

# Safer Stockton Partnership

A meeting of Safer Stockton Partnership was held on Tuesday, 4th December, 2007.

**Present:** Geoff Lee (Chairman - Tristar Homes); Cllr Alan Lewis, Cllr Steve Nelson, Mike Batty, Sue Maddison, Jane Humphreys (SBC); Joanne Hodgkinson (Cleveland Police Authority); John Bentley (Safe in Tees Valley); Miriam Robertson (YOS); Bert Smailes (Billingham Partnership Board); Geoff Turner (Western Area Partnership Board); Sue Cash (North Tees PCT); Ian Harrington (Cleveland Fire Authority); Lucia Saiger (Probation); Dave Brunskill (Stockton Police); Tina Williams (Central Area Partnership Board); Paul Green (Adult Protection Committee); Anne Howard (Neighbourhood Watch).

**Officers:** Fiona Shayler (LD); Marilyn Davies (DNS); Dave King (CESC).

**Also in attendance:** Richard Honeysett (CPA Inspection Team); David Dunn (GONE); JCH Evans (Probation);

**Apologies:** were submitted on behalf of Nancy Robson, Matt Spencer, Ian Garrett, Chris Coombs.

## **SSP Introductions 336/07**

## **SSP Minutes 337/07**

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 30th October 2007 were agreed as a correct record.

## **SSP Matters Arising**

### **338/07 a) Letter to Home Secretary (Minute 318 (a) refers**

(a) Letter to Home Secretary (Minute No. 318)

No reply had been received at present from the Home Secretary. Anne Howard had taken this matter to Neighbourhood Watch Meetings both locally and regionally and was hoping to get national support.

(b) Report on BCU Fund (Minute No. 320)

Report to be brought back in January 2008.

(c) Feedback from YOS Inspection (Minute No. 325)

Report to be brought back in January 2008.

(d) Links to Police Authority Website (Minute No. 325)

The Website was now established.

(e) Face the People Session - 31 January, St Johns Church at 7.00pm (Minute No. 326)

Alternative venues were being considered.

(f) Community Cohesion (Minute No. 329)

A meeting had been held to discuss areas of the plan that the SSP would be responsible for.

**SSP Minutes of YOS Management Board 15 October 2007**

**339/07**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 15th October 2007 were noted.

**SSP Any other Business - Identification Only**

**340/07**

None

**SSP Work of NOMS**

**341/07**

The Regional Offender Manager (ROM) was responsible for the SLAs based on Ministry of Justice Targets. A copy of a presentation was circulated that the ROM had held on 31st October 2007. There were nine national priorities:-

- Offender Management
- Effective Interventions
- Partnerships
- RRAP
- Share information
- Sentencing Advice
- Engagement with Sentencers
- National Service Framework
- Supervision for Short Term Prisoners

A Plan would be published by NOMS in January 2007 to set out what they aimed to achieve by Regional Commissioning for 2007/08.

The Reducing Re-Offending Action Plan had 7 strands that looked at all factors that impacted upon the local community. Feedback on this area would be provided to a future meeting. Women offending and going through the criminal justice system had risen from 5% to 17% and this area had been identified to be looked at.

Discussion was held on rehousing offenders once they had left prison and ensuring that they had secure and stable housing to help them not re-offend.

OASYS was an IT system used for sharing information on Offenders to provide them with the intervention that they required. Figures had been analysed from OASYS and Alcohol had come out as a high priority, 44% had scored alcohol as one of their major problems for offending.

Councillor Lewis commented on whether any partnership work was being done with Insurance Companies to reduce crime.

AGREED that the update be noted.

**SSP Analysis of Responses to Audit Consultation**

**342/07**

Members were provided with the second response to the Tackling Crime and Disorder Audit Consultation that was carried out. Analysis was provided by Ward, Fear of Crime and how informed residents feel broken down by Age; Gender, Ethnicity and Disability.

Members held discussion on the report and a further report would be presented to the Partnership on improvements that could be made to the consultation process.

AGREED that the report be noted and a further report be presented on the consultation process to a future meeting.

**SSP 343/07 Partnership Strategic Assessment & Community Safety Plan**

The Partnership would be producing their first Strategic Assessment in January 2008. It was proposed to use the data from April to September 2007 as the Partnership had undertaken a comprehensive look at crime and anti social behaviour data and trends over at least three years in the Tackling Crime and Disorder Audit 2007.

The Priorities for the Partnership as identified following the Audit Consultation would form a large part of both documents. The Community Safety plan would follow the same format as the Partnership Strategic Assessment but would contain more detail on action, ownership and targets. The Plan would be updated yearly and new issues coming from the Face the People sessions would need to be considered.

Members were asked to consider whether the second Partnership Strategic Assessment should be produced as on an annual basis alongside of the Police Strategic Intelligence Assessment linking into their production cycle and whether it should be one partnership document or two separate pieces of work.

Members felt that they should try to work towards similar timescales and possibly have a suite of documents.

AGREED that the report be noted.

**SSP 344/07 Partnership Statement of Intent**

At the previous meeting, on 30th October, 2007 (Minute 327 refers) it was agreed that a further report be provided on the issue of setting out a proposed statement of intent for the Partnership.

Members were provided with a copy of the Nolan principles and it was suggested that a number of commitments, as detailed within the report, be endorsed by Members.

The information provided was a draft and comments were welcomed.

AGREED that the proposed amendments to the Partnership Constitution be approved.

**SSP 345/07 Selection of Targets for the LAA**

At the previous meeting on 30th October, 2007 (minute 328 refers). Initial consideration had been given to prioritising 5 indicators from the the 38 that had been highlighted as of relevance to the Partnership. At this meeting the topline

priorities for the Community Safety Plan 2008-2011 were agreed.

Since the previous meeting Stockton Renaissance had initiated a process of target selection ranging across all the thematic partnerships, requiring views to be fed in by 21st November, for circulation prior to the general meeting of managers drawn across the thematic partnerships on 26th November. Therefore, an ad hoc meeting had been arranged with representatives of the Police, Fire Brigade, Probation and the Council to enable our comments to be submitted by 21st November.

Members had suggested that the following indicators be included:- NI 17, 38, 42, 15, 111. Plus NI 15 and 52 as secondary issues. Members also requested that NI 195 be included if possible.

AGREED that the Indicators as mentioned above be requested to be included and endorsed.

**SSP  
346/07 Partnership Budget**

Members were advised on the status of the Partnership Budget that was held by the Council on behalf of the Safer Stockton Partnership. The Budget excluded the money that came to the Partnership through the Local Area Agreement Process, which was covered by the Partnership Investment Plan.

Detail of what Partners pay into the shared budget was detailed together with the contributions made by Partners to the Crime and Disorder Audit magazine. Expenditure against the budget was shown with a balance remaining of £1,178. It was suggested that this be used to off set printing costs for both the Strategic Assessment and the Community Safety Plan.

AGREED that the use of the balance of £1,178 be used to pay for the production of the two pending partnership documents.

**SSP  
347/07 Update on National Standards**

Members were provided with an update on the current status of compliance for the National Standards.

AGREED that the update be noted.

**SSP  
348/07 Embedding Hallmarks of Effective Practice**

Members were provided with a letter from Government Office North East (GONE) with regard to a programme of training and support being offered to CDRPs to enable them to respond effectively to the new statutory requirements and to meet the Hallmarks of effective practice. Two courses would be held in January and March 2008 lasting 4 days. Expressions of interest were to be made to Mike Batty or Marilyn Davies as soon as possible.

AGREED that information be noted and that any expressions of interest for the training courses be submitted to Mike Batty/Marilyn Davies as soon as possible.

## **MORI Report: ASB: People, Place and Perceptions**

Ipsos MORI, the polling and research organisation, published this report in the summer. A team of researchers, led by Ashley Ames (who some members of the Partnership will have seen present the results of 'MORI 2006'), have looked in detail at the results of the 2006/07 BVPI (Best Value Performance Indicators) General User Surveys (also known as Local Government User Satisfaction Surveys) for all local authorities in England (not available for Wales), and have analysed a range of key variables, i.e.

- a) level of deprivation
- b) population density
- c) population inflow
- d) proportion of residents aged 25 years and under
- e) increased level of violent crime

which they believe have the main influence, accounting for 58% of the variance in perception of anti-social behaviour (ASB) across the 387 local authority areas.

The researchers then used this model to predict what the level of concern about ASB should be in each local authority area, and compared it to the national survey result level. This showed that 50% of areas had a perception score lower (better) than predicted, and 40% of areas had a score which was higher (worse), with 10% on 'no difference'. Results ranged from Wolverhampton, which had a gap of -12% (i.e. much lower level of concern about ASB than predicted) to Blyth Valley, which had a gap of +19%.

The 40 areas which benefited from inclusion in the main 'Respect' funding programme (which included Hartlepool, Middlesbrough and Redcar & Cleveland, but not Stockton) were significantly more likely to record lower than predicted ASB ratings.

The MORI team framed four hypotheses about why the gap between predicted and actual levels of concern varies between areas, i.e.

- a) the potential impact of communications – local agencies in some cases may be more effective in telling residents what is being done to tackle ASB and, in turn, reducing the number of people who perceive as a problem.
- b) local agencies in some cases may be dealing with ASB significantly better than others, via use of specific tools and powers and effective deployment of risk assurance.
- c) prevention measures and displacement activities may be more effective in some areas than others.
- d) some areas may be more prone to negative perceptions because of their layout, infrastructure or positioning relative to other towns/cities.

MORI has identified a positive correlation between information provision and confidence in the ability of local agencies to tackle ASB, with residents who feel better informed being more likely to express confidence than those who do not, although their final conclusion is that

“ whilst communications can have a significant beneficial impact on public levels of confidence and attitudes towards the tackling of ASB in the short term, it may not have such a major immediate impact on perceived levels of ASB per se. Affecting change in people’s perception of local activity is likely to need sustained communications, backed up by action (to counter any potential accusations of spin over substance)”

Members held discussion on the report and a sustained strategy for positive communication.

AGREED that the report be noted.

**SSP  
350/07**      **Annual Report on PPO Scheme**

The PPO programme was intended to direct resources to the small number of offenders said to be responsible for a disproportionate amount of all crime. The programme was introduced in all areas of England and Wales from the 6th September 2004, and has been implemented by Crime and Disorder partnerships and Community Safety partnerships across all area of England and Wales. The scheme in Stockton commenced in September 2004 with an initial caseload of 23.

There was no doubt that there had been improvements in both information sharing and partnership working between agencies involved in the PPO programme. Practitioners working within the PPO scheme feel they have developed a more holistic understanding of the offender which had led to better management. The importance of a multi-agency approach and the availability of appropriate services are particularly crucial given the particular needs of the PPOs that usually include accommodation, drugs misuse and education, training and employability.

Detail was provided on the developments and performance of the Team.

The scheme continued to work with the most challenging of offenders within the Borough. Whilst it was difficult to identify whether the most prolific offenders had been selected the only gratifying factor of seeing a significant number in custody was that quite clearly they had been offending to a degree that prison had been seen by the judiciary to be the most appropriate sentence.

The overall reduction in offending has been satisfying for the team and the most positive outcome was the fact that two have changed their lifestyle and are in employment.

AGREED that the report be noted.

**SSP  
351/07**      **Youth Justice Developments**

Members were provided with a verbal update on Youth Justice Developments. There had been several developments, the National Youth Task Force replaced RESPECT. Consultation was due to close in January for the roles and responsibilities of local authorities for young people in Custody. The Youth Justice Board was awaiting notification of funding for the next year.

AGREED that the update be noted.

**SSP  
352/07**      **Presentation to Renaissance**

Stockton Renaissance was working through a programme of presentations on the work of each of the 'thematic partnerships' during the 2007/08 year, with one at each of the main Board meetings.

The work of our Partnership would be featured at the meeting on the evening of 4 December. Members were provided with a copy of the presentation to be delivered by Geoff Lee and Mike Batty.

AGREED that the presentation be noted.

**SSP  
353/07**      **Stockton Intensive Tenancy Support Service**

The service funded by Safer Stockton Partnership continues to provide a much needed service for people with substance misuse, offending and complex issues.

Clients in this service have usually led a very chaotic lifestyle, due to their substance misuse, with a history of offending to fund or related to their substance misuse. They often have other complex issues (mental health, domestic violence, child protection, etc).

The majority of clients were referred to us through Housing and CJIT having been classed as priority homeless having come out of prison and were often still unstable - hence recalls to custody and evictions whilst still in referral or on commencing support.

The team works very closely with Housing Options, Probation, CJIT and Police, meeting on a regular basis to review clients who were in licensed properties. Meetings were also regularly held with Tristar Homes to help clients maintain Tristar tenancies, reducing anti-social behaviour and evictions.

On an individual basis, clients would be sign posted to many agencies and services throughout Stockton-on-Tees, social services, drug services, anti-social behaviour team, health services, education and training providers to provide a comprehensive support package to clients.

Out of the 9 clients who left the service this year, 6 had moved into and successfully maintained a new tenancy and were not offending.

A service was provided for clients with alcohol issues as well as those with drug misuse issues. This had enabled the Service to meet the gap, although there was still a great need for support for this client group in Stockton-on-Tees as many services were restricted to Drug users.

This (along with unexpected issues of exiting clients) had been reflected in client numbers being above the agreed number at present.

AGREED that the Safer Stockton Partnership support the Stockton Intensive

Tenancy Support Service.

**SSP Total Crime Rate**

**354/07**

Members were provided with an update following their last meeting, where discussion was held on setting a target for increasing the gap between the stockton total crime rate and the England and Wales average.

It was suggested during that discussion that some further research be undertaken to show how we stand against others (including our Most Similar CDRP group), and looking at which other localities stand at 10% and 20% below the national average (using 2006/07 figures as the latest available).

It had proved very difficult to look at total crime rate figures. Figures on 'BCS (British Crime Survey) comparator crime' were available from the Home Office iQuanta system, and those for our CRDP for 2006/07 were provided for Members information.

Dave Brunskill updated Members on the latest figures.

AGREED that the report be noted.

**SSP Any Other Business - Consideration**

**355/07**

NONE

**SSP Crime & Communities Review**

**356/07**

For information Members were provided with a letter from the Cabinet Office detailing that the Prime Minister had commissioned a Crime and Communities Review.

AGREED that the information be noted.

**SSP Counter Terrorism**

**357/07**

Members were provided with the current position.

AGREED that the update be noted.

**SSP Communications**

**358/07**

Members were provided with the latest list of press released for the period from 13th October to 16th November.

AGREED that the latest press releases be noted.

**SSP Recorded Crime & Disorder**

**359/07**

Members were provided with the recorded crime figures for April 2007 - October 2007 compared with April 2006 - October 2006.



AGREED that the update be noted.

**SSP**    **Reports Back**  
**360/07**  
None