

# Safer Stockton Partnership

A meeting of Safer Stockton Partnership was held on Tuesday, 4th November, 2008.

**Present:** Geoff Lee (Chairman); Cllr Steve Nelson, Mike Batty, Matthew Clifford, Graham Clingan, Jane Humphreys (Stockton Borough Council); Lucia Saiger (Teesside Probation); Miriam Robertson (Youth Offending Service); Matt Spencer (HMP Holme House); Nancy Robson (Victim Support); Sarah Wilson (Cleveland Police Authority); Dave Brunskill, Ted Allen (Police); Anne Howard (Neighbourhood Watch); Ian Harrington (Fire and Rescue); Mick Stoker (Cleveland Fire Authority).

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

**Also in attendance:** David Dunn (GONE); Allison Agius (Catalyst).

**Apologies:** were submitted on behalf of Cllr Julia Cherrett, John Bentley, Ian Garrett, Chris Coombs.

## **SSP 58/08 Minutes of the Meeting - 19th August 2008**

The minutes of the meeting held on 19th August were agreed as a correct record.

## **SSP 59/08 Matters Arising**

SSP 47/08 - The Seminar had been held on 10th October 2008. An action plan had been produced and lead persons had been identified for the eight pathways.

## **SSP 60/08 Minutes of YOS Management Board 9 October 2008**

The minutes of the YOS Management Board were agreed as a correct record. It was noted that funding had been received for the Youth Crime Action Plan.

## **SSP 61/08 Minutes of Adult Protection Committee 18 September 2008**

The minutes of the Adult Protection Committee held on 18th September were agreed as a correct record.

## **SSP 62/08 Action Notes from Scanning & Challenge Group 20 October 2008**

The action notes from the Scanning and Challenge Group held on 20th October 2008 were noted.

## **SSP 63/08 Any other Business**

### **Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership [RIEP] : Community Safety Pilot**

Members were provided with an update on the Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership [RIEP]- Community Safety Pilot Activity. Members were informed that information had been requested by GONE to identify areas of greatest need.

AGREED that the information be noted.

## **SSP 64/08 Annual General Meeting**

The following appointments were made:-

Appointment of Chair - Geoff Lee

Appointment of Vice Chair - Superintendent Dave Brunskill

Representatives on Stockton Renaissance - Superintendent Dave Brunskill and Ian Harrington

Representative on Children's Fund Panel - Miriam Robertson

Representative on Parkfield/Mill Lane Neighbourhood Management Board -Chief Inspector Ted Allen

AGREED that the above appointments be approved.

**SSP  
65/08**      **Recorded Crime & Disorder**

Members were provided with a report that sets out the recorded crime figures, Serious Violent Crime figures and anti social behaviour disorder codes for April to September 2008 compared with April to September 2007.

Discussion was held on fraud in relation to leaving without paying for petrol, positive work ongoing in relation to prostitution, good reporting mechanisms for residents with regard to noise nuisance.

AGREED that the information be noted.

**SSP  
66/08**      **Community Safety Plan Quarter 2 July - September**

There were a total of 44 targets in the Community Safety Plan for 2008/11. 29 of the targets had been achieved (green), 10 were slightly below expected performance (amber). The remaining five targets were not due an update during this quarter.

The red and amber targets were addressed in more detail.

A meeting had been held with Accident and Emergency who had recently appointed a new Team Leader. It was anticipated that improvements with the quality of data could be achieved in the future.

It was noted that Victim Support had enhanced their service regarding criminal damage victims and were providing locks. For victims of domestic violence assistance towards alarm systems, taxis to court etc. were being provided.

AGREED that the update be noted.

**SSP  
67/08**      **Youth Justice Plan Quarter 3 July - September**

Members were provided with the Youth Justice Plan Quarter 3 July - September 2008. It was stated that getting young offenders into education was one of the main successes in people not reoffending. There had been a sustained decrease in first time entrants due to the work being done to prevent first time entrants into the system.

Discussion was held on the support offered to parents and carers. Information was provided on parenting orders and how they could be enforced.

Discussion around high numbers of custodial remands. Miriam Robertson outlined the processes the YOS has for scrutinising custodial remands and it was the view of the YOS that all were justified on the grounds of seriousness / persistence of alleged offending. The view was expressed that it was likely that this would have a future impact upon rates of custodial sentences over the next few months.

Further information was requested on custodial remands to be presented at the next meeting. Members queried whether many cases were dropped due to witnesses not attending court to give evidence.

AGREED that the report be noted and that further information be received on custodial remands.

**SSP  
68/08**      **Evaluation of 'Safe at Home'**

This project originated from the Repeat Victims of Dwelling Burglary Project that commenced in 2001 using funding from the Partnership Development Fund Burglary Reduction Initiative Funding. A full evaluation was carried out in November 2002 by Safe in Tees Valley. A further evaluation report was brought to the partnership in January 2005.

Since the project had commenced we have assisted 661 people who were either a repeat victim of dwelling burglary and/or a victim of domestic violence and/or considered to be vulnerable following a visit by the Police Crime Prevention Officer. Of those 205 were victims of domestic violence and 219 were over the age of 65. The remainder were vulnerable for a range of other reasons such as being a single parent, mental health issues, other health issues etc.

The University of Durham had undertaken research into the project and in summary reported that the project had contributed to a reduction in dwelling burglary by reducing repeat incidents and also in increased feelings of safety and security.

Information was provided on the funding, the scheme continues to be well used, but funding continues to be an issue. For the remainder of this financial year we will need to prioritise cases as they come in and we will focus on those who have already been a victim of crime.

Next year money will be available for victims of domestic violence but we may not be able to offer the full service to vulnerable people as we have in the past unless additional funding can be found.

Member held discussion on the items that were made available as part of this project and it was stated that during the coming winter months a warm pack would be offered to recipients. These packs were being developed by the Fire Service and would contain items such as; a blanket, a flask, a wind up torch, electric blankets, hat/scarf/gloves.

AGREED that the information be noted.

**SSP  
69/08**

### **Face the People Session**

The second Face the People session was held in Billingham on the 1st September 2008. Members were provided with notes taken at the session.

At the meeting on the 18th March 2008 the partnership agreed that we would hold these sessions yearly by joining an established meeting and that we would visit each Local Area Partnership Board area. It was proposed that the next session should be held in Thornaby around April/May 2009.

AGREED that:-

1. The proposal to hold the next Face the People session in the Thornaby area.
2. The representative for the Local Area Partnership Board identify a suitable meeting in early 2009.

**SSP  
70/08**

### **Green Infrastructure**

Members were provided with a presentation on the Green infrastructure which in summary was a network of open spaces, countryside, rivers, lakes and street trees within and between our towns and villages. It included both public and private assets.

A number of key regional strategies highlighted the multiple benefits provided by green infrastructure and the important role it can play in the economic, social and environmental regeneration of the North East and its city-regions.

The recently published Tees Valley Green Infrastructure Strategy set out the vision for the future development and management of green infrastructure within the sub-region. The Strategy identified a network of 17 strategic green infrastructure corridors stretching across the Tees valley, 9 of which cover parts of Stockton Borough.

In summary, the Stockton Borough Green Infrastructure strategy would be based in part on the network of green infrastructure corridors identified at the Tees Valley scale, but would also identify a Borough-wide green infrastructure network and recognise the environmental, social and economic value of all local green spaces. The Strategy will set priorities for the future development and management of this network of green infrastructure and greenspaces, highlighting how this will contribute towards the core objectives identified in the Borough's

Sustainable Community Strategy.

Members discussed how the Partnership could provide an input into the strategy. A top priority within the MORI Poll was more activities for young people to do. Discussion was held on parks/play areas being safer, countryside wardens and problems with off road motorbikes.

AGREED that the comments be noted and a further response be made on behalf of the Partnership.

**SSP  
71/08**

### **Young Persons Alcohol Project**

In response to the Government National Alcohol Strategy; Safe Sensible Social 2007 the PCT commissioned work from STASH to establish the drinking patterns of young people. The area chosen was Billingham and the work commenced in August 2008.

The aims of the project were highlighted.

Initial work was done with stakeholders and hot spot areas were identified. A questionnaire was developed and sampled with a group of young people. 200 young people who self reported that they used alcohol completed surveys anonymously.

Seven young people were involved in identifying strategies that would work and the development of the toolkit and the focus group that was formed for this element of the work looked at existing resources being used by ThinkB4UDrink. The group recommended a web-based tool to include an alcohol unit calculator. They wanted to see alcohol education include culture and attitudes to drinking rather than the current 'health' focus and they said that they would prefer this to be delivered by someone other than a teacher.

A summary of the research was provided. The final draft of the report was attached providing full details of the outcomes of the work.

Members held discussion on the culture around teenage drinking.

AGREED that the report be noted.

**SSP  
72/08**

### **Core Strategy Development Plan**

The purpose of this report was to ensure that the Board was aware of the publication of the Core Strategy Development Plan Document (DPD), and of the processes involved in this 'new' stage of DPD preparation. The closing date for comments was 22nd December. Members felt that the most relevant to the Safer Stockton Partnership was Policy 3 - Sustainable Living.

AGREED that the report be noted.

**SSP  
73/08**

### **Cycling on Footpaths**

Discussion was held on accidents caused by cyclists to pedestrians. Cllr Nelson highlighted a number of accidents that had occurred where people had been injured. Dave Brunskill stated that the Police were unable to deal with incidents such as these as road traffic accidents. Tickets were given out to cyclists riding on footpaths but warnings were generally given in the first instance.

It was requested that figures be provided on how many cyclists had been fined for riding on footpaths/pedestrian areas. It was also requested that a list of duties for PCSO's and Enforcement Officers be provided.

AGREED that the information requested be provided.

**SSP  
74/08**

### **Letter from Minister for Policing, Crime and Security**

Members were provided with a copy of a letter from the new Minister for Policing, Crime and

Security - Vernon Coaker, MP. Mike Batty will write back highlighting issues such as cyclists on footpaths, motor vehicles being used on waste land etc. causing nuisances.

AGREED that Mike Batty send a letter of reply.

**SSP  
75/08**      **Youth Crime Action Plan**

Members were provided with a letter from the Home Office detailing funding that was available for 2009/11. It was anticipated that approximately half of the funding would go towards the family interventions project. Also some funding would go towards operation stay safe. Further information would be brought back to the partnership in due course.

Any Other Business

Youth Justice Plan - Validation had been received from the Youth Justice Board, they had scrutinised casefiles and feedback had been very positive with a score of 3 out of a possible 4. However, we would still be looking at capacity to improve.

AGREED that the letter be noted.

**SSP  
76/08**      **Whatever it Takes**

'Whatever it Takes' was a pilot scheme that would bring partners together to hard hit specific areas to prevent fire starting. A similar project had been held in Middlesbrough and it was requested that further information on this project be provided to the next meeting.

AGREED that a further report be presented to the next meeting.

**SSP  
77/08**      **Response to Policing Green Paper**

Members were provided with a copy of the The Policing Green Paper – From the neighbourhood to the national: policing our communities together and the partnership's response to this.

AGREED that the information be noted.

**SSP  
78/08**      **Counter Terrorism**

The threat nationally was still severe.

AGREED that the update be noted.

**SSP  
79/08**      **Communications**

Members were provided with a list of press releases and coverage for the period from 1st August to 10th October 2008.

AGREED that the information be noted.

**SSP  
80/08**      **Reports Back**

- (a) Children's Fund**
- (b) Renaissance**
- (c) Area Partnership Boards**
- (d) Parkfield/Mill Lane Neighbourhood Management Board**
- (e) DIP/PPO Strategy Group**

- (a) Childrens Fund - Currently reviewing projects with a view to recommissioning.
- (b) no report back
- (c) no report back
- (d) no report back
- (e) no report back

