

Safer Stockton Partnership

A meeting of Safer Stockton Partnership was held on Tuesday, 27th August, 2013.

Present: Geoff Lee (Chairman), Mike Batty, Paul Noddings, Paul Green, John Bentley, Cllr Evaline Cunningham, Steve Rose, Caroline Wood, Lucia Saiger Burns, A.G Turner, Cllr Jim Beall, Cllr Steve Nelson

Officers: Kerry Anderson, Jo Heaney (Public Health), Steve Hume (DNS), Michael Henderson (LD)

Also in attendance: Tabitha Falcus, Anthony Lowes

Apologies: Christine Goodman, Jane Humphreys, Richard Poundford, Bert Smailes, Gordon Lang, Miriam Sigsworth, Peter Kelly, Jeff Evans

1 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2 Minutes of the Meeting held on 9th July 2013

Consideration was given to the draft minutes of the meeting held on 9 July 2013.

AGREED that the minutes be approved.

3 Matters Arising

(a) ANEC/NOMS Project (item 2(c) refers) see item 19 below

(b) National extension of 'Troubled Families' programme (item 8(f) refers) - no further details available yet

It was noted that there had been a national extension of the 'Troubled Families' programme for 5 years, with £1 billion funding targeting 400.000 families. No more details had been received since the announcement.

4 Area Partnership Boards - reports back

There were no reports back

5 Minutes of YOS Management Board 23 July 2013

The minutes of the YOS Management Board were noted.

6 Any Other Business-Identification Only

The Partnership received a report that proposed future delivery against the alcohol agenda:-

- continue to carry out an annual needs assessment to identify trends, gaps in service and future commissioning potentials.

- develop an annual delivery plan through a task and finish process with key partners; utilising needs assessment findings, requirements from Public Health England and key indicators (present and previous years based on attainment).

- present performance dashboard to the Partnership bi-annually.

AGREED that the proposals relating to the future delivery against the alcohol agenda be approved.

7 Action Notes from Scanning & Challenge Group 30 July 2013

The notes of the meeting of the Scanning and Challenge Group were noted.

8 Drug Related Offending

Members received a paper that detailed drug related offending. The paper provided crime data, drug testing results and the offences that had triggered the testing, people in treatment, drug use trends, alcohol usage.

Analysis of the data provided the following key findings:-

- 71% of all drug tests resulted in negative results.
- Cocaine accounted for the largest number of positive tests. Opiate positive tests accounted for slightly higher numbers of positive tests, suggesting that there remained a cohort of chaotic drug using offenders that were resistant to treatment programmes.

The following conclusions had been drawn from the data:-

Drugs testing and referral appeared to have provided positive results with long term reductions in acquisitive crimes.

There remained a small but prolific group of offenders who regularly tested positive for opiates or cocaine.

- the ability to test for other non-opiate or cocaine substances should increase the number of referrals into treatment for other substance misuse.
- DAAT was using targeted intelligence to increase the range of offenders that were being tested and this had reduced the total number of tests but had increased the percentage of positive tests. This had allowed focus on increasing interventions and referrals for alcohol related offenders
- the numbers of known prolific offenders means it is possible to identify those who don't have a significant substance misuse problem and those who would benefit from a Drugs Rehab Referral. DAAT was introducing a more co-ordinated approach between drug treatment and probation.

The paper raised a number of questions:-

Are there other drugs, currently not being tested for, which are continuing to drive acquisitive crime and to what extent do these drugs drive criminal activity
Is alcohol addiction an increasing factor in driving acquisitive crime
What, if any, changes should be made to the drug testing provisions in the borough?
Can funding for drugs testing be put to alternative uses to further support the

objective of reducing drugs related offending?

Members discussed the paper and reference was made to

- The cohort of 141 individuals who were multiple offenders and information relating to their behaviour.
- The significant funding associated with drugs testing and referral.
- Potential to focus funding on other areas to drive down drug related offending

AGREED that the issue be considered by the Reducing Offending and Harm Group with a view to an Action Plan being produced and a report to come back to the Partnership.

9 Recorded Crime & Disorder

Members received a report that set out the recorded crime and anti-social behaviour figures for April 2013 to July 2013 compared to the same time period in 2012 for the borough.

During discussion of the figures members observed that violence against the person had generally fallen or remained static, however crimes such as theft had increased. It was suggested that this may be as a result of welfare reform policies. Members discussed whether attempts should be made to establish this and should there be a mechanism where individuals charged with particular offences could be provided with an opportunity to be referred to a Welfare Rights agency.

Discussion moved on to the increase in illegal money lenders and the problems this was causing in areas of the Borough.

It was agreed that the issue relating to Welfare Rights referrals should be considered by the Reducing Offending and Harm Group. It was agreed that referral officers may need training in Welfare Rights issues.

With regard to illegal money lenders it was indicated that discussion would take place between officers from the Council's Housing Service and Trading Standards Service.

It was also suggested that a representative from the national task force against illegal money lenders be invited to a future meeting of the Partnership.

AGREED that:-

1. The issue of referrals to Welfare Rights referrals of offenders for theft related crimes be referred to the Reducing Offending and Harm Group for consideration and reporting back to the Partnership.
2. That the issue of illegal money lenders on estates within the Borough be discussed by appropriate Council officers and that attempts for a representative from the national task force against money lenders to attend a future meeting of the Partnership be explored.

10 Community Safety Q1 Performance

The Partnership was provided with Community Safety Performance for Quarter 1 2013/14, together with the Anti-Social Behaviour Action Plan and Community Safety Targets 2013/14.

AGREED that the reports be noted.

11 YOS Q1 Performance

The Partnership was provided with Youth Offending Service Performance information for Q1.

AGREED that the information be noted.

12 Partnership Constitution

The Partnership considered a report that provided a version of the Partnership's Constitution showing amendments which aimed to take account of recent changes in the Partnership landscape. Further amendments would also need to be made next year to take account of new Council structures and new arrangements for delivery of Probation services.

AGREED that the Constitution be approved.

13 Criminal Damage/Mischief Night

The Partnership received a presentation slides produced by Cleveland Police relating to criminal damage/mischief night.

The Partnership noted that last year the Council had had a Fire Officer seconded from the Cleveland Force who had been extremely influential in detecting and preventing problems in the run up to and during mischief night. Unfortunately she would not be assisting this year as her post was currently vacant. The representative from Cleveland Fire Service indicated that she would follow this up.

It was noted that it was intended to undertake leaflet drops in certain areas, ahead of the night.

Information relating to repeat victims was requested for the next meeting. Some of these may be vulnerable adults.

AGREED that the presentation and information be noted and information relating to repeat victims be provided.

14 Update on Consultation 2013

The Partnership was provided an overview on research that had been conducted on audit questionnaires returned between 7 August 2013 and 20 August 2013.

There were some queries relating to distribution in some areas, which would be followed up.

AGREED that the overview be noted.

15 First Time Adult Offenders

16 College of Policing IOM Review

Members were provided with the Knowledge Support Unit's peer review report relating to Cleveland Police's arrangements for Integrated Offender Management (IOM).

Noted that a date had been identified to discuss with the Police and partner agencies involved in IOM. A report would come back to the Partnership.

AGREED that the information be noted.

17 ADASS Making the Difference

The Partnership was provided with a copy of a report that drew together current information about young people and adults with multiple needs in contact with the criminal justice system.

The report had previously been referred to during the Partnerships discussion on drug related offending by the partnership.

AGREED that the report be noted.

18 ANEC/NOMS work on reducing reoffending

Members were reminded that a joint project between the Association of North East Councils (ANEC) and the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) had been taking place on reducing reoffending. The Partnership received an interim report at its meeting of 7 May 2013.

A 94 page 'Findings and Recommendations' report (including 18 pages of appendices) was prepared in June. Members were provided with a 10 page extract, including

- contents
- Executive summary of key findings
- the 43 recommendations from the project, which were organised into 8 themes
- the 'Next Steps' section

Members were provided with a presentation by Tony Lowes (NOMS) and Tabitha Falcus (ANEC) relating to the findings/recommendations, including the establishment of a reducing reoffending Forum.

AGREED that:

1. Mike Batty and Tony Lowes keep in touch regarding any developments.
2. Partners to consider the report and recommendations within their organisations.
3. a further report be presented to the next meeting.

19 Update on work of Teeswide Hate Crime Group

Members considered a report that was intended to provide an update on the Tees-wide position for hate crime.

It was explained that the Business Manager who held responsibility for the co-ordination of this work across the Tees Valley had left post and the position remained vacant, with a view to a replacement starting in September 2013. After the new Business Manager commenced post a more robust picture could be provided.

Members could provide any further comments on the report to Claire Sills

AGREED that the report be noted.

20 Safe Place Scheme

Members were provided with a note relating to the establishment of a Safe Place Scheme.

It was explained that Residents of Stockton with a learning disability had learnt about schemes in other towns and wanted a similar scheme where they lived to encourage them to live independently and safely in our town.

Members of the Vulnerable Adults Committee, the Safer Stockton Partnership Board and the Stockton Learning Disability Partnership Board also felt that they would support a scheme in Stockton.

A Safe Place Launch had been arranged with Inclusion North for ;

Thursday 17th October; at 10 am -12 at ARC, Dovecote Street , Stockton

AGREED that the information be noted.

21 Update on Future of Probation

Members were provided with an update on the implementation of future probation services.

22 Proposed Industrial Action by Fire Brigade Union

The Partnership noted that the Fire Brigade Unions had planned industrial action for 6 September 2013. The action would involve officers taking part in the action withdrawing their labour for that day. It was explained that Cleveland Fire Brigade had been recruiting auxiliary Fire Fighters, who were of a very high standard. Existing professional Fire Brigade Officer were having their skill refreshed to operate on the front line, on the day, if required.

The service would be reduced but the Cleveland Force was confident it could deal with most incidents.

AGREED that the information be noted.

23 Reports Back

a) Renaissance

b) DAAT Groups

- Adults & Young Peoples Commissioning Group

- Reducing Reoffending and Harm Group

There were no reports back

24 Date of next meeting - Tuesday 1 October 2013 at 9.30 a.m.