

Safer Stockton Partnership

A meeting of Safer Stockton Partnership was held on Tuesday, 16th December, 2008.

Present: Geoff Lee (Chairman - Tristar Homes); Cllr Julia Cherrett, Cllr Steve Nelson, John McMahon, Mike Sahobroom (Stockton on Tees Borough Council); Emma Champley (Stockton DAT); Anne Howard (Neighbourhood Watch); Jeff Evans (Probation); Bert Smailes (Safer Billingham Partnership); Ian Garrett (Eastern Partnership); Nancy Robson (Victim Support); Miriam Robertson (Youth Offending Service); Norman Wright, Chris Coombs (Cleveland Police Authority); John Bentley (Safe in Tees Valley).

Officers: Marilyn Davies (DNS); Fiona Shayler (LD).

Also in attendance:

Apologies: were submitted on behalf of Ted Allen, Mike Batty, Ian Harrington, Lucia Saiger.

SSP 81/08 Minutes of Meeting held on 4th November, 2008

The minutes of the meeting held on 4th November, 2008 were agreed as a correct record.

SSP 82/08 Matters Arising

(a) Custodial Remands of Young Offenders

(Minute 67/08 refers)

(b) Face the People Date - 19 May 2009 5.30 p.m.

(Minute 69/08 refers)

(c) Duties of PCSOs and Neighbourhood Enforcement Service

(Minute 73/08 refers)

(d) CPA Letter re Policing Green Paper

(Minute 77/08 refers)

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(a) No young people at present were remanded into custody. Those who had previously been in custody went on to receive a custodial sentence.

(b) The Face the People Event would be held on 19th May 2009 at 5.30 pm in Thornaby.

(c) Members were provided with a copy of the powers/duties for the PCSOs and Neighbourhood Enforcement Officers and a discussion was held on the possible future standardisation of their powers.

(d) Members were provided with a copy of a letter from the CPA to the Leader of the Council regarding the concept detailed within the Green Paper regarding direct elections to police authority. At the Association of Police Authorities

annual conference there had been an overwhelming rejection to the proposals in relation to direct elections. The CPA were requesting that the SSP and Stockton Borough Council support the CPA and provide their own response to the Government.

AGREED that the matters arising be noted.

SSP 83/08 Minutes of Adult Protection Committee 20 November 2008

The minutes of the Adult Protection Committee on 20th November 2008 were noted.

SSP 84/08 Any other business - Identification Only

None

SSP 85/08 Violent Crime

Members would recall that the Violence Reduction Group steers work on violent crime including the alcohol campaign Think B4U Drink.

Members were provided with analysis that was used by the Violence Reduction Group to direct activity, monitor trends and inform licensing reviews. This report was prepared for each VRG meeting and had been developed for this meeting to look at the period of April to October 2008

During this time we have seen a reduction of 15% in Violence Against the Person offences to 1,781 against 2,094 in the same period last year. This equates to a 3.6% reduction in Assault occasioning Actual Bodily Harm, a 3.4% reduction on common assault and battery and a 57% reduction on activity causing harassment alarm and distress. The latter was mostly due to Operation Exodus, which used section 27 notices, which were effective in removing people from the area before they cause trouble.

The ranking on iQuanta for the most similar BCU was encouraging we had moved from 7th to 5th making us the second best performing BCU in the Force area, behind Redcar.

Statistics from Accident and Emergency were not included within this report as the data was still not available. It was also stated that A&E reception were reluctant to ask questions to patients regarding alcohol and drugs especially as only one member of staff was on duty at a time.

In this instance we need to also consider the loss of NRF funding that will impact on uniformed presence on the streets and the potential loss of Domestic Violence funding also through the NRF and the impact that this may have.

Discussion was held on operation 'Exodus' which enabled Police Officers to ban anyone over 16 for 48 hours from an area if they were causing alcohol related nuisance.

Victim support were hoping to gather information by video link and other

methods to enable more cases to be brought to court. It was anticipated that two/three champions would be trained to gather this evidence.

AGREED that the Information and discussion be noted.

**SSP
86/08** **Recorded Crime & Disorder**

Information was provided on the recorded crime figures, most serious violence figures and anti social behaviour disorder codes for April to October 2008 compared with April to October 2007.

Discussion was held on people not paying for fuel at garages. Marilyn Davies would investigate to see whether there had been any prosecutions.

It was stated that a lot of proactive work was being done relating to prostitution.

AGREED that the update be noted.

**SSP
87/08** **'Whatever it Takes' presentation**

AGREED that the presentation be withdrawn and presented to a future meeting.

**SSP
88/08** **Meeting Dates for 2009-2010**

The following dates were agreed for meetings of SSP for 2009/10.

12 May 2009
16 June 2009
4 August 2009
15 September 2009
3 November 2009
15 December 2009
9 February 2010
23 March 2010
11 May 2010

AGREED that the above dates for 2009/10 be approved.

**SSP
89/08** **MORI 2008**

The results of the Council's 'MORI 2008' survey were now to hand. This was the 'Rolls Royce' version of public consultation, based on face-to-face interviews, carried out by professionally trained interviewers, with a properly stratified sample of interviewees who are therefore representative of the population of the Borough in terms of gender, age, ethnicity, class and geography. The sample was not big enough to make the Most Valid at Ward level but they were valid at the level of six areas of 4 or 5 Wards each.

This was the sixth MORI survey (first started in 1998) and the sample of 1,818 was the largest to date, giving a confidence interval of +/- 2%. This means that any changes from 2006 of 3% or more are statistically significant.

Some of the key points for attention were:-

(a) the top 4 issues mentioned for 'dissatisfaction at the way the Council is running the Borough' were related to our agenda (Q3b)

(b) in the list of 'most important improvements needed', the option 'reducing the level of crime / ASB' had been chosen by a lot fewer respondents this time (Q4)

(c) 'Too many drugs / drug addicts' was a less popular response for reasons why the local area will get worse (Q7b)

(d) There had been a spectacular surge in satisfaction with policing, and a very large increase in satisfaction with the Fire Brigade, from a higher base (Qs 51 and 55)

(e) Community safety was the second most important 'pick', after refuse collections, in terms of importance to residents' quality of life and increased from 2006 (Q56)

(f) Feelings of safety in the daytime are broadly comparable with previous years (Q78) but the net score for after dark has reduced significantly – the number of people who feel unsafe is the same as 2006, but the number who feel very safe has reduced sharply, and the number who never go out has increased sharply (Q79)

(g) We were afflicted by the national malaise in terms of lack of belief in recent crime reductions (Q80)

(h) Concerns about ASB were driven by teenagers hanging around the streets and drugs, not by noisy neighbours and loud parties or abandoned / burnt out cars (Q81).

The Council's Housing and Community Safety Select Committee had recently embarked on a scrutiny review of Neighbourhood Policing, Neighbourhood Watch and CCTV. Once the detailed results had been analysed, and we know which segments of the community are most fearful, the scrutiny review may present an opportunity to explore the issue in more detail with targeted focus groups, to explore what factors drive their fears and what we can do to alleviate them.

AGREED that the information provided on MORI 2008 be noted.

SSP 90/08 Street Lighting

There had been inordinate increases in energy prices in recent years. The cost of electricity for lighting the highway network had more than doubled in the last four years. In terms of cost, the energy bill for street lighting was £512k in 2004/5 and this had risen to approximately £1.2m in 2008/9.

However, there had also been significant improvements in street lighting technology and the control of street lighting energy consumption.

As part of a scrutiny review of the street lighting service in 2006/7 and Cabinet report (4th January 2007), one of the approved recommendations was that

officers explore the technology available for street lighting with the task of developing an 'invest to save' strategy, namely: Project 1: Dimming of street lights and Project 2: Replace Photo-electric Cells.

Each of the above proposals had been based on the reduction in the use of electrical energy by reduced operating hours, reduced lighting levels or a combination of both. As well as reducing the consumption of electrical energy these measures would also provide reductions in light pollution. The simple switching off of a streetlight, or reduction of its light output for a defined period of time, would obviously reduce the level of light pollution during that period; however, it would not reduce the level of light pollution at times of full operation. The use of modern light sources in high performance optics can show reductions in energy consumption as well as reductions in light pollution if the lighting class was carefully chosen to reflect the use and location of the road, whilst still maintaining the amenity provided by the lighting system.

There were many ways in which the use and thus the cost of electrical energy for street lighting can be reduced; however, these would generally require the authority to 'invest to save'. The proposals detailed in this report demonstrate the Council's commitment to reducing energy cost and the negative environmental impact caused by street lighting. The innovative use of modern technology would be designed into the future street lighting infrastructure throughout the Borough.

Members held discussion on the pilot scheme and would like to see figures on the savings that could be made. It was stated that it was anticipated that any savings made by the scheme would be initially injected back into the lighting stock.

Members discussed the impact on crime and the psychology of people feeling safer/happier in well lit areas. Members therefore would like to see regular monitoring reports.

AGREED that the 'invest to save' strategy be endorsed and monitoring reports be presented back to Committee.

**SSP
91/08** **Force Planning Cycle**

Members were provided with the Cleveland Police Authority Policing Plan 2009 – Draft Timetable and Contents as at 1st December 2008.

AGREED that the information be noted.

**SSP
92/08** **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 had been implemented by Crime and Disorder partnerships and Community Safety partnerships across all areas of England and Wales. The scheme in Stockton commenced in September 2004 with an initial caseload of 23 and had now grown to a caseload of 42.

This report highlighted some of the key issues and contributions that the scheme had delivered this year.

It was stated that there had been some very positive outcomes from the PPO scheme and that the team wanted to build on those successes with a higher number of re-offenders.

AGREED that the report be noted.

SSP 93/08 Any other business - Consideration

None

SSP 94/08 Letter to Vernon Coaker re cycling on footways

Members were provided with a copy of a letter to Vernon Coaker regarding cycling on footways sent on behalf of the Partnership.

AGREED that the letter be noted.

SSP 95/08 www.saferstockton.com - traffic on Ward pages

Members were informed of the new web link regarding crime in your area. This will be monitored and reviewed in 3 months time.

AGREED that an update be provided on the link.

SSP 96/08 Counter Terrorism

Nationally the threat was still severe.

AGREED that the update be noted.

SSP 97/08 Communications

Members were provided with the list of media coverage for the period from 11th October to 5th December 2008. Copies of the full articles were available from the Community Safety Team.

AGREED that the information be noted.

SSP 98/08 Reports Back
a) Children's Fund
b) Renaissance
c) Area Partnership Boards
d) Parkfield/Mill Lane Neighbourhood Management Board
e) DIP/PPO Strategy Group

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(a) no update

(b) no update

(c) no update

(d) Neighbourhood Watch (NW) had been invited to the Head Teachers Conference for local primary schools to discuss the Junior Neighbourhood Watch programme. NW were providing purse bells as a christmas gift for residents and were available in places such as the Tabernacle, library, post office etc.

AGREED that the update be noted.