

Safer Stockton Partnership

A meeting of the Safer Stockton Partnership was held on Tuesday 5th December 2006.

Present: Geoff Lee (Chairman) (Tristar Homes); Gary Gamesby (Stockton Police), Councillor Cherrett (Western Area Partnership Board), Councillor Coombs, Councillor Womphrey, Joanne Hodgkinson (Cleveland Police Authority), Councillor Beaumont, Councillor Mrs Fletcher, Brian Buckley, Sarah Connolly, Marilyn Davies, Mike Batty, Fiona Shayler (Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council), John Bentley (Safe in Tees Valley), Nancy Robson (Victim Support), Dave Robinson (Eastern Area Partnership Board), Sue Cash (North Tees Primary Care Trust), Jeff Evans, Lucia Saiger (Probation), Mike Picknett (Cleveland Fire Brigade).

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Superintendent Dave Brunskill, Ian Garrett, John Coxon, Sue Maddison, Darren Best, Councillor Kirton.

201 Street Lighting

Members were provided with an overview of the Street Lighting review undertaken by the Environment and Regeneration Select Committee. The Chairman of the Environment and Regeneration Select Committee provided detail on the process of the review. Brian Buckley gave information on the recommendations made by Members, in particular, the 'Dimming Trial'. This trial would take place over 12 months and involve dimming half of the lights to half consumption from midnight – 6 am on Darlington Back Lane, this would only involve 10 lighting columns. If this trial proved successful then a further trial would take place in a residential area.

The Dimming of Lights if successful could eventually be carried out on over 30,000 columns in Stockton on Tees.

Members were asked to give their views on the safety aspect of dimming the lights. Discussion was held on road accidents and the impact on crime. Members wished to know whether the timing of the dimming of the light could be varied in different areas/streets, it was stated that this was a possibility.

It was suggested that analysis of the trial take place and that the savings be identified. It was suggested that second phase of the trial be carried out on 2 similar residential areas on a larger scale and that crime and disorder be monitored before the trial takes place and then during.

Discussion was held on ensuring that residents were aware of the situation if it was affecting the area where they reside and that the police be informed of the detail.

AGREED that the comments be noted.

202 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 24th October, 2006 were agreed as a correct record subject to Councillor Coombs being added to the attendance

203 Matters Arising

Criminal Damage Reporting

Further to minute 187, Councillor Womphrey wished for it to be recorded that he was displeased that there was no council policy for criminal damage reporting and that he would like this matter looking into further by the Council.

Consultation Strategy 3 2007

Members were updated on the partners that had currently committed to the funding required. Responses were still required from the Fire Authority. The PCT gave a verbal commitment at the meeting. The Probation Service had offered financial commitment for this year but had stated that this would be the final year that they would be able to contribute due to changes to their funding regime made by National Government.

Stockton Domestic Violence Executive Group – Terms of Reference

Members were informed that Councillor Mrs E Johnson and Councillor Mrs A Cains had been nominated as representatives on the Stockton Domestic Violence Executive Group.

Cleveland Criminal Justice Board – Relationship with Community Safety Partnerships

Mike Batty and Marilyn Davies would be representing the partnership on the Cleveland Criminal Justice Board Domestic Violence Group.

PCSO Funding

Members were informed that funding had been cut nationally for PCSOs. It was explained that the Police Authority would be lobbying Mr McNulty, the Policing Minister. Members noted that the Hartlepool Scheme for Neighbourhood Policing had been successful and that Dr Jim Grieve from Hull University had undertaken an analysis of the scheme with a successful outcome.

Mike Batty stated that funding from 2009 was still unclear, but was 75% for 2007 and 50% for 2008. This meant in broad terms that 60 PCSOs could be funded for 2 years or 30 PCSOs for 3 years, on the basis of the level of local contributions previously discussed, assuming that the Police Authority itself covered half of the funding gap.

Children's Fund

Members were informed that the Children's Fund would be going ahead with the Promotional CD.

University of Durham

Members were advised that Mr R Lowe had retired and that the University would be withdrawing from the Membership of this Partnership. Members wished to thank Mr Lowe for his commitment to this partnership and the Chairman would send a letter.

204 Notes of the Scanning and Challenge Group

The Minutes of the Scanning and Challenge Group held on 19th October, 2006 were endorsed.

205 Youth Offending Service Management Board

The Minutes of the Youth Offending Service Management Board held on 14th November 2006 were noted.

206 Any Other Business

Suicides

Sue Cash, PCT, raised the issue of Suicides particularly in relation to people jumping from bridges/cliffs etc. and drowning and preventative measures that could possibly be taken. She asked that this matter be looked into further by the Partnership at a future meeting. Cleveland Police and the Fire Authority would put some figures together as a basis for future discussion.

207 Stockton Prolific and other Priority Offender Scheme

Stockton PPO Scheme became operational on the 6th September 2004 in line with the Government PPO Strategy, which replaced the Persistent Offender Scheme. The national aim of the scheme was to target the 5 000 most prolific offenders, representing 0.5% of the entire active offender population, who are estimated to commit 10% of all crimes.

There were three strands to the strategy:-

- Prevent and Deter (stopping young people from becoming Prolific Offenders), which was managed by the YOS;
- Catch and Convict (catching and convicting those who were already Prolific Offenders);
- Rehabilitate and Resettle (offering real alternatives to those serving sentences – whether custodial or in the community – who were otherwise likely to resume their career as Prolific Offenders.

The latter two strands were interwoven and offenders can (and frequently do) move between the two.

Discussion was held on the scheme and it was stated that Peter Dawson, GONE, had recently undertaken an evaluation of the scheme and there had been a 15% reduction nationally of offenders on the PPO scheme re-offending (ie. Being convicted following reoffending).

There were currently 36 persons on the Stockton PPO scheme, the majority being male between the ages of 22 – 34. Amongst this target group arrest rates had been reduced by 58% and gravity of offences for which arrests were made by 66%. The

scheme was a long term intervention of services working together. A holistic approach was taken for Offenders on the scheme and assistance was provided to support their families during the process if required.

AGREED that the update be noted.

208 Business Plan for Retail Crime Initiative

Details were provided on the Stockton Retail Crime Prevention, the mission for which, was as follows:-

“Stockton Retail Crime Prevention Initiative aims to reduce the incidence and value of shop theft through networking, communication and information sharing between members, the police and other similar Initiatives, and by implementing measures which successfully deter both casual and career shoplifters from members’ premises in the retail centre.”

The income was to be generated through Membership fees as well as sponsorship and donations being sought. A flat rate of £95 per annum had been the proposed amount per business, regardless of the size. Members held discussion on the costs and suggested that the amount be pro-rata rather than a specific amount per head. It was also suggested that the administrative fees could be split between the larger national stores.

It was stated that the Monitoring Group should give consideration to this matter before coming back to this Partnership for further consideration.

AGREED that the matter be given further consideration by the Monitoring Group and a further report be presented to this Partnership.

209 Partnership Improvement Plan

Following on from use of the Home Office Partnership Assessment & Delivery System on 12 September (minute 173 refers) and 24 October (minute 191 refers) Members were provided with the draft Partnership Improvement Plan covering the four indicators agreed on 24 October.

AGREED that the Plan be approved and be monitored at 6 monthly intervals, at meetings in March 2007, September 2007 and March 2008.

210 Commissioning Framework for the Safer Stockton Partnership

The background to this piece of work was the self-assessment, using the P.A.D.S tool, carried out by the Partnership in September 2006, which identified the absence of a commissioning framework as a gap in need of filling.

Commissioning was not a major activity for the Safer Stockton Partnership. We currently invest about £400K per year of funding which comes to us 'as of right' (BCU Fund, via Police, and Building Safer Communities (BSC) Fund, via Council, plus a further £700K as our 'share' of the NRF allocated via Stockton Renaissance). The BCU and BSC funds have for several years been jointly planned in the form of our Partnership Investment Plan (PIP) and members have informed and agreed the content of our NRF bid through discussion at Partnership meetings in the lead up to submission.

Analysis of these funds streams shows that only a small proportion of the funding was 'commissioned': almost £78K of the PIP money was invested in Domestic Violence Services via North Tees Women's Aid (NTWA) and on tenancy support for people with substance misuse problems, via Stonham Housing Association, and about £71K of the NRF is spent with NTWA and the Corner House Youth Project (CHYP), so about 10% each of PIP and NRF was 'bought in' via the voluntary sector.

The PIP approach was sound, and should be retained. Proposals were discussed at full Partnership and through the Scanning and Challenge Group and endorsed by partners at subsequent full meetings.

Members agreed that they wished to have a simple and streamlined commissioning framework with the ability to use services that they have received excellent service from in the past.

AGREED that the Commissioning Framework be endorsed.

211 RESPECT

Members were informed that an update was to be provided later today together with a regional update being provided tomorrow. The RESPECT agenda was undergoing many changes and a further update would be provided to the next meeting.

AGREED that an update be provided to the next meeting.

212 Secondary Deliberate Fires

Members were provided with a copy of the Cleveland Fire Brigade Protecting Local Communities, report to CDRP on F3 Fires April – October 2006 and a report from the Multi Agency Arson Reduction Team on the increases in secondary fires during the same period as requested by the Partnership at their last meeting.

The Team's Agenda was to focus heavily on the following four strands:-

Removing abandoned and end of life vehicles

Securing unoccupied/at risk properties

Removing refuse from hotspot areas

Education and the identification of fire setters

The Team meets on a six weekly basis to review current statistics and deliberate fire Setting problems identified by each of the three Station Managers.

Members discussed hot spot areas and discussed the significant impact from the weather this year. The Anti Social Behaviour Team had an Officer looking at fire setting and had detailed particular problems in Streets where housing was unoccupied (in some streets up to 60% unoccupied), anti social behaviour towards Fire Fighters from youths such as both physical and verbal abuse, equipment being damaged or stolen etc.

It was felt that resources need to be put into educating children especially the under 10's and then trying to change the mind set of those over the age of 10 who had possibly already committed arson offences. Fire Fighters were being introduced to local schools to try and build relations, this had been done in other authorities and proved successful.

Councillors requested a brief summary of the report and figures to be sent to All Members of the Council.

AGREED that:-

1. The comments be noted and the future work continue in this area.
2. A précis of this report with figures be sent to all Members of the Council.

213 Working with Alcohol Misusing Offenders

Members were provided with the National Probation Service – Teesside Action Plan. The aims of the NOMS strategy was to reduce re-offending and alcohol-related harm and protect the public meeting the following objectives:-

- To identify alcohol misuse and offending needs at an early stage of contact with the NPS and refer offenders to appropriate interventions.
- To ensure that staff were fully competent to deliver brief advice and support to alcohol misusing offenders under supervision
- To improve the advice and information provided to offenders about help that was available locally
- To develop and promote the delivery of evidence-based interventions to meet the needs of the full range of alcohol-misusing offenders
- To increase the consistency of what was delivered across the NPS based upon evidence of best practice.

Discussion was held on the systems of screening and assessment and it was clarified that the main area of alcohol re offending in Stockton is via the Community Safety Team, rather than the DAT.

AGREED that the information provided be noted.

214 MORI 2006

As previously reported to the Partnership, Stockton Council had again carried out its two yearly local opinion survey, via MORI, which was first undertaken in 1998. This was a face-to-face survey, carried out by trained staff, and based on a properly

stratified sample which gives a typical cross-section of the population of the Borough (aged 16 and over) by geography, gender, ethnicity, age, income group etc. and, as such, has high levels of validity, particularly when compared with the results of postal surveys.

Members were provided with a 7 page edited version of the report and were provided with extracts from the topline results showing the responses to questions of greatest relevance to the work of this Partnership (other questions covered, for example, satisfaction with a broad range of Council Services, issues of lifestyle and health, and of access to technology).

Where the same questions have been asked in previous years, comparative results are presented. Key findings included:

- (a) a new high level of overall satisfaction with the Council (Q2)
- (b) continuing emphasis on crime/ASB as a source of dissatisfaction, especially “unruly youths/children”, but reduced emphasis on “poor policing” (Q3b)
- (c) community safety issues dominating the list of most important improvements needed (Q4)
- (d) a record high level of net satisfaction with CCTV (Q58)
- (e) major increases in net satisfaction with Police (Q59) and Fire Service (Q63)

AGREED that the survey results showed good satisfaction levels which the Partnership was pleased with.

215 Evaluation of THINK B4U DRINK Campaign - September 2006

The THINK B4U DRINK Campaign was launched at the end of October 2005. North Tees PCT along with its partners in Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council Community Safety Team, Cleveland Police, Road Safety Team, Trading Standards and Licensing Unit, developed the campaign to help raise awareness around alcohol related harm. Some of the issues tackled by the campaign include: educating people about the Unit system: advising on drinking limits for men and women: alcohol related violence: road safety and how to find a safe cab home.

The key messages of the campaign were: drink sensibly: know what your limits are: try to keep within them and keep yourself safe.

The THINK B4U DRINK campaign had been embraced by the licensing trade, both in bars and shops, where they had openly displayed material and supported it.

Materials used in the campaign consisted of posters, leaflets, bar runners, beer mats, washroom posters, protective bottle caps and get-home safely taxi cards. A short DVD film was also produced, which showed the materials with the campaign messages mixed with images of violence from the CCTV cameras around Stockton. The film was dedicated to Mark Burns, with kind permission from his family, who died two years ago after being struck in the face as he left a bar in Stockton, hitting his head on the pavement as he fell. A selection of the materials were displayed for Members to view.

An evaluation of the campaign had been undertaken by visiting 25 venues where the campaign should have been displayed and discussing with Licensees and bar staff whether they felt the campaign had had any impact on their customers. A précis of the evaluation was provided for members information together with a list of learning outcomes.

AGREED that the THINK B4U DRINK campaign be supported and the evaluation be noted.

216 Further CCJB Feedback

No further feedback from Cleveland Criminal Justice Board has been made available.

217 Bonfire Night Period

The bonfire period and associated mischief night period had spread this year from approximately October 24th to November 12th and has become a license for anti social behaviour, criminal damage and violence to emergency response personnel.

This period has fostered a fear of crime and violence and directly affected the behaviour of our more vulnerable residents. The perception appears to be that people have a marked reluctance to answer the door or to leave their property at all

during this period. In addition to this is the continuing nuisance and criminal damage caused by the prolonged use of fireworks.

Local legislation, education, information and operational tactics can all play a part in helping to make this period safer. It is hoped that in the forthcoming year the Partnership can work to try to eradicate this social problem from our communities by whatever means necessary.

The Fire Brigade requested that members of the Partnership begin discussions on an action plan to tackle all the issues surrounding this period of the year when ASB, Fire Setting and Criminal Damage are far too prevalent.

AGREED that this matter be investigated and discussed further at the next meeting.

218 Communications Update

Members were provided with a list of press releases for the period 11th October to 24th November 2006.

219 Recorded Crime and Disorder

Members were provided with the recorded crime figures for April – October 2006 compared with April – October 2005.

220 Dates for 2007/08

The Dates for meetings of the Partnership for 2007/08 were submitted for Members determination.

AGREED that the SSP dates for 2007/08 be approved.

221 Home Office Crime and Disorder Act Review

A progress report on this issue was provided.