

## Safer Stockton Partnership

A meeting of the Safer Stockton Partnership was held on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2007.

**Present:** Superintendent David Brunskill (Chairman), Councillor Coombs, Darren Best (Cleveland Police Authority), Councillor Cherrett (Western Area Partnership) Cllr Mrs Fletcher, Marilyn Davies, Mike Batty, Jane Humphreys, Michael Henderson, Sue Maddison (Stockton Borough Council), Georgina Bailes (GONE), Dave Ibinson (Eastern Area Partnership), John Bentley (Safe in Tees Valley), Sue Cash (North Tees PCT), Mike Picknet, L. Craven (Cleveland Fire Brigade).

**Apologies for** absence were submitted on behalf Geoff Lee (Chairman), Councillor Kirton (Cleveland Fire Brigade)

### 222 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> October, 2006 were agreed as a correct record subject to the following amendment to minute number 203, under the heading PCSO Funding, the first paragraph to read:-

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.

### 223 Matters Arising

#### PCSO Funding

Members noted that the situation around PCSO Funding was unclear. The Partnership would have to wait until a decision had been taken at National level before the situation was resolved. Funding was still uncertain.

No common view on this issue within Tees Valley Authorities.

It was hoped that the situation would be clearer when the Partnership next met.

#### Suicides

This issue had been raised at the Partnership's previous meeting and related mainly to suicides involving people jumping from bridges and whether physical preventative measures could be identified to reduce incidents.

The Fire Officer referred specifically to the Victoria Bridge and explained that the use of netting as a prevention was not an option because of aesthetic issues. It was explained that it was difficult to identify any physical barriers that would be acceptable or affective.

It was agreed that this was an important issue and should be monitored by the Partnership.

#### Secondary Deliberate Fires

It was explained that following a request at the Partnership's last meeting all Members of the Council had been provided with a summary of CFB protecting

Local Communities report together with figures relating to an increase in secondary fires.

## **224 Notes of the Scanning and Challenge Group**

The Minutes of the Scanning and Challenge Group held on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2007 were endorsed.

It was explained that as from February any individual arrested in Stockton would go to the new PFI facility in Middlesbrough. It was explained that some logistical issues needed to be reviewed, but it was considered that processing times would be improved.

Custody facilities at Stockton would affectively be mothballed and used during major incidents.

AGREED that the notes be accepted.

## **225 Performance Monitoring – Community Safety Plan Quarter 3**

Members considered a Monitoring report relating to progress made against the following objectives:-

### Total Crime

It was noted that good progress was being made in Targets associated with the reduction of Crime.

### Anti Social Behaviour

It was explained that the Target relating to reducing Criminal damage would not be met. Funding had not been received in this area.

This was a considerable problem for the Borough, though it was noted that Nationally the situation was generally much worse.

The Partnership noted ongoing work to improve matters including work with Tristar Homes and looking at Hartlepool's initiatives. It was agreed that any increase in PCSOs was likely to assist in reducing the incidents of criminal damage.

It was explained that a Week of Action was planned and this would raise awareness and consequently increase reported crimes of this type to the Police.

It was noted that the targets relating to the issue of Fixed Penalty Notices had slipped, however it was suggested that this was as a consequence of the increased visibility of enforcement and other officers.

### Drugs

Members noted that it was anticipated that the target relating to training of local employers in 'drugs in the workplace' would be met.

## Violent Crime

Reduction of violent crime recorded by A and E noted that recording system had changed Nationally and statistics were not available. Discussions were ongoing and the Partnership would be informed of any progress.

Noted that the Partnership was back to 5<sup>th</sup> out of 15 MSCDRPs.

The target to increase arrests of Domestic Violence perpetrators had changed and the availability of statistics would need to be reviewed.

AGREED that the report be noted.

### **226 Youth Justice Plan – Quarter 3**

The Partnership considered a report that provided details of performance of the Youth Offending Service against 14 national performance measures.

It was noted that the Service had reached or exceeded targets on the following measures:-

- Final Warnings
- Use of the Secure Estate
- Use of Restorative Processes and Victim Satisfaction
- Parenting
- ASSET
- Pre sentence Reports
- DTO Planning
- Accommodation
- Substance Misuse

Areas where improvement was needed were

- Education, Training and Employment (ETE)
- Mental Health

The Partnership noted initiatives to improve performance in the above two areas. It was considered that failure to reach the ETE target had been caused because of staff sickness, however another worker had been found and it was anticipated that next quarter would reach 80%.

With regard to Mental Health it was felt that this would improve when the YOS health advisor had received CAMHS training.

AGREED that the information be noted.

### **227 'Refresh' of Local Area Agreement 2007/08**

The Partnership was informed that the Local Area Agreement (LAA) between Stockton Renaissance and the Government was to be 'refreshed' to cover the 2007/08 year, prior to a more fundamental review for the period 2008 – 11

It was explained that the Government took the view that LAAs should serve as the delivery or action plan for the Community Strategy and had introduced the idea of

'mandatory outcomes'. This idea fundamentally changed the spirit of the original LAA prospectus, which was about locally determined priorities and solutions to local problems, in favour of a top down national determination of priorities, although the Government was keen to maintain that, although the achievement of certain outcomes, such as a reduction in re-offending, was mandatory, the precise target was still to be determined locality by locality.

The recent Local Government White Paper promised a major reduction in the bureaucracy based on a reduction in key outcomes from 200 to 35 and in performance indicators from 1200 to 200.

In order to preserve as much as possible of the spirit of the original LAA prospectus, in its commitment to reducing red tape, and in keeping with the thrust of the Local Government White Paper, it is proposed to reduce the number of outcomes and indicators relating to the work of this Partnership to a minimum, as follows:-

<u>Outcome</u>	<u>Indicator</u>
Reduce crime	Reduce BCS comparator crime by 20% from 2003/04 baseline by March 2008 (GONE preferred indicator)
	Reduce total recorded crime by 20% from 2003/04 baseline by March 2008 (SSP target)
Reduce re-offending	(a) Adult Offenders – awaiting NOMS guidance in April 2007 (b) Young Offenders – use existing YOS KPI (c) PPOs (Prolific & Other Priority Offenders): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce recorded convictions by 15%</li> <li>• Reduce arrests by 50%</li> </ul>
Reduce people's perceptions of ASB	1a Noisy neighbours or loud parties 1b Teenagers hanging around on the streets 1c Rubbish or litter lying around 1d People being drunk or rowdy in public places 1e Abandoned or burnt out cars 1f Vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property or vehicles 1g People using or dealing drugs 2 Parents not taking responsibility for the behaviour of their children

The Partnership discussed various aspects of the proposals. It was noted that the Partnership was still awaiting NOMS Guidance.

AGREED that the LAA be refreshed for 07/08 in line with the above, subject to certain technical issues, being resolved.

## **228 Bonfire Night Period**

Members considered a note prepared by Cleveland Fire Authority (CFA) relating to the Bonfire period, approx Oct 24 – Nov 12. CFA explained that during this period a culture of Anti Social Behaviour, fire setting, criminal damage and violence toward emergency response personnel existed and worsened each year. The Fire Officer highlighted a recent incident of criminal damage on an appliance that had resulted in it being taken off the road. The Partnership was aware of the potentially tragic results that could take place when this occurred. It was agreed that urgent action was needed to stop these problems.

In response to this the CFA proposed a multi agency, proactive approach throughout the year. An Action Plan would need to be developed and agencies involved would identify common KPIs and attempt to target resources to achieve the most effect.

It was suggested that a Memo of Understanding be produced by the agencies involved.

The Partnership agreed that the suggested approach was a positive step toward dealing with these specific problems that occurred throughout the year, but more particularly during the Bonfire night period.

Members agreed that the most appropriate way of taking things forward would be via the Partnership's Arson Reduction Group. It was suggested that the Group develop an Action Plan, consider timelines and areas of funding.

It was noted that if incidents were reduced this would create savings.

AGREED that

1. the partnership agree the principle of a proactive, multi-agency approach to resolve problems associated with Bonfire night and, in order to progress this, the Partnership's Arson Reduction Group be asked to develop an Action Plan and consider associated issues with a view to reporting back to the Partnership.
2. progress report be considered at the Partnership's next meeting.

## **229 Strengthening Powers to Tackle Anti Social Behaviour**

The Partnership considered a report summarising a consultation document entitled Strengthening Powers to Tackle Anti Social Behaviour. The focus of the consultation paper was on strengthening responses to challenging anti social behaviour through the use of pre court disposals such as cautions and fixed penalty notices.

The consultation document identified each new proposal and posed a number of questions. To assist with consideration officers had provided a note giving a local context to the questions posed.

The response to the consultation was to be provided using a questionnaire and those Members who wished to submit comments were asked to do so by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2007.

It was noted that attempts had been made to discuss/clarify certain issues however feedback from RESPECT had been non-existent despite numerous attempts to

engage in discussions. Georgina Bailes (GONE) indicated that she would feed this problem back to RESPECT.

AGREED that Members wishing to submit comments for inclusion in the response be forwarded to the Community Safety Manager no later than 31 January 2007

### **230 Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006**

The Partnership considered a summary of the new and changed powers that were contained in the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006.

Members noted the main provisions of the Act fell into five categories:-

- Alcohol Related Violence and Disorder
- Weapons
- Football
- Sexual Offences

Members noted that ASBOs and CRASBOs appeared to be a more affective way of dealing with certain individuals rather than the new Drinking Banning Orders. Officers would be discussing this issue with Magistrates.

Generally there was little context given for the powers identified in the Act.

Members queried when the regulations would be issued. Georgina Bailes would look into this.

AGREED that the report be noted.

### **231 Neighbourhood by Neighbourhood**

The Partnership considered a document produced by the Coalition on Social and Criminal Justice on local actions to reduce re-offending. The document details the Coalition's views on how re-offending can be reduced including the establishment of a framework for commissioning local services that:-

- Allows flexibility
- Builds capacity to manage offenders across local services
- Works more sensitively with the needs of the local community and recognises its aspirations for long term well being.

AGREED that the document be noted.

### **232 Review of the Partnership Provisions of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998**

The Partnership considered a paper issued by the Home Office outlining National Standards that will apply to CDRPs in England from the Summer 2007.

The Standards cover the following broad areas:-

Empowered and Effective Leadership  
Intelligence Led Business Processes  
Effective and Responsive Delivery Structures  
Community Engagement  
Visible and Constructive Accountability

## Appropriate Knowledge and Skills

Members noted that the standards may require CDRPs to have a degree of analytical capacity.

The Standards referred to CDRPs undertaking an audit of skills and knowledge to identify any gaps. This may result in training programmes being identified. In this regard a survey would be sent to Partnership Members.

CDRPs would be assessed against the standards on a yearly basis and it was agreed that it was essential that the standards were linked with Police and Fire Strategic Assessments.

AGREED that the information be noted

### **233 Week of Action**

Members noted that the Partnership had been asked if it wished to attend a Week of Action event in London, representatives had attended, but the position in relation to availability of additional Home Office funding remained unclear.

### **234 Preventing Offending**

Members considered a report, for information, that referred to a new performance measure introduced by the Youth Justice Board, relating to the Reduction of the number of first time entrants to the Youth Justice System.

A Task Group would be asked to look at this and report back to Partnership Members.

AGREED that the information be noted.

### **235 Any Other Business**

#### Prevention of Crime and Anti Social Behaviour Conference

Noted that the above conference would take place in London on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2007. Anyone wishing to attend should contact Jane Humphreys.

#### Annual Youth Justice Plan

It was report that the national timetable for the preparation of the next Youth Justice Plan did not match the timetable of planned meetings.

AGREED that the draft would be circulated and comments requested outside the pattern of meetings.

### **236 Communications Update**

Members were provided with a list of press releases for the period 25<sup>th</sup> November 2006 to 19<sup>th</sup> January v2007.

**237 Recorded Crime and Disorder**

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

**238 Reports Back**

The Partnership received reports back from the following areas:-

Renaissance  
Safe in Tees Valley Management Committee  
DIP Steering Group

**239 Date of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2007.