

COVENTRY COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP
27th July 2007

MINUTES

Present:	Mark Taylor (Chair)	West Midlands Fire Service
	Stella Manzie	Chief Executive, Coventry City Council
	Alan Bennett	City Services, Coventry City Council
	Andy Bennett	Primary Care Trust
	Alethea Fuller	West Midlands Police Authority
	Andrea Clemons	Community Safety Team, Coventry City Council
	Andy Pepper	Youth Offending Service, Coventry City Council
	Brendan Connor	Police Authority
	Barry Eveleigh	Community Safety Team, Coventry City Council
	Brendan Connor	Police Authority
	Chief Supt Deborah Harrod	West Midlands Police (M2)
	Debbie Lynn	Connexions
	Eamon Lynch	Whitefriars Housing Group
	Janice Nichols	Neighbourhood Management, Coventry City Council
	June Morley	Coventry Partnership
	Karen Buttle	New Deal for Communities
	Leslie Sigston	Community Safety Team, Coventry City Council
	Linsey Hunter	Federation of Small Businesses
	Mark Tovey	GOWM
	Nick Kempton	Community Safety Team, Coventry City Council
	Nikki Murch	Community Safety Team, Coventry City Council
	Paul Wells	Community Drug Team
	Sara Roach	Coventry Partnership
	Sarah Chand	West Midlands Probation Services
	Denise Kellam (Minutes)	Community Safety Team, Coventry City Council

Apologies:	Alison Green	Coventry Courts
	Chief Supt Max Sahota	West Midlands Police (M1)
	Chief Supt Jon Hesketh	West Midlands Police (M3)
	Colin Merker	Primary Care Trust
	Inspector Mandy Mason	West Midlands Police
	John Curtis	Government Office
	John Brady	Mental Health
	Michael Emmerson	Connexions
	Paul Hargrave	Community Safety Team, Coventry City Council
	Rob Allison	Coventry Voluntary Services Council

1. Welcome & Apologies

Mark Taylor welcomed everybody to the meeting and introduced Leslie Sigston, the new 'Alcohol Harm Reduction Co-ordinator + Commissioner' who has joined the Community Safety Team.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting & Matters Arising

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record.

Matters Arising

Paul Hargrave has now produced and will shortly circulate the partnership's annual report.

The review of young people's substance misuse services is ongoing and an update will be presented at a future meeting.

3. Report on Progress against PSA1

Andrea presented the crime & disorder performance report for quarter one. Following comments at the last meeting, the structure and content of the report has changed significantly in order to provide the level and type of detail that is required to understand and challenge progress. The revised report attempts to identify and demonstrate more clearly the progress in relation to specific crime types and what action is being undertaken.

PSA1 is a 3-year partnership target that aims to reduce crime by 20% by March 2008, and future reporting will contain a representation of the current position against PSA1 and will also demonstrate whether or not the target will be achieved over the 3 year period. In addition, the report identifies progress across the 3 Neighbourhood Management areas.

The report will also include commentary on the different classifications of crime detailing sources of information, current and ongoing activity, proposed activity and also information from AIMS (Active Intelligence Mapping system). Future reports will also map the level of crimes in the 7 strategic areas.

The group were asked for their comments in relation to design, content, and level of detail contained in the report.

Stella emphasised projection is important with regards to understanding our overall performance against the 3-year target and the commentary is very helpful. It was agreed that actions should be more explicit with information re. lead officers and agencies. In addition, we should be able to distinguish between partnership activity and single agency mainstream work.

Brendan Cooper suggested that more work be done on the actual data used to ensure there was consistency across the Police/Police Authority/Partnership and to make sure we are using the same definitions.

Paul Wells suggested it would be useful for the commentary to include information relating to trends and seasonality of offending. The group agreed with this and suggested an appendix to the report would suffice as this information could be used to make future predictions and therefore act earlier.

Actions: Andrea Clemons, Brendan Cooper and Chief Inspector Debbie Harrod to further discuss the sources of data.

Andrea Clemons to consider all suggestions made by the group and present a further revised report at the next meeting.

Andrea informed the group of the need to protect older vehicles, and that identification through the AIMs process will be able to indicate the hot spots of this particular crime. The Community Safety Team will be looking at a crook lock initiative in order to address some of these issues.

Debbie reported that this time last year we had a 5 year low on the recording of crime, which is difficult to maintain. Quarter 1 was evidence of this, for example there was a high number of reported domestic burglaries, which may have been caused by the early release of prisoners, and she stressed the importance of good, timely information from prisons.

Stella stressed the importance of the Priority Crime Group (PCG) monitoring prolific and other Priority Offenders (PPO) to ensure we are doing everything possible to reduce this. Andrea informed the group that the Shared Priorities Group and Coventry Offender Management Group have robust mechanisms in place to track and work with PPOs and that this is regularly reviewed and strengthened.

Andy Pepper and Sara Roach have been looking at the links between the types of crime being committed by young people and how this relates to PSA1 crime. There are no different trends when comparing adult PPOs and young people PPOs.

Action plans are currently being produced by Safer Neighbourhood Groups, initially those in the strategic assessment areas, in order to ensure that a targeted programme of activity is happening in each of the areas. These will be included in future partnership performance reports.

Stella concluded that as a strategic body the partnership needs assurance and a clear understanding of what is being done to address issues/problems and hot spot areas and in particular what more needs to be done to ensure that we achieve overall targets.

It was agreed that the partnership will have regular detailed discussions in relation to performance and where necessary, challenge the relevant programme delivery group or organisation, when more needs to be done.

4. Substance Misuse Treatment Plan – Quarter 4

Barry Eveleigh presented an update on the outcome of the Quarter 4 Adult Treatment Plan Review.

Progress has been made in 'successful discharges' as Coventry is in the top 25% in the country, however we are not meeting the partnership's ambitious target that we set ourselves.

The Drug Intervention Programme continues to perform well and produces high numbers into treatment.

Barry indicated the areas of concern are:

- Numbers in treatment
- Client Consent
- Retention Rates

Numbers in treatment - Coventry are not currently meeting the targets set out in the Local Development Plan (LDP), currently Coventry are 18 individuals off target. A contributory factor to this is that 15 clients, although treated by Coventry Primary Care Trust (PCT), are classed as Warwickshire residents; this is due to the NTA using postcodes to identify numbers in treatment.

Client Consent - In order for us to report on a drug user taking up treatment, we have to have their consent, subsequently due to non-consenters we have to report lower figures than we actually have. Currently 12% of young people do not give consent.

Retention Rates – Despite an in-depth review by CDT and NTA no single factor has been identified for the reasons behind the low retention rates. However it is worth noting that since the move to a single-site the number of clients dropping out has significantly reduced. Systems are currently being developed to address the low retention rates. CDT and Street Outreach Service are to make contact with drug users who fall out of treatment, including information sharing protocols, client consent forms and first points of contact.

The group discussed the areas of under performance and Stella advised drafting a letter to the NTA setting out the issue of the number of clients being treated by Coventry but going towards Warwickshire's figures.

Action: Barry Eveleigh to draft a letter to the NTA concerning the issue of clients not being included in Coventry's targets for numbers in treatment.

Paul Wells reported that CDT will be asking clients a second time for their consent once trust is gained, as currently consent is only asked at the beginning of the treatment.

Barry informed the group that the NTA have increased Coventry's DRR targets. Unfortunately, to date, Probation have not been informed and therefore are still working to the lower figure. Sarah will raise this regionally.

5. Misuse of Hazardous Materials

Mark Taylor briefed the meeting in relation to the risk associated with the misuse of household chemicals to either produce drugs or explosive compounds. At a recent meeting of the Contingency Planning Group, Mark agreed to provide training to staff identified across agencies who needed to be aware of the dangers associated with these chemicals and also things that they should be looking for.

Action: The group were requested to consider the range of staff within their organisations who may be in a position to identify these risks ie. Refuse collectors, street wardens, etc and forward these details to Sara Roach in the Community Safety Team by Friday, 10th August.

6. Strategic Assessment

Andrea Clemons informed the group that the Strategic Assessment (SA) document has now been issued on a restricted basis to key personnel within the partnership.

Andrea emphasised the importance of the full commitment and support from the partnership of driving the SA process forward. The Priority Crime Group will oversee the performance of the SA, and progress across the 7 key areas will be regularly reported directly back to the partnership.

The development of action plans from the 20 Safer Neighbourhood Groups (SNG) is critical to enable the delivery of the SA.

There was some concern expressed about the timescales for the production of action plans, due to capacity issues within Neighbourhood Management.

Action: Andrea Clemons and Jan Nichols to discuss realistic timescales for this work.

7. Communications

Andrea reported that an induction pack for new members of the CCSP is currently being developed. This will help new members understand working arrangements and key issues when they join the group.

Andrea updated on other communication issues including a domestic violence campaign supported by the Coventry Blaze ice hockey team and an on-line hate crime reporting system being developed for September 2007, which will primarily target students. Also, the current reporting centres will be encouraged to use this facility instead of having paper copies, this will result in a more secure and faster method of reporting hate crime.

8. Report back from Coventry Partnership

June Morley provided an update from the Coventry Partnership. Rosalyn Roberts has been appointed Partnership Development Manager and is due to take up the post in September.

The Employment Strategy plan has been developed and identifies various means of improving the experiences of people who claim benefits and how to develop methods of preventing people reclaiming. There are concerns relating to the local Job Seekers Allowance (JSA), as the numbers are on the increase whereas nationally it is falling. This may be the result of local large-scale redundancies and migration from Incapacity Benefit to JSA (as people are now 'fit to work'). The Employment Strategy plan asks for worklessness to be considered in all theme group activities, for example early access to drug treatment programmes could enable access to work earlier. Andrea Clemons is contributing to this work in relation to community safety.

The partnership had its annual conference on 4th June 2007, which aimed to increase the engagement of the private sector within the partnership. Nigel Hart is organising a follow up event in September.

9. Community Empowerment Network (CEN)

Sheila Bates, in her absence, had provided a briefing note for the meeting. Any comments to be forwarded to Sheila.

10. Neighbourhood Management – Feedback from Crackdown + Consolidation

Janice provided a brief update on the Your Neighbourhood Matters Programme and the Crackdown and Consolidation Initiative.

Crackdown and consolidation is an approach where partners and local community organisations work together dealing with a range of community safety, environmental crime related issues.

The initial pilot area was in Foleshill and will be extended to the other 6 'Your Neighbourhood Matters' areas. Neighbourhood Management are taking the lead on co-ordinating the local operations.

The aim is for this process to be embedded into Safer Neighbourhood Groups mainstream activity using proactive as well as reactive data to deliver the Community Safety Partnership agenda.

The group discussed the impact of the crackdown and consolidation days and agreed that initial results were extremely positive.

Stella emphasised the importance of quantitative information including the cost of the operation and the total cost of the additional days so that we can be confident that this way of working is delivering value for money.

Jan Nichols stated this approach is about the quality of life and it addresses environmental issues so it is important that the evaluation also includes the overall satisfaction of the community.

11. Update on the National Alcohol Strategy

Barry Eveleigh introduced Lesley Sigston as the new Alcohol Harm Reduction Co-ordinator + Commissioner who came into post on 16th July. Lesley will be working with partners, through the Alcohol Programme Delivery Group to produce a local Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy. This is in response to the recent publication of the National Alcohol Strategy, Next Steps, which is now requiring all local areas to have their own strategy.

Stella suggested that more work needs to be done re. workplace policies in both the public and private sectors.

Barry also tabled a paper '**The New Drug Strategy 2008 Consultation Exercise**' which has been produced in response to the continuing effort to tackle the issue of substance misuse in the UK.

The current 10-year Government strategy comes to end next March and the Government have released a consultation paper for the next strategy. Timescales and funding streams have not yet been disclosed. The new strategy will consist of 5 areas: –

1. Young people, education and families
2. Public information campaigns
3. Drug treatment, social care and support for drug users in re-establishing their lives
4. Protecting the community from drug-related crime and re-offending
5. Enforcement and supply activity

Barry proposed a process for consultation, which primarily utilises the various programme delivery groups, Coventry User Team and Neighbourhood Management. Barry will co-ordinate an overall response and present to the next meeting of the partnership.

Action: Barry to present a draft response to the consultation at the partnership meeting in September.

Barry also informed the group of the outcome of the recent audit carried out by the Health Care Commission and NTA on service delivery.

This resulted in a poor score for Coventry, which Barry feels is an unfair assessment and that some of the scores do not reflect what is happening on the ground.

Action: Sara Roach to contact David Skidmore for further information on the analysis of the audit and appeal process.

12. National Standards for Community Safety Partnerships

Andrea provided an update on the latest position on the introduction of the National Standards for Community Safety Partnerships (as discussed at previous meetings).

The required changes include an introduction of a framework consisting of 6 'hallmarks' of effective practice, they are:

1. Empowered and effective leadership
2. Intelligence-led business practices
3. Effective and responsive delivery structures
4. Community engagement
5. Visible and constructive accountability
6. Appropriate skills and knowledge

Andrea suggested that locally we are confident that we currently meet these 6 hallmarks and informed the group that the Police and Crime Standards Directorate (PCSD) will be producing a good practice guide.

Alethea Fuller informed the group that she is part of the group who are developing the guidance. In addition, she will be shortly leading a local consultation process in Coventry in relation to Police Authority priorities. It was agreed that Alethea should use existing consultation mechanisms and scheduled meetings to do this rather than attempt to set up more meetings and duplicate effort.

Action: Alethea Fuller to liaise with Janice Nichols re. Ward Forums and meet with Sara Roach and June Morley re. consultation more widely.

13. Local Area Agreement Update

Sara updated the group on Coventry's involvement in road testing LAAs. Coventry hosted a high profile event on 9th June, which was well attended by civil servants. The event aimed to test the negotiation process and provide a broad level of understanding of what will be required when we are developing LAAs for real. There

were a number of questions arising from the event in particular, what is an LAA for? Is it to correct underperformance or is it to achieve an overall vision?.

The current process for developing the LAA and Sustainable Communities Strategy is being developed and this will involve the Community Safety Partnership, as a theme group, looking at their performance and predicting future priorities.

This will be discussed in detail at the September Partnership meeting, which will then lead into an event for the Coventry Partnership and Theme Group leaders and advisors in October.

Roger Hughes, Sara Roach, Helen Shankster and Jenni Venn are currently leading on this work.

14. Local Development Framework: Core Strategy

A briefing note was provided on the local development framework and core strategy. This will be discussed and considered alongside the LAA and Sustainable Communities Strategy review in September.

15. Any Other Business

15.1 Sara tabled a summary of the recently published '**National Crime Strategy**'.

This strategy proposes a number of key areas for focus during 2008-11. The main areas are:

- Serious Violent Crime
- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Young People
- Designing out Crime
- Reducing Reoffending
- Greater Sense of National Partnership
- Freeing up Local Partners, Building Public Confidence

Further updates will be given at future CCSP meetings.

15.2 Sara Roach informed the group that the **Respect Task Force** now sits within the new Government Dept for Children, Schools and Families.

15.3 Sarah Chand updated the group of extra funding for an additional independent domestic violence advisor, funded until March 2008.

15.4 Mark Taylor informed the group that a Youth Officer is now in place.

16. Date of next meeting

Please note the **date and time** of the next meeting has been **re-scheduled** to:

Thursday, 20th September at 9.30 am to 12.30 pm at Elm Bank, Maple Room, Mile Lane, Coventry.