

# Safer Stockton Partnership

A meeting of Safer Stockton Partnership was held on Tuesday, 29th January, 2008.

**Present:** Geoff Lee (Chairman - Tristar); Cllr Alan Lewis, Cllr Steve Nelson, Jane Humphreys, Mike Batty (SBC); Sue Maddison (DAT); Dave Brunskill (Stockton Police); Bert Smailes (Billingham Partnership); John Bentley (Safe in Tees Valley); Paul Klrton (Cleveland Fire Authority); Chris Coombs, Joanne Hodgkinson (Cleveland Police Authority); Lucia Saiger (Probation); Deborah Gibbon (North Tees PCT); Anne Howard (Neighbourhood Watch); Geoff Turner (Western Area Partnership Board); Tina Williams (Central Area Partnership Board).

**Officers:** Marilyn Davies, Anna Clark (DNS); Fiona Shayler (LD).

**Also in attendance:** Cllr Ken Lupton; David Dunn (GONE); Dave Hunter (North East Crime Stoppers).

**Apologies:** were submitted on behalf of Miriam Robertson, Ian Harrington; Ian Garrett, Matt Spencer, Paul Green.

## **SSP Introductions/Apologies**

**361/07**

All Members of the Partnership introduced themselves.

Members were informed that Sue Maddison would be leaving the Authority's DAT this week. Members wished to express their thanks for her hard work since 2004 in ensuring that the DAT was the most successful in the Country.

## **SSP Minutes**

**362/07**

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 4th December 2007 were agreed as a correct record.

## **SSP Matters Arising**

**363/07**

- a) Letter from Home Office (Minute 338 refers)(enclosed)**
- b) RRAP (Minute 341 refers)**
- c) ABI (Minute 341 refers)**

(a) Neighbourhood Watch would be discussing the matter of Cash Seizures and Unexplained Wealth at their next meeting in April, hoping to gain national coverage and support. A copy of a poster was provided as part of the advertising campaign for Members information.

(b) An event by GONE had been held on 18th January. Lucia Saiger and Mike Batty would be meeting to discuss further best practice. Work to break down the statistics into meaningful information at local level would need to take place to produce a fully developed action plan.

(c) NOMS - A letter had been sent to ABI to see if they wanted to be involved.

## **SSP Minutes of YOS Management Board 22 January 2008 (if available)**

**364/07**

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 January were unavailable and would be presented at the next meeting.

Members were provided with a verbal update. Consideration was being given to community representation on the YOS Board. The performance framework was being looked at and a further update report would be provided to the next meeting. The Action Plan produced following the YOS inspection would become the work programme for the year.

AGREED that the update be noted and that the minutes be presented to the next meeting.

## **SSP Action Notes from Scanning & Challenge Group 17 January 2008 (enclosed)**

**365/07**

Members discussed the action notes from the Scanning and Challenge Group 17th January. It was stated that work was being undertaken to make the crime statistics available on the website more accessible. Dave Brunskill stated that data could be provided monthly by ward.

AGREED that the notes of the Scanning and Challenge Group 17 January be noted.

**SSP**      **Any other business**

**366/07**

Members discussed the Community Justice Initiative.

**SSP**      **Community Safety Plan Quarter 3 (enclosed) (MD)**

**367/07**

There were a total of 48 targets in the Community Safety Plan for 2007/08. 30 of the targets were on target to achieve (green), 9 were slightly below expected performance to achieve (amber) and 6 were not likely to be achieved (red). The remaining 3 targets were not due an update this quarter.

Members held discussion on the red and amber targets. It was felt that the target would be reached for total crime by the end of the year. Improved recording systems had been introduced for Motor Salvage Operators. Discussion was held on anti social behaviour and four pending CRASBO's that were currently going through the system.

FPN's for dog fouling and litter were below target. Discussion was held on fly tipping at traveller sites and what measures could be taken.

Work was being done to improve the 3 amber and 1 red target in relation to Drugs.

The Police had been making visits to scrap metal dealers in an endeavour to reduce the theft of metals. A campaign with Northumbrian Water was also currently being negotiated.

The statistics received from A&E for violent crime had been ad hoc in the past, but improvements were being made since the National Standards had been introduced.

AGREED that the report and update be noted.

**SSP**      **Youth Justice Plan Quarter 3 (enclosed) (MR)**

**368/07**

The purpose of the report was to update members on the performance of the YOS against the key Youth Justice Board (YJB) performance indicators. As requested at a previous meeting, comments would be focused upon those areas under performing.

Members were provided with the YJB published data on the YOS' performance April – September 07, informed by the last quarterly submission; the second document was the latest YOS internal monitoring report, which was used by CESC and YOS to monitor performance in the monthly performance clinics.

The YJB monitors performance against 12 national performance measures and associated targets. These 12 Performance Measures were reported annually for Ethnicity and Recidivism and quarterly for Prevention, Final Warnings, Use of Secure Estate, Use of Restorative Processes and Victim Satisfaction, Parenting, Detention and Training Orders, Education, Training and Employment, Accommodation, Mental Health and Substance Use.

There were many areas of strong performance in the YOS, which reflect a strong commitment by staff and partner agencies. However, there were some areas for improvement focused on:

- First Time Entrants
- Recidivism
- Education, Training and Employment

Members held discussion on the report. Tina Williams, Central Area Partnership Board Member, requested that further work be done with the families to prevent youth offending. Dave Hunter, North East Crime Stoppers, stated that he would supply a DVD for Members information.

AGREED that the report and comments be noted.

**SSP**      **Local Area Agreement (LAA) draft (enclosed) (MB)**

**369/07**

Comments were requested on the consultation draft of the LAA, which was available for any comments from members of the Partnership.

Of particular interest was the proposed selection from the list of 198 National Indicators, as previously discussed by this Partnership. This included most of those Indicators recommended by the Partnership, including NI 15, NI 17, NI 42 and NI 5 but not NI 111, the number of First Time Entrants to the Youth Justice System, which will nevertheless be a key indicator within our Community Safety Plan.

NI 40, Drug users in effective treatment, would be an indicator for Stockton DAT rather than this Partnership.

NI 33, Arson incidents, would be a useful addition to the set of indicators.

NI 25 on satisfaction of different (ethnic) groups with the way the police and local council dealt with ASB is not regarded as a sound indicator, in view of the very small numbers of respondents able to give an informed BME response.

Members were concerned that none of the indicators included Alcohol, or First Time Entrants. It was felt that the indicators needed to be meaningful. Mike Batty would report comments back.

Members of the Partnership were requested to endorse the proposed list of Indicators, with the exception of NI 25, and recommended the omission of NI 25.

The next phase of work will be discussions with GONE to get their views.

AGREED that the list of indicators with the omission of NI25 be endorsed and the comments made be noted.

**SSP  
370/07**

#### **Community Cohesion**

This item would be considered at the next meeting.

AGREED that this report be considered at the next meeting.

**SSP  
371/07**

#### **Partnership Strategic Assessment (enclosed) (MD)**

This was the Safer Stockton Partnership's first Strategic Assessment.

As agreed our Strategic Assessment would build on the information supplied in the Tackling Crime and Disorder Audit that was delivered to every door in the Borough during August 2007. Partners agreed that this document would be between 15 and 20 pages and the finished product was 17 pages in length.

The Strategic Assessment provided data and analysis for the period April to September 2007 based on the key priorities identified by respondents to the Tackling Crime and Disorder survey and for the sixth key priority that may change depending on crime patterns. For this period Other Theft was adopted following analysis primarily from the Police Strategic Assessment.

The information obtained from the analysis from the Partnership Strategic Assessment and the Police Strategic Intelligence Assessment has in turn been used to develop the Community Safety Plan.

A summary of the Partnership Strategic Assessment tells us that:

a) Anti Social Behaviour

Two wards have the highest level of incidents reported to the Police, ASB Team and NES. Males were more likely to be perpetrators with youths under 18 accounting for 75% of known perpetrators.

b) Drug Related Offending

Heroin remained the main drug of choice for those arrested who have a substance misuse problem

c) Violent Crime

Only 2% of violent crimes were classed as serious following the new PSA measure. Domestic Violence was flagged in 20% of cases.

d) Criminal Damage

There were 2,448 offences during the reporting period, which was a reduction of 9% compared to the previous six months.

e) Diverting Young People

The Youth Offending Service dealt with 467 young people and of those 52% were first time entrants.

f) Other Theft

Shoplifting and theft not classified elsewhere accounts for almost 80% of the HO category Other Theft. Theft of metals accounts for 35% of theft not classified elsewhere with 40% stolen from domestic premises.

In preparing the plan some issues with data were encountered, either the a lack of information or poor recording and this would be addressed with partners prior to the production of the next Partnership Strategic Assessment that would be produced in line with the Police Intelligence Strategic Assessment.

Members were asked to consider the report and contact the Community Safety Analyst with any queries or suggestions.

Members felt that more detailed data and statistics were required particularly in relation to the national treatment data that was received, and data was poor for domestic violence.

Discussion was held on facilities for young people and the introduction of Youth Cafes. Members felt that provision for young people had improved with Centres in Brunswick Street, Town Centre Youth Cafe, further Youth Cafes to open in Billingham and Thornaby and anticipated future funding for a possible Cafe in Ingleby Barwick. It was stated that Newtown and Hardwick also had good youth facilities.

AGREED that the report and comments be noted.

**SSP  
372/07**

**Community Safety Plan 2008 - 2011 (enclosed) (MD)**

This was the fourth Community Safety Plan produced for the Safer Stockton Partnership. Members were provided with the latest draft available and a more updated version was made available at the meeting that would contain some additional graphs and charts.

Members would recall that the Government produced National Standards for Partnerships in the autumn of 2007. The standards contained a number of statutory requirements for the Plan and these were listed.

Comments on the Plan were requested by 14th February.

Tina Williams, Central Area Partnership Board Member, requested that 'The Family' be included within some of the indicators where appropriate.

The final draft will be presented to the next meeting.

AGREED that the comments be noted and that any further comments be submitted prior to 14th February.

**SSP  
373/07**

**Draft Cleveland Multi Agency Arson Reduction Strategy (enclosed) (MB)**

Members were provided with a draft of the Cleveland Multi Agency Reduction Strategy. Members queried the logos on the front cover of the paper to ensure that they were the most up to date.

AGREED that the draft Cleveland Multi Agency Arson Reduction Strategy be endorsed.

**SSP  
374/07**

**YOS Inspection - draft report (enclosed) (JH/MR)**

Members were provided with the draft report following the YOS Inspection, with the opportunity to

correct any factual inaccuracies. A meeting was due to take place on 23rd January 2008 to agree a draft response.

Overall, the YOS was a strong service but the key area that let the service down was inconsistent services. The YOS was without a Manager for 10 months, so this had no doubt had an effect upon the service. A new MIS was being introduced which was taking up a lot of Officer time.

The final report would be received in April then an improvement plan would be produced.

AGREED that the draft report be noted.

**SSP  
375/07**

### **Forced Marriages / 'Honour Based Violence' (enclosed) (LSCB report)**

This report was presented to Board members as a safeguarding and community safety issue following a conference held by Cleveland Police in November 2007 to raise awareness of Forced Marriages.

In November Cleveland Police established a confidential help line for victims of forced marriage and domestic violence – 0800 5 999 365.

Forced marriage is a gross violation of women's human rights. It is a form of domestic violence and/ or child abuse. A distinction must be made between forced marriage, where there is a lack of free consent, and an arranged marriage where both parties give consent freely. Although men can also be forced into marriage, research indicates overwhelmingly that forced marriage affects women and young women adversely. In forced marriage situations there can be a number of influencing factors for example, emotional blackmail, social pressure, threatening behaviour, abduction, imprisonment, physical violence, rape, sexual abuse, suicide and even murder.

Although the issue of forced marriage has been highlighted amongst women from the Muslim communities, cases have also been reported in other religious groups such as Sikh, Hindu and amongst different ethnic groups from the Middle Eastern, East Asian, Turkish and African communities. Forced marriages may also exist within other tight knit orthodox communities such as Chinese, Japanese and Jewish.

Forced marriage cannot be regarded as a cultural practice that is respected or tolerated because it is a violation of human rights. Nor is it sufficient to allow the various communities, where the practice exists to police themselves. Forced marriage like domestic violence and racism must not be tolerated. All women must be able to make free and informed choices about their lifestyles.

There are no comprehensive or official statistics on the scale of the problem. Most agencies do not keep records on forced marriage. Even where statistics on domestic violence or child abuse are collated, cases of forced marriage are rarely identified and categorised.

Where an adult is forced into marriage they are experiencing domestic abuse. If a child is forced into marriage they are subjected to child abuse. Where people refuse to enter into arrangements for forced marriages they can be the subject of exclusion from their family and community, violence; physical and mental, and are therefore in need of support. Stockton is working hard to tackle domestic and child abuse and interconnectivity needs to take place between the Safeguarding Children Board and the Community Safety Partnership to ensure both boards are working together to provide safe environments for potential victims.

All agencies need to be aware of Forced Marriages as a Safeguarding children issue. Staff and young people also need to be aware of the help that is available to potential victims and professionals. This should be reaffirmed by revisiting the procedures to make sure the information contained within it is up to date and awareness of the Police 'Choice' help line should be displayed wherever possible. The displaying of the posters is particularly relevant in schools as this is where the majority of young people will access information either for themselves or friends.

AGREED that:-

1. The Forced Marriages report be noted.
2. The circulation of 'Choice' – Forced Marriages help line posters for display in schools and other public buildings to raise awareness of the help line be noted.

**SSP  
376/07**

### **Evaluation of Consultation Programme 2007 (enclosed) (MD)**

At the meeting on 4th December it was agreed that a final report be brought to this meeting to evaluate the success of the consultation and to identify lessons learned.

The overall response rate was increased to over 4,000 however some of the forms were not completed correctly and were therefore voided.

There were a number of points identified where improvements could be made which were highlighted within the report that would be incorporated into future plans for consultation.

AGREED that the report be noted.

**SSP  
377/07**

### **Drink Banning Orders (enclosed) (MD)**

Drink Banning Orders were introduced in the Alcohol Related Violence and Disorder section of the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 but were not in force at the moment. A drink banning order prohibits an individual against whom it is made from certain activities to protect other people from crime and disorder and could contain prohibitions against entering certain premises.

The proposed duration of the order would not be less than two months and not more than two years. The order can be sought against any individual aged 16 and above.

The Court cannot make an order unless it was satisfied that a place on a specified approved alcohol course was available and the subject of the order had agreed to take part in the course, however the Court could issue an Interim Order whilst it considers whether the conditions for the order were satisfied. The Secretary of State must approve the course. An order can include the provision to discharge it once the course was completed satisfactorily. If this caveat was not included the Court must give reasons for not doing so in open court.

It was proposed that the Police, British Transport Police and the local authority, can make an application for an order.

The order could be sought in the Magistrates and County Courts and it could be joined to other proceedings provided the conduct was material. The Court could also make an order on conviction if it was satisfied that the offender was under the influence of alcohol.

If the subject of the order did anything that they were prohibited from doing they were guilty of an offence and this breach would carry a fine not exceeding level four on the standard scale.

Members may be aware that the ASB Team currently use Anti Social Behaviour Orders and Criminal Anti Social Behaviour Orders against people who were causing problems in licensed premises. This followed a Pub Watch Banning Order when the recipient of the ban was continuing to enter the premises against the wishes of the landlord or if the offence was of serious nature for example when violent crime has been committed.

The Alcohol Community Safety Officer attended the Court User Group and was monitoring the introduction of Drink Banning Orders to ensure that we could continue to use the most effective order for our purposes.

A further paper would be brought to the partnership when detail of the introduction date and an approved course for this area was known.

AGREED that the update be noted.

**SSP  
378/07**

### **National Community Safety Plan 2008 - 2011 (enclosed) (MB)**

This document was published in December 2007, taking over from the National Community Safety Plan, which covered the period 2006/09, and sets out a Central Government view of priorities.

The 40 page Plan was structured around ten key objectives. In each case, the Plan sets out what the objective means for

- a) the public
- b) for partnerships (52 action points in total)
- c) regionally and nationally (46 action points in total)

Members were provided with a schedule showing in each case the key section narration text and the action points for Partnerships, numbered 1 – 52, with space for a commentary describing the current position for our Partnership.

It was proposed to bring this report back to the March meeting, complete with commentary, in order to identify any gaps or areas for improvement.

AGREED that the update be noted and further report be presented to a future meeting.

**SSP  
379/07**

### **Analysis of Offending by PPOs (enclosed) (JE)**

This report examined the offending by those offenders who had been designated as Prolific and other priority offenders by the Safer Stockton Partnership. It also examined the correlation of thefts from shops by this group as compared to their predominant offences. Whilst examining this aspect of their offending it seemed appropriate to examine the number of times the same offenders have been arrested and drug tested on arrest, since 2003 when drug testing on arrest was introduced. This cohort consists of thirty-three offenders who were on the scheme between the 1st January and 30th June 2007.

The reader must take cognisance of the fact that because of the lengthy time scale examining this data most of these offenders will have spent periods of time in custody, or on remand, and would not therefore have been at liberty in the community all of the time. Similarly whilst they have been arrested and drug tested on numerous occasions those arrests may not always result in a criminal conviction for a variety of reasons.

In the financial year 2007/8 a target had to be set in the LAA framework which measured the effectiveness of the PPO scheme in reducing crime by those targeted offenders. Stockton selected a cohort of offenders to identify a baseline in their offending (those crimes with which they were charged 12 months prior to entry on the scheme and those offences with which they were charged 12 months whilst on the scheme). This actually equated to a figure of 153 crimes against 103 crimes, a reduction of 32%. The target was to reduce crime by this cohort by a further 15% over three years, (5% per annum). This years target was therefore 37%.

It had been identified that the largest increase in crime was the "other theft " category which included theft from shops and theft of scrap metal.

Between April and October 2007 offences of theft across the whole of the Borough have increased over and above the corresponding period last year by 560 offences, a 26.8 % increase.

There was clear evidence that the PPO cohort use shoplifting to support their illicit drug misuse probably for a number of reasons:-

- Availability of items in local shops
- Easy to sell stolen items
- Unlikely to result in a remand in custody for an initial first, second offence
- Does not usually carry a tariff of a custodial sentence

Members agreed that this would be discussed further at the next meeting.

AGREED that further discussion take place at the next meeting.

**SSP  
380/07**

### **Integrated Services Area Consultation - Children & Young People's Services (enclosed) (MB)**

Members were provided with a document that was the second consultation report on the

proposals for the restructuring and reconfiguration of children's services in Stockton-on-Tees. The first consultation report was produced and consulted on during February and March 2007.

Following the consultation process, the first report was agreed at the Children's Trust Board, North Tees Primary Care Trust Board and Local Authority Cabinet.

Members were provided with details on the posts that had been filled and proposed structures etc.

AGREED that the report be noted and that any comments be submitted by 31st January.

**SSP  
381/07**

### **Custody Youth Support Project (enclosed) (MB)**

Members were provided with a report on the Custody Youth Support project, from which some Stockton young people had been benefiting since February 2007. Support was sought for further funding of the scheme after current Home Office funding expires at March 2008.

A meeting was held at Police HQ on 14 January to discuss the scheme with representatives from the four Boroughs. The Deputy Chief Constable offered strong support for the scheme, although stopping short of making a firm commitment to funding at this stage.

Further information was provided, including a monthly breakdown of the 'screened', 'assessed' and 'referred' numbers, and an analysis of juvenile arrests, which showed that Stockton young people accounted for exactly 25% of arrests, and that the most frequent offences among these 1540 juvenile arrests were criminal damage (263), theft (243), assault (216), public order (189), 'other' (184) and burglary (178), with no other category exceeding 100.

A number of further queries were identified. These included a consensus that any extension of the scheme should incorporate a commitment to further evaluation, to look at comparison of the re-arrest/ re-offending rates between young people who had been identified from the scheme and those who had not (given that only about 10% of young people assessed had been contacted). A further key issue was the extent to which the 'penetration rate' could be improved by more flexible work patterns, modelled on crime patterns, once the Home Office restraints no longer apply. A commitment was given to circulate further information within two weeks.

The Stockton 'share' of the £180k sought would be £45k. The Safer Stockton Partnership alone is not in a position to fund this, but it is possible that we could be contributors to a funding package if there are contributions from other sources (e.g. YOS, Communities for Health, DAT, Children's Services).

It was recommended that the Partnership agree to make £10k available from the Partnership Investment Plan for 2008/09 to support this scheme (this would necessitate 'trimming' £10k from other current projects). This would help to achieve continuity of this scheme for another 12 months, to allow time for comparative re-arrest figures to become meaningful.

AGREED that the Partnership make a £10k contribution for 2008/09.

**SSP  
382/07**

### **No Cold Calling Zones (enclosed) (MB)**

Two areas were chosen: Burnside Grove/Court, Stockton (40 households) and Challoner Road area, Yarm (111 households). These areas were chosen for various reasons including previous problems with traders cold calling and layout and size.

Information was sent to householders in September and October 2006 and meetings were arranged where the issues were explained and discussed. Residents in both areas were in favour of piloting the "No Cold Calling Zones".

Both zones were officially launched in February 2007.

The zones were operated for 6 months before a residents questionnaire was delivered to all houses in the zone canvassing views of residents in September 2007.

Members were provided with the results from the questionnaire.



AGREED that the report be noted for information.

**SSP  
383/07**      **Cleveland Fire Brigade Budget Issues (IH)**

AGREED that the report be presented to a future meeting.

**SSP  
384/07**      **CPA Feedback (MB)**

AGREED that the feedback from the CPA be noted as it was still embargoed.

**SSP  
385/07**      **BCU Fund (enclosed) (MB)**

Members of the Partnership would recall that in recent years the BCU Fund of £157k has made up about 40% of the funding directly available to the Partnership and spent according to our annual Partnership Investment Plan.

The latest information available for 2008/09 was that there had been a 20% cut in the BCU Fund nationally. On the assumption that this was applied equally to all BCUs, we would lose about £31k.

Ways of dealing with this reduction, including the possibility of substituting other funding, were being explored, and a proposed Partnership Investment Plan for 2008/09 would be presented to the next meeting of the Partnership, on 18 March, for approval.

AGREED that the report be noted.

**SSP  
386/07**      **Counter Terrorism (GG)**

No further information to report.

AGREED that an update be provided at the next meeting.

**SSP  
387/07**      **Communications (enclosed) (MD)**

Members were provided with the list of press releases for the period from 19th November 2007 to 11th January 2008.

AGREED that the information be noted.

**SSP  
388/07**      **Recorded Crime & Disorder (enclosed) (MD)**

The recorded crime figures and Anti Social Behaviour disorder codes for April - December 2007 compared with April - December 2006, were provided for information.

AGREED that the information be noted.

**SSP  
389/07**      **Reports Back**  
**a) Children's Fund (MR)**  
**b) Renaissance (DB/MP)**  
**c) Area Partnership Boards (BS/TW/GT/IG)**  
**d) Parkfield/Mill Lane Neighbourhood Management Board (DB)**  
**e) DIP/PPO Strategy Group (DB/MB/SM)**

Central Area Partnership Board - Discussion was held on the Hardwick Redevelopment scheme and 'affordable' housing. It was felt that there was a lack of facilities at Tilery Sports Centre. The Doctor's Surgery was also being relocated. Members raised the issue of Planning Applications and information that was previously been received by the Partnership listing any planning applications that had community safety implications.

DIP/PPO - An update was provided on funding for the DIP, there had been no increase or carry over. Investigations were taking place to see if arrest referrals could be outsourced to make savings. There had been a 4% uplift on the DAT budget due to good performance. The increase

was profiled and the performance would have to be maintained.

Neighbourhood Watch - Angel Business Communications were putting together a website that would hopefully be up and running in the next six months.