debt to illegal money lenders in the UK. The Illegal Money Lending Teams within the UK work to raise awareness of what illegal money is, as well as investigating and prosecuting loan sharks. The team responsible for this area were keen to work with local authorities and partners to promote their service and reduce the burden on the Police. Currently, it was believed that at least three loan sharks were active within the Borough based on known existing cases.

As an alternative to the use of loan sharks, the ILMT were keen to encourage people to open credit union accounts which offered an incentive of £25 per person paid for from money that has been retrieved from the proceeds of crime.

The ILMT had produced a number of different resources, including a schools resource pack, explaining the benefits of credit unions and warning against the use of loan sharks.

Thirteen, Catalyst, the PCC and Cleveland Police were all keen to be involved with further discussions with the ILMT and suggested they be invited to a future meeting of the Infinity Partnership in February 2019 where discussions can begin regarding a number of partners all working together to further the aims of the ILMT.

AGREED that the presentation be received and the ILMT be invited to be involved in further discussions with the Infinity Partnership in the New Year to consider how partner organisations can all work together to combat loan sharks.

11 Stalking & Harassment

The Partnership was provided with an overview of offences of Stalking & Harassment that had occurred in the Borough for the period April-October 2018.

Harassment refers to any behaviour that causes a victim alarm, distress or puts them in fear of violence; whilst stalking was when someone showed persistent and unwanted attention towards a victim.

There had been an increase in offences of violence committed within the Borough during this period to 3,951 offences compared to 2,521 for the same period last year. 1,443 of these offences were recorded within the stalking & harassment category with the number of these offences increasing both locally, regionally and nationally.

The Office of the PCC (OPCC) domestic abuse prevention programmes (DAPP's) work with perpetrators who have been involved in stalking current or ex partners; and the OPCC planned to review stalking cases quarterly. This would provide the opportunity to examine police response, provide feedback and learning points. Also included within the action plan is to work with all partners of Violence Against Women & Girls across Cleveland to mark VAWG events across the next year starting with the support of National Stalking Week (April 2019 TBC).

AGREED that the report be noted.

12 Update on IOM

AGREED that the item on IOM Update be deferred.

13 Date and time of next meeting: Tuesday, 12 February 2019

AGREED that the date of the next meeting be noted.