

Safer Stockton Partnership

A meeting of the Safer Stockton Partnership was held on Tuesday 3rd July, 2007.

Present: Geoff Lee (Chairman) (Tristar Homes); Councillor Lewis, Marilyn Davies, Mike Batty, Matthew Clifford, Nicola Hall, Sue Maddison, Jane Humphreys, Fiona Shayler, Dawn Welsh (Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council), Joanne Gleeson (NPS – Teesside), Gary Gamesby, Dave Brunskill (Stockton Police), Norman Wright (Cleveland Police Authority), Ian Garrett (Eastern Area Partnership), Paul Green (Adult Protection Committee).

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Nelson, Joanne Hodgkinson, Chris Coombs (Cleveland Police Authority), Matt Spencer (HMP Holme House), Sue Cash (PCT), David Dunn (GONE), Nancy Robson (Victim Support), John Bentley (Safe in Tees Valley). Ray Graham, Teesside CAHMS, Tees Esk and Wear Valley NHS Trust.

Presentation – Cleveland Police Briefing – Protective Services, Extremism and Terrorism

Members were provided with a presentation detailing the work of Special Branch (SB) within Cleveland Police.

A video interview with Sir Ian Blair detailing events around 7th July and stating that how Britain still remains a threat. The Police Force needed to alter the way in which they work to ensure a single holistic service was provided. The Police need to have the ability and equipment to deal with terrorism. Neighbourhoods/Communities were crucial to prevent terrorism, by providing information and working closely with the Police.

Special Branch was split into two departments:- Operations Dept., and Ports Dept. Information was provided on:-

Counter Espionage (Systematic use of spies)
Counter Proliferation (Weapons of mass destruction)
Counter Subversion (Undermining moral integrity, honesty etc.)

Discussion was held on international terrorism and the different groups involved such as Al Quaida etc. Other Terrorist groups were highlighted such as the IRA, RIRA, National Front. Information was provided on extremists particularly in the area of animal rights.

CONTEST was a Government Strategy with the aim to reduce the threat and risk of terrorism. Cleveland Police had produced their own strategy namely 'Operation Delphinus' to deal with terrorism locally.

The presentation concluded with a video interview of Mohammed Khan Sadiq who was responsible for the July 7th Bombings in London.

AGREED that the presentation be noted.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 24th April 2007 were agreed as a correct record subject to an amendment to minute 263.

Matters Arising

First Time Entrants into the Youth Justice System

Members were informed that the Home Office had indicated that they would be taking into account the new National Public Service Agreements following concerns that had been raised previously by this partnership.

Fly Tipping

Members were provided with the figures on the number of fly tipping incidents coming to the attention of Stockton Council for 2005/06 and 2006/07.

Attendance Analysis

This issue was currently being dealt with to identify non attendees.

DIP/PPO

Members were updated that a consensus had been reached to align the DIP and PPO Steering Groups, further discussions were required to finalise the financial management and membership. The new aligned group will become the DIP/PPO Strategy Group.

YOS Management Board Minutes

The minutes of the YOS Management Board held on 15th May 2007 were agreed as a correct record.

Members were verbally updated that the Youth Offending Service Manager had now been appointed and would be in post on 13th August 2007.

Other Matters

Funding

The Home Office have stated that there will be a 14% reduction in the Safer Stronger Communities Fund within the LAA. A 14% cut had been made across the region, with a reduction of 10 million nationally. The DAT had managed a funding shift for a 11.5% reduction in DIP funding but then had been informed of the 14% cut so would therefore have to reassess the situation.

RESPECT

Members were provided with a letter from RESPECT that detailed that Stockton had not been selected as a target area for the work of the Respect Task Force, because residents had identified that ASB was not a significant problem in our Borough. Stockton is ranked at 17 out of 23 in region with one being bad and 23 good.

Letter – Home Office

Members were provided with a letter from the Home Office detailing the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership Reform Programme. Discussion was held on the Early Release of Prisoners.

Youth Offending Inspection

The inspection is due to take place week commencing 22nd October any extensive preparations are underway. This inspection will feed into the Joint Area Review and then into the Comprehensive Performance Assessment.

UK Study of Abuse and Neglect of Older People – Prevalence Survey Report

A copy of the above report to be sent out by the Democratic Services Officer to Members of the SSP.

Notes of the Scanning and Challenge Group

Members noted the minutes of the Scanning and Challenge Group of 19 April 2007.

Community Strategy 2008 Onwards and Local Area Agreement – Preparation 2008-11 and Engagement Strategy

The purpose of this report was to agree a project plan for the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) and engagement strategy for the development of the Sustainable Community Strategy, Local Area Agreement 2008-11(LAA) and the Local Development Framework (LDF). The engagement strategy sought to join up where possible consultation on the three documents.

Stockton Renaissance at its meeting in April supported adopting the approach to the Sustainable Community Strategy and its supporting documents set out in the Local Government White Paper 'Stronger and Prosperous Communities'. This emphasised the role of the Local Area Agreement (LAA) and the Local Development Framework (the spatial arm) as the delivery plans for a Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) and the joining up of engagement strategies for the SCS, LAA and the Local Development Framework. It was agreed that a project plan for developing the SCS be brought to this meeting for approval.

A full programme of consultation was taking place and comments were being recorded and monitored as they were received. The first phase of consultation would be completed by August, 2007. There was an opportunity for Members to submit further comments during the forthcoming weeks prior to 31st July 2007. The updated version would be brought back during September for further comments.

AGREED that the project plan and engagement strategy be approved and a further report be received in September, 2007.

Stockton YOS Performance 2006/07 and Feedback on Youth Justice Plan 2007/08

The Youth Justice Board for England and Wales (YJB) had issued details of performance for all Youth Offending Teams for the 2006/07 year, the extracts were provided to Members of the Partnership.

Members of the Partnership will see that Stockton YOS has now reached the top level, 'Level 5', one of only eight services out of 154 to do so (two of the other seven were also in the North East region, ie North Tyneside and Sunderland).

Under the former YJB National Performance system which operated until March 2006 there was a simple ranking of all YOTs in a league table, on a quarterly basis. Stockton YOS usually appeared somewhere between 25th and 32nd position, consistently in the top quartile. When the new system of five levels was introduced, we first appeared at Level 3, just below the breakpoint for Level 4, and quickly reached Level 4, before climbing to Level 5 in the annual figures.

Members were also provided with a letter of 4 June 2007 from Tony Hodgson, in his new capacity as Senior Performance Advisor for the YJB in the North East, commenting on our Youth Justice Plan.

AGREED that the feedback be noted.

Audit/Consultation Magazine Draft

Members were provided at the meeting with the latest version of the Audit/Consultation Magazine. Final comments were to be submitted prior to 5pm on Thursday 5th July.

The Probation Service and DAT were unable to contribute further towards the costs of producing additional copies of the document due to budget cuts.

The Chair congratulated Officers involved for their hard work on such a detailed document that covered all aspects of the Partnerships work.

AGREED that:-

1. The magazine be circulated to all homes and businesses in Stockton on Tees.
2. Partners consider their position with regard to continuing to meet the additional costs.
3. Further comments be submitted to Marilyn Davies by 5pm on 5th July 2007.

Local Alcohol Harm Reduction Plan

Members were provided with a copy of the Alcohol Harm Minimisation Plan 2007/08. Discussion was held on various parts of the plan and it was stated that more focus on alcohol sessions within schools was required.

AGREED that the Plan be noted.

First Annual Review of Neighbourhood Enforcement Service

Members were provided with a copy of a report due to go to Cabinet for consideration on 5th July regarding the First Annual Review of Neighbourhood Enforcement Service. The report detailed the activities undertaken by the service during the year.

Cabinet was being asked to agree the following recommendations:-

- a) That Cabinet agrees to refer the funding position in respect of the Neighbourhood Enforcement Service to Stockton Renaissance.
- b) That the funding position in respect of the Neighbourhood Enforcement Service be reviewed as an item within forthcoming reviews of the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan.

- c) That the intention to issue open-ended contracts to officers within the Neighbourhood Enforcement Service, in place of current fixed-term contracts to March 2008, be noted.

An extensive piece of work would be undertaken prior to October to look at the Service beyond 2008. Funding of the Service would be a major consideration and it would need to be investigated to determine whether any partner agencies would be able to commit to future funding.

AGREED that the update be noted.

North Tees Women's Aid Service Performance

A report was provided on the North Tees Women's Aid (NTWA) performance in Stockton for 2006/07. The report provided information on the services provided by NTWA, identified a number of challenges/barriers and future priorities. The main priorities identified were around funding and sustainability for the service and recognition that domestic violence is a cross agenda issue requiring input from a range of services.

Members were informed that the service now included other areas such as Hartlepool and Easington and would be changing its name to HARBOUR

AGREED that the report be noted.

Schedule of Planned Reports

A schedule of planned for reports for 2007/08 was provided for information.

AGREED that the schedule be noted.

Communications Update

A list of press releases for the period 14th April to 15th June 2007 was provided.

AGREED that the list of press releases be noted.

Recorded Crime and Disorder Update May 2007

Members were provided with the recorded crime and disorder update for April – May 2007 compared with April – May 2006.

AGREED that the update be noted.

Reports Back

Children's Fund

Members were informed that the Children's Fund was winding down and there was a small budget remaining and any requests made by existing providers for small projects would be considered at their next meeting.