



East Middlesbrough Community Justice Initiative

Minutes of the meeting between the CJI Project Board and CSP/CDRP chairs on Friday 14th March 2008.

Teesside Magistrates Court.

12.30pm – 2.00pm

Those attending:

Rachel Beard	Middlesbrough CSP
Mike Batty	Stockton CDRP
Hilary Askin	CJI Project Co-ordinator.
William Fletcher	Cleveland Criminal Justice Board
Helen Kemp	Cleveland Criminal Justice Board
Carole Freeman-Dunn JP	Vice Chair of the CJ Bench
Debra Galloway	Teesside Magistrates Court
Alison Pitt	Teesside Probation Service
Guy Prest	Crown Prosecution Service
Ch Insp. Steve Kielty	Cleveland Police
Mandy Walker	STEM Project

1. APOLOGIES

Alison Mawson	Hartlepool CDRP
Geoff Lee	Redcar & Cleveland CSP

HA introduced the meeting to all those who were in attendance and a round of introductions took place. HA then gave background to the discussions and how the LCJB gave the go ahead for the roll out of the CJI to other areas at the LCJB meeting dated the 28th of January 2008 at Norton Education Centre.

MB introduced his role in the Stockton partnership and commented how their is an agreement, in principle, to roll out the community justice initiative while also commenting that Hartlepool feel similarly positive about the project. HA then explained that she was due to meet with AM, the Mayor of Hartlepool and the chair of the Hartlepool bench of Magistrates in the near future to discuss CJ. MB continued, commenting that a recent Face the People event in the Newtown area of Stockton had produced a lively debate on sentencing policy which indicated a need for CJ in that area.

Discussions then moved onto funding and what is available for the roll out of new initiatives. HA explained the new funding that had been applied for from the CJ national team as well the funding available from the HMCS community engagement funding pot. Discussions then moved onto what would need to happen to make CJ come about in the CDRP/CSP areas. SK explained that an area would have to be identified, most probably using wards areas with ties to existing forums/ community groups, neighbourhood management and neighbourhood policing structures. Using statistics based around deprivation, crime and anti social behaviour would also be a useful indicator (as seen in the initial stages of choosing East Middlesbrough site). HA then emphasised the need to manage the expectations of the local communities through the process of implementing CJ in that case load may be low initially due to the use of the out of court disposals and the change and subsequent disruption in police bailing procedures. HA continued, explaining that the focus should not just be on the court itself but emphasis should be put on the pre and post court work of the criminal justice system. Community engagement should

also play a significant part in CJ in the education of local communities in how the CJS works (e.g. through sentencing Q & A events with local magistrates and members of the judiciary). MB explained that identifying the area would be easy enough but these areas do not all have the neighbourhood management infrastructure that can be seen in Middlesbrough.

MB then asked what Stockton would actually get from CJ. HA explained that the principles of CJ is more than just a dedicated court (e.g. raising the confidence of our communities in the CJS) and that aspects of CJ will continue (section 178, magistrates engaging in the community, community impact statements, community payback). It was commented that it may not be possible for Stockton to have a dedicated court (as per the model seen in East Middlesbrough). Further discussions took place on the other aspects of CJ that roll out areas can expect. These included community reparation, increased emphasis on community participation and volunteering, LCJB work projects and community impact statements.

MB then raised the role of HA as project coordinator and whether this role would continue. HK explained that HA's role would come to an end by the end of April but the LCJB will appoint a new project coordinator as a secondment from both the CJS agencies and the CDRP/CSP's. HA commented that representatives from CDRP will be needed to help coordinate any roll out.

MB explained that he had all the information needed and thanked everyone for attending. He then explained that he would need to speak to the Stockton partnership on the following Tuesday to obtain further direction. MB did note however that the position of CJ coordinator is critical to the roll out of CJ and the sooner that position was filled the smoother any roll out would be.