

Safer Stockton Partnership

A meeting of Safer Stockton Partnership was held on Wednesday, 18th January, 2023.

Present: Cllr Steve Nelson (Chair), Cllr Norma Stephenson O.B.E (Vice-Chair), Cllr Mrs Ann McCoy, Marc Stephenson (SBC- Community Services), Sarah Bowman-Abouna (SBC-Public Health), Dave Willingham (SBC- Children Services), Gary Knight (SBC-Housing), Leanne Maloney-Kelly (SBC- Licensing), Mandie Rowlands (SBC-Children Services), Jon Carling (Catalyst), Angela Corner (Thirteen Group), Sharon Cooney (SBC- Community Services), Jill Lax (NHS), Alex Sinclair (NHS), John Wrintmore, Ian Brown, Sarah Wilson (Cleveland Police), Dawn Tyreman (SBC- Community Protection)

Officers: John Devine (SBC-Democratic Services)

Also in attendance:

Apologies: Ann Powell (Head of Stockton & Hartlepool PDU)

SSP 30/22 Minutes of Last Meeting

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held 23rd November 2022.

Agreed that the minutes be approved.

SSP 31/22 Cleveland Online Policing App (COPA) Update

Members were presented with an update on the Cleveland Online Policing App (COPA). The presentation outlined the background and development of the app. A breakdown of the data that app has collected regarding reports which the app had processed. Also included was an outline for the future development of the app.

The main topics discussed were as follows:

- Members asked if any other Police forces had a similar reporting app, Officers informed members that at present no other forces had an app in place like the COPA app. But various other forces had taken a keen interest in the app and would follow the progress closely.
- The level of demand on the apps services and if staffing levels would be sufficient if that level of demand increased, it was also noted that this would be likely due to feedback from younger people in the area preferring apps. Officers acknowledged that when the app was launched there had been not solid data on demand but had seen steady increase in users since the launch. Three members of staff currently able to access the reports and triage but would expect that to be sufficient for foreseeable future.
- Members expressed a keen interest that the data gathered by the app be shared between all relevant partner organisations. Officers were able to confirm that serious cases of violence and related reports were shared with partners.

AGREED that the report be noted.

SSP 32/22 Public Space Protection Order Update

Officers gave a verbal update to members of the partnership on the Stockton Councils progress on Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs).

A strategic assessment had been undertaken which outlined the challenges which are faced by all involved partners. A draft order had been included in the agenda pack provided to members. The proposed areas which would be affected by the PSPO were outlined.

A period of consultation had been undertaken with the public from mid-November to mid-December. Officers noted public responses to the consultation had been in the excess of 1600. With 80% of those responses stating they had been targeted by aggressive begging.

The Council had undertaken a social media campaign to educate the public on the proposal, the feedback had been overwhelming supportive of the proposal. The definition of what the council had classified as aggressive begging had been included in the report for members, and to outline the proposed PSPO would not be targeting regular peaceful beggars.

Officers highlighted in the report the expanded definition for alcohol consumption, with exemptions being made for licensed premises as defined by The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

The PSPO proposal is scheduled to go to cabinet for their consideration in February 2023 and if approved, be implemented in March 2023.

Following the verbal update to members they discussed the following:

- Members asked Officers if monitoring would be in place to see the impact on other local areas after the PSPO are implemented. Officers told members that monitoring would be in place to assess the impact on other local areas.
- Questions were raised around enforcement of the PSPOs. The implementation strategy was being drawn up and would be completed before the PSPOs implementation, the number of notices issued within a period of 28 days would be monitored and the information brought back to the partnership.
- The PSPO had been designed to target those who have already had the option of help by other partners.
- Members expressed their support for the PSPO measures in the two targeted areas.

AGREED the report be noted.

**SSP
33/22**

Recorded Crime & Disorder

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 January 2022 to the end of December 2022.

Key points discussed by members were:

- The report stated that there had been an increase of 21% for Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) but that was incorrect and should have shown a reduction of 34%
- Cleveland Police had begun a process of restructure and introducing phased approach to tackle rising issues.
- The Police acknowledged that there had been a resource gap identified but alternative funding was being identified to increase staffing levels.
- A new force model based around dedicated proactive teams to focus on specific areas and targets was to be introduced.
- Members discussed the perception of crime by the public and how it could differ from the real levels of crime in the area. Officers spoke on the use of social media and how it would be used to promote positive news stories to raise

public opinion in line with actual crime levels.

- The Police highlighted the increased number of drug offences arrests was due to a targeted policing effort to tackle drug related crimes.
- An increase in reported cases of Rape and Robbery would be an increased focus for Cleveland Police.
- Reported weapons offenses had increased but this could be explained by Police conducting targeted stop and searches.

AGREED that the report be noted.

**SSP
34/22** **Community Safety Action Plan**

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

AGREED that the report be noted.

**SSP
35/22** **Any Other Business**

Members were informed that the Trading Standards Report which had been expected would be moved to the next meeting.

The Police & Crime Commissioner had been invited to the meeting but due to scheduling conflicts had been unable to attend. An invite was extended to the next meeting for the Commissioner and the Chief Constable of Cleveland Police.

Officers informed members that Serious Violent Crime would be a standing item on the agenda going forward.

Following consultation with other Authorities in Stockton Councils all crimes most similar group, a report would be presented to members in the May meeting.

AGREED that the update be noted.

**SSP
36/22** **Restricted - I Quanta 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.