

COVENTRY COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP
23rd March 2007

MINUTES

Present:

Mark Taylor (Chair)	West Midlands Fire Service
Laura Ohrman (Minutes)	Community Safety Team, Coventry City Council
Aidan Every	Children Learning & Young People, Coventry City Council
Alethea Fuller	West Midlands Police Authority
Andrea Clemons	Community Safety Team, Coventry City Council
Angie Parks	Youth Offending Service, Coventry City Council
Chief Supt Jon Hesketh	West Midlands Police (M3)
Cllr Andy Matchet	Lead Member, Coventry City Council
Deborah Harrod	West Midlands Police (M2)
Denise Kellam	Community Safety Team, Coventry City Council
Eamon Lynch	Whitefriars Housing Group
Insp. Mandy Mason	West Midlands Police (M1)
Janice Nichols	Neighbourhood Management, Coventry City Council
June Morley	Coventry Partnership
Lesley Pymm	West Midlands Probation Service
Nick Kempton	Community Safety Team, Coventry City Council
Paul Hargrave	Community Safety Partnership
Paul Wells	Community Drug Team
Roger Moore	West Midlands Fire Service
Sara Roach	Coventry Partnership

Apologies:

Alan Bennett	Environmental Health, Coventry City Council
Andy Pepper	Youth Offending Service, Coventry City Council
Cheryl Rosser	Coventry Magistrates Court
Chief Supt Max Sahota	West Midlands Police (M1)
David Clarke	Crown Prosecution Service
Jeannette Burrows	Coventry Voluntary Services Council (CEN)
Mary White	Coventry Primary Care Trust
Mike Atwood	Chief Executive, Coventry PCT
Pete Morgan	Vulnerable Adult Protection, Coventry City Council
Rob Allison	Coventry Voluntary Services Council
Stella Manzie	Chief Executive, Coventry City Council

1. Welcome & Apologies

Mark Taylor thanked Gay Stokes for previously organising and minuting the CCSP meetings, welcomed Laura Ohrman from the Community Safety Team who would be minuting the meeting and introduced Denise Kellam from the Community Safety Team who would be taking over the role. The Chair also welcomed Ch Supt. Deborah Harrod from M2 West Midlands Police, June Morley from the Coventry Partnership and Nick

Kempton the Young People's Substance Misuse Co-ordinator / Commissioner from 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

The meeting between Andrea Clemons, Mike Attwood, Jonathan Jardine and Cllr Joe Clifford to begin to scope out the future work plan of the Local Authority Overview and Scrutiny of Crime and Disorder is to be rearranged.

Paul Wells had met with Paul Hargrave from the Community Safety Team to discuss the formal opening of the new CDT premises in Ironmonger Row. It was agreed that the media coverage on the formal opening would be kept very low key - with an official opening scheduled for 18th May 2007.

An update on the Local Development Framework had been postponed until the next CCSP meeting in May.

Action: Update to be given at the next CCSP meeting in May.

Andrea Clemons and Mike Attwood are to meet with the Chair of the Job Strategy Group to discuss how links may be strengthened.

Action: Update to be given at the next CCSP meeting in May.

The Joint Commissioning Group (JCG) is currently considering proposals in respect of a proposal for spend against the anticipated allocation of Safer Stronger Communities funding. This includes potential support for funding for the Community Empowerment Network.

Andrea Clemons requested any comments before the end of March 2007.

Action: Update to be given at the next CCSP meeting in May.

West Midlands Police have agreed the amendments to comments on the ASB consultation paper and this has now been submitted.

3. Communications

The group were informed that Hilary Hopker's secondment to the Community Safety Team had ended. West Midlands Police had required her to return to her role due to staff shortages. Paul Hargrave advised that some work is currently being undertaken regarding national and regional campaigns on raising awareness of drug driving and also the next phase of the "Enough" campaign, to raise awareness and encourage neighbours to report incidents of domestic violence and abuse.

The AIMS group are to introduce quarterly 'AIMS Ambassador' award via nominations submitted, to recognise the work of individual members of staff who have worked above and beyond their core duties in support of partnership activity around community safety.

Publicity as planned in relation to the Home Office 'Taking a Stand' awards taking place

on 26th March 2007, in which nominations have been submitted from Coventry.

4. Report Back for the Coventry Partnership

Sara Roach provided an update from the Coventry Partnership meeting, which took place on the 14th March 2007.

Sara introduced June Morley who had recently been appointed as Partnership Support Officer and who will be supporting the Community Safety Partnership in the future. Her role will be to ensure that the group are provided with the right level of information regarding what is going on across the Partnership and to identify areas of work that need to be shared or joined up. Sara will continue to be responsible for monitoring the delivery of the theme group improvement plan for the CCSP.

The Coventry Partnership had considered their draft improvement plan, which was produced as a result of the self-assessment process that took place during August 2006 and culminated in a workshop on 9th January 2007. The Improvement Plan has been developed around 4 themes, which include:

- 1 Reviewing membership and structure of the Partnership Board and associated groups
- 2 Reviewing & strengthening performance management arrangements
- 3 Ensuring the Partnership is operating effectively & efficiently
- 4 Developing effective communications, both internal & external

Sara reported that Stella Manzie had also updated the Partnership Board on a recent guidance document, which has been produced from Central Government – ‘The Future of Local Area Agreements’. The main implications include:

- 1 Strengthened leadership role for the Local Authority in both the LSP and LAA
- 2 A new national indicator set to be developed to include 200 targets
- 3 Super Refresh of the LAA will lead to the identification of 35 (+18 DfES) targets from the national set, to be included in 2008-2011 LAA's
- 4 16 agencies with a ‘duty to co-operate’ and what that might mean for the LSP
- 5 Potential changes that will be required for performance management and reporting back to the LSP.

Mark Taylor stressed the importance of being involved in the LAA throughout the super refresh process. There was a discussion regarding future funding requirements and single pots. Although it is not clear yet exactly what will be expected in relation to pooled funding, Sara agreed to keep the CCSP up to date with any new information.

Councillor Tony O'Neill had presented the council's vision and corporate objectives, which had led to group discussions regarding a long term vision for the Coventry Partnership. It was generally agreed that any new Partnership vision should reflect the council's vision, particularly with the increased emphasis on the role of Local Authorities.

Sara reported that the Coventry Partnership is participating in the West Midlands LSP Capacity Building Programme. Our involvement will be in 2 action learning sets which will look at the contribution of the voluntary and community sectors in delivering the Community Plan and LAA and also will be used to assist us to develop our approach to

outcome planning.

5. Feedback from CEN

In the absence of Pam Lewis, Rob Allison provided feedback from the Coventry Community Empowerment Network (CEN). Rob thanked Paul Hargrave for his assistance at the CEN conference, which had taken place on the on 17th March 2007.

CEN would shortly producing a DVD showing how neighbourhood representatives work with local agencies e.g. local authorities, police etc and have also been running a number of evening workshops and training in the production of newsletters.

Proposals will be going to the JCG to support the work of the CEN for the sum of 90k. Mandie Mason expressed her concerns regarding where we were in respect of the wider responsibility of the CCSP financing CEN. It was informed that the LSC would continue to fund the CEN however the Partnership would need to look at robust LSP funding. Andrea informed that there was a potential funding opportunity through the Strategic Assessment.

6. Report back from Neighbourhood Management

Janice Nichols informed the group that Neighbourhood Management have been working closely with partners around "Your Neighbourhood Matters" areas in 6 neighbourhoods within the City. These were selected to receive Neighbourhood Element funding, targeting the 3% most deprived neighbourhoods to achieve service improvement at a local level with the help of the local community.

Neighbourhood Management have been exploring ways of engaging with people within communities using various initiatives to encourage hearing views from groups of residents that are not usually forthcoming including young people. The initiatives give residents the opportunity to talk to local service providers. It also was reported that some of the Ward Forums are beginning to work well and although some need improving they provide a good vehicle through which to respond to local concerns.

Janice reported that the number of abandoned vehicles had significantly been reduced since the Warden Service has taken over the responsibility for identification and removal and targets had been exceeded. West Midlands Fire Service has also reported 90 fewer arsons since April.

It was also reported that there had been some good examples of joint working that had come about as a result of the AIMS process and a written update will be published shortly. The report is the beginning of a review of AIMS and the strategic assessment will also provide an opportunity to strengthen the links between the AIMS and Safer Neighbourhood Groups (SNG's) processes.

The SNG's are chaired and supported by Community Safety Officers (CSO's) although due to sick leave of two of the three CSO's it was felt that the SNG's might be suffering in their absence. Janice thanked Mandy Davies who has been seconded from West Midlands Police as the local Community Safety Officer in the long term absence of Steve Yardley. Neighbourhood Management South has been working with partner agencies

and has been covering the ten SNG's. Whilst this isn't the ideal arrangement it is at least providing some cover in the absence of the CSO.

It was reported that all of the SNG's in the North East are achieving some excellent results, although attendance and contribution from partners can be variable. It was reported that the largest SNG, which incorporates Foleshill, Holbrooks and Radford, is the most successful and well attended. The smallest group in Walsgrave, although having successes, is not well attended by RSL's or other partners, which can sometimes make it more difficult to find quick solutions.

One success story emerging from the SNG's are the referrals to the Intensive Family Intervention Programme (IFIP). Cases identified by SNG's have been discussed by the IFIP panel and even when cases are unsuitable for the programme, other solutions are found for families and children. A case study example was then given.

7. Anti-Social Behaviour/ENCAMS

Paul Hargrave updated the group on Coventry's Status as a Respect Action Area and in particular the Ministerial visit and visit from Louise Casey, Director of the Respect Task Group.

Paul then went on to discuss the 5 core elements of Respect:

- Establishing a Family Intervention Project (IFIP)
- Establishing parenting programmes for families at risk of/or behaving anti-socially
- Demonstrating openness and accountability through 'Face the People' sessions
- Adoption of the Respect Housing Standards by key landlords in your area
- Renewed commitment to using the full range of available tools and powers tackling both causes and symptoms on Anti-Social Behaviour.

It was advised that the Anti-Social Behaviour action plan now incorporated aspects of EnviroCrime as shown in the Environmental Crime Action Plan supported by ENCAMS.

Endorsement

The CCSP endorsed the work outlined in the Environmental Crime Action Plan and confirmed support for its delivery.

Insp. Mandy Mason recognised the efforts of Mandie Watson the new ASB Officer since joining the Community Safety Team.

8. Offender Management

Mandy Mason provided an update to the group on the current developments around Offender Management including the Prolific and Other Priority Offender Strategy (PPO) and other related schemes. It was advised that at a recent PPO self assessment, Coventry has scored green for its strategy and that the only issues were:

- 1 The lack of good quality housing available
- 2 The delay between release from custody and payment of benefits
- 3 The ongoing problem of overcrowding in prisons, which also impacted on the location and frequent moving of offenders.

Mandy advised of the intention to run a 12-month pilot project to reduce the offending behaviour of a new group, "High Risk Offenders" by targeting offenders that test positive for Class A drugs upon arrest, but who may currently fall outside the PPO and DIP schemes. The scheme is supported by funding made available through the BCU fund.

Endorsement

The CCSP endorsed and supported the High Risk Offender's Project.

9. Crime Update

Paul Hargrave updated the group with the crime figures in relation to PSA 1.

The BSC comparator crimes are currently 11% lower than the 2003/04 baselines, compared to a 12% reduction reported at the last CCSP meeting, indicating a slowing success rate.

Paul also informed the group that information had been received from the Home Office with regards to engaging Coventry in a further programme to reduce vehicle crime. The work is to be undertaken with the Vehicle Crime Unit at the Home Office. Official notification will be received from GOWM shortly to outline the terms of the proposed engagement.

The CCSP were asked to note the increases in crimes and recognise the threat posed by current trends to achieving PSA1 and Local PSA "stretched" targets.

10. Strategic Assessment

Andrea delivered a PowerPoint Presentation, which informed the group of the proposed process and early findings of the Partnership Strategic Assessment.

The presentation referred to some of the information, which will be reflected in the outcomes, and tactical options of the SA, in addition to reported crime and the delivery against the PSA1 target.

- 1 Drugs Needs Assessment
- 2 PPO's
- 3 Restorative justice programmes and positive activities for young people
- 4 Demographics and "crime generators"
- 5 Provision of an auditable account of the rationale for targeting resources, in response to issues
- 6 Informed 'smart' commissioning for the last year of PSA targets
- 7 Delivery within SNG boundaries as the groups will take a lead in driving the work.

The CCSP agreed the approach and offered support for the production of the document and delivery of activity against identified threats.

Action: Andrea requested that anyone who had been asked to provide information to support the development of the Partnership Strategic Assessment to respond to the Partnership Analyst, Richard Howe without delay.

11. Any other business

Paul Wells informed the group that the NTA Board meeting took place on the 20th March 2007 at the Ramada Hotel. He reported that the current Drug Strategy would be updated with a new focus on outcomes following the Comprehensive Spending Review.

12. Date of Next Meeting

Friday 18th May 2007, 10.00am - 1.00pm, Oak Room, Elm Bank, Mile Lane, Coventry.