

Safer Stockton Partnership

A meeting of Safer Stockton Partnership was held on Tuesday, 28th January, 2014.

Present: Geoff Lee (Chairman) (Tristar/Vela), Steve Hume, Mike Batty, Jane Humphreys (SBC); Fred Gook (NHW & SBP), Miriam Sigsworth (YOS), Paul Noddings (Tristar Homes), Jeff Evans (Probation Service), Cllr Evaline Cunningham, Steve McCarten (CFA), Ian Coates (Cleveland Police), Bert Smailes (SBP), Caroline Wood (SBC Housing), John Bentley (Safe in Tees Valley), Paul Green (Adult Safeguarding Committee), Steve Rose (Catalyst), Richard Phelan (HMP Holme House).

Officers: Claire Sills, Vicky Hatton (DNS), Peter Bell (LD); Kerry Anderson, Jo Heaney (PH).

Also in attendance:

Apologies: Cllr Jim Beall, Cllr Steve Nelson, Peter Kelly and Julie Nixon.

1 Declarations of Interest

There were no interests declared.

2 Minutes of the meeting held on 10 December 2013

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 10th December 2013 were agreed.

3 Matters Arising

(a) Allocation of police resources (items 3 and 7 refer)

(b) Supply of data on alcohol related admissions to hospitals (item 3 refers)

(c) Locality Forums (formerly Area Partnership Boards) (item 4 refers)

Allocation of police resources (items 3 and 7 refer)

An update was provided. It was reported that the issue had been raised at executive level. Police resources were under re-structuring and there would be a re-distribution of PCSOs.

Supply of data on alcohol related admissions to hospitals (item 3 refers)

This item was deferred.

Locality Forums (formerly Area Partnership Boards) (item 4 refers)

The Partnership was provided with a report that presented the proposals for updating the strategic document for the LSP, the partnership arrangements and infrastructure.

It was felt that the Partnership needed some settled representation from the LSP and the Partnership needed to be clear about the purpose of the representatives.

4 Locality Forums - reports back

It was reported that a meeting was being arranged to discuss the issue of community representation in the context of the new LSP arrangements.

5 Minutes of the YOS Management Board 14 January 2014

The minutes of the YOS Management Board held on 14th January 2014 were circulated and considered by the Partnership.

6 AOB - Consideration

There were no items of any other business.

7 Partnership Strategic Assessment

The Partnership was presented with a copy of the Partnership Strategic Assessment.

Safer Stockton Partnership had a statutory requirement to undertake a yearly strategic assessment and this was the seventh annual report produced on behalf of SSP by staff within Stockton Borough Council.

The aim of the document was to provide the partnership with an overview of the current crime and anti-social behaviour issues in the borough, along with the harm caused by the misuse of drugs and alcohol.

It should be used by the partnership to supplement the 2013 consultation results and to consider if any emerging areas need to be included as strategic priorities.

The report had also been prepared as the partnership nears the end of its three year community safety plan 2011-2014 and this assessment should also be considered when identifying objectives and performance measures for the new plan 2014 – 2017 that would be implemented in April 2014.

The assessment drew upon research and analysis from a wide variety of partnership data between October 2012 and September 2013.

The document was not intended to provide detailed analysis of each crime type or issue, and should be used as a strategic tool for decision making by the partnership.

The report was set out in thematic chapters with victim, offender and location considered within each chapter. Alongside this, key findings and recommendations had also been identified.

A snapshot of the key findings were detailed within the report.

The Partnership agreed the Partnership Strategic Assessment and thanked all those that had been involved in producing the document.

RESOLVED that the Partnership Strategic Assessment be agreed.

8 ASB

Steve Hume (Community Safety and Security Manager) was in attendance at the meeting and gave Members a presentation on Dealing with Anti Social Behaviour in Stockton.

The presentation covered the following key areas:-

- * Crime and Disorder Audit 2013
- * Types of ASB of most concern
- * Community Safety in Stockton
- * ASB - Tackling Problems Early
- * ASB - The Current Picture
- * Overall Customer Satisfaction 2013/14
- * On-going Developments and Challenges
- * What the Future Holds - ASB Bill

The Partnership was then given the opportunity to ask questions and make comment on the presentation.

RESOLVED that the presentation be noted.

9 Recorded Crime & Disorder

Consideration was given to a report that set out the recorded crime and anti-social behaviour figures for April 2013 to December 2013 compared to the same time period in 2012 for the borough of Stockton.

Statistics utilised for the report, with the exception of crime rate per 1000 population, had been obtained from Cleveland Police Performance Management reports.

Key Findings:-

- Public reported crime in Stockton has increased by 2.1%, equating to 158 more victims of crime.
- However total crime is showing only a minimal increase of 1.3%, equating to 109 more crimes (FYTD).
- Assuming the monthly average is maintained, an increase of 2.4% (242 crimes) for publicly reported crime is anticipated for the end March 2014.
- Stockton is once again the best performing borough in relation to crime and ASB (based on rate per 1000 population).
- The main crime category of note which continues to show an increase is Theft (6.1%).
- Despite shoplifting still showing an increase of 11%, this is an improvement on last two quarters (April-Sept showed a 25% increase).
- Offences of domestic burglary continue to perform well with offences reducing by 93 crimes when compared to April-Dec 2012. Improvements have also been seen in non-domestic burglary which has resulted in a reduction of one crime when compared to last year. This is the first time since start of financial year that offences of non-domestic burglary have shown a reduction.
- The year to date comparison for Anti-Social Behaviour incidents shows an

increase of 12.5% (1153 incidents) along with a projection of 13.3% for end March 2014. Despite this increase, we still have the lowest rate per 1000 population for ASB when compared to our neighbours.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

10 Community Safety Q3 Performance

The Partnership was presented with the Community Safety Q3 Performance figures.

RESOLVED that Community Safety Q3 Performance be noted.

11 YOS Q3 Performance

The Partnership was presented with the YOS Quarter 3 Performance.

RESOLVED that the YOS Q3 Performance be noted.

12 Community Safety Plan 2014-17 First Draft

Consideration was given to the Community Safety Plan 2014-17 First Draft.

This was the Safer Stockton Partnership's sixth Community Safety Plan for the Borough of Stockton-on-Tees.

This was the strategic plan for SSP and it would cover the three year period April 2014 to March 2017. The Plan would be reviewed and refreshed yearly and would be updated to take account of the annual Partnership Strategic Assessment (PSA). The PSA would also identify any emerging issues which required extra focus by the partnership.

The key priorities within this plan had been identified by residents during the main consultation period, which ran from August to October 2013. The Partnership had received 5,488 responses to the consultation from residents and visitors to the Borough and they outlined that the top seven key priorities for the next three years should be:-

1. Anti-Social Behaviour
2. Violent Crime
3. Drug Related Offending
4. Criminal Damage
5. Robbery (to be included in Violent Crime)
6. Alcohol related crime/ASB
7. Domestic Violence

While the SSP considered all crime and anti-social behaviour to be important, it would focus efforts on the top seven concerns chosen by residents and in the areas where crime and anti social behaviour (ASB) was significantly higher than

the borough average. While it was accepted that robbery was a genuine concern for residents it was believed that this issue should be merged with violent crime as a single priority. This was because both robbery and violent crime were closely linked and also due to the fact that robbery levels were historically low and only accounted for 0.6% of total crime in 2012/13. In contrast Domestic Violence accounted for 37% of all Violent Crime and as such it was felt that this should be the sixth priority for the Community Safety Plan.

Residents were asked which types of anti social behaviour should be prioritised within the ASB category and residents identified the following:-

1. Vandalism
2. Poor parental responsibility
3. Threats/verbal abuse
4. Alcohol misuse
5. Littering/dumping rubbish
6. Dog Fouling

The Community Safety Plan was still in draft and any amendments should be sent to Steve Hume.

RESOLVED that the Community Safety Plan 2014-17 First Draft be approved.

13 ARCC/Future of Probation Services

The Head of Community Protection verbally updated the Partnership with regard to ARCC / Future of Probation Services.

It was anticipated that there would be difficult competition for the Durham / Cleveland area.

RESOLVED that the update be noted.

14 Outcome of Short Quality Screening (Inspection) of YOS

Consideration was given to a report on the outcome of a 'Short Quality Screening' (SQS) inspection of Stockton Youth Offending Service (YOS) by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation.

HMIP carried out an SQS of Stockton YOS during the period 25 - 27 November 2013 and published their report on 18 December 2013. The scoring descriptors used by HMIP for Full Joint Inspections were detailed within the report.

During the inspection, case files were examined and YOS Officers were interviewed. The focus of inspection was on community and custodial court orders imposed from March – September 2013.

The YOS had received very good feedback on its performance. The summary of the report stated:-

“Overall, we found a really positive picture in Stockton-on-Tees. The YOS can be proud of the progress made since our last inspection in 2010. Staff delivered high quality reports and assessments of reoffending, harm and vulnerability. They were well supported by their management team through robust quality assurance procedures. There is scope for further improvement by ensuring that reviews are timely and completed in response to significant changes in the circumstances of children and young people”

This was an excellent outcome for the partnership in Stockton on Tees.

Key Strengths identified by inspectors:-

- Excellent engagement with children and young people and their parents / carers in carrying out initial assessments and intervention plans
- The identification of diversity issues and what needed to be done to overcome barriers to change
- High quality assessments of the likelihood of reoffending, risk of harm and vulnerability both at report and initial assessment stage

There was one recommendation for improvement:-

- In all cases, reviews of assessments and plans to tackle the risk of harm to others and vulnerability should be timely and completed quickly in the event of a significant change in circumstances

By the time of inspection, the YOS had already implemented activity to achieve more timely review of cases, as this was an area the YOS already knew that they needed to improve on.

The scoring in this area (85% and 80% respectively, as outlined in Appendix B of the report) evidenced that the improvement activity was already having an impact, as measured against the findings of their own case file audits earlier in 2013. Therefore, given the relatively high level of performance in this area, it was proposed that the Board allowed for the existing improvement activity to become embedded within the service.

This specific area would be monitored by managers for the next 3 months during the regular case file audit process and through staff supervision and report on results at the next Management Board meeting.

Detailed scoring for the YOS was attached to the report.

The chart showed an overall average score of 91% for Stockton on Tees, with scores ranging from 80% to 100%, broken down into the following themes:

- Reducing the likelihood of Reoffending – average of 91%
- Protecting the Public – 91%
- Protecting the Child or Young Person – 87%
- Ensuring that Sentence is Served – 96%

These were very high scores and compare very favourably to other SQS reports.

Members noted the excellent feedback from HMIP about the performance of Stockton YOS.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

15 'Give it a Go' - progress and project co-ordination

The Partnership was verbally updated with regard to 'Give it a Go' - progress and project co-ordination. More funding was trying to be obtained and it would be launched in the near future.

RESOLVED that the update be noted.

16 Policing Grant

The Partnership was presented with a letter from the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland that outlined that the Government would be slashing policing grant by further £4.5m (25% from 2010/11-2014/15).

RESOLVED that the letter be noted.

17 Revised Nolan Principles

At the meeting of the Partnership on 4th December 2007 it was agreed to incorporate the original 'Nolan Principles' in the Partnership's Constitution at section 9.1, as set out at Appendix A. The Principles had been updated, as set out at Appendix B.

RESOLVED that section 9.1 of the Partnership's Constitution be amended to reflect the new version.

18 Reports Back
(a) Local Strategic Partnership
(b) DAAT Groups
- Adults & Young Peoples Commissioning Group
- Reducing Reoffending and Harm Group

There were no reports back.

19 Date of next meeting - Tuesday 25 March 2014 at 9.30 a.m.

The date of the next meeting would be Tuesday 25 March 2014 at 9.30 a.m.