

# **GWENT POLICE AUTHORITY**

## **COMMUNITY SAFETY AND ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

29<sup>th</sup> June 2005

Present: Councillor H A Andrews (Chair)  
Mr D G Price Thomas, Mrs J Watkins, Mr W H Phillips,  
Mr T Curtis  
Councillor W J Williams  
Together With: Mr M Tonge – Chief Constable  
Mrs S Bosson – Chief Executive and Clerk  
Mr N Taylor – Community Development & Partnership Officer  
(CDPO)

### **Action**

#### **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR**

1. Councillor Andrews was appointed as Chair of the Committee for the ensuing twelve months.

#### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

2. There were no apologies for absence.

#### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

3. There were no declarations of interest.

#### **FUTURE COMMITTEE MEETING DATES**

4. We have agreed the following dates for meetings of the Committee until the Annual General meeting in 2006.

7<sup>th</sup> September 2005 (2.00 p.m.)  
16<sup>th</sup> November 2005 (10.00 a.m.)  
22<sup>nd</sup> February 2006 (10.00 a.m.)  
19<sup>th</sup> April 2006 (10.00 a.m.)

It was also agreed that the Committee could call special meetings as and when required.

#### **TERMS OF REFERENCE AND LEAD MEMBER ROLES**

5. We received and noted the Terms of Reference of the Community Safety and Engagement Committee as agreed by the Authority. The Chief Executive and Clerk referred to the Police Authority Annual Meeting of 27<sup>th</sup> May 2005, where it was agreed that each Committee would consider its lead member roles and confirm, or otherwise, the continuation of those roles in 2005/2006 at the first relevant Committee meeting after the AGM.

The Committee were requested to review the Lead Member roles in conjunction with the revised Terms of Reference of the Committee and to appoint Lead Members where required.

The following Lead Member roles had been identified as relevant to the Terms of Reference of the Community Safety and Engagement Committee;

Community Liaison - Mrs J Watkins  
Custody Visiting/ Animal Welfare – Councillor W J Williams  
Community Safety Partnerships –  
Councillor GI Davies (Torfaen)  
Councillor MB Dally (Blaenau Gwent)  
Councillor PR Clarke (Monmouthshire)  
Mrs J Hale (Newport)  
Councillor H Andrews (Caerphilly)  
Basic Command Units –  
A Division – Mrs J Hale  
B Division – Councillor GS Evans (Torfaen)  
B Division – Councillor PR Clarke (Monmouthshire)  
C Division – Mr R Leadbeter (Blaenau Gwent)  
C Division – Vacant (Caerphilly)  
D Division - Mr D G Price Thomas

Given that D Division had been replaced, consideration should be given to appointing lead members to:

- Uniform Operations and Support (U Division)
- Citizen Focus and Partnership (F Division)
- CID Operations / Intelligence

It was agreed to continue with and reappoint the same members to the aforementioned Lead Member roles. It was noted and agreed however, that these positions should be reviewed, at some future date, to ensure they fit the requirements of the work of this Committee.

CEX

It was also agreed that:

- Mr Phillips be the nominated representative for the C Division, Basic Command Unit (Caerphilly)
- Mr Price Thomas agreed to take on the revised role of Lead Member for CID Operations/ Intelligence
- Mr Phillips accepted the Lead member role for Uniform Operations and Support (U Division)
- Mr Curtis accepted the Lead Member role for Citizen Focus and Partnership (F Division)

**Action**

Councillor Williams, as Lead Member of Animal Welfare, then raised an issue in respect of the provision of a kennel hand for the dog section. He informed the group that the lack of this post could have a detrimental effect on animal welfare.

CEX

The Chief Constable noted Councillor Williams concerns and informed the Committee that this issue had already been given consideration. As a result, a temporary appointment of a kennel hand is to be made, from existing funding, to cover the period to the end of the financial year until a continuation of funding application can be progressed to the Police Authority for next year.

CC

The Committee then noted the good work that had been carried out at the dog section recently and it was highlighted that members would benefit from a visit to the section if they had not already done so. A meeting would be arranged for the Committee to visit the Dog Section.

CEX

It was also suggested that the Authority would benefit from a presentation in relation to Air Support, which could possibly be made at the Authority Away day in September.

CEX

## **POLICE AUTHORITY COMMUNICATION STRATEGY**

6. We received a report by the Chief Executive and Clerk on the Police Authority Communication Strategy.

We agreed to adopt the Communication Strategy subject to the following amendments:-

Paragraph 4.4c. local officers will be asked to provide a summary of main local observations relating to the focus group subject matter and will be involved in the focus group where possible.

Paragraph 6.1. change the Authority Strategy Committee to Committee Safety and Engagement Committee.

The focus of the document was discussed at length with the following points of note being made;

- All members have a role to play in making people aware of what the Police Authority does.
- Marketing of the Authority should be a prioritised project.

## Action

- Local police staff and officers need to be made aware of the purpose of the Police Authority and what it is achieving.
- A number of methods of communication/consultation were discussed in relation to how Police Authority objectives and achievements could be disseminated.

It was recognised that these issues were to be the focus of some of the work for the Committee. The next stage being to identify how these ideas could be captured, resourced and progressed. A report on how these matters were being taken forward would be prepared for the next meeting.

CEX

**The Chief Executive and Clerk was also asked to develop a Bullet Point Briefing to members on a 2 monthly basis showing topics of interest to enable members to play a greater role in communicating the work of the Police Authority and Force to the community.**

CEX

## MEDIA PROTOCOL

7. The Chief Executive and Clerk reported that Policing is a high profile area and of great interest to the public and the press. As such, it is important that members are fully aware of how they should deal with requests for information. To that end, a Media Protocol has been developed which the Committee were asked to consider and agree be adopted by the Authority.

The Committee noted and agreed the protocol subject to amendments to paragraph 2 in relation to contact numbers only being shown not individuals names and to the third bullet point in the 'Remember paragraph' being re worded as follows:

Speaking off the record – avoid if possible; always have the journalists agreement that you are to have an off the record conversation before proceeding so you both understand.

## CDPO REPORT FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY – JUNE 2005

CEX

8. The Committee received a report by the Chief Executive and Clerk on the progress made by the Community Development and Partnership Officer for the reporting period January to June 2005.

Previously, the progress reports were reported to the Strategy Committee but will be reported twice yearly to this Committee in the future.

Action

The Committee noted the amount of work that had been carried out and the progress that had been made. The recommendations below, relating to the focus of work for the next reporting period were agreed.

#### Police Authority Equality Scheme.

In support of the work already underway in relation to the Police Authority's Race Equality Scheme, that the CDPO progresses work to ensure that 'hard to hear' groups are fully engaged in the Authority's participative mechanisms.

The CDPO will also monitor and assist in progressing the Scheme' Action Plan and co-ordinate the related member training programme.

Also that the Authority develops an over arching Corporate Equalities Policy to incorporate the 7 strands of the Diversity agenda.

CEX

(This area of work will be reported via the HR and Diversity Committee).

#### Strategic Level Engagement and Consultation

The CDPO progresses the strategic consultation and engagement levels agenda on behalf of the Authority to ensure that a realistic overview of community views, issues and observations are available to the Authority.

Seek to progress a joint strategy for consultation and engagement with the Force so that the related activities at both local and Force level complement each other, avoids duplication and consultation fatigue, minimises costs, shares best practice and provides a co-ordination point for both organisations in a joined up and timely manner.

CEX/CC

#### Partnership Arrangements

Continue to progress and enhance the Police Authority's involvement and participation with relevant partnerships and organisations both locally and further afield. More specifically to work with the lead members for Community Safety and the Police Authority representatives on the partnerships to develop an understanding of their roles and how the Police Authority can help to ensure that the community safety agenda is delivered.

Members of the Committee agreed that the links between the work of Community Safety Partnerships and the Police Authority needed to be strengthened. Police Authority members on Community Safety Partnerships needed to bring back to the Authority issues of concern to ensure that the Police Authority were able to formulate their own views on policy issues which would then provide clarity to the Police Authority representatives on the Community Safety Partnerships.

All members

The question was then raised, in relation to the Schools Liaison Programme, as to whether reports could be provided in relation to the effectiveness of the scheme.

The Chief Constable informed the Committee that currently an evaluation of the scheme was being undertaken by Swansea University on behalf of the Welsh Assembly Government and was due out in September. He suggested that this report should be made available to the Committee, as it would provide the information they requested.

It was agreed to wait for the report by Swansea University, which would be presented to the nearest meeting following the report's release.

CC

The Committee was then informed of the performance of a welsh version of the highly successful schools programme of 'Wings to Fly' on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2005. This scheme was now in its 10<sup>th</sup> year and had played a major role in informing our children of the dangers associated with substance misuse.

A discussion then took place in relation to the Criminal Justice Departments project ' Crime of Your Life'. Seeking to divert young people from criminal activity, this scheme was now in some financial difficulty. It was requested as to whether there was any funding available that could be used to assist the furtherance of this project.

The Chief Constable agreed to report back to the next Committee on this matter.

### **URGENT ITEM**

9. The Chair agreed to take the following item on the grounds that the current contract had expired and there was an urgent need, given the nature of the service, to let a new contract as soon as possible.

### **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

10. We resolved to exclude the press and public from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business in accordance with Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 9 and 10 of Schedule 12 of the said Act.

### **FORENSIC PHYSICIANS**

11. We considered a report by the Chief Constable regarding the tendering exercise for the provision of Forensic Physician services and have agreed that the contract be awarded to Veritas Management Limited of Crosshills, West Yorkshire.

