

Safer Stockton Partnership

A meeting of Safer Stockton Partnership was held on Tuesday, 3rd February, 2009.

Present: Geoff Lee (Chairman - Tristar Homes Ltd), Cllr Steve Nelson, Mike Batty, Lyn Burns (Stockton on Tees Borough Council), Ted Allen (Cleveland Police), Emma Champley (Stockton DAT), Peter Butler (North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust), Norman Wright, Chris Coombs (Police Authority), Mick Stoker (Cleveland Fire Authority), Ian Harrington (Fire Brigade), Geoff Turner (Western Area Partnership Board), Ian Garrett (Eastern Area Partnership Board), Bert Smailes (Billingham Partnership Board), Jeff Evans (Probation), John Bentley (Safe in Tees Valley); Lucia Saiger (Teesside Probation Area), Nancy Robson (Victim Support).

Officers: Anna Clark, Marilyn Davies (DNS); Tanya Harrison (LD).

Also in attendance: David Dunn (GONE).

Apologies: were submitted on behalf of Elizabeth Benomran, Miriam Robertson, Sue Cash, Elizabeth Shassere, Dave Brunskill, Cllr Mrs Julia Cherrett.

SSP 99/08 **Declarations of Interest**

None

SSP 100/08 **Minutes of the meeting of 16th December 2008**

The minutes of the meeting were agreed as a correct record with the addition of Mick Stoker to the list of attendees.

SSP 101/08 **Matters Arising**
(a) Reply to Vernon Coaker letter (Minute 94/08 refers)

(a) Members were provided with a reply to their letter to Vernon Croaker.

Other matters arising:-

A report would be presented to the DAT Steering Group in March regarding the merger of the two groups.

The date for the Face the People Event was confirmed as 19 May 2009 at 5.30 p.m.

SSP 102/08 **Minutes of Safeguarding Adults Committee - 15 January 2009**

The Minutes of the Safeguarding Adults Committee of 15 January 2009 were noted.

SSP 103/08 **Action Notes from Scanning & Challenge Group - 19 January 2009**

The action notes from the Scanning and Challenge Group of 19th January 2009 were noted.

SSP 104/08 **Any Other Business**

No other business was identified.

SSP 105/08 Partnership Strategic Assessment

Members were provided with the second Partnership Strategic Assessment prepared for SSP. The document provided an updated analysis on the key priorities and further analysis looking at Victim, Offender and Location to ensure that we were tackling the key crime and disorder issues for our area.

At our last meeting we discussed the headline findings from MORI 2008 and we observed that further scrutiny was needed around the results relating to fear of crime. For the PSA we have looked at the MORI data by the smallest areas available and then examined actual crime rates for specific crime in the same localities.

Members would recall that in March 2005 we agreed a number of principles that we would use to trigger our in depth discussions, not all apply to this paper but those listed below may be useful prompts:

- a) How reliable/complete is our information base?
- b) What are we doing about the gaps?
- c) What more could we do about the gaps?
- d) Who bears the economic costs and the savings?

Members discussed the report in detail. Members were informed that data was being received from the Ambulance Service but there were still difficulties with receiving information from A&E, however this was being progressed.

Discussion was held on thefts from petrol stations. There was a dedicated police officer to deal with this problem and presence on the petrol station forecourts had been effective.

Members raised the issue of women offenders and how resources could be dedicated to reduce this. Details of prolific offenders would be analysed and broken down to identify how many were women offenders.

AGREED that the information received be noted and the report be endorsed.

SSP 106/08 Recorded Crime & Disorder

Members were provided with a report that set out the recorded crime figures, Most Serious Violence figures and anti social behaviour disorder codes for April to December 2008 compared with April to December 2007.

AGREED that the information be noted.

SSP 107/08 Community Safety plan Quarter 3 (October - December 2008)

There were a total of 44 targets in the Community Safety Plan for 2008/11. 32 of the targets were on target to achieve (green), 10 were slightly below expected performance (amber), two targets were not due an update in this quarter.

Anti Social behaviour was identified as part of the MORI findings and a press release would be put in Stockton News regarding this.

A&E were on board with providing some data but it was limited due to only one member of staff working on the reception at a time.

AGREED that the report be noted.

**SSP
108/08 Youth Justice Plan Quarter 3 (October - December 2008)**

Members were provided with the Youth Justice Plan Quarter 3.

AGREED that the report be noted.

**SSP
109/08 'Whatever it Takes' presentation**

A presentation was provided on the 'Whatever it Takes' initiative by the Fire Brigade. Members discussed possible locations for the initiative. It was felt that a framework for the initiative should be derived and that a steering group could be established to take the matter forward. Ian Harrington would be happy to chair such a meeting and would report back to the Partnership.

AGREED that the presentation be noted and a working group be established.

**SSP
110/08 Reducing Reoffending Action Plan**

Further to earlier consideration of this issue, the Partnership agreed to prepare an Action Plan addressing the 8 'pathways' which were:-

- (a) Accommodation
- (b) Alcohol
- (c) Drugs
- (d) Employment
- (e) Family Support
- (f) Finance, Benefits & Debt
- (g) Health; and
- (h) Life Skills & Offending Behaviour

At the time of writing the pathway lead officers had submitted drafts for seven of the eight pathways with 30 action points in total. One had not yet been received, due to long-term sickness.

In some cases the drafts would need some refinement to make them more precise, particularly in terms of identification of lead people for each action, and of precision and measurement of the targets.

Some further work was also required to consider an overarching target for the Plan, i.e. baseline for the rates of current reoffending, and consideration of a challenging but realistic level of reduction. The overarching target would need to take account of National Indicator 18, which measures the rate of adult reoffending, in terms of offences (based on convictions). Probation colleagues have to date received three sets of quarterly data from the Ministry of Justice, and a fourth quarter's data was expected during February. These four quarters would then provide the baseline rate of reoffending in Stockton.

At least two other National Indicators, numbers 143 and 144, would also be relevant to the Plan, in relation to the Accommodation and Employment pathways respectively. No baselines at unitary authority were yet available, only at Probation Service level, and these would be needed in order to set sensible targets.

In view of the further work needed, it was proposed to bring a further report to the next meeting of the Partnership, in March, with a proposed final version of the Plan for endorsement.

AGREED that the report be noted and the final plan be presented to the meeting in March.

**SSP
111/08** **Youth Crime Action Plan**

Members were informed that Terry Frank had been the lead on the Youth Crime Action Plan. Funding was available and a bid would be put in for this, however, it wasn't competitive bidding but evidence would need to be provided of what was being done.

Work had been undertaken looking at the national issues and how this impacts on local issues. Approval would be required from the Children's Trust Board.

It was stated that the current hotspot areas for anti social behaviour had been identified but these would need to be regularly evaluated. Flexibility was required and it was noted that there would probably be links with 'Whatever it Takes'.

AGREED that the update be noted.

**SSP
112/08** **Probation Merger option / NOMS**

Members were provided with a report regarding the option to merge Probation Services in County Durham and Teesside. A press release was issued on 12th December regarding the merger. It stated that the two areas already collaborated on many aspects of their work and it was felt that the aim was to ensure that they were better able to deploy resources to the benefit of front line service delivery.

Members held discussion on the merger in relation to savings that could be made. It was stated that they would continue to operate out of two headquarters and that they were not looking to make redundancies at this stage, at the present time the extent of the savings had not been identified.

AGREED that the report be noted.

**SSP
113/08** **Review of Concierge Security Service**

A report had been considered by Cabinet on 8th January regarding the review of the Concierge Security Service.

The report stated that the current Government Policy was that people who receive additional housing services should pay the full cost of them directly. This

was different from the situation in the past when service charges received by some tenants e.g. concierge costs were pooled. The report sought member approval to consult with affected service users, staff and elected members on potential changes to the concierge service which would reduce costs and assist with depooling.

The following resolutions were agreed by Cabinet:-

1. The need to de pool concierge charges in line with Government policy be acknowledged.
2. Officers be authorised to commence consultation with affected tenants, staff, and elected members on proposals to remodel the concierge service as detailed in the report.
3. A further report be brought back to members in March/April 2009 detailing the results of the consultation and outlining next steps.

AGREED that the report be noted and that further updates be received.

**SSP
114/08** **Stonham Report**

Stonham had been providing support to vulnerable individuals within the borough of Stockton for 8 years and had helped to reduce anti social behaviour as well as helping clients to sustain and maintain a tenancy. Members of the Partnership were provided with information as to how the service had been performing over the years.

AGREED that the information received be noted.

**SSP
115/08** **Government Guidance on ADZs and DPPOs plus Drink Banning Orders**

DPPO powers enabled local authorities to designate places where restrictions in drinking alcohol in public places applied. These powers were contained in the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 and had recently been reviewed in section 26 of the Violent Crime Act 2006.

The power could only be used in areas that had experienced alcohol related disorder or nuisance and members would be aware that there were four designated areas in the borough one in each of the town centres.

It was important to stress that these powers do not make it a criminal offence to consume alcohol within the designated area. An offence was committed if an individual refuses to comply with a constable's request to refrain from the consumption of alcohol.

Members may also want to be aware that Drink Banning Orders that were discussed by this Partnership in January 2008 would come into force in the summer of 2009.

AGREED that the report be noted.

SSP 116/08 CSP Arrangements - Cabinet 5 February

Members were provided with a copy of a report that would be considered by Cabinet on 5th February regarding the community safety partnership arrangements.

The purpose of the report was to advise Cabinet of the proposed merger of the Safer Stockton Partnership and Stockton Drugs Action Team (DAT) Steering Group.

Members of Cabinet would be asked to consider the following recommendations:-

1. That the report be noted
2. That agreement of further detail be delegated to the Corporate Director of Children, Education and Social Care (CESC) and the Head of Community Protection, in consultation with the Cabinet Members for Adult Services & Health and for Housing and Community Safety.

AGREED that an update be provided at the next meeting.

SSP 117/08 Stockton Renaissance Annual Event - 13 January 2009

Members were provided with a copy of the minutes from the Stockton Renaissance Annual Event held on 13th January 2009.

AGREED that the minutes be noted.

SSP 118/08 Counter Terrorism

The threat of terrorism nationally was still severe but locally it was of low to medium concern.

AGREED that the update be noted.

SSP 119/08 Communications

Members were provided with a list of press releases for the period from 5th December 2008 to 23 January 2009. Copies of the full articles were available from the Community Safety Team.

AGREED that the list press releases be noted.

SSP 120/08 Reports Back
(a) Children's Fund
(b) Renaissance
(c) Area Partnership Boards
(d) Parkfield / Mill Lane Neighbourhood Management Board
(e) DIP / PPO Strategy Group

None

