

Safer Stockton Partnership

A meeting of Safer Stockton Partnership was held on Wednesday, 8 June 2022.

Present: Cllr Steve Nelson (Chair), Cllr Norma Stephenson (Cabinet Member for Access, Communities & Community Safety, Marc Stephenson (SBC – Community Services), Sarah Bowman-Abouna (SBC – Public Health), Dave Willingham (SBC – Children’s Services), Jimmy Jones (SBC - Trading Standards), Gary Knight (SBC – Housing), Leanne Maloney-Kelly (SBC – Licensing), Mandie Rowlands (SBC – Children’s Services), Jon Willoughby, Simon Smart, Denise Holian (Cleveland Police), Cllr Paul Kirton (CFA), Jon Carling (Catalyst), Angela Corner (Thirteen).

Officers: Peter Bell, John Devine (SBC – Democratic Services).

Also in attendance: None.

Apologies: Ann McCoy, Sean Ormerod, Sarah Wilson, Ann Powell, Alex Sinclair.

1 Introductions / Apologies

Introductions and apologies for absence were given.

2 Declarations of Interest

There were no interests declared.

3 Minutes

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 23 March 2022.

AGREED that the minutes be approved.

4 Matters Arising

The Partnership noted that the Thirteen Locality Plan would be presented to a future meeting of the Partnership.

Regarding Sexual Offences being broken down into categories it was noted that this could be done although there had been some issues in respect of availability of analysts at SBC so it has been done for this report but and for the Crime Report later in the agenda there were further issues that needed to be picked up.

Councillor Norma Stephenson was welcomed to the meeting as the new Cabinet Member for Access, Communities and Community Safety. It was noted that the Chair, Councillor Steve Nelson would now be the Cabinet Member for Health, Leisure and Culture this would be beneficial to the Partnership given the governments direction around Public Health approach especially regarding serious violence. The Partnership agreed that the Cabinet portfolio of Health, Leisure and Culture (Councillor Steve Nelson) should be invited back into the Partnership and the constitution be amended as appropriate.

Regarding the confirmation of Chair and Vice Chair it was noted that nominations were now being sought for 2022/23 and should be emailed to Peter

Bell.

5 Fraud Awareness Report

The Partnership was presented with a report on Fraud Awareness. In June 2021, research by Citizens Advice found that more than two thirds of British adults (36 million) had been targeted by a scammer in the previous six months.

In October 2021, research from the telecoms regulator OFCOM estimated that 45 million people had received at least one scam text or phone call in the last three months. It found that 82 per cent of adults had received a suspicious message during the summer, with most reporting that it had come via a text.

The consumer group Which? said the cost to scam victims' wellbeing can be calculated at a monetary total of £9.3 billion a year, the equivalent of £2,509 a year for each victim, but the impact can be higher for someone hit by online fraud.

Paid-for scam adverts on social media sites and search engines could soon have to stop appearing by law. The updated proposal is part of the Online Safety Bill, which is trying to determine how sites deal with harmful content.

Adult Safeguarding given their unique position in dealing with older and vulnerable adults, had asked Trading Standards to assist when they have been concerned that a resident may be the victim of a scam or fraud.

One such referral involved a local resident who had lost over £10k to a scammer in Nigeria as a result of a romance scam. Advice and intervention from Trading Standards, Adult Safeguarding and the Police, helped ensure that the victim stopped making payments.

Awareness raising included:-

- Regular fraud and scam related articles in Stockton News.
- Relevant links on the Trading Standards pages of the Council's website
- Use of press releases and posts on the Council's social media channels. A recent post on scam bank transactions reached over 10,000 people and was shared 50 times.
- Talks to community groups where possible to raise awareness, especially around Friends Against Scams.
- Radio interviews.

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

- It was noted that the figures were going up for Stockton-on-Tees and generally across the country.
- The figures are probably tip and the iceberg.
- There was still a lot of work to do regarding on-line fraud and on-line security would be hugely beneficial.
- Studies were being done nationally on the police's capability to deal with

on-line fraud and it was showing the police's resources was probably not adequate to deal with the scale of the problem.

- As an action it was agreed that there should be a shared comms campaign with Thirteen on the issue.
- It was noted that due to the sheer number of cases of fraud not all cases would be investigated.
- Any comms around the issue should include expectation management as a lot of the scams would go unresolved.
- As an action the Partnership felt it would be useful if the Police could give them some figures on the cases of on-line fraud.

AGREED that:-

1. The report be noted.
2. The discussion/comments/questions be noted.
3. The actions as identified above be carried out.

6 Cleveland Violence Reduction Unit

A presentation was given to the Partnership on the Cleveland Unit for the Reduction of Violence. The presentation covered the following key areas:-

- Home Office allocation
- Definition of Serious Violence
- Home Office allocation – application guidance
- Gaps locally
- Prevention of summer increases in SV
- Timelines
- Next steps

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

- It was noted that there was a lot of measures that took place before the CURV would apply.
- One of the definitions would include hospital staff.
- There would be a strong focus on the victim.
- There was already a lot of good work and data already out there that could be used.
- Collective resources should be used and collaboration was key to the success of CURV.
- The Partnership was updated with regarding the Hot spotting that was taking place within Cleveland.
- Success of CURV would look like, the reduction of harm, diversion of people away from crime, improving public confidence.

AGREED that the discussion/comments/questions be noted.

7 Cleveland Police Reporting App

The Partnership received a presentation on the new Cleveland Police Reporting App.

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

- No problem with an App but there is a problem with where it sits, the App should sit with Cleveland Police and not the Commissioner, the App gives a blurring of the lines between operational policing and the commissioning job of the Commissioner.
- At the moment there appears to be 5 different ways to report into Cleveland Police and the App would just make it more complicated for residents of Cleveland.
- The function and purpose of the App isn't clear, it says it isn't a reporting App but that isn't how it comes across.
- There is a data protection issue.
- A senior police officer at Cleveland Police has expressed concerns about the App.
- Integrating the App with IMA would be a good idea.

AGREED that the discussion/comments/questions be noted.

8 Recorded Crime and Disorder Report

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

The report provided an overview on recorded crime, anti-social behaviour incidents, domestic abuse and hate crime in the Borough of Stockton-on-Tees for the 12-month period of May 2021 to the end of April 2022.

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 data extraction (25/05/2022). 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.

The report would 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.

Any reference to Population rates per 1,000 had been used in conjunction with the ONS UK Mid-year population estimates for 2020.

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

AGREED that the report be noted.

9 Community Safety Action Plan

The Partnership was presented with the Community Safety Strategy 2022 Action Plan.

All the amendments had now been included in the Community Safety Strategy 2022 Action Plan. If there were no further amendments the Action Plan would be live and dashboards and performance matrix would be created as discussed previously.

AGREED that the above 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.

AGREED that the report be noted.

11 Any Other Business

It was reported that a bid had been submitted to Safer Street Funds 4.

An update was given on the Prevent Review and it was noted that the area was compliant in all areas and in 5 areas national best practice and thanks were given to Errol Parkes.

The dates of the future meetings were noted.

12 Date and time of next meeting:

8 June 2022.

