

Safer Stockton Partnership

A meeting of Safer Stockton Partnership was held on Tuesday, 16th June, 2009.

Present: Geoff Lee (Chairman - Tristar Homes Ltd.); Mike Batty, Miriam Robertson, Cllr Mrs Ann McCoy, Cllr Steve Nelson (Stockton on Tees Borough Council); Glenis Sanderson (Victim Support); Lucia Saiger (Probation Service); Anne Howard (Neighbourhood Watch); Emma Champley (Stockton DAT); Chris Coombs, Joanne Hodgkinson (Cleveland Police Authority); Ian Harrington (Cleveland Fire Brigade); Dave Brunskill (Police); Jeff Evans (Probation); John Bentley (Safe in Tees Valley); Geoff Turner (Western Area Partnership Board); Ian Garrett (Eastern Area Partnership Board); Bert Smailes (Northern Area Partnership Board); Matt Spencer (HMP Holme House);

Officers: Marilyn Davies, Shaun McLurg, Fiona Shayler (SBC).

Also in attendance: Sarah Metcalfe (Cleveland Fire Brigade); David Dunn (GONE); Alison Agius (Catalyst); Joanne Heaney (Stockton DAT).

Apologies: were received from Julie Nixon, Joanne Moore, Jane Humphreys.

1 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 12th May 2009 were agreed as a correct record.

2 Matters Arising (a) Register of Interests (No.16 refers)

3 Any other business - Identification only

4 Recorded Crime & Disorder

Members were provided with a report that sets out the recorded crime figures, anti social behaviour disorder codes and Most Serious Violence figures for April 2009 compared with April 2008.

AGREED that the report be noted.

5 Review of Performance against CSP 2008/09

Over the first year of the plan the partnership achieved some excellent results. Of the 44 targets that we set 35 ended the year on target to achieve, five were slightly below expected performance, two were not reported on and only two were red. Members were provided with detail on the targets that were not fully achieved.

AGREED that the report be noted.

6 PSA Action Plan

Members were reminded that at their last meeting on the 3rd January 2009 it was agreed to prepare an action plan that would be presented to the partnership quarterly to assess progress against the gaps that were identified.

The draft action plan was provided for information and it was stated that the Community Safety Analyst would be leading on this work.

Members were asked to consider the action plan, in particular where certain partners had been proposed to lead on activity and to provide any comments to Anna Clark following the meeting by email to Anna.clark@stockton.gov.uk .

AGREED that the report be noted.

7 High Crime Causers

This report was intended to promote discussion as to how the Partnership could further reduce

re-offending by a small minority of offenders who commit a disproportionate amount of offences.

In particular the report had identified a cohort nominated as "High Crime Causers". This was a particular group of offenders who were trapped in a cycle of crime and substance mis-use and were responsible for high levels of acquisitive crime within the Borough.

Reference was also made to the PPO scheme and its current performance and introduced the concept of Integrated Offender Management as introduced by the Home Office in five pilot areas in July 2008.

Reference was also made to National Indicator 38 which was the main link between the cohort identified above and the target introduced by the Home Office.

Finally the report outlined the known offending by females within the Borough and a case study of a criminal family network.

AGREED that the report be noted.

8 Alcohol - Feedback from Event

Feedback was provided from the Alcohol Event. It was stated that there was no provision for tier 4 and although there were many services out there in various places there was no one central service. Over 500 prisoners had now gone through the detox process at Holme House and it was felt that the outcomes were very positive.

Discussion was held on 'Balance' the regional alcohol office that had been established to inspire changes in the way people drink alcohol so that people in the region can still enjoy a good time while reducing their consumption. Balance would be working in the region with PCTs, police, local government and other agencies and stakeholders. An Officer attends the Balance meetings looking at the development of the Cardiff model and Dave Kitching was a member of the Regional Team for Balance.

Discussion was held on the sale of alcohol and whether the time of sales could be limited. However, it was stated that without changes to primary legislation it was unlikely that it would be possible to put any time restraints on the sale of alcohol.

It was stated that substantial investment into alcohol services needed to take place in order to properly address the issues and provide quality services.

AGREED that the information provided be noted.

9 Safe, Sensible and Social - Home Office Consultation

In May 2009 the Government issued the above consultation document on the proposed new code of practice for alcohol retailers for England and Wales as provided under schedule 4 of the Policing and Crime Bill which had just received its second reading in Parliament.

A summary of the consultation and the questions posed was provided for information. A full copy of the document was available from:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/cons-2009-alcohol/>

BALANCE the North East Alcohol Office would be submitting a regional response after compiling comments from CDRPs across the region.

It was proposed that the Partnership contribute to this regional response via the Violence Reduction Group but that we also submit a response from the partnership via the VRG as well which would give us two avenues for our views to be heard.

The deadline for responses was the 5th August which was the day after the next SSP meeting scheduled for 4th August. It was proposed that the VRG compile a response on behalf of the Safer Stockton Partnership and that this response be presented to the next meeting. Anyone wishing to contribute to the response could do so by contacting the Community Safety Officer (Alcohol and Violence) Heather Hutchings on 01642 527827 or heather.hutchings@stockton.gov.uk.

Responses were required no later than 24th June in order to meet the deadline set by BALANCE.

AGREED that Members approve the approach as detailed.

10 Members of the Partnership to outline Roles

Each Member of the SSP outlined their role in contributing to the work of the SSP.

AGREED that the information provided by each Member of the SSP be noted.

11 Publicising Crime Reduction

At our last meeting it was agreed that a meeting would be set up to discuss publicising crime reduction further. It was stated that a meeting had been held and that it was decided to use the 'Whatever it Takes' process. The WIT area covers the south part of the Mandale and Victoria ward, excluding Teesside Retail Park. A resident survey was being in the locality, PCSOs and members of the Community Safety Team were speaking directly with residents to receive information on the issues that cause them the most concern and PCSOs were door knocking and leaving calling cards whilst on patrol to let residents know that they had been in their street that day.

It was stated that Stockton currently had the lowest crime rate in the Tees Valley and that a positive consistent message needed to get out to the public.

It was stated that Community Payback had been doing some good work in the borough. Any ideas for work that Community Payback could get involved in should be forwarded through Mike Batty to Lucia Saiger. Again, this needed some positive publicity and it was requested that there be a press release.

AGREED that the report be noted.

12 Info Sharing Protocol

In March 2009 Holden and McAllister were awarded a contract by GONE to develop an Information Sharing Protocol for the region.

The work was progressing and a draft of the proposed ISP had been developed based on a model used in Nottingham. A number of meetings had been held with all CDRP leads across the region. In our area personnel from the Police Standards Unit were involved in these sessions. Separate protocols would remain for some processes such as PPO and MARAC but they will be scheduled to in the main document.

Once the draft was agreed it was proposed that a number of Designated Information Sharing Managers and Designated Information Officers would be identified and training would be offered by Holden and McAllister in September 2009 to DISMs who would then cascade this to DISOs. DISMs would be responsible for compliance with the guidance that accompanies the ISP and DISOs were those who use and share information in multi agency meetings or in the course of their duties.

If members decide to adopt this protocol it would be signed by the lead person in each organisation for example Chief Constable, Council Chief Executives and Directors of voluntary organisations.

The Safer Stockton Partnership would be the responsible group for the ISP which would be reviewed in the first instance six months after it was signed and yearly thereafter.

Members queried supplying actual names rather than job title due to turnover of staff etc. and privacy of individuals. Members were informed that further discussions/meetings would need to be held to clarify further detail.

AGREED that the information provided be noted and that a further report be presented to a future meeting.

13 No Cold Calling Zones

On 6 May 2009 a meeting was held between representatives of Neighbourhood Watch (NHW), the Council and the Police, at which a co-ordinated approach to the establishment of No Cold Calling Zones (NCCZs) was agreed, the document was provided for Members information.

Members were provided with the information and agreed recommendations.

AGREED that the information be noted.

14 JAG Training

Members of the Partnership were made aware that the Borough was covered by four Joint Action Groups which met monthly, as follows:-

- Stockton Town Centre (covering Parkfield / Mill Lane)
- Rest of Stockton
- Billingham
- Thornaby / Ingleby Barwick / Yarm

With the exception of the Town Centre JAG, which was chaired by the Parkfield/Mill Lane Neighbourhood Manager, the JAGs were chaired by the Operations Inspector for the sub-district. Attendance included the following agencies:-

Police
Fire
ASB Team
Neighbourhood Enforcement Service
SBC Youth Service
Other youth work providers (in some cases)
RSLs (in some cases).

An opportunity had been identified to draw down funding from the Regional Efficiency & Improvement Partnership (REIP) for training for the JAGs, focusing on problem solving skills.

Subject to take-up of places by the JAG agencies, it was proposed also to invite community activists from the areas concerned, via SCRGA / Catalyst, to each of the first four sessions, in order to create more problem solving capacity and to inject an additional element of challenge.

The fifth session would consist of managers from the JAG agencies, and again it was proposed to invite representatives from the Voluntary and Community Sectors, including Neighbourhood Watch and Victim Support. The fifth session would consider any barriers to problem solving identified at the first four sessions, and ways to overcome these.

It was stated that good feedback had been received on the problem solving training previously delivered.

AGREED that the update be noted.

15 Counter Terrorism - Report back on 20 May Event

This report outlines the work undertaken to date in Stockton-on-Tees on the Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE) and Counter Terrorism (CT) agendas.

The National Strategy for CT ('CONTEST') is based on 'the four Ps', i.e.

Prevent, to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting violent extremism which has a multi-agency dimension

Pursue, to stop terrorist attacks which is mainly for Police and Security Services

Protect, to strengthen our position against terrorist attack and

Prepare, where an attack cannot be stopped to mitigate its effects, both these elements have strong links with multi-agency emergency planning agendas

Across Teesside, a 'Gold Group' for PVE / CT had been established, chaired by an Assistant Chief Constable, with the Police District Commander and / or Chief Inspector, Neighbourhood Policing and the Council's Head of Community Protection representing Stockton, along with similar representatives from the other three Boroughs. A 'Silver Group' had also been set up in each of the Boroughs. In Stockton this was chaired by the Assistant Chief Executive until March 2009, and from then by the Head of Community Protection. To date this had been a bilateral Police / Council group, but it was intended to expand membership to other organisations over coming months, starting with the Prison Service.

In January 2009 a self -assessment was completed on behalf of Stockton Renaissance in relation to National Indicator 35. It was agreed to be cautious in this first iteration, and our self-assessment was in keeping with those of other Teesside Districts with the exception of Middlesbrough, which has enjoyed Pathfinder status for work on PVE, and consequent additional funding. As such their self-assessment was at a higher level.

One of the early actions completed had been the production of the 'Trust your Instincts' DVD, which conveys a generic health and safety based message intended for an audience of all public sector workforce across Teesside. It was designed to encourage the flow of information and intelligence and Renaissance would have the opportunity to consider the DVD at this meeting. The DVD was available through Mike Batty.

In 2008 Cleveland Police appointed a sergeant, with ringfenced Government funding, to undertake dedicated work on the PVE agenda, and he is producing community profiles of all four Boroughs. It was expected that the Stockton version would be complete in early June, and if it was available by the time of this meeting it would be tabled; if not, it would be made available to the partnerships listed at paragraph 2 above in the near future.

The Security Services and Special Branch were also preparing Counter Terrorism Local Profiles (CTLPPs) for each Borough and it was anticipated the Stockton version would be available by the end of June. This document would provide a more detailed risk assessment, and would be discussed at the 'Silver Group' in the first instance.

During 2008 Ministerial letters were received stating that Stockton will be allocated Pathfinder status from April 2010, and would receive £131k in the 2010/11 financial year to support work on PVE. It was proposed that the use of funding be agreed via the 'Silver Group' drawing on suggestions from a range of sources.

This would include feedback from the Awareness Raising Event held on 20 May at the Wynyard Rooms, organised by Silver Group. Members of the Renaissance Main Board, the Children's Trust Board, the Safer Stockton Partnership and the Faith Network were invited to this session, and about 50 delegates attended, hearing speakers including Charles Farr, the Director General of the Office of Security and Counter Terrorism, Paul Dixon from the Regional Counter Terrorism Unit, Assistant Chief Constable Michael Banks, who was leading on CT/PVE for Government Office North East, and Dr. Mohammed Riaz, chair of the Police Independent Advisory Group for Stockton and Secretary of the Hartington Road Mosque.

The work on this agenda was continuing with ongoing dialogue with our communities a crucial aspect. Target audiences for further dialogue include but were not limited to; all Borough Councillors; young people across the Borough; and Muslim communities across the Borough. In respect of young people, one message given by youth delegates at the 20 May event, in the plenary session, was that the national strategy over-emphasises work in schools and should put more emphasis on work with young people in non-school settings (Connexions, youth clubs, etc), since there was likely to be a correlation between disaffection from the school system and risk of being involved in groups on the fringes of violent extremism (whether inspired by political, religious, environmental or animal rights issues). It was also observed that young people were absent from the panel of speakers who took part in the Question and Answer session, and the 'Silver Group' would, in response to this observation, give consideration to possible mechanisms for involving young people more closely with the development of the CT and PVE agendas.

AGREED that the report be noted.

16 Communications

A summary of press releases for the period from 30th April to 4th June 2009 was presented. Copies of the full articles were available from the Community Safety Team.

AGREED that the update be noted.

17 Reports Back

(a) Children's Fund

(b) Renaissance

(c) Area Partnership Boards

(d) Parkfield / Mill Lane Neighbourhood Management Board

(e) DIP / PPO Strategy Group

(f) DAT Groups - Adults Commissioning

- Young Peoples Commissioning

- Reducing Supply

There were no reports back at today's meeting.