

GWENT POLICE AUTHORITY

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

5th March 2008

Present: Cllr H Andrews (Chair)
Cllr R Truman
Mrs P Davies
Mr W H Phillips
Together With: Mr W Horne – Assistant Chief Constable
Mr C Brown – Corporate Services
Mrs S Bosson – Chief Executive
Mr N Taylor – Community Engagement Manager
Mrs M Lambert – Committee Clerk

The meeting commenced at 10.00 am

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APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr W J Williams, Mr O Ali and Ms G Reddington.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2. None received.

MINUTES

3. The minutes of the meeting held on 16th January 2008 were received and confirmed.

Matters Arising

School Liaison Officers

Mr Phillips reported on his visit to Tredegar School Liaison. A DVD presentation on 'Kiddo' had been given which had been very powerful. We noted that the DVD had been made in Tredegar and had been supported by the Shiverality Trust. There were 4 parts to the presentation given by the Police, a Prison Officer, YOT and Magistrates.

Caerphilly Voluntary Sector Sub Committee

We noted that GAVO were running a nomination system for attendance at meetings.

Bargoed Police Community Liaison Committee

We noted that a 'photocall' had been arranged for 28th April 2008 at 2.00 pm. Members had been informed by email and letters had been sent out to Clerks, past Clerks, past Chairs and all Chairs of Committees. The Chief Constable had also been notified. It was hoped that this would be a very successful day.

Excellence Wales

Action

The Chief Executive informed Members of her attendance at an awards gala for Welsh local government. The scheme was about recognising good practice across the range of services and was run by the Welsh Local Government Association, funded by the Welsh Assembly Government and which was supported by Tesco. We noted that there was good press coverage and an article had appeared in the Western Mail. The Chief Executive was pleased to announce that Gwent Police Authority had been commended for local collaboration which related to the excellent work on the CANDO initiative that had been carried out in 'C' Division. It was hoped that next year applications would be submitted from each of the Division or from the Force as a whole. Members agreed that letters of congratulation should be sent.

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Scheme 101

We noted that funding for this service had been discontinued. The cost of the scheme had varied considerably between pilots. Members agreed that this was not the time to press for this service as the work on Beyond the Call was still ongoing. We noted that Cardiff City Council and South Wales Police are continuing with the 101 service through their own funding and it was also noted that PAW may wish to take this matter up further sometime in the future.

PROPOSED CONSULTATION PROGRAMME FOR 2008/09

4. We received and noted the report from the Chief Constable on the proposed Consultation Programme for 2008/2009 which set out the proposed timetable and methodology.

We noted that Corporate Services are finalising the target profile against which the actual demographic data of those we survey will be compared. Using population data from the Office for National Statistics, the target sample size of 4,000 will be stratified at BCU, Sectional and possibly Ward level by:

Sex (male, female)

Age (using the same age categories as the Your Voice Does Count Survey)

Faith

We noted that one method of data collection would be by the use of Standpoint machines. Members asked that a demonstration of this machine be given at the next meeting.

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We noted that Divisions, Corporate Services and the Authority would then monitor the actual returned demographic data against the target profile allowing under-represented groups to be highlighted and positive action taken.

We noted that a series of joint consultation community based events across Gwent between April and August 2008 would take place. Discussions were ongoing and the details of these events had yet to be finalised but information would be provided as soon as they had been confirmed. We noted that Members attendance at these events last year had been well received by the public.

We noted that there would be an opportunity to reduce survey costs in 2008/09 by completing the majority of the work in-house. Members noted that last year's costs had been in the region of £30,000.

MEMBER REPORT

5. We received and noted the Members' report from the Chief Executive. Members were thanked for their attendance at the various meetings.

Members noted that the Newport Community Cohesion between the University, WRU, Police and Local Authority was working well. The next Community Leaders Group would be held at the University and we noted that Chief Superintendent Price would be attending.

We noted that the University and Coleg Gwent are looking to support PCSOs. We noted that PACT were looking to fund an all weather pitch at Cross Keys college.

Following a discussion regarding the Chair of the Authority's attendance at a Home Office policy event at the 15th February Members agreed that the strongest possible links with all sections of the community were needed to form a cohesive Prevent Strategy which would need to be signed up by the Local Authorities as it was recognised that this was not just work for the Police and that all other Agencies needed to be involved. Members noted that ACPO had responded to the Prevent Strategy and that there had been no mention of Wales.

DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL SERVICE BOARDS IN GWENT

6. We received and noted a report from the Chief Constable which provided the current position in terms of the development of Local Service Boards (LSB) in Wales and more specifically in the Gwent Area.

The following points were highlighted:

The WAG had set up six pilot LSB sites in Wales based in Caerphilly, Cardiff, Carmarthen, Wrexham, Gwynedd and Neath Part Talbot. The purpose of the pilots was to examine how Local Service Boards might develop their structure and membership, their priorities and their relationships. Although the six pilots were acting as pathfinders on behalf of others, there was an expectation that all local authority areas would establish a LSB by April 2008.

The emerging key responsibilities for Local Service Boards as defined by the pilots were as follows:-

- development of and preparation of community strategies;
- monitoring performance against community strategies;
- monitoring the performance of strategic partnerships;
- the identification of and development of cross cutting priorities for the area or on a regional or sub-regional basis;
- the removal of blockages to enable progress.

Three of the Boards (Caerphilly, Newport and Monmouth) had agreed their first set of priorities in draft form. Torfaen and Blaenau Gwent were in the process of identifying priorities. Two common priorities are emerging across the Gwent LSBs (and more widely across Wales), which had been identified as:-

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- performance monitoring systems linked to community strategies and the strategic partnerships;
- community engagement.

Members agreed that the good work on partnership must continue in the future to ensure that the steps already achieved are protected. We noted that the Community Engagement Manager would draft a report on involvement for the next meeting.

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Members also requested a short update report on the five LSBs and their progress which would be presented in July 2008. It was also noted that each of the Divisional Commanders would be taking a watching brief at those LSBs where there was no representation by the Police Authority on the core group.

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We noted that Divisional Commanders were looking at the views and position of the Authority and that there was a need to avoid conflicting priorities set in the Policing Plan.

POLICE CRIME STANDARDS DIRECTORATE – PROVISION OF PARTNERSHIP SUPPORT CONSULTANCY TO NEWPORT COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

7. We received and noted a report from the Chief Constable which informed Members of the initial feedback which had been received from the Partnership Support Consultancy exercise which had recently been conducted by the Police and Crime Standards Directorate working with the Newport Community Safety Partnership.

The following was highlighted:

As a result, between 4th and 15th February 2008, the PCSD carried out an intensive analysis of the partnership reviewing strategies, action plans, finances and performance. During this 'diagnostic phase' the team carried out in excess of 70 interviews with key stakeholders across the city.

On completion of the 'diagnostic phase' a 'hot debrief' had been delivered to the key representatives of the partnership.

We noted that a detailed report would be produced for the partnership to digest and develop an action plan to incorporate the recommendations for the Partnership. Further support had been offered by the PCSD to implement the recommendations and this had been accepted by the Partnership.

We noted that the initial feedback had indicated that the Newport Community Safety Partnership was considered to be a strong and effective partnership, which had achieved considerable success.

Members noted that the written report was expected in mid-March and Members looked forward to receiving further updates in due course.

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL GROUP STUDY EXCHANGE TO JAPAN

8. We received and noted a report from the Chief Constable which informed Members that permission had been granted for an Officer to participate in a Rotary International Group Study exchange visit to Japan between 27th March 2008 and 3rd June 2008. We noted that the Deputy Chief Constable had agreed terms of reference for the visit and agreed how the learning would be disseminated when the Officer returned to Force.

Members agreed that this was a great honour for him and also would provide an opportunity to bring back good practice to the Force. We noted that the Officer would give a presentation on his visit to the Authority in September. We agreed to send the Officer a letter of congratulations and to wish him well on his visit.

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MINUTES OF MEETINGS

9. **Newport Safety Partnership Implementation Group – 17th January 2008**
Members received and noted the above minutes.

Safer Blaenau Gwent Leadership Group – 15th January 2008

The Chief Executive raised concerns regarding attendees receiving Agenda and accompanying papers at the meeting which did not give time for consideration or discussion when decisions had to be made. We noted that at present members do not have executive making power and therefore papers needed to be discussed beforehand to protect the position of the Police Authority and the Partnership. The Assistant Chief Constable confirmed he would remind each Division of this requirement.

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All Wales Community Safety Forum – 11th January 2008

Members were pleased to receive these minutes for the first time and agreed that they were useful and would wish to receive them regularly.

Newport Community Safety Partnership Steering Group – 18th January 2008

Members received and noted the above minutes.

Bargoed Police Community Liaison Committee – 11th February 2008

The minutes were circulated to Members at the meeting and were noted.

EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

10. We resolved to exclude the press and public from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that they may involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 4 of Schedule 12(A), paragraphs 12 and 18 of the said Act.

REQUEST FROM THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

11. We received and noted a report from the Chief Constable seeking the approval of the Authority, in accordance with Section 26 Police Act 1996, which sought approval for foreign travel.

Members approved the request for the Officer to be released between the proposed dates to complete the required workstream.

RISKS IDENTIFIED

12. No risks were identified as a result of this meeting.

Members agreed to change the date and time of the next Committee meeting from 30th April to 23rd April 2008 at 9.30 a.m.

The meeting concluded at 11.20 pm