Safer Stockton Partnership

A meeting of Safer Stockton Partnership was held on Wednesday, 28th September 2022.

Present: Cllr Steve Nelson (Chair), Cllr Norma Stephenson O.B.E. (Vice Chair), Marc Stephenson (SBC – Community Services), Lisa Allinson, Marc Anderson (Cleveland Police), Sharon Barnett, Jon Carling (Catalyst), Angela Corner (Thirteen), Mandy MacKinnon, Steve Graham, Gary Knight (SBC – Housing), Leanne Maloney-Kelly (SBC – Licensing), Dave Willingham (SBC – Children's Services), Jill Lax, Jon Willoughby, Sarah Wilson, Mandie Rowlands (SBC – Children's Services)

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

Also in attendance:

Apologies: Alex Sinclair, Sean Ormerod

1 Introductions/Apologies

Introductions and apologies for absence were given.

2 Minutes of Last Meeting

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 8th June 2022.

AGREED that the minutes be approved.

3 Matters Arising:
- Chair and Vice Chair

It was noted that a Trading Standards Report on Fraud would be coming to the November meeting.

Nominations were taken for the Chair and Vice Chair position, Cllr Steve Nelson nominated for the Chair position seconded by Cllr Norma Stephenson.
Members voted in favour of the nomination.

Cllr Norma Stephenson nominated for the Vice Chair position and seconded by Cllr Ann McCoy.
Members voted in favour of the nomination.

It was AGREED that Cllrs Steve Nelson & Norma Stephenson be made Chair and Vice Chair for the Municipal Year 2022/23.

4 Crest Advisory – CURV (Violence Reduction Unit)

The Partnership was presented with a project overview from a Crest Advisory member, the Crest organisation had been commissioned by Cleveland's Unit for the Reduction of Violence (CURV) to help build a more accurate understanding of serious violent in Cleveland and to influence commissioning decisions.

Crest had used available published data and locally held data provided to them in their call for evidence. With the data they carried out a high-level analysis of

the crime rates and trends of serious violence in the Cleveland area compared to most similar areas.

The Crest representative set out the next steps of the review which would begin with conducting quantitative analysis of date from local stakeholders. Would allow Crest to generate a more detailed understanding of the types of serious crimes that take place in Cleveland, who were the victims and perpetrators, and where the crimes happened.

Officers aim for the final evidence gathering and data analysis to be complete mid-November. Which would then be consolidated in a final report alongside key recommendations and metrics to be published in December.

Members expressed their support for the data collection work. Offers were made to put Crest officers in touch with local partners to increase the data available for the review.

5   Recorded Crime and Disorder Report

Members were presented with a Recorded Crime & Anti-Social Behaviour, the report focused on the recorded crime, anti-social behaviour incidents and domestic abuse in the Stockton on Tees Borough over a 12-month period starting in September 2021 to the end of August 2022.

Key points noted from the report were:

The rate per thousand population for publicly reported crime in Stockton on Tees was 95.5 for the September 21 – August 22 period.

The figures highlighted in the report showed an increase in the levels of crimes recorded when compared to the same period the previous year. However, the largest reduction in recorded crimes was in relation to possession/use of drugs; and miscellaneous crimes against society, with a reduction of 18.8%. Police representatives highlighted that this decrease had been achieved through more focused work on drug related crime.

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB):

The Cleveland Police report on ASB showed a decrease across the Borough over pervious 12 months which was a reduction of 35%.

Members heard from Officers that targeted work had been taken place in relation to ASB, while strategy had now been put in place to deal with the problem of off-road bikes, with the focus moved to seizing bikes at homes after they have been identified.

Members discussed the following with Officers:

Members questioned if the increased levels shown in the report were related to pro-active Police work, with more arrests/ reports being recorded due to

increased levels of Policing. Officers offered the explanation that the increase would be partially explained by new recording practises, which were more accurate than previously.

Procedure following domestic burglary incidents was also discussed. With members hearing that it is Cleveland Police policy to have a Police representative to attend following burglary. To gather intelligence and to speak to neighbours to advise.

The Police Officer numbers were discussed by members, with some members asking how the Stockton Borough area compares to other local authority areas. Offers informed members that policing levels had not increased but with new officers due to finish training the levels would increase in the near future. Members raised concerns that Middlesbrough had been assigned more Police Officers due to the use of the Cambridge Crime Harm Index system, the system had shown that Middlesbrough had five areas of high crime when compared to Stockton's one area. Officers acknowledged that the reality of the situation was different and had raised concerns with through the appropriate channels.

Members noted that the Police communication strategy did not focus more on the success that the Police had had. Officers had been given access to Police social media accounts were appropriate and had begun to promote proactive police work E.G. Bike seizers. But more high-profile arrests and actions would continue to be checked by central comms.

Police representatives spoke to members concerns around the cost-of-living crisis and possible increase in shoplifting cases. Members were told that repeat offenders would be handled to the fullest effect of the law, but those apprehended committing low level and low value offenses with no other aggravated issues would preferably dealt through out of court procedures.

Members decided that with the issues which had been discussed at the meeting an invitation would be sent to the Police and Crime Commissioner to the next meeting.

AGREED that: -

1. The report be noted.

2. The Police and Crime Commissioner be invited to the next Safer Stockton Partnership meeting.

6   Community Safety Action Plan

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

Members were told that the new community action plan had been launched with base line inputs been completed.

Officers acknowledged that there had been some issues with data sharing with partners due to the nature of the B Eye system. Partners concerns had been understood and would mean moving forward the B Eye system could be abandoned.

AGREED that the report be noted.

7   Any other Business

The representative of the Cleveland Police and Crime Commissioner told members that the Cleveland Online Policing App (COPA) was now up and working.

Members expressed an interest for an updated report on the data that the COPA app had collected and how it had been actioned.

Licensing Officers advised the partnership that a Taxi policy review had begun and would send a link out to the members of the partnership.

Members were also reminded that the half year review of the partnership was due. Advised members to contact representatives with topics suggestions.

AGREED that: -

1. The COPA data report be brought to the next meeting.

2. The discussion/comments/questions be noted

8   Date & time of next meeting

Wednesday 23rd November 2022 (09:00 to 12:00)

9   RESTRICTED - iQuanta Report

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.