

COVENTRY COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP
18th May 2007

M I N U T E S

Present:

Stephen Jones (Chair)	Chief Executive (Joint) Primary Care Trust
Stella Manzie	Chief Executive, Coventry City Council
Mark Taylor	West Midlands Fire Service
Aidan Every	Children Learning & Young People, Coventry City Council
Alan Bennett	City Services, Coventry City Council
Alethea Fuller	West Midlands Police Authority
Andrea Clemons	Community Safety Team, Coventry City Council
Andy Pepper	Youth Offending Service, Coventry City Council
Cllr Andy Matchet	Lead Member, Coventry City Council
Chief Supt Deborah Harrod	West Midlands Police (M2)
Barry Eveleigh	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
Karen Buttle	New Deal for Communities
Brendan Connor	Police Authority
Paul Hargrave	Community Safety Team, Coventry City Council
Paul Wells	Community Drug Team
Roger Moore	West Midlands Fire Service
Sara Roach	Coventry Partnership
Sheila Bates	CEN
Bridget Mauldrige	Government Office
Malcolm Walls	Federation of Small Businesses
Denise Kellam (Minutes)	Community Safety Team, Coventry City Council

Apologies:

Chief Supt Max Sahota	West Midlands Police (M1)
Chief Supt Jon Hesketh	West Midlands Police (M3)
Jeannette Burrows	Coventry Voluntary Services Council (CEN)
Mary White	Coventry Primary Care Trust
Rob Allison	Coventry Voluntary Services Council
Sarah Chand	West Midlands Probation Service

1. Welcome & Apologies

Stephen Jones welcomed the Group and introduced Karen Buttle from New Deal for Communities, Bridget Mauldrige from Government Office, Brendan Cooper from the Police Authority. Linsey Hunter was expected to attend from the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) and Mike Cherry, the chair of the West Midlands Regional Business Criminal Forum (and also of FSB) may be attending future CCSP meetings.

Stephen informed the group of the multi agency activity which is taking place today,

the first of a series of 'Crack Down' consolidation impact days in the Foleshill area. This has resulted in a reduced number of attendees and some colleagues would need to leave the meeting early which will change the order in which agenda items are heard.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting & Matters Arising

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

Matters Arising

- 2.1 An update on the Local Development Framework has been postponed until the next meeting in July.
- 2.2 Andrea Clemons updated the Group on the meeting between Mike Attwood and the Chair of the Job Strategy Group who discussed how links could be strengthened between Theme groups. Mike had suggested employment opportunities and other emerging issues are imbedded more strongly within the future Strategic Assessment documents.

This could be facilitated by improved sharing of information between agencies of offenders coming out of prison and improve the process to assist them in finding work opportunities. An example of good practice is Winson Green prison, who produce a 'passport' for offenders on release, detailing any training whilst in prison, and skills.

There may be potential for more flexible use of " Section 106" money (usually used for physical improvements to compliment new building developments) as a source of funding to improve employment opportunities for offenders although it is noted that the S106 money is already quite committed.

Paul Wells noted the good practice at Winson Green but added for information, that male Coventry prisoners often go to Blakenhurst Prison, or elsewhere and Stella Manzie added that prison practices are influenced more at a regional level rather than local.

Andrea concluded Coventry City Council is already looking at ways of supporting vulnerable groups into employment and to identify ways through the different partnerships.

- 2.3 Andrea confirmed all service level plans are drafted. £10m has been cut nationally from the Home Office allocation within the Safer Stronger Communities Fund (SSCF). The Coventry allocation will be reduced by approximately £38k and work is underway to identify where these savings can be made.

3. Communications

Paul Hargrave notified the Group of the first round of AIMS "Ambassador" awards. Nominations will be received on a quarterly basis. The AIMS newsletter will publicise the winners, together with some local press coverage. Coventry City Council's 'Public Lighting' Team are one of the nominations.

Paul also updated the group of DfES funding of £50,000 which has been made available for additional parenting work.

A publicity campaign is planned, giving messages to parents highlighting the risks associated with alcohol, in order to highlight parental responsibility.

Paul confirmed that the parenting work will be linked up with CLYP partnership.

Paul circulated a draft copy of The CCSP Annual Report 2006/07 outlining the achievements and best practice of the last 12 months, reflecting the Strategic Assessment process, key areas and AIMS information.

Stella praised the content but suggested a different use of colours for the final issue.

ACTION: Comments or suggestions relating to the draft CCSP annual report to be made to Paul as soon as possible to meet a production deadline of mid-June.

4. Report back from Coventry Partnership

Sara Roach reported back to the Group a presentation to the Health and Wellbeing Group, by Dr Caron Grainger the Assistant Director of Public Health, in relation to the health profile of Coventry, covering infant mortality, parenting, smoking and alcohol and other significant areas.

This was to identify which groups existed to work together and could be linked with the CCSP Strategic Assessment work.

Secondly, Sara reported back on the development of Sustainable Community Strategy that brings together different frameworks with local strategic partnerships.

Sara also updated the Group of a recently attended Local Area Agreement "Road-Testing" seminar in London of which Coventry has volunteered to be part of (along with 16 other local authorities). This will provide an opportunity to identify and test the negotiation process involving 35 'mock' indicators which, in future, will be required to fit in with the 200 targets issued by Central Government. Key lead officers have been identified, and the 35 potential indicators will be reviewed on the 11th June.

Bridget Mauldrige confirmed that unfortunately the 200 indicators will not be identified until Oct-Dec 2007.

5. Feedback from CEN

Sheila Bates gave a summary of CEN activity in 2006/07 including 3 Saturday conferences, and 8 additional events.

These events attracted 154 individuals from 97 community and voluntary groups, and were held throughout areas of the city including the Ricoh Arena, Willenhall, Stoke Aldermoor, Manor Farm, Spon End, Hillfields and Cheylesmore.

The above events covered a number of topics such as neighbourhood wardens, safer neighbourhood groups, regeneration for Swanswell, Stoke Aldermoor, NDC and the new hospital etc, and reports and feedback of the events were distributed to CEN groups.

Sheila explained the 13 CEN representatives within the Coventry Partnership theme groups meet regularly to exchange information.

Other activities by CEN include:

A 'Community Stories' booklet of case studies has been produced which show how community groups and agencies have worked together to improve neighbourhoods.

A DVD focusing on neighbourhood working has also been produced and will be issued shortly.

CEN has also revamped their website, and have received some neighbourhood initiative funding.

Finally Sheila informed the Group of some changes in personnel, which has resulted in having only one worker at the moment. Jeanette Burrows has now left.

Stella thanked CEN for the support that they provide to both the Coventry Partnership and the CCSP and recognized that CEN has made enormous headway through hard work and a lot of effort, which largely goes unremunerated and deserves the recognition and appreciation of the CCSP.

6. Report back from Neighbourhood Management

Jan Nicholls updated the Group that since the last meeting, a review of AIMS has been undertaken. A publication will be produced, celebrating achievements and how the process is used to address issues within the city.

Jan reminded the CCSP of the important role of the Safer Neighbourhoods Groups (SNGs) and informed the group of the workload pressure due to 2 of the 3 Community Support Officers (CSOs) who support the groups, being absent due to long term sickness. She was pleased to report that some support had been offered by the Fire Service. This will assist in trying to meet the challenges of the Strategic Assessment and 'Your Neighbourhood Matters'.

A group of partners are discussing case studies that look at different situations, for example recent anti social behaviour at Radford Common, in order to review how situations had been managed. What are the lessons and what can be done to avoid future situations, for example to engage with young people differently?

Jan informed the Group of a piece of partnership working under the 'Your Neighbourhood Matters' banner called 'Crackdown Consolidation Impact Days' which involves organisations working together to carry out high profile crackdowns in identified areas of the city in order to make safer, cleaner places, and asked Insp Mandy Mason to explain the process further.

Mandy informed the Group, that today the Foleshill area was involved in a 'Crackdown Consolidation Impact Day'. It involves all organisations including the Police, Fire Service, Coventry City Council Departments i.e. city services, environmental health, trading standards, drugs and alcohol people, wardens etc, together with involvement of the local community.

Mandy explained it involves building a process and planning framework which tackles the problems in a particular area, using information and intelligence around the issues to address matters including vehicle crime, criminal damage, graffiti, youngsters hanging around, underage drinking, street cleanliness, selling and taking of drugs etc.

It was very important to involve the local residents. In Foleshill communities had helped by distributing leaflets and posters informing of the Crackdown day.

Today will see a number of activities, for example, Environmental Health Officers targeting properties with rubbish dumped outside, the Community Drugs Team targeting specific areas, the Fire Service offering home risk assessments etc. There will also be a large presence from the Police and there will also be various media coverage on the operation.

The plan is to have 'crackdown' days in various areas within the city such as Hillfields and Willenhall.

Mandy also added that it was important to note this type of operation does rely on co-ordination through Neighbourhood Management who support the sustainable benefits through capacity building with the local communities. An evaluation and feedback process from focus groups in the community will be undertaken.

The Group discussed the 'Crackdown Consolidation Impact' programme.

Mark Taylor added that the experience in Birmingham shows it really does make an impact and works very effectively. The important thing is to ensure it continues, with all groups (organisations and communities) pooling their resources for a greater collective benefit.

Stella stressed that this should not be a one off project, it's important to get the evaluation done and to ensure improvements in service delivery and working practices become mainstreamed where practicable.

Stella added her concerns about stigmatising areas and stressed that all of the positive work undertaken within identified areas should be publicised in order to present a balanced picture. Neighbourhood Management are well placed to publicise the positive things happening in local areas.

Stella suggested focussing the activity within a variety of areas with different demographic and economic profiles.

Barry Eveleigh suggested that the surrounding areas should also be observed, to ensure that the problems are not being displaced from one area to another.

Paul Wells added that communications could be focussed on the environmental improvements rather than issues relating to substance misuse.

Aidan Every commented that the term 'crackdown' may be misinterpreted especially by young people. Sheila Bates added it does appear to be a negative term, and local people may feel cautious or nervous about it. Stephen Jones informed the Group that in the current campaign it has been named 'Blue Ribbon' and that local schools were briefed about activity under that banner.

Finally, Mandy explained that this is all about learning from the experience, developing a template for the future and that key areas will be focussed on first.

ACTION: Insp Mandy Mason to feedback at the next meeting the outcome/results of the 'Crackdown Consolidation Impact Day' in Foleshill.

7. Corston Report

Andrea Clemons presented the Corston Report to the group. This report looks at the treatment of women within the Criminal Justice System and the impact that prison has on women and their families.

Andrea highlighted the key findings which concluded that a high percentage of women offenders are held in custody, women are less likely to commit offences which pose a risk to society, women commit less violent offences, most high risk offenders are male, most prolific or priority offenders (PPO's) are male and women prisoners are more likely to be the primary carer for young children.

The paper questioned how we can take into account the Corston Report and to meet the gender equality requirements, through local delivery groups such as the Shared Priorities Forum and the Coventry Offender Management Group (COMG). COMG are also discussing the related findings in conjunction with a pilot scheme to support the families of offenders.

Stella expressed her opinion that whilst unable to support increasing the number of conventional prisons, we should be thinking of other rehabilitation processes.

Stephen added reviewing current tariffs may be a way forward too.

Recommendation

7.1 The CCSP are asked to note the report and request that the Coventry Offender Management Group consider the actions necessary to meet the partnership gender equality duty.

The CCSP endorsed the above recommendation.

8. National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS)

The NDTMS measures drug prevalence and performance of services and aims to improve quality of information and dissemination.

Barry Eveleigh informed the group that Coventry's Community Drug Team (CDT) is the most accurate agency submitting information. January and February Coventry experienced falling numbers into drug treatments and a further drop in March.

Coventry are not currently meeting the targets set out in the Local Development Plan (LDP), currently Coventry are 18 individuals off target, however we do have until July to establish consent for sharing information by additional service users to meet this. Barry thinks the target will be achieved. 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.

The NDTMS aims to improve quality of information and dissemination, to this end they are considering another level of detail, namely in the form of showing results in postcode areas. Data will be submitted to the NDTMS and will be returned into meaningful information by postcode areas.

Paul Wells informed the group that he could provide the returned reports from NDTMS into information broken down by 'Your Neighbourhood Matters' area or by Wards, and estimates this will give a 70% – 80% accuracy rate.

Recommendations

8.1 CCSP to note current situation regarding LDP and Partnership target of numbers in treatment.

8.2 CCSP to agree on breakdown of postcode information.

The Group acknowledges the above recommendation 8.1 and has requested the report information to be in Ward areas.

9. Service Reconfiguration and Budgets

Barry reported on the significant budget reductions. To overcome these reductions, efficiency savings have been made in both CDT and the Drug Intervention Programme (DIP) and by reducing the Arrest Referral Scheme from 5 to 3 workers (there are currently only 3 in post, therefore no job losses here).

Redundancies have been avoided, however it does mean reductions in services although the impact of this will be limited due to service reconfiguration. For example there will be a reduction in some targeted outreach work but SWISH will be reconfigured to become a street outreach programme.

Also BME Workforce will be changing capacity, and will be expanding the volunteering opportunities to ex-drug users and helping the volunteers in obtaining NVQ level 2 which will help towards them obtaining work in this field.

Cllr Andy Matchet asked for assurance that the SWISH project has not been 'closed down', Barry confirmed that it hasn't, it is still involved with sex workers, it will be keeping a more robust service, and that the Terrence Higgins Trust see this as a positive change.

Stella indicated BME Workforce is a good use of resource and it may be helpful to make links between Abtar Sanga (BME Workforce project co-ordinator) and Shokat Lal (Human Resources) regarding entrance to the Employment Scheme (which identifies groups that have difficulty in finding employment).

Recommendations

9.1 CCSP to approve reduction in Arrest referral staffing.

9.2 CCSP to approve reconfiguration of SWISH service.

9.3 CCSP to approve the remodelling of the existing BME Workforce scheme.

The Group approved the above recommendations.

10. Pooled Budget and Treatment Plan 2007/08

Barry reported to the group that the final Treatment Plan has now been agreed and submitted to the National Treatment Agency (NTA). A copy of the plan has been issued to members of the CCSP.

Barry also reported that we have low retention rates, although this is happening in some other areas also. Coventry CDT has been chosen, as a pilot, to try and find out the reasoning behind the low retention rates. No single factor has been identified. Paul Wells confirmed this. Stella asked if any interviews/questioning of the people that have dropped out had occurred or whether we had questioned those that do stay in the programme, about why they have done so.

Barry informed the group it was important to note that we are in the top 25% nationally of successful rates of numbers into treatment.

The Chair wishes to acknowledge and commend the good work by CDT.

11. Young Peoples Substance Misuse Future Funding

Barry updated the group that this years Coventry's Young Peoples Substance Misuse programme grant has been cut by £45,000, however, this will not affect the delivery of services this year due to underspend from the previous year. Although what needs to be noted is, in the medium and long term, current spending profiles are unsustainable.

Stephen asked if any further cuts were expected. Barry anticipated this would be the case. Mark Taylor suggested a more strategic view of young people's services and co-ordinated use of resources may address some shortfalls and represent value for money. Stella informed the Group that strategic discussions in CLYP will be looking at the whole issue of young people in the near future.

Recommendations

11.1 The CCSP to consider this information within wider discussions about future priorities in meeting the needs of Coventry's Young People in respect of substance misuse.

11.2 The CCSP to acknowledge potential future impact of budgetary costs.

The Group acknowledges the above recommendations.

12. Crime Update

Paul Hargrave presented to the group, a Year-End Report for Crime 2006-07, stating it had been a very challenging year, resulting in PSA 1 crimes rising by 5.4%, whilst neighbouring areas such as Warwickshire, seen an 7% increase and Solihull a 3% increase.

As part of the 3 year strategy, our PSA 1 target is to reduce crime by 20% by 2008. At the end of 2006/07 PSA 1 crimes have reduced by 9%, so there is still some way to go. Paul highlighted the following key points from the report:

Criminal damage to vehicles has risen over the last year, and the Local PSA target of 8% reduction per annum will not be achieved.

Wounding offences measured by another Local PSA target will also fall short of the annual target of a 6% reduction, for this year although a consistent reduction in offences is shown (from 4,488 in 2005/06 to 4,456 in 2006/07). The 3-year target for this LPSA is still achievable.

Domestic burglary was reduced in the first half of the year, although this area of crime did increase during the latter part of the year. Incidents related to the theft of metal piping from homes – mainly void properties (due to the current high price of metal) is a crime type which has increased. Through the AIMS process, wardens and the police have carried out patrols in problem areas and have delivered crime prevention initiatives.

Robbery (from a person) in Coventry did see a big reduction following the Street Crime Initiative. The number of robberies per '000 population is below the most similar family average. However, since Autumn 2005, the number of offences have increased, although Paul stated that much of the increase relates to ethical recording of robberies, where crimes previously regarded as theft, are classified more seriously, where even a slight amount of force is used.

Criminal Damage (this type of offence accounts for one fifth of all crime in Coventry). however, it is worth noting that Coventry has the third lowest number of offences per '000 population in its most similar family group.

Violent Crime (wounding) has seen a 2% reduction over the year, which is below the annual reduction target which was set at 5%. Tactics to reduce serious crime have increased the number recorded of less serious offences, due to early intervention by police, especially related to the night-time economy. Funding has been received from Tackling Violent Crime Programme (TVC) and Government Office to support initiatives. These included a CCTV scheme within Black Cabs and ID scanning cards at pubs/clubs. The % of domestic violence and abuse incidents as part of the overall total has risen, which suggests the initiatives that aim to encourage victims to report incidents are proving successful.

Vehicle Crime (includes theft from a vehicle, theft of a vehicle and vehicle interference). Reduction targets for theft of and vehicle interference are being met, although there is a significant rise in thefts from a motor vehicle. This is partly attributable to the prevalence and desirability of satellite navigation systems (sat navs) which are being targeted by thieves. Partnership funding is supporting activity to address this problem through AIMS.

Finally Paul informed the group that following the Strategic Assessment a review and reformation of the delivery group structure would include the provision of a 'Priority Crime Group', through which a rigorous performance management of partnership activity to address PSA 1 crimes will be undertaken.

Recommendations

12.1 The CCSP is recommended to note the threat posed by current trends to achieving PSA1 and LPSA targets.

Stella commented on the table of figures and requested a change of format in order to identify and demonstrate more clearly the progress in relation to specific crime types and what is proving effective. Brian Connor asked if the information could be broken down by OCU and represented in a more strategic way, and for the information to identify any trends or concentration of areas.

Andrea agreed with this and stated that this would be addressed through the 'Priority Crime Group' and could be reflected within the CCSP report.

Chief Supt Debbie Harrod suggested that analytical support at the meetings be a consideration, although accepted the comments that the analyst was not the author of the report.

ACTION **Paul Hargrave to commission the 'End of Year' Report indicating figures, actions being taken and evidence. Paul Hargrave to liaise with Insp Mandy Mason to discuss the above.**

Alan Bennett commented on the lack of information on anti-social behaviour within the Crime and Anti Social Behaviour update report.

Andrea Clemons explained that the content of the report would differ from meeting to meeting, dependant on reporting periods and amount of relevant activity to report etc. It was difficult to capture all areas at every meeting. The new 'Priority Crime Group' will look at chronic problems, and will identify areas of crime that cause us most problems, using the Strategic Assessment findings to target activity. Andrea also added that whilst the performance towards PSA1 would receive immediate attention, that the reduction target was set against a low baseline, which had resulted from year on year reductions.

13. Implications for the Coventry Community Safety Partnership, following the Review of the Crime and Disorder Act, legislative changes and the introduction of National Standards.

Andrea reminded the group of the review of the Crime and Disorder Act, together with the subsequent legislative changes and the proposals for National Standards which, as a group we need to assess whether the CCSP will meet or exceed the challenges and identify where we need to do additional work.

The Partnership is likely to be measured on 6 main elements:

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

Andrea briefed the group on the above elements and indicated where the CCSP may already meet the required standards and where improvements are currently being developed.

Recommendations

13.1 The CCSP seek advice from GOWM that it has in place all necessary measures to meet the anticipated national standards.

13.2 Consider any other possible actions to be taken, prior to the circulation of the official guidance.

13.3 Receive a further update when the national standards are available.

Stella asked if there was any indication if we would exceed the requirements from the Home Office and suggested the next step is to clarify expectations, but added we are in a strong position in most areas. Work is ongoing to improve related areas such as more 'visible and constructive accountability'.

Bridget Mauldrige from Government Office stated that the demonstration of a robust structure and rigorous processes are what they would expect to see from the Coventry Community Safety Partnership and added that it is reassuring to note that quality is being reviewed not only in anticipation of the national standards but as part of regular partnership assessments.

14. Partnership Strategic Assessment

Insp Mandy Mason updated the group on the Strategic Assessment (SA) which updates and reviews the Community Safety Strategy 2005-8. The process within SA provides a key opportunity to refocus activity and to improve on current performance.

The SA identifies 7 key areas and have been based on the boundaries of the SNGs. SNGs will assess their areas, and develop action plans.

A Strategic Assessment in a CD format will be available shortly and Mandy advised those who have a responsibility for delivery of activity recommended within the SA, to obtain a copy of the whole document and be responsible for its limited dissemination.

Andrea and Mandy will be happy to answer any queries regarding SA, but highlighted it is still endorsed as a draft , until the findings of the Household Survey are ratified.

Ch. Supt Debbie Harrod welcomed the production of the SA and asked if there were any plans to have a 6 monthly review. Mandy confirmed a review process will be built into the SA and will be reported back through CCSP.

Recommendations

14.1 The CCSP endorse the process and receive progress reports from the 7 key areas at each meeting as part of the regular crime update.

14.2 The CCSP agree that the document should be shared with GOWM in order to inform the development of a "standard product".

14.3 CCSP members ensure that individual organisations are aware and supportive of the process.

The Group approved the above recommendations.

15. Any Other Business

- 15.1 Ch. Supt Debbie Harrod expressed her concerns that some useful partners were not regular members of the group and suggested that as part of enhancing the strength of the partnership that absent partners be approached and reminded of schedules etc.
- 15.2 Mandy Mason informed the Group, that since the last meeting, she had been invited to 'Safe Guarding Children Board (SGCB)' away-day. The SGCB would welcome closer links to the partnership with regards to their vulnerable children agenda. Mandy suggested we consider how we can share information, for example, on domestic violence and the way that this offence affects children. Colin Green had given as an example of an area where links could be improved as meeting the Licensing Objectives. The SGCB will be looking at links between the 2 groups and to identify a representative to attend the CCSP.
- 15.3 Mandy reminded the Group of the Hate Crime launch on Monday 21st May at 11.00 am at The Butts Rugby Club.
- 15.4 Mandy gave a newly received update of the 'Crackdown Consolidation Impact Day' being undertaken in Foleshill, of the success so far which had already resulted in a number of arrests.
- 15.5 Alethea Fuller distributed annual leaflets 'Neighbourhood News – Your Annual Guide to Policing in your Area'. The leaflets give information of activities and successes of the West Midlands Police in different areas of the city. These will be issued shortly to households in Coventry.
- 15.6 Stephen Jones notified the group that this was the last meeting for Andrea Clemons as Community Safety Manager as her secondment was coming to an end and wished to express on behalf of himself and Mike Attwood their thanks to Andrea for all of her support and confidence with which it was delivered. Sara Roach will be returning as Community Safety Manager, and Stephen looks forward to working with her.
- 15.7 Stephen also informed the group it was the last scheduled meeting that he would Chair and Mark Taylor City Commander West Midlands Fire Service would take over responsibility for the role from the next meeting, with Chief Supt Debbie Harrod acting as the Vice Chair.
- 15.8 Stella thanked Stephen Jones and Mike Attwood for chairing the CCSP and expressed her gratitude for their commitment.

16. Date of next meeting:

Friday, 27th July 2007, Elm Bank – Hawthorne Suite, Mile Lane, Coventry