

## Safer Stockton Partnership

A meeting of Safer Stockton Partnership was held on Wednesday, 23rd November, 2022.

**Present:** Cllr Steve Nelson (Chair), Cllr Norma Stephenson O.B.E (Vice Chair), Cllr Ann McCoy, Marc Stephenson, Jon Carling (Catalyst), Stephen Graham (Cleveland Fire Brigade), Gary Knight (SBC – Housing), Leanne Maloney-Kelly (SBC – Licensing), Dave Willingham (SBC – Children’s Services), Kay Nicholson (AwayOut) Ian Brown (Cleveland Police), Mandy MacKinnon, Sarah Wilson, Sarah Bowman-Abouna (Director of Public Health), John Holden (Head of CURV)

**Officers:** John Devine (SBC – Democratic Services)

**Also in attendance:**

**Apologies:**

### 1 Minutes of Last Meeting

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

Cllr Ann McCoy had been marked as absent without apologies in the Minutes of the previous meeting.

Officers would correct the record to show Cllr McCoy’s attendance.

AGREED that the minutes be approved.

### 2 Matters Arising: - Chair and Vice Chair

The Trading Standards Report which had been expected at the November meeting had been moved to the January meeting instead.

The Police and Crime Commissioner had agreed to come to a future meeting and would provide an update on the Cleveland Online Policing App (COPA).

Officers gave members an update on the iQaunta data discussions, while informing members that work would still need to be done before a report could be brought back to the Partnership.

It was AGREED the Updates be noted.

### 3 Domestic Abuse Strategy

The report outlined the Domestic Abuse Strategy which would be overseen by the Domestic Abuse Steering Group.

The report recommended to the SSP to:

- 1) Acknowledge the Statutory requirements for the development of the Domestic Abuse Strategy and recognise the work of a multiagency

working group in the development of the strategy.

2) Review and provide feedback on the proposed Domestic Abuse Strategy for 2022-27

Officers told members that the strategy had been developed by working with victims and noted the No Wrong Door approach. The approach had been outlined as working with Banks and other local businesses to funnel victims seeking help.

Members praised the report for how it had shown the work which had been done to raise awareness. It was also noted that the data showed an increase in the number of reported Male victims and Members praised that the strategy had been developed as gender neutral.

Officers informed members that the feedback they had received would be fed back to the Domestic Abuse Steering Groups next meeting.

AGREED to be noted.

**4 John Holden MBE – Head of CURV Introduction**

Members of the Partnership heard from John Holden MBE who was at the meeting as the new head of CURV (Cleveland Unit for the Reduction of Violence).

Members welcomed him as a new member of the partnership.

AGREED to be noted.

**5 Update Report – Seasonal Disorder**

Members were presented with a report outlining the Arson Reduction Information for November 2022.

The report states that Stockton Borough Council was committed to supporting the Arson Reduction Strategy in partnership with Cleveland Fire Brigade. Information which had been provided in August 2022 showed an increased number of deliberate secondary fires in the SBC area.

Some key details of the report were:

Incident Figures for 2019 – 2022

- 2022 – 438 Incidents
- 2021 – 289 Incidents
- 2020 – 247 Incidents
- 2019 – 359 Incidents

It was noted that the number of incidents in 2022 would more accurately be

compared to 2019 as it was pre pandemic, with the low level of reported fires for 2020/21 being attributed to lockdowns and other pandemic related issues.

The report outlined the change in the locations in which fires were set. In 2019 Newton had accounted for up to 22% of all reported incidents but in 2022 it had only 8%. Billingham had emerged as the location with the greatest increase in deliberate fires.

Officers identified sixteen "Hot Spot" locations with six being highlighted as being 'High Risk:'

- Northbourne Road, Stockton
- Dorset Crescent, Stockton
- High Newham Road, Stockton
- Roscoe Road, Stockton
- Neasham Avenue, Billingham
- Rosslare Road, Stockton

The information in the report was used to plan patrols by Enforcement Officers and to direct CCTV activity, the information had also been shared with the Police. The close working between all organisations meant that the identified locations had been patrolled 71 times which resulted in the recovery of several mattresses, doors, furniture, wood, and carpets which could have been used for bonfires.

Members praised officers but mentioned that although the strategy is in place the Hardwick area had been worse than previous years on bonfire night. Residents had hoarded materials and fireworks. Fire Brigade Officers in the meeting brought to members attention that Fire crews had come under attack while working in the Hardwick area. They had begun to work in tandem with Police to ensure the safety of the crews responding to call outs in that area during the period.

It was acknowledged that because no SBC firework event had taken place that this could have contributed to an increased number of fires. The display had been unable to go ahead due to health and safety concerns on the land which had usually been used.

Officers acknowledged that there had been failings in the Hardwick area and would look at the strategy to incorporate Bonfire night into the strategy.

AGREED the report be noted.

## **6 Public Space Protection Order Consultation**

Officers presented to members an updated on Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO) which had been considered by Stockton Borough Council (SBC).

SBC had a draft order in place for 2023 a PSPO on designated areas to target Aggressive Begging and Alcohol consumption.

Some Figures presented to members in relation to the draft PSPO were as follows:

- Stockton Town Centre for the period 1<sup>st</sup> October to 31<sup>st</sup> October 322 reports of aggressive begging.
- Norton Hight Steet for the period 1<sup>st</sup> October to 31<sup>st</sup> October 149 report of aggressive begging.
- And numerous reports of incidents involving the public consumption of alcohol in both areas.

A consultation period had already begun with a survey for residents and members of the public to complete, over 500 responses to the survey had already been noted.

Officers were keen to reassure members that the PSPOs proposed would only target aggressive begging as outlined in the draft, support would still be in place for those who are in need in the area. With a focus on offering support before enforcement being the aims of SBC.

AGREED the Update be noted.

## **7 Recorded Crime and Disorder Report**

Members of the Partnership were presented with a report which outlined the anti-social behaviour incidents and domestic abuse in the Borough of Stockton on Tees for the 12-month period of November 2021 to the end of October 2022.

Key points noted from the report were:

The number of crimes reported had increased since the previous year. Officers noted that some of the increase would be attributed to the changed in reporting categorisations and increase police presence.

There had been an increased level of violent crime nationally, locally this had been attributed partially to the return of the areas night-time economy.

Officers told members that some of the shown increases were explained through active policing efforts for example the active policing efforts on drug offences.

The main topics discussed after members received the report were as follows:

Members of the Domestic Steering group expressed their interest in using the statistics and information in the report about domestic abuse, Officers would collaborate to ensure that information would be shared.

The sharp increase in reported sexual offences, some of that increase would be due to work done to make victims more comfortable and trusting to report

abuses but work was being done to address the issue.

Questions were asked about one of the standard categories which was 'Misc. Crimes Against Society.' It was explained to members as crimes which couldn't be counted easily under one of the already existing categories. An example of which was given as the various Covid related offences which would be in that category.

Officers and Members noted that the increased crime stats painted a stark picture, but the figures presented were honest and that not under reported to appear bettering in league tables.

AGREED that the report be noted.

## **8 Community Safety Action Plan**

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

AGREED that it be noted

## **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.