

# Safer Stockton Partnership

A meeting of Safer Stockton Partnership was held on Tuesday, 10th June, 2008.

**Present:** Geoff Lee (Chairman - Tristar Homes Ltd), Deborah Gibbin (North Tees PCT), Miriam Robertson (YOS), Paul Green (Stockton Adult Protection Committee), Ann Howard (Neighbourhood Watch), David Brunskill (Police), Ian Harrington (Fire), Geoff Turner (Western Area Partnership Board), Bert Smailes (Billingham Partnership Board), Joanne Hodgkinson (Cleveland Police Authority), Chris Coombs (Cleveland Police Authority) Mike Batty (SBC), John Bentley (Safe in Tees Valley).

**Officers:** M Jones (LD), Marilyn Davies (DNS).

**Also in attendance:** David Dunn (GONE)

**Apologies:** Cllr Steve Nelson, Cllr Julia Roberts, Matt Spencer, Ian Garrett, Lucia Saiger, Chief Inspector Allen, Detective Chief Inspector Carter.

## **SSP Minutes 19/08**

The minutes of the meeting held 6th May 2008 were agreed as a correct record subject to the following ammendment:-

Under Minute No. 18 regarding the erection of 'no cold calling' signs - should read 'New housing by Tristar and a Housing Association were planning to put up no cold calling signs'.

## **SSP Matters Arising 20/08 (a) Bail Hostels / Clear Springs (Minute 13/08 refers)**

A meeting had been held with Clear Springs with regard to bail hostels in the Stockton area. The hostel in Stockton had been in operation since November 2007, and Thornaby since February 2008. The Ward Councillors had now been informed of this. Clear Springs stated that there had only been two incidents with residents since the hostels began operating. Stockton Police confirmed that there had been no problems reported to them by residents and they were informed of who would be placed in the hostels.

Cllr Steve Nelson had written to Jack Straw to highlight the lack of clarity of the process to provide bail hostels. The Regional Liaison Group had planned to meet with Clear Springs on 20th June 2008.

## **SSP Minutes of YOS Management Board 13 May 2008 21/08**

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

The Youth Justice Plan would be produced for 2008/9 however this performance documentation would be a self-assesment on whether the service was fit for purpose. The YOS Inspection Report which was published on 9th April 2008, focussed on operational issues for the Partnership.

A major task was to analyse first time entrants into the system, and alternatives that could be used to stop this group of people entering the Criminal Justice System. The results of the analysis would be reported to the next YOS Board meeting

AGREED the actions for the YOS Management Board be noted.

**SSP  
22/08**      **Minutes of Adult Protection Committee 15 May 2008**

The minutes of the Adult Protection Committee were noted for information purposes.

It was noted that Central Government believed only 10% of incidents involving vulnerable adults were reported, however, Performance Indicators for Local Partnership Forums for vulnerable adults, which would impact on Local Authorities star ratings would be introduced.

Within Stockton the number of incidents involving vulnerable adults had fallen, and it was believed that this was due to the positive steps being taken. Members were informed that Stockton Police were early adopters of Police Units for vulnerable adults.

**SSP  
23/08**      **Any other business - Identification only**

The Fire Brigade thanked members for their support received following the incident in Norton Grange where Fire Fighters were attacked.

There was to be a Stakeholder Event to inform and influence the next YOS Plan on 23rd June at the Education Centre. All members were invited to attend.

A Disability Hate Crime event would take place on 13th June at the Education Centre. This would be an all day event, starting at 9.30am, and members were invited to attend.

National Neighbourhood Watch week would take place week commencing 16th June 2008 and various different events would be taking place.

AGREED that the information be noted.

**SSP  
24/08**      **Anti-Social Behaviour**

Members discussed the draft Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy which had been circulated prior to the meeting. The focus of the strategy would be on disrupting the drugs market, using ASBOs to restrict the activity of the most prolific offenders and the continued use Closure Orders to close down premises where it was suspected that Class A drugs were being used or dealt.

Alcohol issues would be dealt with under the Think B4U Drink banner making full use of the powers in the Licensing Act 2003, using enforcement in the 'No Alcohol in Public Places' sites, issuing section 27 Directions to Leave notices that require people to leave the area for a specified period up to 48 hours and Alcohol Disorder Zones where appropriate.

Diverting Young People was also a key objective in the Community Safety Plan, and YOS Management Board would take the lead on this key priority. The ASB

and Community Safety Team provided a range of work linked to this priority:

- Ongoing visits to schools and projects such as ROACH to raise awareness of the impact of anti social behaviour
- Think B4U Drink to raise awareness of how alcohol can affect behaviour
- Weekend and evening operations to provide a uniformed presence in hot spot areas
- Additional youth detached and outreach work provided by the Cornerhouse linked to the PODs.
- LIFE programme provided by the Fire Service to a targeted audience of young people to help them to develop team building, assertiveness, and discipline skills
- Bespoke campaigns such as the 'It's No Yolk' campaign that was used on the run up to mischief and bonfire night.

It was explained that whenever an AS 13 was issued to a young person an information letter was sent out to the parents and they were offered support services. Parenting Support was available via the Preventions Team on a voluntary and statutory basis and whenever ASBO was applied for for a young person the Court was always asked for a Parenting Order to accompany it. To reduce anti social behaviour the Multi Agency ASB Team continued to use an approach based on prevention, support and, enforcement when both of these measures had failed.

Members discussed the distribution of the strategy and were informed that it would be available from public reception points. It was suggested that an article should also be placed in Stockton News highlighting the key points of the document and giving the web address of where it could be downloaded.

Target 1.7 'Increase effective drug interventions' was discussed and it was agreed that the document would be amended to include examples of intervention methods.

AGREED that the the draft ASB Strategy be endorsed, subject to final updating to ensure full consistency with the latest version of the Local Area Agreement.

## **SSP 25/08 Partnership Structures**

Members considered a report regarding the Partnership Structures, which outlined the working arrangements for the six key priorities in the Community Safety Plan.

- (a) Reduce ASB
- (b) Reduce Drug Related Offending
- (c) Reduce Violent Crime
- (d) Reduce Criminal Damage
- (e) Diverting Young People from Offending
- (f) Reducing Other Theft

There was a discussion on whether Members should receive the minutes of the various groups that the partnership was involved in. It was believed that this was not necessary as the partnership worked to hold the groups to account.

AGREED that the Partnership Structures be endorsed.

**SSP Final review of performance against Community Safety Plan 2005/2008**

**26/08**

A report was provided on the Final review of Performance Against Community Safety Plan 2005/8.

48 targets were set in the plan attached to the five key priorities identified by residents as the most important to them during the 2004 consultation. 32 had been fully achieved, six were slightly below target, and only seven had not been achieved. Of the seven two targets related to Fixed Penalty Notices and whilst the number that was issued had reduced rather than the increases proposed in the targets this was seen as positive because less offences were being witnessed even though there was more uniformed presence on the streets. One target was set for 2005/06 only and two targets could not be updated until later in the year.

As well as targets there were also a number of actions under each key priority. All actions under Total Crime, Anti Social Behaviour and Misuse of controlled drugs had been fully achieved. Of the 15 actions under violent crime 12 had been achieved fully. Door supervision reviews and assessment of the impact of the Security Industry Agency were carried out as the required data could not be shared due to being unable to pull off Stockton specific data. Whilst a Business Improvement District was established it had limited impact on contributions to the running costs of CCTV. The Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy group did meet regularly through 2005/07 but was under review to reflect the changes in the PCT. Of the 10 actions to reduce deliberate fires nine were achieved but the rapid response rubbish vehicle could not be retained beyond the summer of 2006.

Targets that were not achieved had been carried forward into the Community Safety Plan 2008/11. It was aimed to maintain reductions in All Crime (Total Crime), the target to reduce Criminal Damage was set at 12% over three years and a target had been set for an annual decrease in the number of positive tests on arrest using a baseline taken from the previous two years.

AGREED that the Final Review of Performance Against Community Safety Plan 2005/8 be noted.

**SSP National Community Safety Plan**

**27/08**

The discussion of the National Community Safety Plan was deferred to the next meeting.

**SSP Community Justice Initiative**

**28/08**

Members were informed that there would be a meeting with several local development boards and the Community Justice Initiative board to discuss how to take this issue forward and seek clarification. It was queried whether the offer had been made to other Partnerships within the Tees Valley area, and it was confirmed that it had.

AGREED that the information be noted.

**SSP**      **New 'Most Similar' Groups**

**29/08**

Members were advised that the Most Similar groupings that the performance of the Community Safety Plan 2005/8 were measured against for Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) and Basic Command Units (BCU) had been reconfigured from April 2008.

Only two other areas from the previous CDRP grouping appeared in the new group: South Yorkshire - Doncaster and Humberside - North East Lincolnshire. The partnership's position in the new group was sixth, which was an improvement from 7th in the old group.

Members discussed the partnership's position in the grouping.

AGREED that the information be noted.

**SSP**      **Doorstep Crime Initiative**

**30/08**

Members were informed of a new Doorstep Crime Initiative 'Not Sure? Don't Open the Door', which was being operated by Retired & Senior Volunteer Programme who had received £60,000 funding to run the project for three years from Big Lottery Fund. RSVP had been running a similar initiative in Redcar & Cleveland and Middlesbrough areas. The initiative aimed to make vulnerable people aware of Bogus Traders and Distraction Burglaries by trained volunteers delivering talks to groups or individuals.

RSVP were based in the Alma Centre, and were in the process of recruiting volunteers. It was believed that the evaluation of this initiative would be a good research project for students of the local Universities, and that it fitted with Stockton leading Tees Valley with No Cold Calling Zones.

It was hoped that referrals for the scheme would be identified by all agencies that may deal with vulnerable adults, including Fire Service, Police, Tristar Homes etc. This scheme would be suitable for those that did not live in a No Cold Calling Zone.

No Cold Calling Zones were discussed. There was a possibility of using funding saved from a previous budget to employ a member of staff who was taking flexible retirement to oversee No Cold Calling Zones, however funding was needed to be secured for materials before this could be confirmed. It was noted that Tristar Home's may be providing some funding for the zones.

AGREED that the information be noted.

**SSP**      **Local Area Agreement (LAA) Update**

**31/08**

The Local Area Agreement 2008 - 11 was presented to members. The key indicators and targets of most direct interest to the Partnership were highlighted as:

- (a) National Indicator 15 (Most) serious violent crime rate
- (b) National Indicator 17 perceptions of ASB as a problem

(c) National Indicator 19 First time entrants into Youth Justice System (local measure only)

(d) National Indicator 33 Arson Incidents

(e) National Indicator 40 'Drug users in effective treatment' (DAT target)

AGREED the update be noted.

**SSP  
32/08**      **Any other business**

There was no further business to be discussed.

**SSP  
33/08**      **Counter Terrorism**

Members were informed that only one area of Cleveland, Middlesbrough, would receive an extra officer to deal with terrorist issues.

There were no other updates to give.

AGREED that the information be noted.

**SSP  
34/08**      **Communications**

Members were presented with a report showing the number of press releases published in the local media for the period 19th April - 31st May. It was noted that not all press releases sent were published.

An incident where a member of the public reported abusive behaviour and the CCTV cameras were redirected to catch those concerned. The public were encouraged to report incidents so that cameras can be used to the best advantage.

AGREED that the information be noted.

**SSP  
35/08**      **Recorded Crime & Disorder**

Members were presented with an update on Recorded Crime and Disorder. Rises were particularly noted with Robbery and Forgery and Fraud. It was requested that further information on Violent Crime be included on further reports.

AGREED that further information be included on violent crime.

**SSP  
36/08**      **Reports Back**

There were no further reports.