

## Safer Stockton Partnership

A meeting of Safer Stockton Partnership was held on Tuesday, 7th October, 2014.

**Present:** Geoff Lee (Chair), Cllr Steve Nelson, Cllr Jim Beall, Dr Neville Cameron (Cleveland Police and Crime Commissioners Office), Gilly Marshall (Thirteen), Ian Coates (Cleveland Police), Jeff Evans (DTV CRC), Miriam Sigsworth (Youth Offending Team), Frederick Gook (Stockton District Neighbourhood Watch), John Bentley (Safe in Tees Valley), Steve Hume, Richard Poundford, Julie Nixon (Stockton Council), Steve McCarten (Cleveland Fire Brigade), James Hadman (Catalyst).

**Officers:** Kerry Anderson (CESC), Vicky Hatton (DNS), Peter Bell (LDS)

**Also in attendance:** Sue Iceton, Andrew Thorpe (Cleveland Police).

**Apologies:** Andrew Bake, John Bentley, Steve Rose and Peter Kelly.

### 1 Introductions/Apologies

Introductions and apologies were given.

### 2 Declarations of Interest

There were no interests declared.

### 3 AGM/Register of Interests

In accordance with the Partnership Constitution, the first meeting after 1 September served as the SSP Annual General Meeting.

The business to be conducted was the appointment of Chair and Vice Chair and representatives on other bodies.

A list of the appointments to be made and of the current office holders was detailed as follows:-

- a) Appointment of Chair - Geoff Lee
- b) Appointment of Vice Chair - Jane Humphreys
- c) Representatives on the LSP - TBC

Detailed below was a suggested way forward for the partnership to consider in relation to the future chairing arrangements of SSP.

The Safer Stockton Partnership had been running successfully since it was established in 1998, in response to Sections 55 and 56 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. Over the years a wide range of partners had contributed to its work ensuring that Stockton remains the safest place in the Tees Valley.

The constitution of the SSP was revised in February 2011 and included a list of voting members that were eligible to sit on the Partnership. From this membership the roles of Chair and Vice Chair were elected on an annual basis at the AGM which usually takes place in the autumn.

The Safer Stockton Partnership had always benefitted from an effective chair; this had assisted in terms of maintaining the profile of the partnership at a local level, as well as ensuring that the partnership was in a position to contribute to agendas and issues at both a regional and national level.

The chair of SSP, Geoff Lee, was appointed chair of the partnership in 2005 following Dave Pickard's transfer from Stockton District to Police Headquarters. Geoff originally joined the partnership from the original date of its formation following implementation of the Crime and Disorder Act, as Chair of SSP and representative of Cleveland Police. Following his retirement he returned to the partnership in 2005 as a representative of Tristar Homes. After 12½ years his tenure as a Tristar Board member ended on 15 September. Under the terms of the current SSP constitution this meant that Geoff will no longer be a member of SSP.

The partnership was adapting to a number of significant changes that had occurred within some of its member organisations, in particular Cleveland Police and Durham Tees Valley Probation. In addition to this the wider community safety landscape across Tees Valley was changing placing a greater strain on resources and the effective sustainability of partnerships.

The SSP was regarded as one of the strongest partnerships across the Tees Valley and as such sustainability was essential. In order to ensure consistency over this period, Geoff Lee had indicated his willingness to be adopted as an independent member of SSP and to Chair of SSP for the duration of the meeting cycle which would end on 5th May 2015. After this time the partnership would need to identify a new Chair. It was proposed that the SSP agreed to Geoff continuing in his role at the AGM which was due to take place on 7th October 2014.

Although Geoff had represented Tristar Homes on the partnership for the duration of his tenure as Chair, he had operated in an independent manner. This approach had served the partnership well, contributing to its overall success and integrity among member organisations.

The appointment of an Independent Chair post May 2015 would also bring the cycle of SSP meetings in line with the municipal diary which will be of benefit in terms of the ongoing administration arrangements.

It was therefore recommended that the SSP considered the appointment of an independent Chair, post May 2015. Leading up to this point the partnership had enough time to develop a suitable role description and agree a suitable process to ensure that the correct individual was identified.

An independent Chair would ensure that the partnership continued to discuss issues and challenge developments in an effective and equitable manner, ensuring that the Chair retains overall accountability.

AGREED that:-

1. Geoff Lee continues as Chair of the Safer Stockton Partnership until the end of the current meeting cycle, 5th May 2015.

2. The Safer Stockton Partnership approve the appointment of an independent chair, post May 2015.

3. Councillor Nelson be appointed Vice Chair for 2015/16.

4. Councillor Nelson and Jeff Evans be appointed to the Local Strategic Partnership.

5. SSP members will have received via email a Register of Interest declaration form which needs to be completed and returned by the end of October. This process was agreed at SSP in May 2009 and has been completed on an annual basis.

**4 Minutes of Meeting 19 August 2014**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 19th August 2014.

AGREED that the minutes be approved.

**5 Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

**6 Any Other Business - identification only**

There was no other business identified.

**7 Minutes of the Safeguarding Adults Committee 23 July and Annual Update 2014**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the Safeguarding Adults Committee 2014 and Annual Update.

Councillor Beall reported that with regard to the Deprivation of Liberty Activity Safeguards there were pressures because of the recent high court judgement. More people would have to be assessed in care settings and settings in the community creating strain on the system. A lot of work was on-going nationally and there was a report going to the Council's Cabinet.

AGREED that the minutes of the Safeguarding Adults Committee held 23rd July and Annual Update 2014 be noted.

**8 Minutes of YOS Management Board 19 August 2014**

Consideration was given to the minutes of YOS Management Board 19th August 2014.

AGREED that minutes of YOS Management Board 19th August 2014 be noted.

## **9 Violent Crime (including Robbery)**

Members were presented with the Violent Crime (including Robbery) figures for September 2013 - August 2014 produced by Cleveland Police - Strategic Analytical Team.

The key findings were highlighted for Members information.

AGREED that the report be noted.

## **10 Recorded Crime & Disorder**

Consideration was given to a report that provided an overview on crime and anti-social behaviour levels in the borough of Stockton between April 14 to August 14.

Between April 2014 and August 2014, both publicly reported (-10.5%) and total crime (-9.6%) had reduced in the borough of Stockton.

Comparisons with neighbouring local authority areas also showed that Stockton had seen the biggest reduction to date.

Stockton also remained the safest place to live in relation to rates per 1000 population for both crime and ASB.

Despite overall crime reducing, there still continued to be slight increases in offences of violence, rape and burglary domestic.

The forecast for the end of financial year was also projecting a reduction of 6.1%, the biggest anticipated decrease in crime levels when compared to neighbouring local authorities.

ASB had also reduced this period and SBC was the only local authority area to see a reduction (-1.1%). However despite this reduction, if levels continued at the current rate, then an 8.3% increase was anticipated however the Borough would still have the lowest increase when compared to Hartlepool (18.1%), Middlesbrough (15.7%) and Redcar & Cleveland (18.1%).

There had been no significant changes to offending locations when compared to last year.

AGREED that the report be noted.

## **11 DAAT Q1**

Members were presented with the DAAT Stockton Quarterly Performance Report 2014/15 Q1.

It was reported that drugs were still relatively cheap in the Stockton Borough area and were still quite easy to access. Heroin was not as popular at the moment and was of poor quality.

Members felt that people should be tested for drugs use when they are in police custody as this was an excellent trigger point for engagement with the person. The issue of the cost of testing everyone in police custody was raised but Members felt that testing would be an invest to save opportunity.

AGREED that the report be noted.

## **12 Sex Workers and Prostitution**

Representatives from Cleveland Police updated Members with regard to the Sex Workers and Prostitutes that operate in the Stockton Borough area.

A police operation was being carried out in the Yarm Road area of Stockton for 20 nights. CCTV was being used and 18 women had been observed loitering in the area and 14 males had been arrested. The majority of males were from the Stockton Borough area.

The Community Safety Manager reported that he had met with the Director Public Health and the Corporate Director of Children, Education and Social Care and they had agreed to form a group to target the most prolific sex workers.

Members felt that if the Partnership had been aware of the police operation they could have helped and produced a more co-ordinated approach.

Members also felt that an item should be put on a future Partnership agenda to discuss child sex exploitation.

AGREED that:-

1. The update be noted.
2. The issue of child sex exploitation be put on a future SSP agenda.

## **13 HMIC Domestic Abuse Action Plan for Cleveland**

Members were updated with regard to the HMIC Domestic Abuse Action Plan for Cleveland.

Cleveland Police were inspected and 11 recommendations had come from the inspection. There were 124 indicators and Cleveland Police had to inform the Home Office where they were with regard to each of the indicators. Cleveland Police had actions as a result of the recommendations. The document was available on the Cleveland Police website. It was reported that the document was an internal document but it was recognised that the Police did not work individually.

Members were disappointed that they had not seen the recommendations and therefore could not contribute to any of the actions. The Community Safety Manager reported that he would download the document from the Police website and email to Members for discussion at the next meeting of the Partnership.

AGREED that:-

1. The update be noted.
2. The document be sent to Members for consideration at the next meeting of the Partnership.

#### **14 Paper on Health and Wellbeing Structures**

Consideration was given to a report on Health and Wellbeing Structures.

On its inception, the Health and Wellbeing Board agreed to review its structures (including the Health and Wellbeing Partnership) after approximately one year. The Board held an Away Day in February 2014, providing the opportunity to review the work of the Board and the structures around it; a draft action plan was being prepared as a result of this. A key recommendation of the review was to reassess the Health and Wellbeing Partnership function and membership; and the commissioning groups supporting the Board. The report summarised the structural changes that had been agreed by the Board and the relevance of these to the Safer Stockton Partnership.

AGREED that:-

1. The structural changes agreed by the Board be noted.
2. The reporting arrangements for those areas of work of particular relevance to both the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Safer Stockton Partnership be agreed.
3. The Tees Sexual Violence Steering Group make a presentation to the Partnership at a future meeting.

#### **15 Transforming Rehabilitation Strategy update**

Members received an update on the Transforming Rehabilitation Strategy. The service had now split and the new arrangements would go live from 1st February 2015.

AGREED that the update be noted.

#### **16 Stockton Town Centre update**

Members received an update on Stockton Town Centre. Patrols were continuing in the Town Centre with a view to putting permanent patrols in place. There was a zero tolerance approach in the Town Centre.

AGREED that the update be noted.

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

There were no reports back.

- 18 Date of Next Meeting - Tuesday 11 November 2014 at 9.30 a.m.**

The date of next meeting was agreed for Tuesday 11 November 2014 at 9.30 a.m.