

# Safer Stockton Partnership

A meeting of Safer Stockton Partnership was held on Tuesday, 15th February, 2011.

**Present:** Geoff Lee (Chairman - Tristar); Mike Batty, Cllr Jim Beall, Cllr Steve Nelson (SBC); Emma Champley, Jo Heaney (Stockton DAAT); Sarah Wilson (Cleveland Police Authority); Lucia Saiger (DTV Trust); Jeff Evans (Probation); Glenis Sanderson (Victim Support); Sam Gibbons (Junior Neighbourhood Watch); Dave Pickard (Vela Group); Tina Williams (Central Area Partnership Board); Miriam Robertson (YOS); Allison Agius (Catalyst); Paul Green (Adult Safeguarding Committee); Jim Willoughby (Holme House); Bert Smailes (Northern Area Partnership Board); Mick Williams, Rob Donaghy (Police).

**Officers:** Neil Schneider (CE); Anna Clark, Marilyn Davies (DNS); Fiona McKie (LD).

**Also in attendance:**

**Apologies:** were submitted on behalf of Richard Poundford, Jane Humphreys, Ted Allen, Julie Nixon, John Bentley.

## 1 Minutes of Previous Meeting - 21st December 2010

The minutes of the meeting held on 21st December 2010 were agreed as a correct record.

## 2 Matters Arising

**a) Sex Work Research (No: 15 refers)**

**b) Stonham floating support service (No: 16 refers)**

**c) Evaluation of Bonfire Night / Operation Trojan (No: 19 refers)**

(a) - No further update at present.

(b) - The Commissioning Manager was aware that the funding had been withdrawn. It was reported that there would be an EIT review of supporting people which would look into the services provided.

(c) - The report had been drafted and was awaiting final agreement by all four districts.

Members requested an update on the Minimum Unit Pricing for Alcohol. It was reported that nationally the Government had agreed to a ban on selling at below 'cost price' (ie. duty plus VAT). However, the DAAT would continue to lobby for minimum unit pricing.

## 3 Minutes of YOS Management Board 18 January 2011

Members were provided with an update on the Criminal Justice Green Paper 'Breaking the Cycle'. The main aspects of the paper were around Restorative Justice, Payment by results, local authorities becoming responsible for the costs of custody.

The minutes of the YOS Management Board of 18th January 2011 were agreed as a correct record.

## 4 Action Notes from Scanning & Challenge Group 17 January 2011

The action notes from the Scanning and Challenge Group of 17th January 2011 were agreed as a correct record.

## 5 Any other Business

Partnership Investment Plan

A report was circulated at the meeting detailing the Community Safety Fund allocations for 2011/12 and 2012/13. The new fund amalgamates 3 previous elements ie. the Stronger and Safer Communities Fund, Community Call for Action and Home Office funding for Young People and Substance Misuse.

The funding for 2011/12 was a reduction of 20% on the 2010/11 baseline and for 2012/13 a

reduction of 60%. It was also reported that the BCU Fund allocation of £126k had been discontinued completely. From 2013/14 onwards, the Community Safety Fund would be allocated to the directly elected Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland.

Members were provided with a proposed breakdown of the funding allocation for consideration.

AGREED that the funding allocation as set out within the report be approved.

## **6 Cleveland Police Authority Savings Plan**

This item would be considered at the next meeting.

## **7 Recorded Crime & Disorder**

Members were provided with a report that set out the recorded crime figures, anti social behaviour disorder codes and Most Serious Violence figures for April – December 2010 compared with the same period the previous financial year.

Members were informed that there had been a slight increase in the figures for Robbery due to a number of mobile phones being stolen by 'purse dipping'. Shoplifting and metal theft was still an issue however there were a number of initiatives taking place to reduce this.

Discussion was held on recent successful 'drugs busts'. It was reported that members of the community were concerned about drug dealers buying properties with cash and renting them out. It was stated that organised groups were working together to resolve any issues such as money laundering by sharing information. The Police were sent information on cash purchases for houses and whenever a dealer was being dealt with by the Police a financial appraisal would be undertaken.

Members held discussion on sex workers. Residents were reporting incidents and the Police had a good dialogue with them. It was felt that perception was an issue amongst residents in problem areas. It was stated that many of the sex workers were in drugs treatment programmes but it was suggested that specific rehabilitation for sex workers would be an advantage. It was reported that there was a scheme in Newcastle that was specifically for sex workers who were drug addicts. It was stated that more information on what the scheme entailed would be sought.

AGREED that the information be noted.

## **8 Community Safety Plan Q3**

There were a total of 44 targets in the Community Safety Plan for 2008/11. 25 of the targets were on target to achieve (green), 11 were slightly below expected performance (amber), three targets were red and five were not due an update in quarter three. The red and amber targets were addressed in more detail.

A further update would be presented at the next meeting as some of the figures required clarity. It was also stated that the Offensive Incident reporting system required a review.

Discussion was held on anti social behaviour. It was reported that Neighbourhood Watch were currently working with schools particularly looking at how youths may not be doing anything wrong but how residents may find their behaviour intimidating.

AGREED that the report and information be noted.

## **9 YOS Q3**

Members were provided with the Youth Offending Service Quarter 3. The overall percentage for NI 45: Engagement in education, training and employment was 87.3% which was just under the target of 90%.

AGREED that the report be noted.

**10 Spend against Partnership Investment Plan**

Members were informed that there was no underspend.

AGREED that the report be noted.

**11 Alcohol Strategy Action Plan**

Members were provided with the Alcohol Action Plan for Quarter 3. Members were informed that the Social Norms pilot was now complete and the draft report was due out soon.

The Place survey had now been abolished, therefore some of the performance measures would need to be reviewed.

Members were informed that improvements had now been agreed to ensure that data from A & E was received.

Discussion was held on a new post within the Acute Trust that would hopefully be appointed soon.

AGREED that the report and update be noted.

**12 Proposed Constitutional Amendment**

Following the transfer of Stockton Council's housing stock to Tristar Homes on 13 December 2010 as an organisation independent of the Council, and the establishment of the Vela Group as the 'holding company' of which Tristar Homes and Housing Hartlepool were the 'operating companies', it was timely for the Partnership to review representation from Tristar/Vela.

Dave Pickard, the Group Director of Operations for Vela, had expressed an interest in joining the Partnership. Geoff Lee was the current representative of Tristar Homes. Members of the Partnership would be aware that Tristar/Vela had significant concentrations of homes in some of our high crime Wards (Stockton Town Centre, Parkfield & Oxbridge, Mandale & Victoria, Newtown and Hardwick), and that the Tristar/Vela stock accounts for a disproportionately high level of crime, notably dwelling burglary and domestic violence.

AGREED that the Partnership's constitution be amended to add at Section 4 (c) (xxv) "The Vela Group" (This would be in addition to the existing Tristar Homes representation).

**13 Partnership Strategic Assessment**

Members were provided with a copy of the fourth Partnership Strategic Assessment. It was proposed that the actions identified after each section of the report would be incorporated into an action plan that would be driven by the Community Safety Analyst, which would then be incorporated into the quarterly performance monitoring report.

Members requested that a one page summary document be produced. This would be placed on the SSP website.

AGREED that the Partnership Strategic Assessment be approved and a summary document be produced.

**14 Draft Community Safety Plan 2011-2014**

Members were provided with the second draft of the Community Safety Plan for 2011-14.

Members would recall that in the past we have produced the plan in a glossy format using our Partnership budget for the cost. Due to the current financial climate it was proposed that this plan would be produced in a simpler format similar to that of the Partnership Strategic Assessment – a bound colour photocopied document – and made available via the Partnership's website and the websites of partner agencies.

The plan covered the three year period 2011 to 2014 but it was suggested that it was reviewed

and refreshed yearly so that up dated information from the Partnership Strategic Assessment could be refreshed and targets could be re-assessed and if necessary re set, within the three year framework of key priorities established through our consultation programme.

The final draft of the plan would be brought to the 29th March meeting however there may still be some gaps in the target section if national targets that were being proposed had not been set. To incorporate this we plan to distribute the final version to partners and other interested parties during April 2011.

Members felt that the plan should be produced in a simpler format and should be refreshed to incorporate new knowledge and information from the yearly PSA.

The lead for each key priority should present an update to SSP on progress against an agreed action plan and this would be incorporated into our quarterly performance report.

Members were also asked to send any comments and/or suggestions on the draft plan to the Community Safety Manager no later than 28th February 2011. marilyn.davies@stockton.gov.uk

AGREED that the changes as detailed be endorsed and the final report be presented to the meeting in March 2011.

#### **15 New National Drugs Strategy**

The Coalition Government released a new national Drug Strategy in December 2010. Entitled 'Drug Strategy 2010, Reducing Demand, Restricting Supply, Building Recovery: Supporting People to Live a Drug Free Life.' This Strategy replaced the ten-year Strategy instigated by Labour in 2008. The Coalition Strategy does not identify the length of time it spans.

Members were provided with a paper that informed members of the key points within the 2010 Drug Strategy, key changes from the 2008 Strategy, and resulting main issues of relevance within Stockton.

There had been a reduction in the budget and the way in which it was made up. It was also noted that the Service would be moving towards a payments by results formula. More emphasis was being paid to Community Sentences which could put more pressure on resources.

AGREED that the report be noted.

#### **16 Ministry of Justice Green Paper 'Breaking the Cycle: Effective Punishment, Rehabilitation and Sentencing of Offenders'**

Members were provided with a copy of a letter from Durham Probation Trust regarding the Ministry of Justice Green Paper 'Breaking the Cycle: Effective Punishment, Rehabilitation and Sentencing of Offenders'.

Members were requested to send comments into Mike Batty and a copy of the response sent on behalf of the partnership would be presented to the next meeting.

AGREED that the content of the letter be supported and comments be forwarded to Mike Batty to formulate a response.

#### **17 Reporting ASB - local priorities and national pilot schemes**

Members were provided with a report detailing the new Home Office principles and pilots and examine where the Partnership was locally in achieving the principles, the local reporting arrangements and where the Partnership would stand on avoiding a Pilkington-type case.

AGREED that the report be noted.

#### **18 Counter Terrorism**

Members were informed that a local Community Event was to be held at Police HQ.

**19 Communications**

Members were provided with a list of press releases from SSP for the period of 13th December 2010 – 31st January 2011. Copies of the full articles were available from the Community Safety Team.

AGREED that the press releases be noted.

**20 Quality Assurance Consultation Paper**

Members were provided with a briefing by Allison Agius from the Catalyst on the Stockton Quality Assurance (QA) system which had been designed to offer a yardstick with which to measure the quality assurance of Voluntary and Community Organisations and Social Enterprises (VCS and SE).

Members comments were requested by 29th April 2011.

AGREED that the report be noted.

**21 Stockton Domestic Violence Awayday 14 January 2011**

The Domestic Violence Awayday was held on 14th January 2011.

This event was held with a total of 38 delegates attending on the day. The event was structured around eight workshops, on the following themes:-

- (a) NHS
- (b) Probation
- (c) Police
- (d) Harbour
- (e) Children's Services
- (f) Adult Services
- (g) Community Safety
- (h) Housing

Members were provided with a report on the issues and opinions captured in each of the workshop sessions.

AGREED that the report be noted.

**22 Reports Back**

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

None

**23 Date of next meeting - Tuesday 29 March 2011 at 9.30 a.m.**