

Safer Stockton Partnership

A meeting of Safer Stockton Partnership was held on Tuesday, 5th November, 2013.

Present: Geoff Lee (Chairman) (Tristar/Vela), Mike Batty, Peter Kelly, Cllr Jim Beall, Cllr Steve Nelson (SBC); Fred Gook (NHW & SBP), Miriam Sigsworth (YOS), Paul Noddings (Tristar Homes), Ian Wolstenholme (OPCC), Jeff Evans (Probation Service), Cllr Evaline Cunningham, Steve McCarten (CFA), Ian Coates (Cleveland Police), Steve Rose (Catalyst)

Officers: Neil Schneider (CEO) Kerry Anderson, Jo Heaney (PH); Lisa Lyons, Claire Sills (DNS); Michael Henderson (LD)

Also in attendance: Peter Graham (Cleveland Police)

Apologies: Steve Hume, Richard Poundford, Lucia Saiger, Paul Green

1 Introductions/Apologies

Introductions and apologies were given.

2 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3 Draft minutes of the meeting held on 1 October 2103

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 1 October 2013 were agreed.

4 Matters Arising

Distribution of Community Safety Questionnaires

Reference was made to concerns, previously expressed by members, relating to the distribution of Community Safety Questionnaires.

It was explained that a meeting had been held with the distribution company and the questionnaire had been redistributed in certain parts of the Borough and distributors would do random checks. In addition, for future distributions, checks would be carried out by Community Safety Team Members and a message would be placed on the staff electronic noticeboard.

5 Locality Forums - reports back

There were no reports back.

6 Minutes of YOS Management Board 22 October 2013

The minutes of the Youth Offending Management Board meeting held on 22 October 2013 were considered.

7 Action Notes from Scanning & Challenge Group 23 October 2013

The minutes of the meeting of the Scanning and Challenge Group held on 23 October 2013 were noted.

8 Alcohol Related Offending

Members were provided with a report that briefly examined the costs associated with crime and potential savings that had been made in terms of crime reduction with those offenders who had been subjected to an Alcohol Treatment Requirement (ATR) and Alcohol Specified Activity Requirement (ASAR).

The Partnership discussed the report and noted a number of challenges/issues/ key conclusions

- The most significant challenge was to identify those offenders whose offending was directly related to alcohol misuse. Thereafter it was essential that those individuals, when appearing at court, were given the appropriate intervention to address their offending and alcohol misuse.

- There was a plethora of information around drug misusing offenders given the testing on arrest procedure. The introduction of alcohol interventions was relatively recent and therefore this critical information would be gathered over time. It did, however pose the question as to who had the responsibility for the gathering and dissemination of this information.

There were reduced numbers being given orders at court and this was an issue that must be addressed.

It was agreed that the report had highlighted a number of issues:-

- A potential overall saving (subject to the accuracy of the figures) of £61,000
- A slight overall reduction in the re-offending of this particular cohort
- significant number of individuals who increased their offending twelve months after the intervention
- the same number of individuals who decreased their offending twelve months after the intervention

- Savings identified did not reflect the whole cost benefit of interventions. For instance there could be significant benefits to an individual's wider family.

- Alcohol, as a factor in criminal offences, was more prevalent than drugs.

- There were a small number of people who were committing a significant number of crimes and it was important to consider how organisations could identify these people and provide them with assistance.

It was suggested that this matter required more discussion by appropriate officers/organisation outside of the meeting.

RESOLVED that Mike Batty takes the matter forward.

9 Recorded Crime & Disorder

Members received a report that set out the recorded crime and anti-social behaviour figures for April 2013 to September 2013.

Members noted that:

- Stockton had seen the largest increase in publicly reported crime compared to the three other Cleveland local authorities
- Violence against the person crimes have reduced however crimes of theft had increased.
- A proactive approach was being taken with regard to the prevention of shoplifting and non-domestic burglary. This had included patrols in Stockton High Street by Police and Council Anti-Social Behaviour/Enforcement Teams. Also a ShopWatch scheme had been established, together with a register of repeat offenders and the targeting of those individuals.
- 3 of the most prolific shoplifters in the Borough had recently been given short prison sentences
- The Police had restructured at a neighbourhood level and this would provide a more flexible approach which should help address shoplifting and other such crimes.
- A review of resource allocation across local policing areas and functions would be taking place and subsequently this could impact on crime figures.
- There had been government references to a change in the definition of Anti-Social Behaviour and it was requested that this be clarified.

RESOLVED that the information be noted and details of any change in the definition for Anti-Social Behaviour be reported to the Partnership.

10 Community Safety Plan Q2 Performance

Members considered a report relating to Q1 and Q2 performance information against the Community Safety Plan.

It was noted that data about a number of the measures was not available. This would be provided to members when available.

RESOLVED that the information be noted and the missing data be provided when available.

11 YOS Q2 Performance

Members received a summary of Youth Offending data for April 2013 - September 2013.

It was noted that less young people were reoffending and there was a great deal of good news in the data.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

12 Topline Responses to Consultation 2013

The Partnership was provided with topline responses to the Council's Community Safety Crime and Disorder Audit.

A full analysis report was being prepared and priorities identified.

It was suggested that the outcomes of the Audit be provided to the Police and Crime Commissioner.

RESOLVED that:

1. the information be noted and a full review report be considered at the Partnership's next meeting.
2. that the Police and Crime Commissioner be provided with details of the Audit Outcomes.

13 Alcohol Action Plan

The Partnership received Alcohol Action Plan performance for quarter 2.

It was noted that data relating to performance measure 1 - number of alcohol related admissions to hospital was not available. The Partnership discussed the circumstances surrounding this and noted that officers, including the Director of Public Health were trying to resolve it. The Director indicated that he would keep the partnership informed of developments in this regard.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

14 Operation Hawk

Members considered a note relating to operation Hawk, which had been introduced to tackle the dwelling house burglary problem but had been refined to include a broader range of criminality.

The operation gave a dedicated team, free from any other responsibilities, the opportunity to have a pro-active impact on crime committed during night-time hours.

The impact was significant and at least once each week a really key piece of work was contributed by the team.

The operation would continue to be reviewed but the contribution made to Stockton District made this a very worthwhile use of resources.

The Partnership agreed that this had been a very good piece of work but suggested that its successes were not communicated to the public sufficiently. There were numerous relevant websites throughout the area that could contribute to positive information being highlighted. The Partnership had Twitter

and Facebook accounts, which could be used.

RESOLVED that:

1. the update be noted
2. the issue relating to promoting positive information be taken forward by relevant officers.

16 Give it a Go

Members received a presentation on 'Give it a go', an initiative that looked to bring together, on a website, details of local events and activities that young people might wish to access.

It was envisaged that it would have many benefits for young people, the wider community and the Police. These could include:

- helping young people to access events
- lead to a reduction in anti-social behaviour
- safer and more cohesive communities
- reduced Police and agency involvement

Members discussed the initiative and raised a number of points/queries:

- it was envisaged that the database would be self-generating.
- no media campaign for the launch had been identified as yet.
- maintenance of the database, in terms of keeping it up to date/relevant, was highlighted as a potential issue
- events needed to be as diverse as possible and shouldn't focus on sport
- some young people were not attracted by structured events.
- promotion of the initiative should not be seen to be coming from The Police.
- discussion of the initiative needed to be discussed within the Youth arena, by young people.
- the development of a phone app would be key to the success of the initiative. Additional costs were likely to be relatively small and should not be an obstacle.
- it was suggested that a discussion between the Police, Commissioner's Office and local authority leads would help identify any potential duplication of work and move the initiative forward.

RESOLVED that the discussion be noted and the representative from the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office make arrangements for necessary officers to meet to discuss this matter.

17 Restorative Justice

It was agreed that this matter be deferred to the Partnership's next meeting.

18 Transforming Rehabilitation Strategy

Members received a letter from Durham Tees Valley Probation Trust that provided an update relating to Transforming Rehabilitation Strategy.

RESOLVED that the letter be noted.

19 Reports Back

(a) Local Strategic Partnership

(b) DAAT Groups

- Adults & Young Peoples Commissioning Group

- Reducing Reoffending and Harm Group

There were no reports back.

20 Date of next meeting - Tuesday 10 December 2013 at 9.30 a.m.