

## Safer Stockton Partnership

A meeting of Safer Stockton Partnership was held on Tuesday, 15th September, 2009.

**Present:** Geoff Lee (Chairman - Tristar Homes); Cllr Mrs Ann McCoy, Cllr Steve Nelson, Jane Humphreys, Julie Nixon (Stockton on Tees Borough Council); Ian Harrington (Fire); Anne Howard (Neighbourhood Watch); Geoff Turner (Western Area Partnership Board); E. Benomran (Stockton PCT); Jo Heaney, Emma Champley (DAAT); Dave Brunskill, Derek Carter (Police); Chris Coombs, Joanne Hodgkinson (Cleveland Police Authority); Bert Smailes (Billingham Partnership Board); David Bamford, Carrie Baillie (CRI); Glenis Sanderson (Victim Support); Jeff Evans (Probation Service); Tina Williams (Central Area Partnership Board).

**Officers:** Marilyn Davies, Fiona Shayler (SBC).

**Also in attendance:** Helen Attewell (NEPACS); Kay Howes (GONE)

**Apologies:** were submitted on behalf of Miriam Robertson, Ian Garrett, Shaun McLurg, John Bentley, Lucia Saiger, Joanne Moore, Richard Poundford.

### **SSP 70/09**      **AGM**

The following appointments were made by the Partnership:-

Appointment of Chair - Geoff Lee  
Appointment of Vice Chair - Jane Humphreys

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 appointments as detailed above be approved for the annual year 2009/10.

### **SSP 71/09**      **Draft Minutes - 4th August 2009**

The minutes of the meeting held on 4th August 2009.

### **SSP 72/09**      **Matters Arising (a) Reporting Rates - Stockton / national (No. 7 refers)**

The national and local crime reporting rates were reported.

### **SSP 73/09**      **Minutes of Safeguarding Adults Committee 16 July 2009**

The minutes of the Safeguarding Adults Committee held on 16th July 2009 were noted.

### **SSP 74/09**      **Any Other Business**

Ian Harrington wished to raise a matter regarding the review of Fire Stations

and Equipment.

**SSP  
75/09**      **Home Office update**

The Home Office raised the matter of the Hate Crime Action Plan and reported that there would be an event in Newcastle on 6th November regarding this matter to raise awareness and share good practice.

There would be a pre christmas campaign for BALANCE.

The Alcohol Awareness week would be 19th - 25th October.

There was a workshop on Community Confidence at the Thistle Hotel on 22 October, 2009.

AGREED that the Home Office Update be noted.

**SSP  
76/09**      **NEPACS**

NEPACS was a long standing charity established in 1882 in the North East which ran prison visitor centres, tea bars, play sessions for prisoners children, provided caravan holidays for families and administered hardship grants.

It was reported that 162,000 children were affected by their parents going into prison. Following a parent going into prison research had shown that 25% were cared for by Grandparents, 29% by family and friends, 12% were fostered or adopted, 9% stayed with their fathers, and 5% remained in their own home.

The service would like to expand to work more in the community as a lot of the support was provided within the prison or by telephone to the families.

There were currently 52 paid staff (mainly part-time) that were employed by SLA's.

Jane Humphreys stated that the organisation could look into linking with children's centres and schools to develop possible links for Stockton Children.

It was requested that any of the partners that may be able to offer any advice or support to contact Helen Attewell.

AGREED that the presentation be noted.

**SSP  
77/09**      **The Future of Drug Treatment in Stockton (CRI and the Birchtree Practice)**

It was reported that Dr Brendan Olding, Birchtree Practice, was working towards the minimising harm agenda and getting people through the drug treatment process.

Discussion was held on the services for Hepatitis C patients, there was presently a service at the University Hospital of James Cook which received encouraging feedback. There was also a service at North Tees but unfortunately the feed back for this service was negative. It was felt that a service in Lawson Street would be advantageous.

A Children's Worker had been employed to work alongside child protection cases.

The CRI Director, David Bamford, was in attendance to provide detail on the Service. The principles for Stockton were as follows:-

- Reintegrate into the community
- Work together
- Clients empowered to set goals and care plans
- Abstinence an option
- Tackling Offender behaviour
- Carers and Family Support

The Service works in partnership with a number of different organisations such as:-

- Vision - complex needs
- Stimulant Outreach Service
- STAR - abstinence goals
- CJIT - Offending behaviour
- Harm Minimisation

The Service would also be working with the Prolific Offender Team.

The process was detailed for different types of users together with the aftercare routes that were available.

The Service would be launched next Wednesday at William Street, Stockton.

Tina Williams, Central Area Partnership Board, requested that further work be done to gradually reduce levels of medication for drug addicts as it was felt that many did not want to come off the medication and were in treatment for a long time.

AGREED that the information and comments received be noted.

**SSP  
78/09**      **Recorded Crime & Disorder**

Members were provided with a report that set out the recorded crime figures and anti social behaviour disorder codes for April – July 2009 compared with April - July 2008. Figures for Most Serious Violence figures were April – August. Members were pleased to see the reduction in crime and felt that it was due to close partnership working.

AGREED that the report be noted.

**SSP  
79/09**      **DAT Quarter 1 Performance**

Members were provided with the National Treatment Agency on adult drug treatment plan progress - 2009/10. Members discussed the pilot scheme in Darlington where heroin was being provided as a treatment and requested a report on the results of this pilot scheme.

AGREED that the report be noted and that a further report be presented on the Darlington pilot scheme.

**SSP  
80/09 Youth Justice Plan Quarter 1 (April - June 2009)**

Members were provided with a copy of the Youth Justice Plan Quarter 1 (April-June 2009).

AGREED that the report be noted.

**SSP  
81/09 A Decade of Progress**

Members were provided with a report that provided analysis of the changes in local and national crime figures between 1998/99, the year in which the Partnership was established, and 2008/09. During that period the population of Stockton-on-Tees grew by 6.7% and the population of England and Wales grew by 5.3%.

Over the same period, the reduction for overall crime rates were as follows:

Stockton – REDUCED by 22.8%  
England & Wales – REDUCED by 12.6%

Further detail was broken down for Members information.

AGREED that the progress be noted.

**SSP  
82/09 Alcohol Strategy**

Members were provided with a copy of the alcohol strategy 'Stockton Calls Time on Alcohol Harm' 2009-2012.

The strategy was still in draft form and was provided for Members comments. John Bentley was not in attendance but had provided comments through Marilyn Davies.

It was anticipated that the strategy would be launched in November.

AGREED that the strategy be endorsed by the Partnership.

**SSP  
83/09 Partnership Investment Plan - use of projected underspend**

At our meeting on 4th August we discussed the current situation with the Partnership Investment Plan and in particular the under spend which is projected as £8,005. Members were asked to submit details of proposals of how we should spend this money.

Three proposals had been submitted:

- £1,000 to place a full page or two half pages advert in Stockton News to assist with our providing reassurance agenda.

- Replace all signs for Designated Public Places Orders to control the misuse of drinking alcohol in each town centre across the Borough. For plastic signs the cost was £3,047 and for recycled plastic it was £3,187.

- Engage consultants to deliver Problem Solving training to partner agencies. A number of e mails have been sent to Probation, Police, DAAT, Fire and THL and a positive response has been received to this proposal. The training would cost £2,500 for a two day course. Accommodation and catering costs will add a further £500 Giving a total cost of £3,000

- Due to receiving numerous complaints about the shelter under Victoria Bridge which was being used by both alcohol and drug substance mis users. We are proposing that access be temporarily blocked using a metal grid. It was proposed that the remainder of this money £818 be used as a contribution to this work.

Neighbourhood Watch requested funding towards the Junior Neighbourhood Watch project, they would like £800 towards uniform and other equipment.

AGREED that the funding as detailed be endorsed.

## **SSP 84/09 Consultation Strategy 2010**

Since 1998 the Safer Stockton Partnership had carried out four cycles of consultation with local people about the priorities on which the Community Safety Plan for the borough should be based, and we have steadily increased response numbers as follows:

1998 – 150  
2001 – 1,500  
2004 – 2,500  
2007 – 4,000

The third Partnership Strategic Assessment would help to direct the content of the audit document. This would be completed in January 2010 and would identify any emerging trends, ongoing issues and areas of concern. Given our current focus on the providing reassurance agenda the PSA would also provide valuable analysis on this key area of work.

The target for Audit 2010 was 5,000. Within that it was anticipated that a range of responses from marginalised groups and areas would be as follows:

- a) Increase total responses to 5,000
- b) Ensure we receive responses of at least 10 per thousand per ward, in particular from wards with higher levels of crime and anti social behaviour and above average levels of fear of crime.
- c) To increase responses from the BME population to above 5% of the population. In 2007 we achieved 3%.
- d) To maintain responses from the 16 – 34 age group (sometimes defined as 'hard to reach') at 19%, the response rate in 2007 was 18.7%.

Interim costs for the production and delivery of the Audit document were approximately £30,000 a slight increase on projections from 2007. It was

proposed that we use the same formula used in previous rounds as detailed within the report.

AGREED that:-

1. The targets proposed were endorsed.
2. Members send any additional targets that come to light to the Community Safety Team Claire.sills@stockton.gov.uk or 01642 527610 for inclusion in a further progress report.
3. Agreement was reached on the funding proposal for Audit 2010
4. A further consultation report would be brought to the next meeting.

**SSP 85/09 Offender Management Update**

During the Summer the Home Office had produced three documents which related to the Prolific and Other Priority Offender Schemes. Members were provided with a paper that highlighted some of the key issues and recommendations from those reports which need to be acknowledged by the Safer Stockton partnership and their stakeholders.

It was fair to reflect that the guidance issued within these documents had been embedded into the current practice and the partnership was continually exploring new working practices to reduce re-offending.

AGREED that the synopsis of the three papers be endorsed.

**SSP 86/09 Gambling Act 2005**

The Council was currently consulting on a revised version of its Statement of Licensing Principles in relation to the Gambling Act. The consultation draft was provided to Members and any comments on the document should be forwarded to:-

Mick Vaines  
Principal Licensing Officer  
PO Box 232  
16 Church Road  
Stockton-on-Tees  
TS18 1XD

AGREED that the report be noted and that any comments be forwarded to Mick Vaines.

**SSP 87/09 Councillor Calls for Action**

Further to the report that was brought to members on 12th May 2009 this report provides an update on the process that would be used for CCfA in Stockton.

Members would recall that section 119 of the Local Government and Public

Involvement in Health Act 2007 introduced provisions to provide council members with the opportunity to ask for discussions at scrutiny committees on issues where local problems had arisen and where other methods of resolution had been exhausted. This sits alongside a similar provision introduced in the Police and Justice Act 2006. Both sets of provisions came into force in April of this year.

The Council's Executive Scrutiny committee approved a process for dealing with submissions covering both provisions on 28th July 2009.

The Executive Scrutiny Committee would act as the depository for all CCfAs, consider the information supplied by the councillor, accept or reject the CCfA and, if approved would then refer it to the Housing and Community Safety Committee. If the issue was not a straightforward community safety matter but involves a mixture of crime and disorder and other matters the chairs of other relevant committees will co-opted onto the committee in a non voting capacity. Relevant parties would also be asked to attend the meeting.

A proforma had been developed that would be used to instigate a call for action.

AGREED that the report be noted.

**SSP  
88/09 Counter Terrorism**

An update would be received from GONE with regard to the recent events in Harrow.

AGREED that an update be received at the next meeting.

**SSP  
89/09 Communications**

Members were provided with a list of press releases from SSP for the period of the 1st August 09 to 3rd September 2009. Copies of the full articles were available from the Community Safety Team.

AGREED that the report be noted.

**SSP  
90/09 Reports Back**

- a) Renaissance**
- b) DAAT Groups - Adults Commissioning**
  - Young Peoples Commissioning**
  - Reducing Supply Group**
  - Offender Management Group**
- c) Area Partnership Boards**
- d) Children's Fund**
- e) Parkfield / Mill Lane Neighbourhood Management Board**

Members were informed that Kelly Hopkins had left the Parkfield/Mill Lane Neighbourhood Management Board. There were no other updates.