

SAFER HALTON PARTNERSHIP

At a meeting of the Safer Halton Partnership on Tuesday, 11 November 2008 in the Civic Suite, Town Hall, Runcorn

Present	S. Eastwood	HBC Health and Community
	D. Houghton	HBC Policy and Partnerships
	D. Johnson	HBC Health and Community
	N. Mannion	Neighbourhood Management
	A. Jones	HBC
	J. Manley	Cheshire Police
	P. Burke	HBC
	J. McCusker	GONW
	L. Derbyshire	HBC
	Cllr Wright	Ditton Ward
	D. Cargill	HBC
	C. Myring	HBC
	A. Collins	Police Authority
	M. Andrews	HBC
	S. Blackwell	Cheshire Police
	H. Patel	Citizens Advice Bureau
	P. Carr	HBC - Environmental
	Cllr Osborne	Ditton Ward

Action

SHP12 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Superintendent Jed Manley of Cheshire Police Authority welcomed everybody to the meeting and introductions were made.

SHP13 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from David Parr – Halton Borough Council, Garath Jones – Youth Offending Team, Sean Henshaw - Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service and Sue Milner – PCT.

SHP14 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th September 2008 were agreed as a correct record.

SHP15 PRESENTATION - PREVENT TERRORISM AGENDA

The Partnership received a presentation from Detective Chief Inspector Paul Taylor entitled 'Preventing

Violent Extremism' (PVE). The presentation covered:-

- Threat levels;
- Current threats;
- The PVE Strategy;
- Publications raising awareness in PVE;
- The Constabulary response; and
- PVE and the future.

Arising from the presentation the following comments were noted:-

- That the importance of communities in encouraging enforcement of extremism is crucial to the success of preventing violent extremism in the community;
- Violent extremism affected all cultures and communities;
- The importance of community intelligence to help address this issue was noted;
- It was suggested that Partnership Members would benefit from reading a copy of the Government Strategy relating to protecting individuals;
- In order to engage with local communities on this issue it was important to ensure the message was delivered locally by appropriate agencies; and
- It was important for the Constabulary to educate the members of the Committee, as they were the ones who are in the best position to enforce the strategy within the communities.

RESOVLED: That

- (1) the presentation be received; and
- (2) DCI Taylor be thanked for his informative presentation.

SHP16 PRESENTATION - MISCHIEF NIGHT

The Partnership received a presentation regarding Mischief Night (30th October 2008), given by Simon Blackwell which:-

- Outlined the partnership work and planning that had taken place to address the issues in Widnes on Mischief Night;
- Set out the Seasonal Action Plan and Operation Pistachio which had taken three months to plan and included three action strands, prevention, enforcement and post incident/evaluation;
- Explained the analysis of last year's data on the four wards, Ditton, Hough Green, Kingsway and Riverside;
- Outlined the linkages with Cheshire Fire Service;
- Highlighted the activities within the three action strands;
- Explained the innovation high visibility patrolling that had taken place which had been co-ordinated and targeted hot spot areas;
- Showed photographs of the briefing session at the beginning of the evening (4 pm);
- Outlined the communications and marketing campaign and the use of bluetooth text messaging;
- Set out and explained the initial evaluation results and the crime figures for the night, Halloween which highlighted a reduction in the number of calls to the fire service in Widnes;
- Detailed the lessons learned and follow up actions that would be taken; and
- Played a video of the BBC overview on the operation.

During the discussion after the presentation, the Partnership requested that a report be presented to the next meeting giving a detailed evaluation of the operation.

Clarity was sought on any geographical displacement of youths as a result of the operation. In response, it was reported that there had been no major increase and a data analysis was being undertaken on this issue to ensure that the Authority had evidence of this.

It was also reported that there had been a further positive video from the BBC after the event and it was

suggested that the two videos should be used to promote the success of the evening.

The Chairman thanked Simon Blackwell for his presentation and thanked all those involved in the 'Mischief Night' operation.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the presentation be received;
- (2) a report detailing the evaluation of the operation be presented to the next meeting of the Board.

SHP17 TASK GROUP UPDATES

The Task Groups provided updates for the 2nd Quarter which were circulated and taken as read, the following items in particular were noted:

Alcohol

- It was noted that David Parr would lead in the discussions across St Helens, Halton and Warrington LA's and Halton and St Helens and Warrington PCTs about combining resources for adult drug and alcohol treatment services and going out to market with one invitation to tender for these services.
- The importance of parental responsibility was discussed and it was suggested that the strategy could encourage parents and grandparents to take responsibility for their children/grandchildren. It was also suggested that young people should be included in the discussions on this issue; and
- Concern was raised that the report did not include data on the increase of crime as a result of alcohol or the emerging issues. It was noted that the Enforcement Group's Action Plan addressed issues relating to alcohol and a bid had been submitted to fund the Plan. It was agreed that progress on the action plans would be brought back to the next meeting.

Anti Social Behaviour

- It was reported that initial meetings for the three

year Pilot Project would take place in the near future;

- The positive impact the On Streets Project in Hough Green had in the community was noted. It was suggested that funding be identified to roll this project out over the Borough;
- It was noted how successful the Kooldown Plus Programme had been. It was also noted that the funding for this ended on 31st March 2009 and it was suggested that serious consideration be given to identifying funding for this programme to continue; and
- The Partnership took the opportunity to thank everyone who had been involved in the Anti Social Behaviour Conference on 3rd November 2008.

Current and Repeat Crime

- DCI Blackwell advised that pages 15 to 56 were not intended for this meeting and were inserted in error; and
- The enormous impact the dedicated Drugs Team work operations was noted.

Domestic Abuse

- The link between domestic violence and alcohol was noted. It was also noted that funding restricted the activities in relation to preventative measures;
- Concern was raised re the number of repeated offenders in respect of domestic violence and it was acknowledged that 43% of domestic violence was related to alcohol; and
- Clarity was sought on the waiting time for the Sanctuary Scheme. In response, it was reported that it was a very quick response.

Engagement and Liveability

- Concern was raised in relation to the fear and perception of crime in the older generation. It was reported that some properties in the Borough were not secure i.e. broken fences and it was

suggested that this issue would need to be raised with the Housing Association. In response it was reported that consultation on 'Assessing the Need' was taking place would be completed in March/April 2009. The findings would be presented to the Executive Board and Council and an update would be given to the Partnership in March when the consultation had been completed.

Drugs

- The Tender for the new drug service had been halted as the PCT were undertaking internal Budgeting and had provided some funding for a combined alcohol and drug service.

Neighbourhood Management

- 'Your guide to a Safer Community' leaflets for Castlefields and Windmill Hill were circulated at the meeting.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the reports be noted.; and
- (2) on completion of the consultation on 'Assessing the Need' a report be presented to the Board on the findings.

SHP18 WNF COMMISSIONING AND LAA PROCESS

The Partnership considered a report that provided members with an update on the Working Neighbourhoods Fund Commissioning Pot and work being undertaken for monitoring the Local Area Agreement.

Arising from the discussion the following comments were noted:-

- That the Complementary Anti-social Behaviour Reduction Projects incorporated the whole of the Halton area;
- That more detailed action plans would be available next year and the details relating to anti social behaviour would be circulated when available; and
- It was suggested that at the next meeting the

Partnership receive a presentation on the Strategic Priority proposals relating to alcohol and what to expect over the next few years.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the report and comments raised be noted;
- (2) The Strategic Priority Proposals relating to alcohol be presented to the next meeting of the Partnership; and
- (3) Detailed action plans be presented to the Partnership next year.

SHP19 PCSO'S ISSUING FIXED PENALTY NOTICES

The Partnership received a report that advised the members of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 which provided Local Authorities with new powers to clamp down on environment crime, such as abandoned vehicles, fly tipping and litter. The Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs), in particular was seen as an integral aspect of the Council's measures to reduce environmental crime where education and encouragement measures had failed.

The Partnership was advised that Safer Halton Partnership Police Inspector and officers from the Council's Environment Directorate had been working closely in recent months and agreement that Police Community Support Officers (PCSO's) be authorised to issue Fixed Penalty Notices (littering and dog fouling) had now been reached. A Protocol between the Council and Cheshire Police had been agreed as attached as Appendix 1.

The agreement between the Police and the Council would significantly increase the number of authorised officers throughout the borough and would strengthen further the current partnership working in tackling environmental crime and anti-social behaviour.

The Partnership noted that the public would be made aware of the Fixed Penalty Notices via the media and the Council Magazine 'Inside Halton'.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

SHP20 MID TERM REVIEW OF SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGIES FOR HALTON 2025

The Partnership considered a report regarding the Mid Term Review of the Sustainable Community Strategy for Halton 2025.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report and the need for a mid term review of the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) be noted;
- (2) in order to comply with statutory guidance that the vision for a safer, stronger and more attractive neighbourhoods for Halton for 2025 be set out;
- (3) the Safer Halton Section ensure that where appropriate, a review of targets and narratives take place and that these are updated on a regular basis; and
- (4) for each of the LAA/SCS targets, an Action/Delivery plan be developed setting out how the Council and its partners will deliver the targets and outcomes in both the LAA and SCS (or cross referencing an existing strategy)

SHP21 LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT

The Partnership considered a report concerning the Local Area Agreements (LAA).

The Partnership was advised that the LAA and their targets were currently be refreshed. The Timetable was set out in Appendix One to the report and in February 2009 the Secretary of State CLG would need to approve the refreshed LAAs for commencement on 1st April 2009.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

SHP22 NEIGHBOURHOOD CRIME AND JUSTICE ADVISOR UPDATE

RESOLVED: That the update be noted.

SHP23 FACE THE PEOPLE SESSION

The Partnership agreed the proposal to merge the Police Forum meeting on 28th January 2009 at 7 pm in Kingsway Learning Centre with the Pilot Face to Face meeting. It was agreed that the public would be informed of the meeting and the Authority would liaise with Gary Finchett and that the new Chief Constable be asked to attend.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the information items be noted; and
- (2) The Police Forum meeting on 28 January 2009 at 7 pm in Kingsway Learning Centre be extended to incorporate the Pilot Face to Face.

SHP24 YOUTH CRIME ACTION PLAN FUNDING

The Partnership considered a report which gave Members information on the Youth Crime Action Plan.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

SHP25 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Partnership raised concern at the pending credit crunch and the impact it could have on the Borough in particular, people borrowing money from 'loan sharks'. The ongoing activities taking place to address the issues relating to 'loan sharks' was noted. After considerable discussion, it was agreed that the Partnership would consider this in more detail at a later date.

SHP26 MR DAVE WILLIAMS

The Chairman reported that Dave Williams would shortly be leaving the Authority and he paid tribute to the work with Halton, and in particular his contribution to the Partnership.

RESOLVED: That the Partnership place on record its thanks to Mr Williams and extend its best wishes for his future career.

Meeting ended at 4.15 p.m.