

Safer Stockton Partnership

A meeting of Safer Stockton Partnership was held on Tuesday, 17th March, 2009.

Present: Geoff Lee (Chairman - Tristar Homes Ltd.), Anne Howard (Neighbourhood Watch), Ian Harrington (Fire Brigade), Derek Carter, Dave Brunskill (Cleveland Police), Mike Batty, Lyn Burns (Stockton Borough Council), John Bentley (Safe in Tees Valley), Elizabeth Benomran (Stockton Teaching PCT), Emma Champley (Stockton DAT), Geoff Turner (Western Area Partnership Board).

Officers: Marilyn Davies (DNS); Peter Bell (LD).

Also in attendance: David Dunn (GONE), Linda Bush (Youth Justice Board), Paul Burns (Culture Partnership).

Apologies: were submitted on behalf of Nancy Robson, Matt Spencer, Cllr Julia Cherrett, Ted Allen, Jane Humphreys, Cllr Steve Nelson.

SSP Minutes 121/08

The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd February 2009 were agreed as a correct record.

SSP Matters Arising 122/08

Partnership Strategic Assessment – Theft From Petrol Stations

The Chairman informed Members that with regard to theft from petrol stations there was now a Police single police point of contact for petrol stations. Information packs had also been sent to the petrol stations and any spare police vehicles were now monitoring petrol stations. There was ongoing dialogue with one chain of petrol stations as their CCTV was inadequate.

Youth Crime Action Plan

The Head of Community Protection informed Members that the Youth Crime Action Plan had been finalised and sent to the Youth Crime Task Force for consideration. The Youth Crime Action Plan would be put on the next agenda of the Partnership.

Review of Concierge Security Service

The Head of Community Protection informed Members that the consultation with affected tenants, staff and elected Members on the proposals to remodel the concierge service had now been complete. The item would now be taken back to the Stockton on Tees Borough Council Cabinet.

AGREED that the above matters be noted.

SSP Minutes of YOS Management Board 20 January 2009 123/08

The minutes of the YOS Management Board of 20th January 2009 were noted.

SSP Any other business - identification only 124/08

Members identified that the following item be considered:- Induction Training Process for Partners and Community Justice Initiative.

**SSP
125/08** **Culture Partnership Presentation**

Paul Burns from the Culture Partnership was in attendance at the meeting and informed Members of the work of the Culture Partnership and how they could work with the Safer Stockton Partnership.

The Culture Partnership was mostly arts and sporting interests for people with a range of different backgrounds. The Culture Partnership was mainly made up of volunteers and had a cross cutting theme.

Members felt that the Culture Partnership could work in various different ways with the Safer Stockton Partnership and in the first instance it would just be a flow of information between the two Partnerships.

AGREED that the presentation be noted.

**SSP
126/08** **Criminal Damage / Other Theft**

Members will recall that there was a Criminal Damage Think Tank and Other Theft Group that steers the work of these key priorities in the Community Safety Plan. At the last meeting following discussion about the Partnership Strategic Assessment members confirmed that Other Theft remained the sixth key priority for the Community Safety Plan for 2009/10.

Members held an in depth discussion on criminal damage and 'other' theft. Discussion was held on advertising the improved figures as people's perceptions were still that crime was rising and this was not the case.

The Police have been working alongside Tristar Homes to improve planning of events.

Work has been taking place to address shoplifting with the introduction of the Safer Shopping Partnership, however, it has taken sometime to get the larger stores on board.

The Police had been focusing on nighttime crime particularly around car parks.

AGREED that the report be noted.

**SSP
127/08** **Recorded Crime & Disorder**

Members were provided with the recorded crime figures, most serious violence figures and anti social behaviour disorder statistics for April 2008 to January 2009 compared with April 2007 to January 2008.

AGREED that the update be noted.

**SSP
128/08** **DAT / SSP Merger**

Further to the decision made in principle at the meeting of the SSP / DAT

Integration Group on 4 November, 2008 in favour of the merger of the DAT and SSP, discussions had been taking place between the lead officers with a view to developing the supporting detail.

A draft Constitution for the proposed new Partnership was provided for Members information together with the proposed meeting dates for 2009/10.

These arrangements had been agreed by the DAT Steering Group and were now brought to the attention of Members of the SSP for their approval. It was proposed also to develop a team-building event to ensure that all members of the new Partnership had the opportunity to meet one another and to understand each other's roles. This process would be supplemented by the preparation of an updated Induction Pack for all existing and future members of the Partnership, and by the continuing development of www.saferstockton.com.

In relation to Annual General Meetings, it was proposed that an Extraordinary General Meeting / Inaugural Meeting for the new Partnership be held at the start of the meeting on 12 May 2009, to confirm Chair, Vice-Chair and representatives on the Stockton Renaissance Board, and that, thereafter, the Annual General Meeting is held at the first meeting after 1 September, in line with paragraph 5 of the proposed Constitution.

AGREED that the constitution for the merger of the SSP and DAT, and the meeting dates for 2009/10 be approved.

**SSP
129/08** **Reducing Reoffending Action Plan**

Members were provided with a full set of Action Plans, for each of the eight 'pathways', as previously agreed, as follows:-

Number of key actions

Accommodation
Alcohol
Drugs
Employment
Family Support
Finance, Benefits & Debt
Health
Life Skills & Offending Behaviour

AGREED that:-

- 1) The 8 Action Plans be approved.
- 2) The Partnership commits itself to improving the local rate of re-offending, as outlined within the report.
- 3) A quarterly monitoring report be produced ranging across the 8 Action Plans and the overall rate of offending.

**SSP
130/08** **Future of Priority 6**

Members would recall from the meeting on 3rd February that the partnership discussed the second Partnership Strategic Assessment and that the recommendations be endorsed.

The PSA showed clearly that Other Theft remains an area of concern for us and that the categories that were included were still relevant:

- a) Shoplifting
- b) Theft of metals
- c) Theft of personal belongings such as mobile phones and wallets
- d) Theft of wheelie bins
- e) Theft of pedal cycles
- f) Theft of garden furniture

It was therefore proposed that we continue to have Other Theft as our sixth priority.

The target in the Community Safety Plan was for a 3% reduction in 2009/10 to 4,190. The monitoring report showed that this was on target to achieve the 3% reduction for 2008/09 it was therefore proposed that the target for 2009/10 be endorsed.

AGREED that:-

- a) Other Theft be retained as the sixth key priority under Emerging Issues
- b) The 3% reduction for 2009/10 proposed in the Community Safety Plan be endorsed.

SSP Partnership Investment Plan 131/08

The attached plan provided details of the proposed spend of the funding that would be available to the partnership via the Basic Command Unit (BCU) and Safer and Stronger Communities (SSC).

There had been a suggestion that this would be the final year for Basic Command Unit funding but that money that came under the SSC banner through the Local Area Agreement should continue throughout the three years of the Community Safety Plan.

The attached plan would be reviewed towards the end of the next financial year to account for the possible reduction/cancellation of the BCU and for any emerging issues that may be identified through the Partnership Strategic Assessment.

It was requested that a more detailed report be pulled together with consideration being given to funding being awarded in principle to running two LIFE Programmes under the Diverting Young People key priority.

AGREED that the Partnership Investment Plan be approved and that a further report be presented to the next meeting.

**SSP
132/08** **Whatever it Takes**

The Chief Fire Officer informed Members that there were a few areas in for consideration and that more information would be presented the next meeting of the Partnership.

**SSP
133/08** **Domestic Violence Policy**

The Domestic Violence Strategy had a responsibility to adopt a confidential reporting policy in the Council and then was responsible for rolling this out to other partners of the Safer Stockton Partnership.

The Council had now adopted the attached Domestic Violence Policy, which provided guidance for managers and contact details for the confidential reporting system. In the Council this was provided by Dignity in the Workplace officers who had been trained to signpost callers to the appropriate support service for those who contact them about domestic violence issues.

Whilst the policy had been in the development stages, training on Domestic Violence had been offered to managers and this would be extended to front line staff once the DV Coordinator was in post to do this work.

Members were requested to consider if this policy can be incorporated into their services. and to provide comments to Claire Sills(Claire.sills@stockton.gov.uk) with a contact name for the person in their agency who would be able to drive this forward.

AGREED that the report be noted and comments be forwarded to Claire Sills.

**SSP
134/08** **Website Traffic**

The 'Crime in Your Area' web pages which allowed people to view crime statistics for their ward was developed in August 2008.

The site enabled a search by postcode to view crime levels; this includes information on anti-social behaviour levels from the police, council as well as fire data for the full financial year. Each Ward page contains details of the Community Safety Plan key objectives and useful information on ASB including contact details for relevant Council departments and the Police, and the number of people living in the Ward with ASBO/ CRASBO's. There was a link on each ward page to Cleveland Police website which shows policing priorities, and pictures of Neighbourhood Policing Teams and PCSO's.

Visits and hits to the site had reduced since the last reporting period. The reduction in visits to the site was currently being addressed, and improvements to the layout of the site were being considered. This was due to be updated to include new data for the financial year 2008/09, and would be in place for May-June 2009.

AGREED that the report be noted and the updates be provided in the future.

**SSP
135/08** **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
136/08** **Communications**

Members were provided with the list of press releases for the period from 24 January 2009 to 6 March 2009. Copies of the full articles were available from the Community Safety Team.

AGREED that the list of press releases be noted.

**SSP
137/08** **Any Other Business - Consideration**

(a) Letter from Community Justice Initiative

The Head of Community Safety circulated a letter from Community Justice Initiative dated 5th March 2009. The letter requested that the Safer Stockton Partnership provide a financial contribution to Community Justice Initiative. Members felt that to make a contribution would be an inappropriate use of Safer Stockton Partnership funds.

AGREED that the Community Justice Initiative be informed that they will not be receiving a financial contribution from the Safer Stockton Partnership.

(b) Members Induction Training - Email from Kay Howes

John Bentley reported a Safer in Communities course. The course would outline 39 statutory requirements and was designed to help Members fulfil their requirements, good partnership working, statutory requirements and e-learning. Members felt that some Members of DAT may wish to attend the course. GONE are going to oversee the course recruitment. The dates for the course are as follows:-

20th May 2009

23rd September 2009

9th December 2009

17th June 2009 – Special for elected Members

Nominations for the course should be sent to claire.sills@stockton.gov.uk

AGREED that the report be noted.

SSP **Reports Back**

138/08 **(a) Children's Fund**

(b) Renaissance

(c) Area Partnership Boards

(d) Parkfield / Mill Lane Neighbourhood Management Board

(e) DIP / PPO Strategy Group

None