

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE SAFER STOCKTON PARTNERSHIP

1. Introduction

The Safer Stockton Partnership is a partnership dedicated to improving community safety in the Borough of Stockton-on-Tees. The Partnership was re-modelled in April 2009 as a result of the merger between the original Safer Stockton Partnership, established in 1998 in response to Sections 55 and 56 of the Crime & Disorder Act 1998, and the Stockton Drugs Action Team (DAT) Steering Group, established in 2000.

2. Aims

2.1 Our aims as a Partnership are: - "To improve the safety of the community and to prevent, minimise and reduce drug, alcohol and substance misuse and the harm it causes to individuals, families and communities in the Borough of Stockton-on-Tees by: -

- (a) reducing crime in the Borough
- (b) reducing disorder and anti-social behaviour in the Borough
- (c) preventing and reducing levels of substance misuse in the Borough, including both controlled drugs and alcohol, by providing the best possible treatment regimes and other interventions, in line with the National Drugs Strategy and National Alcohol Strategy
- (d) increasing feelings of safety in the Borough
- (e) reducing fear of disorder and anti-social behaviour in the Borough
- (f) reducing reoffending in the Borough"

3. Methods

3.1 We will operate primarily through the mechanism of cycles of audit, consultation and planning.

3.2 We will also operate as the community safety 'arm' of Stockton Renaissance.

3.3 Although our primary focus is on the Borough of Stockton-on-Tees we will also work in broader partnerships across the Tees Valley, the North East region, and with other like minded organisations, including Partnerships in our 'Family Group'.

3.4 The Partnership will establish sub groups and short life working groups from time to time as it considers fit, each to be chaired by a voting member of the Partnership, as defined in Section 4 below. An outline of current working groups is set out at Appendix A.

4. Membership

The Partnership will consist of the following voting members

(a) STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

- The Cabinet Member for Housing and Community Safety
- The Cabinet Member for Adult Services and Health
- The Corporate Director for Children, Education & Social Care (CESC) *

- The Head of Community Protection (who will act as secretary to the Partnership) *
- The Head of Housing

(b) CLEVELAND POLICE

- District Commander, Stockton District
- Crime Manager, Stockton District
- Chief Inspector, Operations, Stockton District
- Chief Inspector, Neighbourhoods, Stockton District *

(c) OTHER ORGANISATIONS

Representatives as nominated from time to time, of the following organisations (one representative, except where otherwise stated)

- (i) NATIONAL PROBATION SERVICE (TEESSIDE) *
- (ii) STOCKTON-ON-TEES TEACHING PRIMARY CARE TRUST *
- (iii) CLEVELAND POLICE AUTHORITY (two representatives)
- (iv) CLEVELAND FIRE AUTHORITY (one representative of CLEVELAND FIRE AUTHORITY and the CHIEF FIRE OFFICER or his representative)
- (v) University of Durham, Queen's Campus
- (vi) A representative of Further Education Colleges in the Borough (as agreed between the colleges).
- (vii) A representative of Independent schools in the Borough (as agreed between the schools).
- (viii) Hartlepool and North Tees Foundation NHS Trust
- (ix) A representative of Governors of State Schools (as agreed between the Chairs of Governors).
- (x) Stockton Youth Offending Service
- (xi) Victim Support (Stockton)
- (xii) Safe in Tees Valley Ltd
- (xiii) The Central Committee of Neighbourhood Watch for the Borough
- (xiv) North East Chamber of Commerce
- (xv) Teesside Magistrates Courts (two representatives)
- (xvi) Tees, Esk & Wear Valleys NHS Trust

- (xvii) Catalyst
- (xviii) Tristar Homes Limited
- (xix) Stockton Drug Action Team - Joint Strategic Commissioner, Drugs, Prisons, Health & Social Inclusion (a.k.a DAT Co-ordinator).
- (xx) The Governor of HMP Holme House or representative
- (xxi) Representatives of each of the four Area Partnership Boards established by Stockton Renaissance.
- (xxii) A representative of Stockton Adult Protection Committee
- (xxiii) A representative nominated by people who use drug services.
- (xxiv) A representative nominated by people who care for those with substance misuse problems.
- (d) All of the above shall be entitled to send nominated deputies
- (e) A meeting shall be quorate provided that at least 6 Full Members are present, including at least one of the listed representatives each of Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council and Cleveland Police.
- (f) The Partnership will conduct its business by consensus and without voting so far as is possible.
- (g) The following shall also normally be in attendance:-
 - (i) A representative of the Government Office for the North East
 - (ii) A representative of the National Treatment Agency
 - (iii) Community Safety Manager, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
 - (iv) A Democratic Services Officer from Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
- (h) Other guests may be invited from time to time, or attend at their own request, at the discretion of the Chair, and subject, in the event of any dispute, to a simple majority of voting members.
- (i) Additional voting members may be invited to join the Partnership from time to time, subject to the inclusion of an appropriate item on the agenda, as circulated in advance of the meeting and a simple majority of voting members in favour.
- (j) An organisation may cease to be in membership of the Partnership if for any period of six months it fails to attend without giving a good reason acceptable to the Partnership.

- (k) If voting is necessary, all matters will be determined by a simple majority, except for the following issues, on which voting will be restricted to the Youth Offending Service funding partners, as marked with an asterisk in Section 4 above:-
- any matters of contention relating to the approval of the Youth Justice Plan; or
 - any proposal to increase costs to the YOS funding partners, over and above the level of inflation.
- (l) In the event of tied votes, the Chair shall have a casting vote (in addition to his/her normal vote).
- (m) In the event of a vote taking place at a meeting of the Full Partnership, and the majority view having the support of less than half of the partner agencies prescribed as responsible authorities and co-operating bodies (i.e. Police, Council, Police Authority, PCT, Fire Authority and Probation, as at October 2004) who are represented at the meeting, the issue will be referred to the next meeting for further consideration.

5. Annual General Meeting (AGM)

5.1 The AGM will be the first meeting after 1 September each year.

5.2 The AGM will include the election of the following:

- (a) The Chair of the Partnership for the following year
- (b) The Vice Chair of the Partnership for the following year
- (c) Two representatives of the Partnership on Stockton Renaissance for the following year.

5.3 Any representative of the partnership, including the Chair or Vice Chair, may be removed from that position by a simple majority of voting members of the Partnership, provided that notice of the proposal has been set out on the agenda papers, and that they have been sent out at least three working days before the meeting (i.e. Thursday for Tuesday). For avoidance of doubt all voting members, including the individuals in question, will be entitled to vote on any such issues.

6. Resources

6.1 The Partnership will operate within the resources made available to it by member organisations in cash and in kind, and will support bids to Government funding streams, European Union Funding and other sources.

7. Meetings and Agenda

7.1 The Partnership will meet at least seven times per year and an agenda, including detailed agenda papers as practicable, will be circulated in advance by Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council, to arrive by Friday proceeding the meeting.

7.2 Dates of meetings for the year from 1 May to 30 April will be circulated to all members by 30 April.

7.3 Each meeting will include standard agenda items, as follows: -

- (i) Apologies for absence
- (ii) Minutes of the previous meeting - accuracy and matters arising
- (iii) A report on recorded crime and disorder for the financial year to date, compared with the corresponding period in the preceding financial year.

8. Constitutional Amendments

8.1 The Constitution may be amended from time to time, provided that notice of the proposed amendments has been given in an agenda circulated in advance, and that a majority of voting members present are in favour.

9. Code of Conduct

9.1 As agreed the meeting of the Safer Stockton Partnership on 4 December 2007, we will operate according to the Principles of Ethical Standards in Public Life set out in the Nolan Report.

(a) Selflessness

Holders of public office should take decisions solely in terms of the public interest. They should not do so in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends.

(b) Integrity

Holders of public office should not place themselves under any financial or other obligations to outside individuals or organisations that might influence them in the performance of their official duties.

(c) Objectivity

In carrying out public business, including making public appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards or benefits, holders of public office should make choices on merit.

(d) Accountability

Holders of public office are accountable for their decisions and actions to the public and must submit themselves to whatever scrutiny is appropriate to their office.

(e) Openness

Holders of public office should be as open as possible about all the decisions and actions they take. They should give reasons for their decisions and restrict information only when the wider public interest clearly demands.

(f) Honesty

Holders of public office have a duty to declare any private interests relating to their public duties and to take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interest.

(g) Leadership

Holders of public office should promote and support these principles by leadership and example.

9.2 In addition to the Nolan Principles we have also agreed to adopt the following points as explicit commitments:-

- a) that we will conduct our discussions in an open, civilised and constructive manner;
- b) that members of the Partnership will disclose any interest in any item under discussion when their interest is not apparent to colleagues (i.e. it will not be necessary for the representative of any agency or organisation to declare an interest when the matter in question relates to the agency or organisation which they represent).
- c) each member of the partnership will be invited to complete a simple declaration form as to whether they have any involvement in organisations to which the Partnership, or individual accountable bodies on behalf of the Partnership (e.g. Stockton Council, Cleveland Police) pays money, other than such involvement as is apparent to colleagues.

Appendix A

- The Adults Commissioning Group, with responsibility for financial management, commissioning and performance management of adult substance misuse services;
- The Young Persons' Commissioning Group with the same responsibilities for young peoples' substance misuse services (also relates to Children's Trust Board);
- The Reducing Supply Group, tasked with supporting the police in the reduction of supply of illegal drugs;
- The Drug Intervention Programme/Prolific Priority Offenders (DIP/PPO) Group, which is focused on offender management;
- Joint Action Groups (JAGs): four groups covering Billingham, Thornaby and the south of the Borough, Central Stockton, and the rest of Stockton, which co-ordinate multi-agency action on ASB issues;
- Problem Solving Group, which reviews the more serious cases of individual perpetrators of ASB, normally arising from the JAGs;
- Domestic Violence Strategy Group, which co-ordinates action on domestic violence (also relates to Children's Trust Board);
- Violence Reduction Group, which co-ordinates action on all other forms of violence;
- Criminal Damage Think Tank, which co-ordinates action on criminal damage;
- YOS Management Board, which oversees and supports the work of Stockton Youth Offending Service, including work on diverting young people from offending (also relates to Children's Trust Board);
- Other Theft Group, which co-ordinates action on shoplifting, theft of metals etc.;
- Scanning & Challenge Group, which considers informally issues of potential major significance to the Partnership (but has no delegated powers).