

COVENTRY COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP
22nd January 2009

MINUTES

Present:

Chief Supt. Deb Harrod (Chair)	West Midlands Police (M2)
Bev Messinger	Acting Chief Executive, Coventry City Council
Councillor Andrew Williams	Cabinet Member (Neighbourhoods & Community Safety)
Sara Roach	Community Safety Team, Coventry City Council
Paul Hargrave	Community Safety Team, Coventry City Council
Mandie Watson	Community Safety Team, Coventry City Council
Karen Buttle	New Deal for Communities
Annie Steele	Swanswell Trust
Angie Parks	Youth Offending Services
Janice Nichols	Neighbourhood Management, Coventry City Council
Inspector Jo Floyd	Police Partnership Liaison Officer
Nigel Cavendish	GOWM
Tim Coleman	Coventry Partnership
Julie Bains	Community Drugs Team
Kam Sidhu	RSL Consortium
Simon Brake	Community Services, Coventry City Council
Simon Shilton	West Midlands Fire Service
Jill Ayres	Safeguarding Adults, Coventry City Council
Ric Richards	Federation of Small Businesses
Mark Nicholls	CV One
Tim Sayer	West Midlands Police Authority

Apologies:

Malcolm Emmerson	Connexions
Dawn Ford	Coventry Partnership
Alethea Fuller	West Midlands Police Authority
Alan Bennett	Public Protection, Coventry City Council
Chief Executive(s)	Coventry Teaching Primary Care Trust
Nigel Gumley	Crown Prosecution Service
Rob Allison	Voluntary Action Coventry
Cheryl Rosser	HM Courts
Chief Executives	Coventry Teaching Primary Care Trust
Malcolm Walls	Federation of Small Businesses
Lindsey Hunter	Federation of Small Businesses
Jocelyn Parry	Assistant Chief Exec., Coventry City Council
Andy Pepper	Children, Learning & Young People's Directorate
Sarah Chand	Probation Services

1. Welcome & Introduction

The Chair welcomed everybody to the meeting and apologies were accepted.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting & Matters Arising

Sara reported that she had received very few nominations for the National Intelligence Model (NIM) Training and it had been agreed that the funding should be used to support Door Staff Training as part of the work to improve licensing and reduce violent crime. However, Sara confirmed that she will contact those who had expressed an interest and arrange for them to attend a further Police-led briefing on NIM.

3. Crime Performance Update

Sara presented the quarter 3 crime performance update in relation to the crime Local Area Agreement Indicators.

The Partnership is not currently achieving target reductions for serious violence and serious acquisitive crime. However, the target is being significantly exceeded for assault with injury. Chief Supt. Harrod reported that 2008/09 was being seen as a baseline year for the serious violence target due to changes in definitions and therefore we need to understand the increases in this context. However, the Priority Crime Group is continuing to deliver the Violent Crime Action Plan and there is a range of work to reduce violence including strengthening the licensing process, Operation Phonetic, management of offenders, etc.

4. Substance Misuse Performance Update

Paul presented an update on the delivery of the partnership's substance misuse targets. Due to the way the information is collected and calculated there is a delay with performance data however, official data shows that in the 12 months to August 2008, 978 problem drug users had been in effective treatment. Local data suggests that as at the end of December 2008, 1,036 problem drug users had been in effective treatment since April 2008 which means that the Partnership targets have already been exceeded.

Julie confirmed that the Community Drugs Team had been far more proactive with their outreach work which had contributed to the increased numbers into treatment.

5. 2009/10 Drug Treatment Plan

Paul presented a summary of the Partnership's Treatment Plan. Sara agreed to send out e-mail copies of the plan (which were very large) because it was really important that all members of the CCSP had an understanding of the actions contained within the plan and could sign up to their agency delivering on those commitments. Paul informed the group that the plans had been discussed in detail and agreed by the Joint Commissioning Group on 20th January 2009.

Key areas of work for the forthcoming year include:

- Development of recovery/abstinence services
- Development of tier 2 services
- Increased numbers of problem drug users and non problem drug users into treatment (stretch targets to go into service provider contracts)
- Training for CDT staff

- Research on prevalence and gaining a better understand of Coventry's hidden population of drug users
- Communications
- Parent and carer work
- Work with Job Centre Plus to get more drug users into employment
- Social inclusion

The Treatment Plan had been submitted to the National Treatment Agency who will review it during January and meet with a range of officers from Coventry in February to feed back their comments. Following this meeting, the final plan will be submitted in March.

Action: Sara to e-mail copies of the Action Plan to all members of the partnership so that individual agencies can confirm their commitment to their respective actions.

6. Spending Plan 2009/10

Sara presented the 2009/10 Partnership spending plan which had been developed and agreed by the Partnership's Joint Commissioning Group. The update included information on both the Area Based Grant and the Local Performance Reward Grant.

Sara explained that due to reductions in funding and changing priorities a number of projects had been reduced or de-commissioned. These included Coventry & Warwickshire Community Safety Scheme (although a smaller more targeted service will go out to tender), Youth Offender Management Project, Community Empowerment Network and Intensive Surveillance & Supervision Programme.

Sara reported that the JCG will continue to monitor and manage the delivery of all commissioned activity to ensure that it is responding to partnership priorities, meeting targets and providing value for money.

7. Policing & Crime Bill

Sara provided a brief update on the Policing and Crime Bill that was introduced on 18th December 2008. A fuller briefing paper outlining the implications for the CCSP will be presented at the May meeting.

Chief Supt Harrod suggested that someone from the Police present at a future meeting the work that they are doing in order to reduce bureaucracy. The group thought this was a good idea and would allow them to consider broader implications of some of the changes.

Action: Chief Supt Harrod to identify a Police representative to provide a briefing on their work to reduce bureaucracy at a future meeting.

Action: Sara to produce a fuller briefing on the Bill regarding implications for the CCSP and present at the CCSP meeting in May.

8. Review of Offender Management & Delivery Structures

Inspector Floyd presented some proposals regarding the future of offender management and partnership delivery structures.

The development of the 2009/10 Partnership Strategic Assessment has prompted discussions regarding the existing partnership structures and in particular, whether they will be appropriate for the delivery of the Partnership Community Safety Plan and Strategic Assessment.

Inspector Floyd outlined revised proposals for roles and responsibilities of programme delivery groups, AIMS and Safer Neighbourhood Groups which did not significantly change what currently happens but would reduce the likelihood of duplication, provide a focus on planning, operational delivery and offender management.

Delivery of the Strategic Assessment takes place at a number of levels and creates three areas of work around the victim, offender and location. The victim and location work tends to happen within AIMS and Theme Groups and the offender work traditionally takes place at specific forums such as Shared Priorities Forum, MAPPA, MARAC, etc. What the structure doesn't have is offender management as a broad theme of work more generally.

The revised structures would ensure that theme groups respond to national indicators and strategic assessment priorities.

AIMS has been very reactive but needs to start to undertake more predictive planning.

Offender management needs to focus on offenders and not the offence which would allow a much more targeted and tailored approach to what we can offer offenders and the type of offenders the partnership can work with.

The development of a virtual integrated offender management system was discussed and it was generally agreed that this way of working would provide the partnership with a much more flexible and responsive approach. It would ensure that the right agencies and the right people were involved, providing the most appropriate support to the individual offenders.

Part 2 of SNGs would have a very focused case management role and a clear pathway into other offender management services if management at a local level was unsuccessful or the offending was escalating/changing.

Chief Supt Harrod expressed concern re. the current capacity/strength of Safer Neighbourhood Groups to deliver in this way and the capacity of Community Safety Officers. Inspector Floyd reassured the group that the proposal would merely strengthen what Safer Neighbourhood Groups Part 2 do already and provide them with a better understanding and clearer focus of who they should be managing and those they should be referring on and where they should be referred to.

Janice stressed the importance of not losing the value of Part One of SNGs and Sara confirmed that Part One will not fundamentally change, although the resource allocation, ie. additional patrols, positive activities, etc will take place at the fortnightly AIMS meetings and Community Safety Officers would attend AIMS meetings.

Chief Supt Harrod emphasised that Safer Neighbourhood Groups operated differently across the city and it was the role of CCSP members to make sure that their agencies were committed to the meetings and to enforce attendance.

The group supported the further development of the proposed structures and requested that an evaluation framework be put in place so that the partnership could monitor whether the revised structures were being effective.

Action: Inspector Floyd and Mandie Watson to liaise with Theme Groups and other delivery groups in order to take forward the changes and in addition, develop an evaluation framework to monitor the effectiveness of the changes.

9. Adults Safeguarding Board Annual Report

Jill Ayres provided a brief overview of the Annual Report for information. The group had not received a copy of the report with the papers and it was agreed that an electronic version would be sent out with the minutes of the meeting.

The Safeguarding Board had been set up as a result of the Government's No Secrets Guidance in 2000. Jill confirmed that new legislation will soon be introduced which will put adult safeguarding procedures on a statutory footing, similar to those introduced for children.

Jill emphasised that safeguarding is everyone's business and encouraged members of the partnership to review the annual report and understand their obligations in delivering this agenda.

Sara asked whether there was any CCSP representation on the Safeguarding Board. Jill confirmed that there wasn't but she would check whether she could formally invite a member of the group onto the board.

Councillor Williams declared a personal interest in this area.

Action: Jill to respond to Sara re. a CCSP representative to become a member of the Adults Safeguarding Board.

10. Update on the Strategic Assessment

Sara confirmed that the 2009/10 Partnership Strategic Assessment was being developed and there would be some consultation with partners over e-mail during February. The Strategic Assessment and the revised Community Safety Plan will be presented to the extraordinary meeting of the CCSP in March.

11. Community Empowerment Network

Rob Allison was unable to attend the meeting however a briefing note was provided.

Sara informed the group that CEN had commissioned MEL to deliver the remaining areas of work contained within the partnership contract which included strategic assessment focus groups, the production of an induction pack and process for residents on Safer Neighbourhood Groups and an evaluation of resident involvement.

12. Communications

Tim updated the Partnership on recent communications activity. Initial evaluation of the Xmas Elephant Campaign is looking positive. There is a range of information still to be collected and Tim asked the group to provide any information they may have that will contribute to the evaluation.

Tim is reviewing options for communications for the next 12 months in line with the Strategic Assessment and the predictive planning process.

13. Any Other Business

Mandie reported that the Safeguarding Children's Board had requested that the CCSP develop some work in relation to internet safety. The group agreed that this agenda was very important but also very broad. The two strands, prevention and enforcement required very different approaches and the enforcement strand was almost solely down to the Police. The group suggested that the Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership should develop a plan around the preventative work and identify where the CCSP can work jointly to deliver some of the actions.

Janice suggested that the CCSP could assist in relation to awareness raising and communications.

Mandie agreed to feed back the outcome of the discussion to the next meeting of the Children's Safeguarding Board.

Councillor Andrew Williams declared an interest in this area of work as he runs an IT Consultancy Business.

Chief Supt Harrod had been asked to facilitate a discussion at the CCSP regarding how the partnership are anticipating the impact of the current economic downturn and what we are doing to pre-empt community safety issues.

Action: All members of the partnership to consider this in readiness for a discussion at the March meeting.

Date of Next Meeting:

Date: 26th March 2009

Time: 10.00 – 12.00

Extraordinary meeting to approve Community Safety Plan & Partnership Strategic Assessment