

Safer Stockton Partnership

A meeting of Safer Stockton Partnership was held on Tuesday, 4th April, 2017.

Present: Cllr Steve Nelson (Chair), Gilly Marshall (Thirteen), Kerry Anderson (SBC – Public Health), Jamie McCann, Craig Willows, Steve Hume, Claire Sills (SBC – Community Services), Sarah Wilson (Office of the PCC), Alastair Simpson (Cleveland Police), David Willingham (Youth Direction), Miriam Sigsworth (Youth Offending Team), Sharon Barnett (NPS Stockton), Robin Bonas (DTV CRC), Steve Rose (Catalyst), Gary Knight (SBC – Private sector Housing), Ian Dixon, Steve Johnson (Cleveland Fire Brigade), Angela Connor (SBC – Adult Social Care), Mandy Mackinnon (SBC – Public Health).

Officers: Peter Bell (SBC).

Also in attendance: None.

Apologies: Cllr Jim Beall

1 Introductions/Apologies

Introductions and apologies for absence were given.

2 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3 Minutes

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 14 February 2017.

AGREED that the minutes be approved.

4 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5 Any Other Business - identification only

There was no further business identified.

6 Minutes of YOT Management Board 16.02.17 Minutes of Adults Safeguarding Board 20.12.16 Minutes of Children's Safeguarding Board 16.02.17

Members were presented with the minutes of the:-

- (a) Minutes of YOT Management Board 16.02.17
- (b) Minutes of Adults Safeguarding Board 20.12.16
- (c) Minutes of Children's Safeguarding Board 16.02.17

AGREED that the minutes be noted.

7 Domestic Abuse Strategy and Action Plan

Members were presented with the Domestic Violence and Abuse Strategy 2017

– 2022.

The multi-agency Domestic Abuse Steering Group had produced a revised Domestic Violence and Abuse Strategy (2017-22) for the Borough. The new strategy built on the work of preceding years and strengthened the focus on working together as local partners, agencies and communities to prevent individuals from becoming victims and perpetrators of domestic violence and abuse.

The strategic approach would support professionals to identify and deal with the earliest signs of abuse, stop abuse before it happened, prevent abusive behaviour from becoming entrenched and prevent perpetrators from moving from one victim to the next. Critically, it would provide victims and their families with support before a crisis point was reached.

Members felt that the approach was good and welcomed. The biggest challenge was the repeat victims and that the cycle of violence needed to be broken. Good support to victims was needed that would lead to more prosecutions of offenders. There was now a regional approach leading to the sharing of best practice. SMART targets were needed with a broader Partnership approach. A domestic abuse event would take place in the near future at Preston Park.

AGREED that:-

1. The content of the strategy be noted.
2. The strategic direction be endorsed.

8 Recorded Crime & Disorder

Members were presented with a restricted report on recorded crime and disorder.

Members discussed the figures and the issues around those figures. It was felt that a further report should be submitted to the next meeting of the Partnership.

AGREED that the report be noted.

9 Community Safety Consultation

Members were presented with a report that provided an overview on the key findings of the Community Safety consultation which took place in March 2017.

The Community Safety Plan ended on 31st March 2017 when it would be replaced with a revised plan for the forthcoming three years (April 2017 to March 2020).

The previous plan was based on findings from a public consultation that took place in the summer of 2013.

During the previous consultation residents were asked to identify their concerns in relation to crime and disorder. The results of the findings then formed the priorities for the plan.

This was mainly face to face interviews based on the respondent choosing crime and ASB issues that were of importance to them. The questionnaire was within a magazine that provided an overview on crime and disorder in Stockton. The majority of responses to this survey were from face to face interviews rather than the internet or postal.

In light of recent reductions in resources it was not possible to conduct this level of public consultation (previously cost around £25,000) for the new plan.

It was therefore agreed by the partnership that the revised plan would predominantly be based on the recommendations identified through analytical research conducted for the Partnership Strategic Assessment (PSA) produced in November 2016.

The priorities were to be categorised into themes rather than crime types to cover a broad spectrum of issues.

To provide residents, workers and visitors to Stockton with the opportunity to have their say a short questionnaire was implemented regarding the priorities that were being considered.

A short questionnaire was produced detailing the themes raised in the PSA. The questionnaire was then made available through 'My View' on the local authority website.

The four themes that respondents were asked to consider were based on a scale of 1 to 5 with 5 being of the most importance.

There were time constraints on this consultation and therefore it was anticipated that the cohort of individuals who responded to the survey would be lower than the previous consultation (2013).

A table within the report showed the % of the responses to each of the four priorities based on a scale of 1 to 5 with 5 being of the most important.

Respondents were also given the opportunity to identify any other concerns or priorities.

A summary of the answers shows the following three main concerns:

- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Violence
- Criminal Damage

The above issues also correlated with many of the current policing priorities identified by residents (mainly issues surrounding ASB and drugs).

As the four priorities were a theme rather than a crime type, the three other issues raised will fall within one these priorities. For examples, ASB and Criminal Damage can be tackled through community safety and protection and drug and alcohol misuse.

Lower level issues such as inconsiderate parking, dog fouling and street drinking were also noted but in low numbers

There were also concerns raised with regards to keeping resident up to date on issues affecting their community and increased patrols by police / Enforcement and other partners in bid to stop youth related ASB.

The number of responses was low however this was to be expected based upon the tight timescales and fact this was predominantly internet based rather than face to face interviews.

Despite this, the results had shown that themes had been identified that corresponded to the majority of respondents concerns.

There were some areas that required development in the forthcoming period such as targeting focus groups within the under 18 age group.

Alongside this the Partnership needed to ensure it was keeping the public up to date on the work that it was doing.

Members felt that a breakdown of the comments should be brought to the next meeting of the Partnership.

AGREED that the report be noted.

10 Draft Community Safety Strategy and Action Plan

Members were presented with the draft Community Safety Strategy and Action Plan.

The draft Community Safety Strategy and Action Plan highlighted that The Safer Stockton Partnership (SSP) operated as Stockton's Statutory Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership. The partnership consisted of statutory and voluntary organisations who worked together to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour.

The partnership was responsible for the delivery of a wide variety of strategies and plans with the overall aim of improving the safety of the community in Stockton.

As part of this process a Community Safety Plan was published every three years which focused on an identified set of priorities.

The priorities were intelligence led based upon analysis from the partnerships strategic assessment and results from public consultations.

The plan had a number of cross cutting themes involving a range of partners and sought to build on the positive work completed as well as address some emerging issues and challenges. It was proposed that this plan be reported back to partnership every quarter and that an annual 'health check' of the actions be carried out to ensure that they remained fit for purpose.

The following four keys areas had been identified which the partnership would

focus on over the next three years:-

Reducing re-offending
Protecting vulnerable people
Tackling drug and alcohol misuse
Community Safety & Protection

AGREED that the Community Safety Strategy and Action Plan be approved.

11 Review of Community Services

Members of the SSP were aware that in light of the ongoing financial pressures facing local authorities a programme of service reviews was agreed by Stockton Borough Council. As part of this programme it was agreed that the Council's Community Safety function would be reviewed along with a wider review of Community Services.

A review of Community Services commenced in November 2016 and concluded following a formal 30 day Consultation period on 16th December 2016. The reason for the review was:

- to deliver the required savings within the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) The overall review aimed to deliver savings of £622k
- to respond to some of the budget pressures across the Community Safety and Security areas as a result of a range of other revenue pressures
- to separate Strategic and Operational responsibilities.

A full review of the functions delivered through all services was undertaken, which included:

- Neighbourhood Enforcement
- ASB
- Security Services (CCTV Monitoring)
- Care Call and Telecare
- Business Support
- Strategic Community Safety
- Civil Enforcement (car parking)

The report set out the outcomes of the review, in particular, how it would impact upon the Council's ability to provide core community safety related activities from a direct operational perspective.

The review identified a number of emerging community safety issues at a national level which needed to be considered within Stockton, both directly and aligned with key partners. It was identified at an early stage that it would be appropriate to split operational from strategic responsibilities with these being shared predominantly between two Service Managers.

All direct operational areas transferred to the Community Services Manager, with the exception of Care Call / Telecare which would transfer to the Technical and Commercial Services Manager. Therefore the following functions were transferred to Care for Your Area Services:

- Neighbourhood Enforcement Officer
- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Business Support
- Security Services (CCTV Monitoring)
- Civil Enforcement

All strategic community safety functions would be picked up by the Strategic Community Safety Manager who would retain the key lead role in partnership engagement activities with Cleveland Police, other members of SSP and other key stakeholders as well as providing much-needed capacity to deal with emerging national issues which Stockton would need to consider.

As part of the review, a full analysis of priorities across Neighbourhood Enforcement, ASB, Civil Enforcement and Security Services was undertaken. There were some significant overlaps within the functions delivered by what were four distinct teams, all of which operated independently to one another for the most part; there were also differences in operating times.

Further review was undertaken in to the times that services were requested from the public and it became clear that the 24 hour operation for Neighbourhood Enforcement response was an inappropriate use of resources as only 5% of all calls generated for that service occurred between midnight and 7am in the morning; Therefore, it soon became clear that resourcing staff during the night was not the most effective use of the Council's staffing resource.

The Civil Enforcement Officers function was also reviewed which was solely restricted to car parking functions as opposed to supporting any wider community safety activity. Although this provided a very comprehensive service for parking contraventions, it was identified that at a time when the Council was also looking to make some significant revenue budget savings and a more flexible approach was needed.

The ASB service was also reviewed, in particular, the similarities that existed with the Neighbourhood Enforcement Service.

The report detailed:

New Civic Enforcement Service
Stockton Town Centre
Security Services (CCTV Monitoring)

As part of the review, responsibility for all strategic elements of community safety as well as engagement and analytical functions had transferred across to the Children's Services directorate. This included providing local authority responsibility for the following areas:

- Community Safety Partnership
- Prevent and Channel
- Asylum and Migration
- Community Cohesion
- Crime and ASB analysis/intelligence
- Serious and organised crime
- Domestic Abuse

- Hate Crime
- Modern slavery and trafficking

The community safety strategy function would also maintain an awareness of national issues, development and policies ensuring that this work was implemented across the borough this would likely influence the ongoing operational aspects described above.

The move to Children's Services took place in January 2017 and it was likely that there would be further opportunities to add value to the wider Children's Services remit, particularly in relation to Early Help, VEMT and Youth Offending / Outreach.

The Partnership welcomed the report and gave credit to the Council for still investing in Community Safety in the financially challenging times.

AGREED that the report be noted.

12 Meeting dates for 2017/18 and the SSP Planned Reports

The meeting dates for 2017/18 and the SSP Planned Reports were identified for Members.

AGREED that the meeting dates for 2017/18 and the SSP Planned Reports be noted.

13 Reports Back:

- (a) Local Strategic Partnership**
- (b) Adult Wellbeing Partnership**
- (c) Children and Young People's Partnership**

There were no reports back.

14 Date and time of next meeting: Tuesday 16 May 2017 at 9.30am

The date and time of the next meeting was noted.