

Safer Stockton Partnership

A meeting of Safer Stockton Partnership was held on Tuesday, 23rd March, 2010.

Present: Geoff Lee (Chairman - Tristar Homes), Cllr Steve Nelson, Mike Batty, Molly Taylor, Jane Humphreys (SBC), Jim Willoughby (HMP Holme House), Ian Harrington (Fire Service), Ron Baker (NHW Police), Sam Gibbons (Junior Neighbourhood Watch), Allison Agius (Catalyst), Ruth Hill (SBC/NHS Stockton), Emma Champley (Stockton DAAT), Beverley Oliver, John Liddell (National Treatment Agency), Darren Best, Mark Buckley (Cleveland Police).

Officers: Marilyn Davies, Fiona Shayler(SBC).

Also in attendance: Cllr Beall (SBC), David Dunn (GONE).

Apologies: were submitted on behalf of Cllr Ann McCoy, Ted Allen, Lucia Saiger, Derek Carter, Shaun McLurg, Miriam Robertson, Richard Poundford, Chris Coombs, Joanne Hodgkinson, Julie Nixon, Jeff Evans, Ian Garrett, John Bentley, Glenis Sanderson, Gary Gamesby.

1 Minutes - 9th February 2010

The minutes of the meeting on 9th February 2010 were agreed as a correct record.

2 Matters Arising

(a) Retrospective improvement in NI45 score for Q3 (No. 10 refers)

Members were informed that the performance score had improved.

3 Any other business - Identification only

None

4 Home Office update

Members were provided with an update from the Home Office. Members were informed about the Public Confidence Route Map that had recently been produced, it was felt that this document would be particularly useful in a partnership setting.

Discussion was held on the minimum standards for Anti Social Behaviour, it was stated that additional support would be offered for these minimum standards in due course.

AGREED that the update be noted.

5 National Treatment Agency (NTA) Regional Manager - Bev Oliver

Members were provided with a presentation by Bev Oliver and John Liddell from the National Treatment Agency (NTA) for Substance Misuse.

Members were informed that there were approximately 330,000 problem heroin and crack users in England. Two thirds of this figure were in treatment. The NTA's role was to get users into effective treatment. The Government spends £800m per year on treatment and the NHS spends £100m on needle exchange services.

Treatment was commissioned by 149 local partnerships. Most adults contact treatment services direct but some are referred by their GP or the NHS, some adults were picked up through the criminal justice system. The NTA monitors national standards.

Information was provided on the types of treatment available. The aim of the treatment was to overcome dependency and reduce the harm caused by drugs. Research by the NAO 2010 has found that for every pound spent on treatment will save the tax payer £2.50. NICE estimated that the crime and health costs of each injecting drug user was £480,000 over a lifetime.

Detail was provided on the outcomes of treatment and the Treatment Outcomes Profile (TOP) shows that:

- Two thirds of heroin users and half of crack users cut consumption significantly
- At least one third of either become abstinent

The NTA's goal was to get more users into treatment, help them overcome dependency and reintegrate into society.

Members were given the opportunity to ask questions regarding the service.

Waiting times for treatment were generally within a week, NHS guidelines were within 3 weeks.

Cllr Beall stated that all partners needed to be working together to ensure that the same message was portrayed across all services. He expressed concern about the methadone programme and ensuring that people become drug free and not by substituting one drug for another.

AGREED that the presentation and comments be noted.

6 Fire Brigade Presentation

AGREED that this presentation be deferred to a future meeting.

7 Recorded Crime & Disorder

Members were provided with the recorded crime figures, anti social behaviour disorder codes and Most Serious Violence figures for April 2009 – February 2010 compared with April 2008 – February 2009.

Members were informed that the Police targets had been set for the 2010/11 and that the target for crime was to be reduced by another 4%, which would be very difficult to achieve.

AGREED that the report be noted.

8 DAAT Q3 Performance

Members were provided with a summary of the salient points. It was noted that 284 new people were entering drug treatment and the NTA were requiring that as much data as possible was collected. It was also stated that the Service was trying to ensure that no-one left treatment without the appropriate package in place.

AGREED that the report be noted.

9 Recommendations from Partnership Strategic Assessment

The third Partnership Strategic Assessment was presented to the Safer Stockton Partnership at the last meeting on 9th February 2010. The attached report provided details of recommendations from this report.

Members were asked to consider the content of the report and where possible assist with the process of completing the action required for the recommendations. Where there were data quality issues representatives from the Police, Council and Health were asked to raise these concerns with data controllers in their respective agency and instigate staff training where it was needed.

AGREED that the comments be noted and that partners take on board the action required.

10 Planned Reports 2010/11

Members were provided with a first draft schedule of planned reports for 2010/11 - in effect, a work programme for the Partnership - which had been populated with reports and other items which were already evident.

It was stated that further items such as:- Public Confidence, Neighbourhood Policing, Progression on Strategic Assessment, CAA - Domestic Violence and Adult Inspections should be added to the

work programme.

AGREED that an update work programme be presented to the next meeting.

11 Partnership Investment Plan 2010/11

Members will recall that we will receive £31,000 less for the coming financial year from the capital element of the Safer Stronger Communities Fund, as a result of Home Office cuts. The total funding available for allocation by the Partnership was therefore

BCU Fund (via Police) - £126,156

BSC (via Council) - £196,967

Total - £323,123

Members were provided with a proposal to reduce the budget across partners as detailed within the report.

Discussion has taken place with the Police and the proposed reductions had been agreed with them. If members agree with the other proposed reductions a letter would be sent to each delivery partner advising them that they will receive a cut in their budget for the coming financial year.

Members were asked to consider the first draft of the Partnership Investment Plan, the proposed reductions and use of Diverting Young People element and to endorse the plan for 2010/2011.

Members were informed that there was £500 that had not been allocated and it was suggested that this be used to support Stonham and Harbour's deficit.

AGREED that the proposals be approved.

12 Request for Membership - Corner House Youth Project

The Partnership had been approached by the Corner House Youth Project (CHYP) requesting membership of the Safer Stockton Partnership.

Our Constitution provides that:

“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”.

(item 4(i) refers)

Members discussed the matter and felt that a representative from one third sector organisation could mean that the third sector could be misrepresented. Members discussed ways to maximise third sector involvement when the partnership was meeting to discuss specific issues.

AGREED that the approach be declined and that the Partnership consider ways to invite third sector partners if required to any future meetings.

13 Regional Information Sharing Protocol

Members would recall that over the last year GONE had been developing a regional Information Sharing Protocol and that a report was brought to the June 2009 meeting outlining the process. This work was now complete and training for those who share information as part of their work was underway. A summary of the protocol was provided. Anyone wishing to have a copy of the full protocol and guidance notes could do so by contacting Helen Dixon 528434 or Helen.dixon@stockton.gov.uk

AGREED that the protocol be noted.

14 Regional Independent Assessment of Hallmarks of Effective Practice

Government Office North East had secured funding from the Regional Improvement and

Efficiency Partnership (RIEP) to employ consultants to work with each of the 12 CDRPs in the region to provide an independent assessment of their position with regard to the Home Office's Hallmarks of Effective Practice.

AGREED that the update be noted.

15 Adult Safeguarding

Members were provided with the minutes of the meeting held on 19th February, 2010.

It was stated that information needed to be disseminated to ensure that everybody was aware of the first point of contact if they had concerns about an adult that may need safeguarding. It was noted that the First Contact Team should be contacted if there were any concerns and that this information needed to be passed down to each organisation and its staff.

It was noted that the broader aspects of safeguarding was to ensure that the dignity of adults was upheld. Many referrals to the service were received from the general public. The concerns were categorised into the following:-

Financial Concerns
Sexual Abuse
Institutional Abuse
Emotional Abuse

Members were informed that Janet Hayes was the contact for any training requirements, leaflets were also available for distribution within organisations.

Discussion was held on the pressures which may arise as the ageing population increases.

AGREED that the minutes and comments be noted.

16 ASB Minimum Standards

Discussion was held on the Anti Social Behaviour Minimum Standards. It was felt important that the right message is sent out to the public on 'what is Anti Social behaviour'. It was felt that work needed to be done to change attitudes and create better understanding.

AGREED that the report be noted.

17 Most Serious Violent Crime

Members would recall that at the previous meeting on 9th February 2010 discussion was held on National Indicator 15 Most Serious Violent Crime. Whilst we were performing well in relation to our most similar CDRP group, as best of the 15 localities in the group, and levels of most serious violence were lower than 3-5 years ago, we would not be meeting the year on year target set under this indicator.

Cleveland Police were looking at areas to try and reduce serious crime but it was felt that it was a difficult area to tackle.

AGREED that the report be noted.

18 Youth Crime Action Plan (YCAP) Programme 2010/11

Members were provided with a copy of the Youth Crime Action Plan (YCAP) Programme 2010/11.

AGREED that the report be noted.

19 Safe and Confident Neighbourhoods Strategy

Members were provided with a copy of a letter from the Home Office detailing the publication of the Safe and Confident Neighbourhoods Strategy.

AGREED that the letter be noted.

20 Counter Terrorism

Cleveland Police had recently taken part in an away day to look at a prevention action plan.

21 Communications

Members were provided with a list of press releases from SSP for the period of the 27th January – 11th March 2010 Copies of the full articles were available from the Community Safety Team.

AGREED that the press releases be noted.

22 Reports Back

a) Renaissance

b) DAAT Groups - Adults Commissioning

- Young Peoples Commissioning

- Reducing Supply

- Offender Management Group

c) Area Partnership Boards

d) Children's Fund

e) Parkfield/Mill Lane Neighbourhood Management Board

None