

Safer Stockton Partnership

A meeting of the Safer Stockton Partnership was held on Tuesday 13th March 2007.

Present: Geoff Lee (Chairman) (Tristar Homes); Dave Brunskill (Stockton Police), Stuart Micklewright (Cleveland Police), Councillor Cherrett (Western Area Partnership Board), Councillor Coombs, Councillor Womphrey, Joanne Hodgkinson (Cleveland Police Authority), Councillor Mrs Fletcher, Marilyn Davies, Mike Batty, Sue Maddison, Jane Humphreys, Fiona Shayler (Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council), John Bentley (Safe in Tees Valley), Nancy Robson (Victim Support), Ian Garrett (Eastern Area Partnership Board), Lol Craven (Cleveland Fire Brigade) Georgina Bailes (GONE), Ged McGuire (Northern Area Board).

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Kirton Mike Picknett, Sue Cash, Joanne Gleeson, Matt Spencer.

240 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 30th January were agreed as a correct record.

241 Minutes YOS Management Board

The minutes of the meeting of the YOS Management Board were noted for information.

It was stated that following the first three quarters the Stockton on Tees YOS was 10th in the Country (out of 154).

242 Matters Arising

PCSOs

Funding had been agreed for a further 31 PCSOs making a total of 55 in Stockton on Tees. This figure was the highest out of the districts. It was anticipated that the majority would be spread across the Wards and a team of 10 PCSOs would kept to deal with other matters. The additional PCSOs would be recruited on a time limited contract, as funding at present was available for 2 years.

Bonfire Night

Small fires and fireworks has become a year round problem peaking around bonfire night. It was anticipated that there would be a peak during the Easter holidays. CCTV had been monitoring fires in Norton and Northbourne Road and there had been a reduction in fires round this area. The Fire Service would be visiting CCTV centres and liaising with the Community Safety Team to see if further monitoring of areas to reduce fires could be undertaken and to discuss the costs involved in this. Concerns were also expressed with the regard to the illegal sale of fireworks.

Learning Needs Analysis

Government Office North East had received 50-60 responses from Partnerships across the region with regard to the Learning Needs Analysis. Although the original response date had now passed, it was felt that it would be useful both for Government Office and in terms of our own analysis for the Partnership to recirculate the questionnaire for completion.

First Time Entrants to the Youth Justice System

An update would be provided to the next meeting.

243 Neighbourhood Policing

Members of the Partnership were provided with a presentation on Neighbourhood Policing. The British Crime Survey (BCS) had indicated that crime had been falling since 1995 but the majority of people believed that crime had increased, there was low public confidence in the Criminal Justice System and a sense of insecurity that was damaging neighbourhoods. Funding had now been agreed for an additional 31 PCSO's, making a total of 55 PCSO's in Stockton on Tees. Information was provided on the wards and the breakdown of PCSO's. Details of Neighbourhood Officer roles were outlined.

Monthly meetings involving the police and partner agencies, namely Joint Action Groups (JAG's formerly 'Area Liaison Meetings') were held to discuss local problems. The aim of the JAG was to problem solve issues relating to areas or individuals by way of joint interventions/action. The JAG would develop multi agency solutions and

interventions to crime, disorder, antisocial behaviour and environmental issues, which are unable to be solved at local team level, share intelligence, co-ordinate and recommend use of interventions, co-ordinate resources, monitor and review action taken.

Work ongoing was detailed which over the next few months would be concentrating on recruitment and training and community engagement.

It was requested that a copy of the presentation be sent to all Members of the Council and members of this Partnership.

AGREED that the update be noted.

244 Review of Community Safety Plan Targets

Monitoring of the current Community Safety Plan, up to and including the Quarter 3 Monitoring Report considered by the Partnership at its last meeting, on 30 January 2007, had identified the need to review two of the targets i.e. target 2.5 and target 3.9

Target 2.5

Currently requires 25% annual increases, for each of the 3 years of the Plan (2005/08), in the numbers of Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) issued for dog fouling and for littering, with the baseline figures given as 19 and 370 respectively.

There was no problem in principle with the baseline or target for dog fouling FPNs, although this is likely to prove difficult to achieve on current staffing levels, given that offending dog owners had developed defensive strategies e.g. carrying bags and scoops with no intention of using them, unless either an identifiable Council Officer or an unidentified stranger was in view. This of itself was not a reason for changing this target, and there was some possibility that the increased number of PCSOs, if authorised and trained to issue these FPNs, would boost performance.

It was now understood that the baseline for the littering target included a substantial number of FPNs which were issued, not for littering in the normal sense, but as a response to individuals placing wheeled bins and black plastic sacks of rubbish outside their properties at inappropriate times (i.e. not on their scheduled collection

day). Most or all of these FPNs were subsequently cancelled. This practice had now been discontinued, in favour of the issue of 'section 46 notices' in such cases, which effectively served as a kind of formal caution. This change in practice avoided the problem of the Council being subject to criticism by DEFRA, which refused to distinguish between cancelled FPNs for which payment was not collected, from other reasons when assessing collection performance. However, it also reduced the number of FPNs significantly, to those issued for what might be called 'genuine littering'. It was therefore proposed to retain the target for a 25% increase, but to re-base the target, using the 2006/07 figure as the baseline for a 25% increase in 2007/08.

Littering FPNs could be a useful mechanism for dealing with various forms of disorder, especially in relation to public drinking, when cans and bottles are often discarded, and has the advantage of providing an 'instant sanction'.

Target 3.9

Currently required a year on year reduction in the number of positive drugs test on charge for 'trigger offences', against the 2004/05 baseline figure.

The system of drug testing in police custody suites was changed, with effect from 31 March 2006, as part of the 'Tough Choices' regime, to advance testing from the point of an individual being charged with an offence to the point of arrest. In round terms, this change tripled the number of tests carried out. The tests are only carried out on adults.

This change had therefore removed the key figure of 'tests on charge' and replaced it with a new one of 'tests on arrest'. It was therefore proposed to retain the spirit of the original target, but to revise it as a requirement to achieve a year on year reduction in the number of positive tests on arrest, against the 2006/07 baseline.

AGREED that the revised two targets as detailed above be approved.

At the meetings of the Partnership held on 12 September and 24 October we used the Home Office self-assessment tool as the beginning of a planned process which led to the endorsement of our second Partnership Improvement Plan at our meeting of 5 December. One of the four key issues on which that Plan was based was Indicator 11 "The capacity of partners and staff is sufficient to support the achievement of the priorities", and it was agreed that we would review partner contributions by March 2007.

Full detail was provided on sources of funding, partnership contributions and contributions in kind.

Members were informed that no funding would be available for the RESPECT programme due to the programme being successful and therefore the figures not being low enough to receive the funding due to the Government targeting its resources to the worst 8 authorities per region.

AGREED that the information provided be noted.

246 Schedule of Planned Reports for 2007/08

Members of the Partnership were provided with a draft schedule of planned reports for 2007/08. Other matters raised at the meeting such as the Youth Inspection and an update on Neighbourhood Policing were requested to be added to the timetable.

AGREED that an updated plan be provided to the next meeting.

247 Local Area Agreement (LAA) Update

Following discussion at the last meeting of the Partnership on 30 January, a copy of the proposal submitted for inclusion in the next version of the LAA was detailed.

The indicators for Community Safety 2007/08 in relation to Reducing Crime; Reducing Re-offending; Reducing Anti Social Behaviour, Criminal Damage and Arson; Reducing Deliberate Fires, were detailed.

AGREED that the report be noted.

248 Tenancy Support Service

Stockton Tenancy Support Service was set up in 2002 to support people in Stockton-on-Tees, with substance misuse issues. The service supports up to 20 people at any one time and helps them to maintain their tenancies in the community. The Service was funded by the Supporting People program.

In addition to this, Stockton Safer Communities had funded the scheme further and had helped us to increase the numbers we support by up to an extra 8 people at any one time. These people not only have substance misuse issues but also have an offending history. They tend to be fairly chaotic clients who have been unsuccessful in previous tenancies. A large proportion of these clients were initially housed with Housing Options on licence agreements, once they had maintained their Licence for a successful period they were then housed with Tristar homes and were issued with tenancy agreements.

Over the past financial year 06/07, the Service has worked with 16 clients we have had successful outcomes with all but three. The Service was very keen to continue its work in this area and were requesting that consideration be given to the continuation of this grant for the coming financial year 2007/2008.

AGREED that the report be noted and funding for the continuation of the Service in 2007/08 be agreed.

249 Local Development Framework (LDF) – Regeneration Development Plan Document (DPD) Issues and Options Consultation

The purpose of this report was to inform members of the Safer Stockton Partnership, and to invite contributions to, the emerging Regeneration DPD Issues and Options discussion paper.

In 2004, the government introduced the LDF system through the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act to replace the existing system of Structure Plans and Local Plans. LDFs were the means of delivering the spatial elements of all council strategies, especially the Community Strategy, and the strategies of other agencies, such as those dealing with health and education. This differed from traditional Local

Plans where the focus had generally been on policies that focused solely on the granting or refusal of planning permission. LDFs would also differ from traditional Local Plans in that they would not be a single document but rather a portfolio of planning documents called Local Development Documents. The Regeneration DPD would set out site-specific allocations and would need to be in conformity with the Core Strategy DPD which would set out the spatial planning vision at the heart of the LDF.

Members comments were requested to be submitted in writing to the Principal Planning Officer, Spatial Planning.

AGREED that the report be noted.

250 Transport Strategy Group

Members were informed that there was a small budget for CCTV units in Bus Shelters and that any comments regarding siting should be submitted to Mike Robinson at Stockton Council (Mike.Robinson@stockton.gov.uk)

251 DAT

A presentation on the issue of Crystal Meth (Metamphetamine) was to be held by the Police on 19th April, sessions would be held at 10.30am, 1.30pm, 6.30 pm, any interested parties should contact Gill Matthews at Cleveland Police.

252 RESPECT Update

An update was provided to Members on the RESPECT Action Plan which identified a number of new and existing resources that would be used to deliver the vision.

AGREED that the update be noted.

253 Communications Update

Members were provided with a list of press releases for the period 20th January 2007 to 23rd February 2007.

AGREED that the press releases be noted.

254 Recorded Crime Update

Members were provided with the crime figures for April 2006 to January 2007 compared with April 2005 – January 2006.

AGREED that the update be noted.

255 Reports Back

Area Partnership Boards

The consultation for the Future and Vision of Stockton on Tees Town Centre was due to end on 16th March 2007.