

COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP - EXECUTIVE GROUP

Wednesday 29 April 2015

Present:-

Superintendent Keith Perkin	- Devon & Cornwall Constabulary
Karime Hassan	- Exeter City Council
Councillor Peter Edwards	- Exeter City Council
Steve Jones	- Youth Offending Service
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
Simon Lane	- Exeter City Council
Nigel Deasy	- Devon & Somerset Fire and Rescue Service
Karen Mandefield	- Devon & Cornwall Police
Mike Hamilton	- Community Rehabilitation Company
Caroline Rae	- Safer Devon Partnership
Gill Unstead	- Public Health Devon
Jo Quinnell	- Exeter City Council

Apologies:-

Nicola Channon	- Safer Devon Partnership
Simon Perkins	- Probation

7 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING - 21 JANUARY 2015

The minutes of the last meeting held on 21 January 2015 were agreed.

8 REVISED TERMS OF REFERENCE

The draft revised Terms of Reference had been circulated with the agenda and the following changes were proposed:

- The Domestic Violence & Sexual Abuse Operational Group was not chaired by a member of the Executive and therefore suggested that the wording under Operational Groups would change to read 'Each group will be chaired by a member of the Executive or a representative nominated by this Group'.
- The DAAT would be renamed Public Health Devon.
- Although victims were mentioned in the Communications Strategy this was not reflected in the Terms of Reference. This would be included.

Subject to these changes, the Group agreed the terms of reference.

9 CRIMESTOPPERS PRESENTATION

The Group welcomed Mike Fowkes and Paul Elliott to the meeting.

Crimestoppers would like to introduce its Ambassadors Programme as a pilot in the Exeter area, and if successful, to extend it across Devon and Cornwall.

A presentation was given on Crimestoppers and how it works.

An update on the data was provided - since 31 August 2014 2,227 calls had been received, of which 1,797 had resulted in actionable information. 229 of these had positive action resulting in 162 arrests.

The range of Crimestoppers campaigns was discussed. Fearless.org was a youth campaign aimed at 11-18 year olds.

The Ambassadors Programme had 600 volunteers, 25 of which are from Devon and Cornwall. However, where the programme had been introduced in Essex, there are now 600 ambassadors in that area alone.

15-20% of people who want to report a crime are encouraged to call the Police as they are not an alternative to the Police 101 service.

They would like to link into organisations which, as part of their day job, may deal with victims of crime or are affected by crime. This will involve one point of contact who will be the link for that organisation. Following an initial meeting to discuss, there will be limited work, possibly to send emails, put up posters etc.

Reference was also made to networks of housing associations and also borders.com which was a community messaging service that may be a useful tool.

Leaflets were available in other languages and Crimestoppers also subscribe to Language Line.

A question was raised as to how malicious calls are filtered out. It was noted that when information is passed to the Police, it is put through a process of intelligence grading which can lead to further investigations.

The unique selling point is that Crimestoppers is 100% anonymous as some people do have a lack of trust in the police and also do not want to be traced.

Crimestoppers are also looking for more volunteers and people to join the committee.

The Chair referred to the Proceeds of Crime Act Fund and that he would be happy to commit some funding to this worthwhile charity.

Karime Hassan would welcome a presentation from Crimestoppers to a managers meeting and to meet front line services. Messages can also be sent via Twitter and Facebook as a number of staff have accounts.

Agreed that Members of the Group identify an officer within their organisation as an initial contact for Crimestoppers and send an email to Mike Fowkes.

The Group thanked Mike and Paul for their informative presentation.

The Communications Plan 2015/16 was noted.

Awareness needed to be raised amongst communities. There needed to be a re-focus and promote and review awareness.

Simon Lane reported that there is a Community Safety Partnership twitter account.

Discussion was held around whether to concentrate on the branding of the CSP as there had been little communication around who the CSP is and what it represents.

Concern was expressed that the Police and Exeter City Council have a strong representation as main initiatives are led by them, but it should be noted that other agencies have a valuable contribution to make.

The Chair had met with a reporter at the Express & Echo who was willing to do an article around the CSP and to focus on particular initiatives.

A webpage is hosted on the City Council's website, and this needed to be refreshed and made more accessible. Consideration needed to be given to raise the profile, possibly with a link on the front page. It was also suggested that a standard phrase could be used at the bottom of emails etc... 'Working in partnership with the Exeter Community Safety Partnership' and to include a direct link to the webpage.

Reference was made to the East and Mid Devon model where an annual event is held to raise the profile. Various agencies contribute to the agenda. A similar event could be held in Exeter in the future.

Agreed that:

- (1) Karen Mandefield and Simon Lane would meet to look at a refresh of the webpage.
- (2) Karen to produce a separate plan on how the website works as an annex to the Communications Plan
- (3) The Chair to coordinate with the Express and Echo to raise the profile of the CSP including priority areas
- (4) The minutes would be made publicly available.

11 **USE OF SECTION 136 MENTAL HEALTH ACT IN DEVON AND CORNWALL**

A letter from the Police and Crime Commissioner on the use of the Section 136 Mental Health Act in Devon and Cornwall was circulated with the agenda which highlighted a drive to reduce the number of detentions.

Gill Unstead advised that she was a member of the group that is overseeing the development of the protocol and a meeting was held earlier this month. Although the protocol has not been completely signed off force-wide, they were working to the protocol while negotiations are ongoing. Places of safety were now available in Plymouth, Torbay and Exeter, and the number of detentions had started reducing quite significantly.

A&E was not the right place for someone who is mentally unwell as it is a chaotic environment. The diversion scheme would spread across the whole peninsula with mental health workers in custody suites.

Access to data helps with better informed working to enable partners to work more closely together and in a timely manner.

Symptoms can present as a result of substance misuse.

Individuals can still be detained under the Mental Health Act but this will reduce the amount of time they are placed in a police cell, where they will be moved to Wonford for assessment. Most offer 24/7 care with a specialist mental health worker.

This change was not due to a reduction in office officer numbers but was about providing a better service to vulnerable people. This is a Home Office Directive and the statutory duty sits with a variety of organisations. Monthly meetings take place with all commissioners of the service .

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UPDATES FROM TASKING GROUPS

12a Reoffending - Keith Perkin

The Chair circulated a report on the Reoffending Group. It was suggested that the Reoffending Group would be taken on a theme by theme basis.

This operational group would form close links with domestic violence advocates. Good data is being received around repeat victims and perpetrators particularly around domestic abuse.

The Turnaround team are working with the Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC) and Police and target enforcement around more prolific acquisitive crime such as burglary and vehicle crime.

One of the proposed priority areas is sexual offending as there had been an increasing trend. Data showed that 46% of victims of rape and 53% of victims of other sexual offences are under 18 years of age. However, there is not the same comparison with under 18 offenders which might be expected – other sexual offences is recorded at 20% and rape is 5.7% for under 18 years of age offenders. There is a need for further analysis on these figures.

The other priority area will be mental health. Some analysis needs to be done around what offences are being committed, and whether they are linked to legal highs. There had been an increase in anti-social behaviour for people with mental health issues.

Steve Jones reported that the Youth Offending Service deal with very few sexual offenders. There was the potential for mental health issues to be confused with substance misuse and to get offenders to stop using to carry out an assessment in order to identify whether the issue is related to drugs is quite difficult.

Lisa Rutter advised that there was a public health tender for early health including emotional health and they would be looking to involve schools to be more alert and ready. It may be useful to bring the successful tender in to discussions when the results of the tender are known.

The Reach Team would also be focussing on raising awareness of sexual exploitation in Exeter schools so may be useful to have a link.

Agreed that:

- (1) The Chair and Melinda Pogue-Jackson meet to see how issues around sexual offending can be moved forward;
- (2) The Chair to meet with Gill Unstead, Mike Hamilton, Steve Jones, Tim Francis of the CCG and Maddie Mills, the mental health trained social worker, to discuss issues around mental health.

12b **Domestic Family & Sexual Abuse - Melinda Pogue-Jackson**

Melinda Pogue-Jackson reported that the Forum Planning Group was working on its Action Plan. This will largely be made up of awareness raising and will concentrate on events taking place in the city, such as Domestic Awareness Week, 16 days of Action, Action Against Woman, International Womens Day and Reclaim the Night.

A Forum meeting was scheduled for 14 May which will be themed around sexual violence.

Agreed that the Action Plan would be presented to this meeting when finalised and also the Health and Wellbeing Board.

12c **Anti-Social Behaviour - Bob Norley**

The Anti-Social Behaviour Action Team (ASBAT) would consolidate with the City Centre Issues Group as there is some overlap. The new Terms of Reference would be presented to the May meeting.

Bob Norley reported that:

- Greater links will be formed with the Troubled Family agenda and the Devon-wide National Probation Service group.
- Consideration is being given to the new anti-social behaviour tools following new legislation last Autumn.
- Community Protection Notices is one of the new tools that can be used which can require a change of behaviour from an individual. Work is needed in conjunction with the Police to identify community triggers and the mechanism required to advance a case.
- The Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) is a powerful tool which had been introduced by some local authorities to control anti-social behaviour within the public arena, such as consumption of alcohol and intoxicants.

Other local authorities had been criticised for using PSPOs for issues such as skateboarding and feeding birds, but it should be focussed on issues causing anti-social behaviour, harm and distress. The PSPO needs to be evidence based and it was anticipated that it would be considered at the Council's Executive in July.

The clearing of cardboard and other paraphernalia associated with rough sleeping and encampments could be included in the PSPO.

Consideration was being given to a PSPO for the encampment at Bonhay Road as there had been issues with discarded hyperdermics and begging.

- Portable toilets had been trialled on Builders Friday which had proved quite effective, alongside enforcement.
- The Police had been effective at tackling begging so this was not a high priority for the Group at present.

- Approval had been given to place two sharps disposal bins in hotspots in the city centre following positive evidence from other areas that they had worked well. They would be installed in May.

The Group welcomed the initiatives taking place.

In addition, Gill Unstead reported that Public Health Devon had received some funding through the Safer Devon Partnership last year which had funded a Criminal Justice Worker. This year's funding would change the way in which their work was focussed and would provide additional capacity by way of another worker to work with entrenched drinkers/rough sleepers to try to encourage them to take up the offer of treatment to meet their needs better where they would not normally use the usual referral process.

A discussion was held on homelessness and rough sleeping. Individuals gravitated to Exeter where there was greater support, although there were a number of individuals who prefer not to take up any offer of assistance. There was no easy or one-agency solution to the problem and it was a much wider issue than the Community Safety Partnership.

12d **Alcohol, Violence and the Night Time Economy (EVANTE) - Bob Norley**

Bob Norley reported that the EVANTE Group is refreshing its action plan, and updated the Group on the following initiatives:

- Reference was made to questions raised at the Exeter Board meeting earlier in the week regarding disturbance caused to residents by students, particularly during freshers week last year.

Work would be undertaken with the University, EVANTE and the licensed trade, and a pilot scheme covering the city centre and transient routes would be put in place before the end of term so that measures will be in place by freshers week this year. The Chair reported that he had written to three premises with concerns how the premises were managed last year. A University strategy would be put in place and a joint letter would be sent to all licensed premises in the city centre. It was suggested that a copy be sent to councillors and community organisations to reassure and advise what actions are being taken.

- The Help Zone set up last year as a multi-agency hub had commenced again in February. South West Ambulance, St Johns Ambulance and Street Pastors were present at the hub. The Security Industry Authority (SIA) had replaced police presence, but it was noted that some police reassurance had been pledged, but this had not taken place as agreed. The Chair would follow this up.
- A street marshalling scheme was in place where door supervisors will have a presence in the street after the premises close. Each premises in the city centre closes within half an hour of each other and will provide a street marshall for 30 minutes after close so there is a relay after each closure. This links with the Best Bar None scheme where premises are independently accredited to show good management principles. 40 premises had now signed up to the scheme, which had exceeded the target of 25.

- Further investigations would take place on the use of breathalysers on entry by door staff as part of the RU2drunk campaign, which had proved successful in other areas.
- Taxi monitoring would be extended beyond Saturday nights to Sundays and Bank Holidays and also during freshers week. The trade funds the taxi marshalls. The provision of taxi ranks close to the city centre would be established in due course which will assist with egress from the city centre.
- The Licensing Committee approved taxi derestriction in March. As a result, an enhanced set of quality controls will be introduced, including vehicles to have a distinctive uniform colour scheme. From 2017 all taxis will be fitted with in-cab CCTV to protect both passenger and driver.
- The Licensing Committee had also approved the new Licensing Policy which was more comprehensive and a better tool for regulating licensed premises to create a vibrant night time economy.

The Group welcomed the proactive role of the trade.

Agreed that:

- (1) A copy of the letter to licensed premises regarding freshers week is sent to city councillors and community organisations; and
- (2) The Chair to follow up police presence at the Help Zone.

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FINANCE UPDATE

Simon Lane reported that the 2014/15 budget had mostly been allocated.

Just over £10,000 had been spent on specific anti-social behaviour projects including community payback schemes and Best Bar None.

A funding request form had been developed.

The Chair suggested that as he had committed to fund Crimestoppers from the Proceeds of Crime Act, whether the CSP would be willing to match fund.

Agreed that the CSP match fund £300 to Crimestoppers.

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CRIME FIGURES

The Chair reported that last year saw a 9.5% reduction in crime, with a further reduction of 5% this year in Exeter.

There had been an increase in possession of an offensive weapon, but these were small numbers with less than 1% of the total crime in the city, and were often related to individuals who were not local.

Violence with injury was stable, and they were not seeing any increase in the use of weapons, although this may be as a result of it not being reported to the Police.

Shoplifting figures had reduced.

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SAFER DEVON PARTNERSHIP - NICOLA CHANNON

Caroline Rae reported that a Safer Devon Partnership Board meeting was scheduled for 20 May. Child Sexual Exploitation, UK Border Agency, cyber crime and domestic homicide reviews were all part of the agenda.

Caroline welcomed any agenda items from this Partnership in future to form better links.

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ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

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DATE OF NEXT MEETING - WEDNESDAY 22 JULY AT 9.30AM

The date of the next meeting was noted.

(The meeting commenced at 9.30 am and closed at 12.05 pm)