

Safer Stockton Partnership

A meeting of the Safer Stockton Partnership was held on Tuesday 25th April 2006.

Present: Geoff Lee (Chairman) (Tristar Homes); Councillor Suzanne Fletcher (Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council), Councillor Cherrett (Western Area Partnership Board), Norman Wright (Cleveland Police Authority), John Tough (Area Northern Board), David Brunskill (Stockton Police), Mike Batty, Anna McGrogan, Fiona Shayler, Alison Stephenson (Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council), Tony Hodgson (YOT), Nancy Robson (Victim Support), Lucia Saiger (Teesside Probation Service), Julian Koze (Durham University), Leanne Saunders, Kath Williams (Central Area Partnership Board), Ed Parrish (Cleveland Fire Authority), David Hill (Eastern Area Partnership Board, Sue Maddison (DAT).

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Leonard, Kirton, Coombs; John Bentley, Sue Cash, Ray Graham, Jane Humphreys, Rob Lowe, Mike Picknett, Toks Sangowawa.

129 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 14th March 2006 were agreed as a correct record.

130 Matters Arising

Police Structures – Impact on Police Authority

Members were provided with the notes from the Association of Police Authorities Neighbourhood Policing Policy Group on 8th March, which detailed the proposed governance arrangements following on from the review of the Crime and Disorder Act. Norman Wright provided a verbal update and stated that a Judicial Review had been requested. Stockton on Tees Borough Council had grave concerns about the review of police structures.

131 Contribution made by this Partnership to the Five Key Outcomes of ‘Every Child Matters’

This partnership had agreed to review its contribution to the Five Key Outcomes of ‘Every Child Matters’, the most obvious area of contribution being through the work of the Youth Offending Service, and significant contributions in the following areas:-

- a) The work of the ASB team;
- b) Our approach to domestic violence; and
- c) Some of the work around deliberate fires, especially the LIFE programme.

For discussion at this meeting members concentrated on the following areas under the five outcomes:-

BE HEALTHY

- YOS Health Worker
- YOS Substance Misuse Worker
- Domestic violence programme – to reduce damage to physical and mental well-being.

STAY SAFE

- Domestic violence – as above
- Work to reduce involvement in fire setting
- Youth provision via ‘PODS’

ENJOY AND ACHIEVE

- Contribution of ASB Team to Schools
- Domestic violence – prevention and alleviation of adverse impact on education.

MAKE A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION

(includes, by implication, reductions in ‘negative contributions’)

- work of YOS
- work of ASB Team
- LIFE programme

ACHIEVE ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

- ‘It’s Going to Work 2’ programme (pioneered by Stockton YOS, now Tees Valley wide)
- Crime reduction programmes which reduce adverse impact on household finances e.g. dwelling burglary

Discussion was held on the Children’s Trust Board and possibility of having a Carer on the panel, it was stated that the meeting was open to anyone to attend. It was

requested that further advertisement of these meetings take place to encourage residents from appropriate estates to attend.

Discussion was held on PODs and the need for them to be made available more often and the desirability of additional advertising of the PODs detailing when they would be available to young people in their area.

The ASB Team dedicate time to engage young people, generally helping those that are brought to the attention of the Team through anti social behaviour, often via calls from adults. It was suggested that consideration should be given to young people who are often themselves victims of crime.

Agencies should work together providing services to young people to fill gaps in service and to make sure there was no overlapping, as limited funds were available. A range of services should be available to young people providing them with areas to 'Hang out' without it becoming a problem.

Victim Support requested to be more involved and the Head of Services Integration stated that they could meet to discuss further.

AGREED that more joint working in this area take place.

132 Community Safety Plan 2005-08

The Anti Social Behaviour Analyst provided an update on performance against the Community Safety Plan for the fourth quarter January – March 2006, noting that there were 36 'greens', 3 'ambers' and 7 'reds'. Discussion was mainly held on the red target areas and how these areas were being addressed.

Discussion was held on mandatory drug tests of adults charged for trigger offences. More information and current figures would be brought back to a future meeting.

Reducing Violent Crime recorded by A&E by 15% was a target that was difficult to monitor and the JSU would be meeting with North Tees and Hartlepool Health Trust to discuss further.

AGREED that figures on mandatory drug testing be provided at a future meeting.

133 Stockton YOS Performance For Period January to March 2006

A report was provided on the performance of the Stockton Youth Offending Service during the period January to March 2006 in order to summarise performance against the 14 national performance measures. Work was currently taking place on Substance misuse, the figures were coming in nationally from the Government Office.

134 Draft Annual Report

Members were provided with a draft copy of the condensed version of the Annual Report that would appear in 'Stockton News', SSP Website and to provide a summary for the Renaissance Main Board. This was to assist with the Home Office comments following their review of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, to involve our citizens and stakeholders. Comments were requested from members of the Partnership.

135 Programme of In Depth Discussions for 2006/7

At the meeting of this Partnership on 14th March it was agreed that in depth discussions on suggested topic areas be held at alternate meetings of this partnership. It was suggested that these be as follows:-

13th June, 2006 – Work of the ASB Team

12th September, 2006 – Work of the Youth Offending Service

24th October, 2006 – Drugs Intervention Programme & Reducing Supply (as part of the Integration Group)

5th December, 2006 – Prolific and other Priority Offenders

13th March, 2007 - Neighbourhood Policing

AGREED that the above topics be discussed at the meetings indicated.

136 Single Non Emergency Number (SNEN) 101

A draft copy of the report to the Council's Corporate Management Team on the SNEN and the Home Office prospectus for Wave 2 of the implementation of the SNEN programme were provided to the Partnership for views.

137 Partnership Assessment and Delivery System

Government Office North East had circulated guidance on assessing the performance of partnerships, a number of points which were apparent from the document were as follows:-

- The focus is very much on 'top down' delivery of National Public Service Agreements 1, 2 and 4, between the Home Office and the Treasury, rather than on 'bottom up' locally identified priorities;

- After a period of oscillation between focus on the 'top 40' localities with the highest crime rates, and the so-called 'high crime quartile' of up to 94 localities, the Home Office has settled on the 'top 40', at least for the purpose of this guidance (on the last available listing, Stockton was listed as number 93); and
- The main thinking appears to be that the 'system' will be applied, regardless of local views, in the 'top 40' areas and in other areas where performance is seen to be slipping (in relation to the national priorities), but will be voluntary in other areas.

It was our recommendation that the issue be referred to the Scanning and Challenge Group for further consideration.

AGREED to request a report back from the Scanning and Challenge Group.

138 The PPO (Prolific and other Priority Offenders) Programme in Stockton

A letter from the Home Office, National Offender Management Service, and the Office for Criminal Justice reform of 21st March 2006 was detailed to Members reaffirming the Government's commitment to PPO schemes. It was noted that the Stockton Scheme had produced a 56% reduction of arrest frequency and 64% reduction of gravity of offending.

AGREED that Members discuss this matter further at their meeting on 5th December, 2006.

139 Specialist Domestic Violence Courts (SDVC)

On the 8th March, Her Majesty's Court Service (HMCS) wrote to all their area Directors and Justice's Clerks to invite applications to participate in the expanding SDVC Programme in the next financial year. Once expressions of interest had been submitted, the assessment would then need to be submitted by 12th May. Officials would then visit in June/July with an anticipated decision in September.

Some Partners were not aware of this request for interest and stated that there was a need for formal dialogue between partners.

AGREED that an update on this matter be provided at the next meeting and the Head of Community Protection investigate progressing dialogue between partners.

140 Communications

A list of press releases for the period 8th March to 6th April was provided for members information.

141 Recorded Crime and Disorder

Members were provided with an update on recorded crime and disorder for the financial year April 2005 to March 2006.

142 Reports Back

Children's Fund

Dawn Campbell had been appointed Chair for the Children's Fund Support Project. It was reported that the financial position of the fund had been slightly better than expected.

Safe in Tees Valley Management Committee

A meeting had been held on 24th April 2006 with reports from the Police Authority regarding funding for Community Support Officers. Funding from April 2007 would need to be bid for, the Council and its partners would need to make a decision on

how many Officers could be bid for as the Police Authority provided only a percentage of the funding.