

Minutes

Newport Community Safety Partnership Steering Group

Date 18th January 2008

Time 9.30am

Present Chief Superintendent K Price (Gwent Police) (In the Chair), Councillor R Truman (Newport City Council), Mr C Freegard (Managing Director , Newport City Council), Superintendent J Knight (Gwent Police), Mr A Wallsgrove (Youth Offending Scheme) , Mr R Claridge (South Wales Fire & Rescue), Mr A Davies (Gwent Probation Service), Ms S Portman (Community Safety Officer, Newport City Council), Inspector S Jefferies (Gwent Police) , Mr D Graham (Corporate Director, Newport City Council), Mr G Bingham (Corporate Director, Newport City Council), Mr R Morgan , Mrs G Baranski and Ms K Robinson (Home Office Crime Team), Mrs H Wilkie (Public Protection Officer, Newport City Council) , Mr S Davison (Head of Public Protection and Environmental Services, Newport City Council) and Mr R Bailey (Newport City Council)

Apologies for Absence Mr O Ali (Gwent Police Authority) and Mrs C Seymour (Gwent Probation Service)

1 Welcome

The Chairman welcomed Gillian Baranski , Kathy Robinson and Richard Morgan of the Home Office Crime Team to the meeting. Reference was also made to the fact that this was the last meeting for Sarah Portman, Community Safety Officer who was leaving the Authority to emigrate to Canada. The Chairman commended Sarah for her excellent contribution towards the work of the Partnership. Councillor Truman concurred with these comments and wished her well for the future.

2 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 27th November 2007 were submitted:

Re: Minute 5 (a), Task Group 1, in response to a query from Mr G Bingham, Corporate Director as to whether the issue of the Crown Prosecution Service attending the Task Group had been raised with the Chief Constable , Chief Superintendent K Price confirmed that this had been actioned and a response from the CPS was awaited.

Re: Minute 5 (b), Task Groups 2/3 , Inspector Simon Jeffries reported on the continuing difficulties being experienced with regard to the establishment of a Business Partnership , details of which were noted. A report was being drafted in this respect.



Re: Minute 5 (f) , Task Group 6/7 , Mr Alan Davies advised that Mrs C Seymour had forwarded dates for a proposed meeting with the Crown Prosecution Service to discuss their greater involvement with meetings associated with the Criminal Justice Board.

Re: Minute 10 , Community Engagement , Mr C Freegard , Managing Director, had confirmed that the issue of integrating the approach between PACT and Newport City Council had been discussed at a recent meeting of the Cross Party Working Group to ensure that no duplication of work was being produced in this respect.

Re: Minute 13 , The “Best Bar None “ Scheme , Mrs H Wilkie advised that the launch of this scheme was to be held on 19th February 2008 at 6.00pm , the venue being the Riverfront Theatre , Newport. Invitations were to be forwarded in due course.

Agreed

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 27th November 2007 be taken as read and confirmed.

3

Crime Statistics

Consideration was given to the Newport Monthly Performance Monitoring Summary for November 2007, which was circulated at the meeting.

Reference was made to the fact that improvements had been made against all ten comparator crime categories and that targets would be met by the end of March 2008.

The Chairman commented on the fact that seasonal activity did lead to a negative appearance in the statistics, which coupled with recent police operations had led to such figures being realised. However, proposed work with the Home Office would mitigate such statistics. Members attention was drawn to Table 2 of the report where the recurring increase in wounding and theft from persons categories needed to be addressed , although it was acknowledged that increased community engagement ie PACT meetings had led to more incidents being reported to the police.

Mr Richard Morgan, Home Office Crime Unit reported on the December 2007 statistics which reinforced the downward trend as alluded to previously.

Operation Bell, details of which were outlined by Inspector Jeffries , would focus on the wounding figures. The multi agency approach which commenced in September 2007 had led to positive feedback being obtained. The reduction in violent crime figures stated illustrated the effectiveness of the operation and the challenge would be in sustaining this approach. Specific thanks was relayed to Inspector R Grindlay, Sarah Portman and the Licensing Team , together with the Welsh Ambulance Service who had contributed to this achievement.

Councillor Truman emphasised the importance of public perception in this regard and that such success should receive appropriate publicity. Recent increase in footfall figures of people visiting the City bode well for the future. Reference was made to the possibility of Home Office funding for a publicity campaign which would involve the Partnership. Richard Morgan would liaise with Helen Wilkie in this respect.

Agreed

That the report be noted.

4 Community Safety Partnership Implementation Group

Superintendent Knight provided an oral report on the deliberations of the Community Safety Partnership Implementation Group who had met on 17th January 2008.

It was reported that the Task Group Action Plans had addressed all issues and were on track for completion. With regard to the Draft Strategic Assessment, this was proceeding towards the next stage although concern had been expressed that guidance was still awaited from Welsh Assembly Government on Misuse of Substances which was causing delay in publication of the respective action plan.

Reference was made to funding for a joint exercise with the Fire Service, details of which were noted, together with work being undertaken to align any underspends this financial year.

Representation from the Health Service on the Community Safety Partnership Implementation Group was still lacking, bearing in mind the health related issues that are considered within this Forum.

The Chairman emphasised the importance that all Action Plans are completed and forwarded to the next meeting of this Partnership. Task Group leaders would be advised accordingly.

Agreed

That the oral report of the meeting held on 17th January 2008 be noted.

5 Task Group Action Plans 2007/8

The following Task Group reports were received:

(a) Task Group 1

Mr G Bingham, Corporate Director reported that the Task Group was to review how it should operate which would be reflected in the Action Plan. At present it was looking at statistics relating to Anti Social Behaviour within the City, together with the mechanics available to address this problem.

The Task Groups role would include focussing on specific wards and would identify pressure points within the City. In liaison with partners a more focussed approach would be adopted.

The Chairman referred to the benefits being attained with Anti Social Behaviour through the multi agency approach. Mr A Wallsgrove commented that early intervention and preventative measures was proving successful in addressing anti social behaviour and criminals. The present system of engagement with the youth within the City was working with 95% of them not engaged in anti social behaviour.

Agreed

That the report be noted.

(b) Task Group 2

Inspector Simon Jeffries presented a report in respect of Task Group 2, the main issues considered being :

Hate Crime

1. Developed hate crime website
2. Delivered diversity training to partnership agencies
3. Distributed hate crime packs to victims of hate crime
4. Obtained funding for signage to address issues in Allt-yr-yn ward

Prostitution

1. Contributed to outreach support work for on and off street prostitution
2. Established and built on co-ordination and interagency working with partner agencies with regards to commercial sex worker operations
3. Met with LHB and firmed links for future working.

Domestic Abuse

1. MARAC review is still currently being commissioned and completed through the domestic abuse forum.
2. Safer Relationships pack for people who work with Children (schools, youth groups, YOT etc.) is now in process of printing and will be distributed in Feb 2008.
3. Specialist Domestic Violence courts are now back up and running to work in conjunction CJSSS, A report is being considered by HMCS to develop courts into having dedicated benches and days for domestic violence trials, an outcome of which is expected next month.
4. In process of developing pilot with All DV Wales Helpine and Gwent police to send referrals of standard and low risk victims of DV to helpine to offer telephone support and to signpost to local suitable and relevant agencies in Newport.

Agreed

That the report be noted

(c) Task Group 3

On behalf of DCI Webber, Inspector Jeffries provided an oral report on Task Group 3 whose remit covered Property Crime and Vehicle Crime.

Statistics showed a reduction in figures although there was a short term threat with regard to a rise in dwelling burglaries . A police operation was in place to address this issue and action days had been lined up in this respect. Liaison with the Pride in Newport Campaign had proved effective from the results attained.

Inspector Jeffries reiterated his previous concerns regarding business crime and the difficulties incurred in engaging trade retailers within the City . It was noted that there are certain schemes within the City but they lack a coordinated approach with businesses who do not appear to realise the importance of this issue. Work would continue to progress this initiative.

Agreed

That the report be noted.

(d) Task Group 4

Mr D Graham, Corporate Director reported on a number of initiatives being progressed by the Task Group which included :

- Kaleidoscope had met all their objectives with regard to drugs issues
- Allocation of a grant in the sum of £10K from the Police Fund to tackle various crime / anti social issues in various wards within the City
- Pride in Newport Campaign achievements with regard to waste removal/fly tipping and related prosecutions were noted
- Probation Service coordinating graffiti removal in subways etc.

In noting the report, concern was expressed at the remit of the Task Group encroaching on other Task Group areas which would be addressed to ensure no duplication of work occurred.

Agreed

That the report be noted.

(e) Task Group 5

Mr S Davison, Head of Public Protection and Environmental Services advised that all funding allocated to projects which are on target would be completed by the end of the financial year. Details relating to the Graffiti Removal Bus – Probation Service operation were noted.

Members noted the list of success obtained through various capital projects and those works where the effect was more difficult to quantify ie CCTV provision and security works to some public buildings. A covert CCTV camera had been purchased which had been used in areas of repeat offences.

Task Group 5 would review patterns of crime in March 2008 to determine where capital investment could result in major improvements to crime or anti social behaviour and allocate funds accordingly. Furthermore, it was proposed to fund the graffiti van to the tune of £10k a year

Agreed

That the report be noted.

(f) Task Groups 6/7

Mr Alan Davies reported that there had been no significant change since the last update on both Task Groups who were both working well.

Details relating to the recent initiative of Probation staff undertaking their own drug testing were outlined. The issue of involving the CPS was also being progressed and details of the number of prolific offenders was noted.

In discussing this issue it was noted that there did not appear to be an exit strategy in place for young offenders placed on a programme. Such issues were also of concern to the Youth Offending Service where capacity and resource issues were relevant in this respect. Discussions with the Local Crime Justice Board may well progress this issue.

The recurring problem of offenders attending bail hostels in Newport ,as it was the sole provider of this service in Gwent,was an issue. There was also the problem of the Asylum Seeker Programme / Kaleidoscope clients which had implications on the City. Such issues needed to be included in the Strategic Assessment Programme. It was agreed that provision of such services to clients needed to be accompanied by the appropriate resources.

Agreed

That the report be noted.

6 Home Office Partnership Programme

Mrs G Baranski introduced Richard Morgan and Kathy Robinson of the Home Office Crime Team to the meeting and outlined the background to the Home Office Partnership Support Programme which, if agreed , would take place over the first two weeks of February 2008.

Reference was made to the briefing paper which detailed the various activities that would take place during the diagnostic phase. A report would be compiled by the Home Office and referred to the Community Safety Partnership as a source of material to aid the Partnership in its future development. The final recommendations were to be decided by this Partnership.

Newport had been chosen as one of 6 pilot areas in Wales. The Programme would provide the Partnership the opportunity to review , consider and plan its future development. Specialists would provide advice on issues raised by the Partnership. Furthermore , it was a two way exercise , whereby the Partnerships methods of best practice would be taken on board as well as those offered by the Home Office Crime Team.

Members raised a number of issues relating to the process which were duly answered and clarified by Mrs Baranski.

The Chairman, on behalf of the Partnership ,thanked Mrs Baranski and her team for their attendance and welcomed the opportunity to participate in the Programme.

Agreed

That the invitation to participate in the Home Office Partnership Programme be accepted and that Members make themselves available for the various interview/workshop process in February 2008.

7 Strategic Assessment & Action Plan

Consideration was given to the first draft of the Strategic Assessment & Action Plan which the Partnership is required to prepare on an annual basis.

The draft document was presently 85% complete with input from Gwent Police, Newport City Council, Fire Service and YOT. The Chairman emphasised the need for other partners to identify those areas of the document where they can make an input. Members were asked to liaise with Inspector Jeffries and Helen Wilkie in this respect which would enable the document to be fit for purpose.

Mr D Graham advised that he would liaise with the Local Health Board in this respect for their comments. It was acknowledged that the draft required revision to emphasise that it was a multi agency owned document rather than on a mainly police basis as at present.

The final document would develop the Action Plan and link into the Task groups work in this respect. With regard to the timetable, the document would be signed off at the next meeting of this Partnership on 28th March 2008.

Agreed

1. That the draft document be noted.
2. That the final version be submitted to the next meeting of this Partnership on 28th March 2008.

8 Finance Report

Consideration was given to a report on proposals for expenditure of the revenue part of the Home Office Building Safer Communities Fund 2007/8.

Sarah Portman, Community Safety Officer reported on the underspend potential for the budget and Superintendent Knight confirmed that the budgets were on track with regard to spend.

Support was confirmed with regard to the continuation of the three key posts funded by the Home Office, as detailed within the report.

Agreed

That the report be noted.

9 Sarah Portman, Community Safety Officer

The Chairman reiterated to the fact that this was Sarah Portman's last meeting and wished to record his personal thanks for her contribution and endeavours towards the work of the Partnership. Sarah had been a pivotal link within the growth of this Partnership and wished her well in the future. Members of the Partnership concurred with these comments.

To recognise her work for the Partnership, the Chairman presented a commendation certificate from Gwent Police. Ms Sarah Portman responded in kind.

10

Date of next meeting

The next meeting to be held on 28th March 2008 at 9.30am, the venue being Committee Room 1 , Civic Centre, Newport.