

Safer Stockton Partnership

A meeting of Safer Stockton Partnership was held on Tuesday, 2 February 2021.

Present: Cllr Steve Nelson (Chair), Cllr Ann McCoy (SBC - Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care), Cllr Norma Stephenson, Marc Stephenson, Craig Willows, Arron Bendelow, Errol Parks (SBC – Community Services), Angela Connor (SBC – Adult Services), Dave Willingham (SBC – Early Help), Darren Redgwell, Chris Smiles (Cleveland Police), David Preston (Cleveland Fire Service), Gary Knight (SBC – Housing Services), Angela Corner (Thirteen Group), Simon Smart (OPCC), Jo Hodgkinson (Safe in Tees Valley), Karen Grundy (Catalyst), Sarah McManus (A Way Out), Sarah Bowman-Abouna (SBC – Public Health), Sheila Whitehead (Youth Offending Service), Dave Willingham (SBC), Jon Carling (Catalyst), Sean Ormerod (HMPPS).

Officers: Peter Bell (SBC – Democratic Services).

Also in attendance: None.

Apologies: Ann Powell, Angela Connor, Alex Sinclair, Tanya Evans, Jon Willoughby and Claire Sills.

1 Appointment of Chair

Moved by Marc Stephenson, seconded by Councillor Ann McCoy that Councillor Steve Nelson be appointed Chair for 2020/21.

AGREED that Councillor Steve Nelson be appointed Chair for 2020/21.

2 Introductions / Apologies

Introductions and apologies for absence were given.

3 Declarations of Interest

There were no interests declared.

4 Minutes

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 28 January 2020.

AGREED that the minutes be approved.

5 Matters Arising

ECINS

The Partnership was informed that ECINS the Chair would be putting forward the issue of ECINS as a potential scrutiny topic for the Council's Select Committees to consider.

AGREED that the update be noted.

6 OPCC Serious Violence Strategy - Presentation

Simon Smart (OPCC) was in attendance at the meeting and gave the

Partnership a presentation on the draft OPCC Serious Violence Strategy. The Strategy covered the following key areas:-

- Introduction
- Cleveland – The Local Picture
- Violent Crime – Local Definition
- The Mission/Values and Objectives – The Vision
- The Public Health Approach
- Cleveland Partnerships
- C.U.R.V. – Planning – Key Responses/Pathways
- Prevention
- Early Intervention
- Supporting Communities
- Reducing Offending
- Governance Partnerships
- S.W.O.T/P.E.S.T.E.L
- Communications

The Partnership was given the opportunity to ask questions and make comments on the draft Strategy and these could be summarised as follows:-

- Reference should be made to working with other police forces and agencies to combat the issue of county lines.
- The reference to cheap housing should be amended.
- More reference should be made to the voluntary sector and how they engage and empower communities. The voluntary sector also gathers and share intelligence.
- Victim support should have more reference and focus.
- Lessons that have been learnt from other parts of the country with regard to funding should be considered.
- Cleveland is ahead of other areas in respects of partnership working.
- Elected Members should be included on the Strategic Group.
- The Housing Strategy should be considered as part of Serious Violence Strategy.
- The issue of the definition was discussed and that as there was a lack of a central government definition there would be a consistency issue across the country in the data that was produced.
- The Public Health approach and how Public Health are involved in the Strategy should be explained more throughout the document.

AGREED that:-

1. The discussion be noted.
2. The comments made from the Partnership be noted.

7 Recorded Crime and Disorder

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

The report provided an overview on recorded crime and anti-social behaviour incidents in the borough of Stockton for the time period April 2020 to the end of December 2020.

The bulk of the statistics utilised for the report had been obtained from Cleveland Police crime statistic database with the figures correct at the time of writing (04/01/2021). The data was extracted from 'live' systems and therefore remained the subject of on-going operational activity, audit and scrutiny, and therefore may result in slight amendments to some of the statistical information in future publications.

Crime details for Darlington, who form part of the Tees Valley area, were not available at the time of writing.

The report would be not provide any detailed analysis unless there were any significant changes to patterns or trends.

A comparison against other similar Community Safety Partnerships utilising iQuanta was noted within a separate report. This report was a restricted document due to the statistical information only made available as an intelligence tool until released by the Home Office.

The Partnership was given the opportunity to ask questions and make comments on the report and these could be summarised as follows:-

- There were quite a lot of positives contained within the report.
- The trends and patterns regarding stalking and harassment, including repeat offenders and victim profiling were discussed. Cleveland Police had a daily meeting to discuss the figures. It was agreed that Sarah McManus would be invited to future meetings.
- Domestic abuse and sexual exploitation figures were not included within the report but it was felt these figures would be extremely useful to the Partnership and it was agreed that further information would be circulated to the Partnership. Moving forward the domestic abuse figures would be included in an oversight report.
- The Partnership noted that a new service on mediation was now being offered by Safe in Tees Valley. A leaflet on the new service would be circulated to the Partnership.

AGREED that the report be noted.

8 YOT Board Performance Reports, Q1 2020-21

The Partnership considered a report on YOT Board Performance Q1 2020-21.

Prior to any analysis taking place in the report it was noted that any comparisons to previous years were likely to show a significant and varied

difference due to the impact caused by Covid-19 and its restrictions. Whilst comparisons would be drawn in the report it was noted from the outset that this was highly likely to be the cause of any differences.

From April – Sept 2020, there had been outcomes for 156 offences committed by 71 10-17 year olds; 2.2 offences per child. At the end of Q2 2020-21 this created a projection of 312 offences committed for the whole year by approximately 142 children. At the end of Q4 2019- 20 there were 320 offences committed by 144 children. This suggested it would be just below the number of offences committed against the previous year and be approximately on par with the number of offenders.

This figure represented a decrease on previous years: 214 offences in 2019-20 by 81 children 327 offences in 2018-19 by 110 10-17 year olds; and 331 offences in 2017-18 by 133 children. Violence Against the Person offences continued to be the main offence committed by offenders aged 10-17, followed by Criminal Damage and Public Order. This largely mirrored the pattern of Youth ASB and there was often a clear comparison between the descriptions of ASB and these categories of crime.

The report detailed:-

- Offence Types
- Children Offending by Age and Gender
- Re-offending Rates
- Custody Rates

AGREED that the report be noted.

9 Community Safety Plan

Members were presented with an update on Community Safety Plan. Under Government legislation there was a need to publish a Community Safety Plan that strategically addresses how the Partnership will respond to issues within the Borough. The Plan was rolled over due to Covid19 however there was now a need to publish an updated Plan. Consultation had started on the Plan around priorities and perceptions and the responses will be shared with the Partnership at the next meeting. A request was made for partners to go away and consider what they would like included in the Plan. Any thought and comments could be emailed into Marc Stephenson.

AGREED that the update be noted.

10 Community Safety Partnership Comparative Data – iQuanta - RESTRICTED

Members were presented with a restricted report that provided an overview on crime comparisons against other similar CSPs utilising iQuanta.

This report was a restricted document due to the statistical information only made available as an intelligence tool for partnerships until released by the Home Office.

The Partnership discussed issues around the figures contained within the report and possible funding streams. It was agreed that a Task and Finish Group be established to look at this issue.

AGREED that the report be noted.

11 Any Other Business

The Partnership were informed that there had been a request from Safe at Homes Team for a £5k grant payment to support the scheme and its continuation. The Partnership agreed this request.

The Partnership was informed that Errol Parks was the new Chair of the Operational Hate Crime Group and that the Group would be looking at the Hate Crime Action Plan for 2020-21.

12 Date and time of next meeting:

The Partnership agreed that they would meet every 6-8 weeks going forward.