

Safer Stockton Partnership

A meeting of Safer Stockton Partnership was held on Tuesday, 6th July, 2010.

Present: Geoff Lee (Chairman - Tristar Homes Ltd.), Cllr Jim Beall, Cllr Steve Nelson, Mike Batty, Shaun McLurg, (Stockton on Tees Borough Council), Darren Best, Rob Donaghy (Cleveland Police), Glenis Sanderson (Victim Support), Jim Willoughby (HMP Holme House), John Bentley (Safe in Tees Valley), Sam Gibbons (Junior Neighbourhood Watch), Miriam Robertson (Youth Offending Service), Emma Champley (Stockton DAAT), Ian Garrett (Eastern Area Partnership Board, Norman Wright (Cleveland Police Authority), Bert Smailes (Northern Area Partnership Board), Ian McHugh (Cleveland Fire Authority Board), Paul Green (Adult Safeguarding Board).

Officers: Marilyn Davies, Dave Kitching (DNS); Fiona McKie (LD).

Also in attendance: John Tench (LIA), John Coxon (GONE), Jo Moore (Cleveland Criminal Justice Board), Sue Taylor (BALANCE), Catherine McConnell (Fresh - Smoke Free North East), Richard Ferry (North East Trading Standards Association).

Apologies: were submitted on behalf of Jeff Evans, Richard Poundford, Jane Humphreys, Julie Nixon, Ian Harrington, Chris Coombs, Gary Gamesby, Ted Allen, Allison Agius, Lucia Saiger.

1 Draft Minutes 11 May 2010

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 11 May 2010 were agreed as a correct record.

2 Matters Arising

Strengthening Minimum Standards for ASB

Discussion was held on the vulnerable person risk assessment form used by the Anti Social Behaviour Team and it was suggested that Tristar Homes be contacted to see if they could use the same method.

3 Any other business - Identification only

None

4 Home Office update

An update was provided by GONE. The key words/phrases that were being used by the new Government were decentralisation, decluttering, devolving power to localities, getting communities involved, big society. Discussion was also held on the budget reductions. It was noted that more information would be available in the near future and further updates would be provided.

Discussion was held on the Peterborough Pilot Scheme for Offenders, paying by results for people not re-offending. Further information was requested on the results.

AGREED that the update be noted.

5 Hallmarks of Effective Practice

The survey in relation to this exercise, as previously reported to the Partnership, has been completed by 20 members of the Partnership, and the results were provided.

John Tench, the lead consultant for the regional programme was in attendance at the meeting. He stated that the self assessment was very positive with consistently high scores. If in the future strategic partnerships were made unstatutory then it would be up to the partnership as to whether they should continue.

Discussion was held on future budget cuts and it was felt that the Partnership would need to be strengthened to deal with these cuts. It was felt that some improvements could be made when disseminating information down to local partners such as the area partnership boards. Mike Batty would report back with options.

AGREED that the report be noted.

6 FRESH North East - Control of Illicit Tobacco

Members were provided with a presentation by Catherine McConnell, Fresh - Smoke Free North East and Richard Ferry, North East Trading Standards.

Members were also provided with a paper on Illicit Tobacco by the Trading Standards Service, Stockton on Tees Borough Council.

Illicit Tobacco means:

Smuggled – legitimately manufactured products which have evaded tax by being illegally transported, distributed and sold

Bootlegged – products which originate from a country with a low level of tax having been illegally brought into the UK without payment of domestic tax

Counterfeit – illegally manufactured copies of existing brands, often made abroad and sold cheaply in the UK

The first two types of illicit product fall clearly within the remit of HMRC. Trading Standards also have a responsibility in respect of the second category because of the lack of legal warnings and health pictorials.

Trading Standards was also the main enforcement body for the sale and distribution of all types of counterfeit products and the sale of cigarette to children under 18.

Last year we received a total of 5 complaints regarding the sale of illicit tobacco. All of these related to sales from private addresses. One also related to sales to children. Two other complaints were received about sales to children alone – one related to a private address and the other related to an ice-cream van.

The main barriers to enforcement were that there had been very little inland work undertaken by HMRC following the disbandment of the Tees Target Team. This also meant that there were no local contact points for referral of intelligence and complaints. In practice this meant that any complaints about illicit sales (i.e. those not involving sales to children) were passed to the national hotline number with no feedback or contacts for progress reports etc.

In relation to complaints about sales of cigarettes to children from private addresses the main problem is enforcement limitations for Trading Standards or the Police because of the lack of powers available in the legislation or indeed under PACE (because the offence for selling to children is a summary only offence) for warrants to enter private addresses.

New Initiatives

Two regional tobacco projects had been introduced recently with funding from the Department of Health and Fresh North East. The NETSA Tobacco Control Project aims to reduce the number of illegal sales to under age children, disrupt the sale of illegal and counterfeit tobacco products and ensure compliance with the rules on tobacco advertising.

The second project was the North of England Tackling Illicit Tobacco Programme, involving HM Revenue and Customs, Police, UK Border Agency and Trading Standards, which aims to reduce the supply of 3 main types of illicit tobacco.

New Inland Detection Teams have been formed within HMRC - one based at Middlesbrough and another in Newcastle. Good links had been formed between local team and Stockton Trading Standards & Licensing with informal intelligence sharing procedures now in place.

Joint working has improved considerably over the last 12 months with a good relationship now in

place between Stockton Trading Standards & Licensing and the Inland Detection Team at Middlesbrough. The team have assisted with a number of operations and carried out raids at a number of properties.

It was stated that work was being done to get the message to the public to send intelligence in on so called 'fag houses'.

It was suggested by Junior Neighbourhood Watch that some work could be done with children in Schools. It was stated that this would be considered as the programme develops.

AGREED that the report and presentation be noted.

7 Balance

Members were provided with a presentation by Sue Taylor, BALANCE. The presentation focused on minimum pricing, it was reported that alcohol was 75% cheaper than in 1980. Home drinking was a big issue as well as people pre-loading at home before going out. It was stated that 1 person was admitted to hospital every 8 minutes with an alcohol related condition. It was also stated that 50% of violent crime was related to alcohol.

Research had been carried out by the Chief Medical Officer and reported that if a minimum price per unit was introduced at 50 pence per unit, after 10 years we would see significant reductions in crime and medical conditions.

The impact on consumers was highlighted if the minimum price of 50 pence per unit was introduced.

Both arguments for and against introducing a minimum price were highlighted. Balance were requested to do further work on the likely impact of a minimum pricing policy, alcohol smuggling and on offending by problem drinkers to support their habit. Balance would be proactively lobbying the Government.

CONCLUDED that the presentation be noted.

8 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 – May 2010 compared with April – May 2009.

AGREED that the update be noted.

9 YOS Q4

Members were provided with the Youth Offending Service Quarter 4 performance.

AGREED that the report be noted.

10 Review of Performance against CSP 2009/10

Over the second year of the plan the partnership again achieved some good results. Of the 44 targets that were set 28 ended the year on target to achieve, four were slightly below expected performance, seven were red and five were not due for an update.

Numbers in effective treatment had reduced from the previous year. Quarter four figures were not yet available but it was thought unlikely that this target would be achieved. Research had been proposed to identify whether we had a hidden population of drug takers who were not in treatment, though previous research did not find this. Potentially failure to meet this target could have financial implications for us but it could be viewed as a success if the research confirms that there was no hidden population and that the reduction was due to people leaving the system drug free.

It was stated that the Audit would be emailed to Members today and comments would be required asap to Marilyn Davies. The Audit would be printed on Friday. It was suggested that a question

on illicit tobacco be included.

AGREED that the report be noted.

11 Progress Report on PSA

Members would recall that the third Partnership Strategic Assessment was presented to the Safer Stockton Partnership in February and a further report outlining the main recommendations from the assessment was presented on 23rd March 2010.

The report detailed the progress made against the data requirements and recommendations which form the action plan for the Partnership Strategic Assessment.

Some good progress has been made in respect of A&E data and MSV, and tighter recording procedures on Flare have been adopted and would be evaluated shortly.

There continued to be issues around sourcing ethnicity data. No up to date source of BME populations by ward had been identified and problems persisted in the identification of crime victims by ethnicity.

Recommendations relating to suggested priorities would be considered alongside the results of public consultation via the Audit this summer.

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

It was suggested that the Police Strategic Analyst could look at the template as some of the data was not accurate.

It was also suggested that this report be considered more regularly than annually.

AGREED that the report and comments be noted.

12 School of Art

Members had received a request for funding towards the School of Art from Cleveland Police.

AGREED that the Partnership support the project but were unable to provide any funding at this time.

13 The Coalition: Our Programme for Government

Members had been provided with a copy of The Coalition: Our Programme for Government.

AGREED that the report be noted for information purposes.

14 Counter Terrorism

Members had been informed at the previous meeting that funding had been awarded to tackle counter terrorism. It was stated that 30% of this funding had since been withdrawn.

AGREED that the update be noted.

15 Communications

Members were provided with the list of press releases from SSP for the period of the 13th April -23rd June 2010 Copies of the full articles were available from the Community Safety Team.

AGREED that the report be noted.

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 of the changes to the former Police Hostel on Yarm Road. Jomast were seeking to open a hostel for asylum seekers for only women and their children. There would be 24 hour cover at the hostel and any visiting would be controlled. It was stated that one family would be taken in each day over the next 11 days, there would be 11 women and 13 children to begin with.

Members were informed that the Children's Fund had ceased to operate.