

COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP - EXECUTIVE GROUP

Wednesday 21 October 2015

Present:-

Superintendent Keith Perkin	- Devon & Cornwall Constabulary
Nigel Deasy	- Devon & Somerset Fire and Rescue Service
Councillor Peter Edwards	- Exeter City Council
Simon Lane	- Exeter City Council
Robert Norley	- Exeter City Council
Melinda Pogue-Jackson	- Exeter City Council
County Councillor P Prowse	- Devon County Councillor
Lisa Rutter	- Devon Youth Service - Exeter, East & Mid Devon
Mike Hamilton	- Community Rehabilitation Company
Simon Dallas	- RD&E NHS Foundation Trust
Jo Quinnell	- Exeter City Council

Apologies:-

Karime Hassan	- Exeter City Council
Simon Bowkett	- Exeter CVS
Nicola Channon	- Safer Devon Partnership
Steve Jones	- Youth Offending Service
Simon Perkins	- Probation
Richard Clarke	- RD&E NHS Foundation Trust
Gill Unstead	- Public Health Devon
Denise Dearden	- Trading Standards

30

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING - 22 JULY 2015

The minutes of the last meeting held on 22 July 2015 were agreed.

Minute No. 19 – Legacy Leisure Project with offenders

Mike Hamilton reported that stakeholders he had contacted were not aware of the compulsory element of the project, but were of the view that it cannot be compulsory to attend as part of release conditions. The principle of the project was sound, but enforcing it would be problematic. He would continue to chase.

Minute No. 21 – Victim Support representation

Melinda Pogue-Jackson had reported back to Victim Support on the outcome of discussions at the previous meeting following a request to sit on the CSP Executive Group.

31

CSP WEBPAGE REFRESH - KEITH PERKIN

Simon Lane reported that discussions had been held with Rebecca Weale regarding the CSP webpage refresh. Work was in progress and was also being interlinked with the Exeter City Council website overhaul. Good examples of other CSP webpages were being looked at as a point of reference and links to other agencies would be included.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE OPTIONS - ROBERT NORLEY/MELINDA POGUE JACKSON

A meeting had taken place between Robert Norley, Melinda Pogue-Jackson and Dawn Rivers, the Council's Community Involvement & Inclusion Officer to explore various options for an annual conference.

Discussions had been held around the objective, target audience and the merits of different models to raise the profile and to add value.

It was proposed that a programme of targeted presentations can be provided tailored to specific organisations.

In addition, articles could be placed in the Citizen which is distributed to all households in Exeter. In the November edition, an article will be included on the Public Spaces Protection Order which will give a summary and a link to the public consultation. There is also a role for elected representatives to promote the work of the Partnership.

Lisa Rutter requested that young people also have a voice and would welcome feedback on how they feel the Partnership is doing. Melinda also referred to other hard to reach groups such as BME, disabled and older people who should also be engaged with.

This option will have no costs other than officer time.

Agreed that Robert Norley will draw up a draft plan. This will be circulated prior to the next meeting for contribution/comments.

COMMUNITY REHABILITATION COMPANY UPDATE - MIKE HAMILTON

Mike Hamilton reported that the Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC) had been in place since June 2014 and had been split into the National Probation Service (NPS) and the CRC. They currently occupy a split site at Barnfield Road. As of 31 December the CRC lease expires and will not be extended. The CRC will no longer have entry into the NPS building, except as a visitor and they will not be able to meet with offenders in the annexe.

Although the first phase of the new health and wellbeing hub at Wat Tyler House had been completed, the new CRC accommodation would be part of the second phase along with the Clock Tower Surgery. Negotiations had taken place and partial accommodation would be available in the completed part of Wat Tyler House. They will also be split between Queens House and Brittany House. The IOM Team would be moving to Brittany House. Meetings cannot be held with offenders at Queens House.

An assessment and induction team will be set up to enable the Courts and NPS to direct clients. This team will be placed in Wat Tyler House when Phase 2 is completed in April 2016.

There is pressure not to recall due to tight financial targets, but they were continuing as they had done in the past.

Offenders that have served over one day are subject to post sentence supervision for 12 months to catch the revolving door, as often employment and accommodation was lost. In terms of enforcement, if appointments are not kept individuals are taken back to court.

MODERN SLAVERY

Robert Norley, Councillor Edwards and Melinda Pogue-Jackson attended the Modern Slavery conference at Sandy Park in September. A wide range of organisations attended from across Devon.

Modern slavery is a hidden crime and there is no typical victim. Victims are controlled and often isolated which makes it difficult for people to spot the signs. They are often working for low pay which is tied in with accommodation.

Modern slavery comes in many different formats and in areas not necessarily obvious. It can include victims from overseas, and also vulnerable people in the UK being forced to illegally work against their will in many different sectors. This can include nail bars, car washes and can be found in rural areas such as picking crops where the premises may not be visited often by agencies.

Often individuals are unsure of their status within the country, are afraid of authority and therefore do not look to the police as an organisation to go to for help due to the fear factor. Gangmasters use fear and hope to control people.

A multi-force strategy was being trialled in Bristol.

Environmental Health and Licensing are working with regulatory personnel using health and safety inspections, and housing inspections can also be used in this way.

Awareness raising will take place on how its own officers and other organisations can identify signs and what questions to ask if suspicions are raised, as well as how to escalate and what can be done in conjunction with other agencies. Other organisations such as the Fire & Rescue Service also have powers that can be used.

Simon added that monthly intelligence meetings take place which includes the Police, Border Agency and Trading Standards. There is an escalation route through the adults safeguarding referral mechanism. He would obtain more information to circulate and would provide regular updates.

Councillor Edwards advised that he had requested the Corporate Manager Legal look into producing a policy on agency workers. Melinda is also incorporating Modern Slavery into the Council's safeguarding policy and procedures.

The lead for the Community Safety Partnership on modern slavery would come from the Safer Devon Partnership which was examining local profiles and had released a document for comment and feedback.

UPDATES FROM TASKING GROUPS

35a **Reoffending - Keith Perkin**

This had been covered as part of the CRC update earlier in the meeting.

35b **Domestic Family & Sexual Abuse - Melinda Pogue-Jackson**

Melinda Pogue-Jackson reported on the Action Plan that was circulated with the agenda.

A leaflet of events and actions during the 16 days of action would be distributed across the city.

A workshop was held on 9 October which involved organisations who work with children and young people. The key points that came from this meeting are being drafted and will be circulated when finalised.

One of the key actions was to set up a webpage to include a directory of services and to raise awareness of events taking place. This will also include a link to the CSP website.

Working with victims takes a long time and some services only work with individuals for six weeks. However, there is a need to look at the lifetime of a child and to engage with services from nursery to college and working with the family.

Lisa Rutter advised that within Devon there are two different groups, a vulnerable young persons panel and CSE panel. They would be re-launching in November and Lisa would be chairing the group. There would be more emphasis on assessment of risk, prevention and disruption and looking at what agencies can do and mapping supported by police analysis. She would welcome an opportunity to talk about these groups at the meeting in January.

Reference was made to Freshers Week. Statistics show that sexual assault/violence was down by 57%. However, the Devon Rape Crisis figures had shown an increase.

Reference was also made to the figures in the action plan relating to young victims and offenders. A lot of the data related to historical incidents from the 1970/80s. However, Lisa felt that the figures had not changed dramatically, so there was still a need to drive forward to get better and have better reporting mechanisms. The support had improved, but not prosecutions. Third party reporting was used more than reports to the Police.

Organisations should contact Melinda if they wished to have a supply of the 16 days of action leaflets. An electronic version will also be available - www.16daysexeter.wordpress.com

35c Anti-Social Behaviour - Robert Norley

Robert Norley reported that the Anti-Social Behaviour Action Team (ASBAT) and City Centre Issues Group were now held back to back as there was an amount of overlap on issues and there is a core group of officers who attend for both meetings. There had been an improvement in housing association engagement.

The ASBAT meetings focused on specific individuals with multi-agency intervention.

Legal Highs

A number of issues had been raised in both groups including working to restrict the sale of legal highs. One shop had been closed down and another had been persuaded to stop selling. However, it is still legal to buy and there is a myriad of ways for people to obtain them. Conditions had been placed on licences for sex establishments and street sellers that they cannot sell legal highs. One consequence of closing shops is that it was forcing the sale underground. However, it has stopped the anti-social behaviour which was taking place in South Street.

The City has also seen an increase in a pure strain of heroin which is 60% pure and has resulted in overdoses.

Legal highs were now being sold to look like illegal drugs in small packaging. Agencies had identified seven prolific users/dealers who would be targeted. There was some evidence of firms from larger cities who see Exeter as a good place to sell and target vulnerable people.

Government legislation in relation to legal highs was not likely until April 2016.

There has been no record of deaths through legal highs, but there have been deaths where there has been a mix with illegal substances. The increase in the use of legal highs does not sit alongside a reduction in illegal substances. Often users will take legal highs when they are subject to testing.

Community Trigger

The Community Trigger is a process that can be used to ask agencies to review their response to anti-social behaviour incidents that has been reported by an individual. The first case was heard recently. Evidence will be requested from the complainant and a review of actions from different agencies involved will be considered. If the matter is not resolved through this process, it will be referred to the PCC.

Graffiti

Simon Lane reported that there had been an increase in graffiti in recent months and active operations had been taking place. A number of arrests have been made and evidence is now being gathered for court cases to include costs of cleaning and community impact.

The Council is working in partnership with Crimestoppers and offering a cash reward for information leading to an arrest. Simon circulated some posters that illustrated different tags for identification which will shortly be released to the media.

The Partnership welcomed the positive action being taken.

Flyposting

The Council takes a zero tolerance approach to flyposting. Three businesses had been issued with warnings, one of which had received a fixed penalty notice on two occasions. These payments have been placed back into the Community Safety funds. Fixed penalty notices will continue to be issued to a point, but if it continues the licence can be reviewed.

35d Alcohol, Violence and the Night Time Economy - Robert Norley

Robert Norley reported on the action plan which had been circulated with the agenda.

The Best Bar None Scheme had been successful due to the willingness of its members and the proactive approach the traders had taken. This was integral to gain Purple Flag status.

The Britain Thinks Project would be looking at how the perception of the evening and night time economy can be changed and why that perception is there, which is also amongst users. The Group is supported by the Portman Group, the responsible body for drinks producers in the UK.

The Team will put together recommendations to EVANTE following research and consultation.

The Club Hosts pilot scheme was centered around two venues in Exeter to look after the welfare of patrons, including sexual assault and drugs. This is a six month pilot to see if it has a positive impact. Drinkaware is funding the scheme.

35e Vulnerability/Cyber Crime - Denise Dearden

As Denise was unable to attend the meeting, no update was available at this time.

36 FUNDING MONITORING - SIMON LANE

The funding monitoring report was circulated with the agenda.

It was noted that the BID and the University had made a contribution towards the hiring of street urinals.

The mobile CCTV had an ongoing deployment cost which was vital for the ASBAT.

Any bids for funding would be welcomed.

37 CRIME FIGURES - KEITH PERKIN

Keith Perkin reported that overall crime had seen a reduction of 9.3% Victim based crime was down by 11.2% and domestic abuse crimes down by 7.7%. Vehicle and inquisitive crime had also seen a reduction. There had been an increase in sex offences.

38 SAFER DEVON PARTNERSHIP - NICOLA CHANNON

As Nicola was unable to attend the meeting, no update was available at this time.

39 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

RD&E NHS Foundation Trust

Simon Dallas enquired what the RD&E could bring to the meeting.

The Group considered that it was important to have representation from the Trust due to the links with alcohol and violence, the Helpzone and harm reduction with alcohol and drug misuse. The RD&E do record data on ARID (a data sharing programme) in relation to alcohol and violence which can be linked back to the last place individuals were drinking at. Environmental Health receive this information on a monthly basis. Health services can also now object to licences.

Simon reported that they had recruited a violence reduction nurse for two years who would be based at the RD&E. It was agreed that they would be invited to attend the next meeting.

CSP Merger

Keith Perkin reported that the suggestion of joining the Exeter, East and Mid Devon Community Safety Partnerships had been raised – he sits on both partnerships.

Members felt that although there may be some potential benefits in merging, the issues being tackled are different in rural and urban areas and would be best to remain as separate groups with the Safer Devon Partnership as the umbrella organisation. Keith Perkin would feed this back.

New Post

Keith Perkin reported that he had been posted as the Head of Public Protection Unit which oversees work relating to dangerous sex offenders, child abuse and adults at risk.

Superintendent Sam de Reya who is currently the Head of Professional Standards Unit would be taking over Keith's current role.

Keith thanked members of the Partnership for their support during his time as Chair. Members thanked Keith Perkin for his valued contribution.

(The meeting commenced at 9.30 am and closed at 11.30 am)