

GWENT POLICE AUTHORITY

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

31st October 2007

Present: Councillor H Andrews (Chair)
Councillor W Williams, Mrs P Davies, Mr W H Phillips

Together With: Mr M Giannasi, Deputy Chief Constable
Chief Insp Sutton, Staff Officer
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

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Action

1. Apologies for absence were received from Councillor R C Truman, Mr O Ali and Ms G Reddington.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2. None received.

MINUTES

3. The minutes of the meeting held on 12th September 2007 were received and confirmed.

Matters Arising

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Strategy

Discussion took place regarding the apparent reluctance to apply for CRASBOs. It was agreed that increased use of CRASBOs should be driven by Community Safety Partnership.

A Workshop had been arranged for November with the CPS when the issues which were causing difficulties would be discussed in order for the process to be worked through. The Chief Constable had asked the Deputy Chief Constable to identify the issues for discussion at the Workshop. The Deputy Chief Constable received an Anti-Social Behaviour Order Partnership Protocol document for his reference. The Chair of the Police Authority indicated she would also feedback information for discussion at the Workshop. It was felt that there would be a lack of public confidence if the process was not working efficiently and was not showing effective outcomes. It was agreed that a report on progress was to be presented to the next meeting.

Chair

CC

LOCAL SERVICE BOARDS

4. We received and noted a report by the Chief Executive which outlined the background on the development of LSBs in Gwent and

the involvement of the Divisional Commanders in that process. The report also provided members with an easy reference to the key elements of effective partnership working.

Action

We had responded to WAG earlier in the year in relation to the consultation on the Local Service Boards and a formal outcome was still awaited. There would be a need to create conditions for excellent, trusting relationships between organisations that serve and engage people in their localities. As we are not actively involved in the development of the LSBs it had been difficult to determine our role. It was felt that there was a need to communicate with those making decisions but as there are five separate areas it had proved difficult to have one voice and to achieve a co-ordinated approach.

The Deputy Chief Constable commented that he was comfortable that we had a clear focus and a strong dedicated lead by BCU Commanders for local development. It was agreed that it would be easier if there were one Board with an over-arching perspective and framework. The Chief Constable had been talking to the Welsh Assembly regarding these issues. The Deputy Chief Constable was asked to submit a more detailed report on progress in six month's time.

CC

The Chair of the Committee confirmed that he chairs the Caerphilly LSB and that Chief Superintendent Alun Thomas (C Division) was a member of that group. At the moment the new hospital had been given key priority with the LSB.

Members confirmed that Mr Derricot would be the representative on the Monmouthshire LSB.

CONSULTATION PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 2007 – FINDINGS

5. We received and noted a report from the Community Engagement Manager on the findings obtained from consultation activities. The activity undertaken this year, as part of the joint consultation programme, had set out to gather the views of the community of Gwent to assist in assessing current perceptions of policing and where applicable setting baselines against local priorities. All feedback received would be of use to the Authority and the Force during the production of the 2008/09 Local Policing Plan. The activity achieved a higher rate of responses than achieved previously and sets a firm foundation for priority, baseline and consultation planning for next year.

A Member raised some issues regarding opening times of Police Stations and the duty times of Police Officers and PCSOs in Blaenau and Ebbw Vale. The Deputy Chief Constable gave assurance that the Force has the capability to move Officers around the County very quickly as the need arises. Queries were also raised regarding the issuing of fixed penalty orders, especially at the weekend, for litter and dog fouling. It was also asked whether PCSOs should be warning individuals for parking on

double yellow lines or booking them. As these were local issues the Deputy Chief Constable recommended that these concerns be raised through the PACT process via Chief Superintendent Alun Thomas. **Action**

The document 'Your Voice Does Count' was presented to Members. The delay had been due to the receipt of additional information which had allowed a fuller content and therefore was of more benefit to members and it was agreed that any further comments should be forwarded to the Community Engagement Manager within the next week, following which the document will be published with the Agenda papers on the Website. This action was endorsed by the Committee.

CITIZEN FOCUSED POLICING PROJECT

6. We received and noted a report from the Chief Constable which informed us of the closure of the Citizen Focus Policing Programme (CFP). It also informed members of the arrangements for the ongoing development of CFP and integration of the CFP support team into the 'Staying Ahead' Programme.

It was confirmed that Gwent Police would continue to be committed to providing a Citizen Focused Policing service that responds to the needs of communities and individuals, especially victims and witnesses, and inspires public confidence in the police, particularly among minority ethnic communities. The Deputy Chief Constable gave assurances that the work on 'Victims of Crime' and the 'Witness Charter' would be continued through multi-agency work and update information would now be available through the Guardian 2 facility.

PCSO POWERS – NATIONAL STANDARD SET

7. We received and noted a report from the Chief Constable which informed members of the latest position regarding the introduction by 1st December 2007 of a set of Standard Powers for PCSOs. We agreed the recommendation for the report to be taken to the Full Police Authority meeting on 30 November 2007 for information.

CEX

It was reported that in Gwent PCSOs have 29 Designated Powers, 17 of which appear on the list of 20 Standard Powers.

The three not currently designated were not contrary to the philosophy of the Gwent PCSO role and could be designated and trained without major difficulty.

In summary the three powers not currently designated were:

Power to issue fixed penalty notices in respect of offences under dog control orders:

Power of an authorised officer of a primary or secondary authority, within the meaning of section 59 of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005, to give a notice under that section (fixed

penalty notices in respect of offences under dog control orders.)

Action

Dog control orders under the Act include:

- fouling of land by dogs and the removal of dog faeces;
- the keeping of dogs on leads;
- the exclusion of dogs from land;
- the number of dogs which a person may take on to any land.

It is appropriate to Designate this power, whilst devolving local implementation to the discretion of BCU Commanders, as is currently the case with Fixed Penalty Notices for Dog Fouling.

Power to remove abandoned vehicles

Under regulations made under section 99, Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

PCSOs in Gwent already have a power to seize vehicles used to cause alarm and it seems logical that the power to remove abandoned vehicles should follow, given the impact that can be expected by NHP Teams as part of any neighbourhood management partnership. This was a useful power but the Force would be mindful of the implications regarding control and cost.

Power to require name and address:

Power to require the name and address of a person whom a PCSO had reason to believe had committed a relevant offence ('Relevant' offences are defined under subparagraph 2(6) of Schedule 4 of the Police Reform Act 2002 as relevant fixed penalty offences under paragraph 1 of Schedule 4, an offence under section 32(2) of the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 (failure to follow an instruction to disperse) or an offence that causes injury, alarm or distress to another person or loss of or damage to another persons property.) Paragraph 1A enables Chief Constables to designate the power to require name and address without also designating the power of detention.

In Gwent PCSOs already have powers to require name and address:

- for anti-social behaviour (can only be used if the power of detention has been designated)
- for road traffic offences
- whilst seizing drugs
- from persons under 18 surrendering alcohol.

The 'new' power would support activity PCSOs currently undertake now or in the future in relation to the relevant offences listed.

The Deputy Chief Constable confirmed that the Force were working on a Media Evening and are producing a DVD which would explain how the Force works and this would include the PCSO's role in the community.

MINUTES RECEIVED

Action

8. We received and noted the following minutes of meetings:

Community Safety Partnership Meetings

- Safer Blaenau Gwent Leadership Group – 17th July 2007
- Caerphilly Community Safety Partnership Leadership Group – 13th June 2007
It was agreed that PACT had achieved positive results and the meetings had been very well received. It was felt that invitations to the meetings could be more attractive. The Deputy Chief Constable commented that the process is continuing to evolve.
- Newport Community Safety Partnership – 28th September 2007

An action point from the Chair of the Committee was noted for the Chief Executive to write out to members in order to remind them that a substitute should be asked to attend the CSP meetings when members are unable to attend themselves.

CEX

Other Related Meetings

- Caerphilly Police Liaison Committee – 8th October 2007
- Animal Welfare – 7th June 2007
It was noted that financial resources had been made available for the upgrade of the kennels and that the Estates Manager had been looking into this. The Deputy Chief Constable agreed to take this up with Head of Finance and report back at the next meeting. Members were very impressed by the progress of work that had been carried out by Sgt Wilkinson.

CC

MEMBER REPORT

9. We received and noted Member reports as follows:

1st October 2007 - Mr Leadbeter visited the Community Safety Department.

17th October 2007
Mr Bayliss visited Usk and Prescoed Prisons.

Mr Phillips made reference to his recent attendance at the DVLA when a Firearms presentation had been given to Magistrates by Supt Russell and DI Warrender which had been superb.

RISKS IDENTIFIED

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

The meeting concluded at 12.25 pm