

WEST LANCASHIRE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

HELD: 19th January 2011

Commenced: 5.30 pm

Finished: 7.15 pm

PRESENT:

| | | |
|---------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| Andrew Hill | - | WLBC |
| William J Taylor MBE | - | Chairman, WLBC |
| Dean Holden | - | Lancashire Constabulary |
| David Tilleray | - | WLBC |
| Graham Coulston-Hermann | - | Lancashire Constabulary |
| Steve Mahon | - | WLBC |
| Colleen Martin | - | LCC |
| Mary Lyons | - | NHS Central Lancs. |
| Steve Wilson | - | LF&RS |
| Cllr Greenall | - | WLBC |
| Robert Rushton | - | Lancashire Police Authority |
| Gareth Dykes | - | West Lancs. PACT |
| Louisa Armitage Parkinson | - | WLBC |
| Eleanor Maddocks | - | DV Support Services |
| Greg Mitten | - | West Lancs. CVS |
| Cllr Una Atherley | - | WLBC |
| County Cllr Aldridge | - | LCC |
| Mike Lock | - | Lancashire Probation Trust |
| Roger Merry | - | Ormskirk Bench |
| Helen Slee | - | Victim Support |
| Louise Cropper | - | Help Direct |
| Cllr Ashcroft | - | WLBC |
| Jan Tyrer | - | GMW |

IN ATTENDANCE:

| | | |
|-------------|---|------|
| Cliff Owens | - | WLBC |
| Barry Nolan | - | WLBC |

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from:

Sam Jones, William Cropper, Bruce Jassi, Colin Buckley, Jannine Burke, Christine Coleman, Grant Murdoch, Gail Stanley, Faye Kellett, Mel Ormesher

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING/MATTERS ARISING

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

4. PUBLIC SECTOR SPENDING

The Chairman provided the Partnership with a verbal update on the issue of Public Sector Spending.

The Chairman stated that it was currently difficult to provide an accurate update, as public authorities have not yet set their budgets. The Chairman advised that these are difficult times, which will require innovation to keep costs down whilst trying to ensure minimal impact against front line services public services. He continued by explaining that officers would respond by maximising on efficiency and exploring shared services options and developing partnership working where costs savings could be made. The Chairman emphasised however that it would then be down to elected members to take the difficult decisions of identifying where services need to be reduced or cut.

The Chairman provided an overview of the potential impact on CSP's, which in the past have received Government grants to support their work and provided the capital investment in CCTV as an example. He continued by stating that law and order remains a priority but the financial challenges still remain and at the next CSP meeting will have a clearer picture of the impact of spending reductions in this area. The Chairman added that we must avoid the risk of agencies returning to working in silos but cautioned this will be tempting for decision makers when considering costs.

Councillor Greenall supported the Chairman's comments adding that politically we will be faced with hard choices.

5. PERFORMANCE MONITORING

The Chairman advised partners that in previous meetings performance monitoring had taken up a substantial part of the meeting and added for this meeting would trial exception reporting only. The Chairman invited partner agencies to provide a verbal overview of their quarterly performance on this basis and highlighted as an introduction that performance across the board was stunning and remarked on the excellent reductions that had been achieved over the financial year against ASB and domestic burglary.

Dean Holden confirmed the reductions and added that across all categories we have seen significant improvement in performance against some very good baseline performance from the previous year. Dean thanked the Chairman for his comments and added that much of the reductions have been made possible through the support of the CSP and its partners. Dean highlighted the significant reductions achieved against domestic burglary, which have reduced by approximately 30% but cautioned that violent crime remains the main area for concern with regards to performance indicators and added that Domestic Abuse accounts for approximately a third of all violent crime figures which is an upward trend but remains difficult to police from a patrol point of view.

The Chairman acknowledged the good performance and added that domestic violence remains a double-edged sword with pressures for the police to both reduce violent crime but encourage the reporting of domestic violence offences.

Cllr Ashcroft raised concerns regarding criminality affecting the Northern Parishes and highlighted a number of incidents in Tarleton and Hesketh Bank, which have seen an increase in burglaries other than a dwelling. Cllr Ashcroft stated that he felt investment in CCTV in public areas and in ANPR in other areas would be impactful.

Dean acknowledged the increased in none dwelling burglaries and explained this was a likely consequence of displacement with offenders changing their tactics to reduce the risk of severe custodial sentences if caught. Dean added that proactive targeting has led to some positive results and added that these types of offences have shown a reduction. Dean continued by adding that the Safer Lancashire Board are looking at potential sites that could benefit from ANPR and that the Northern Parishes have been proposed for possible inclusion. Dean added that a bid has also been submitted to the West Lancashire LSP for funding to enable the police to equip all front line officers with body cameras, which will assist in tackling cross border crime.

The Chairman acknowledged that the Northern Parishes was the least connected area for CCTV. He added that the LSP funding for CCTV is primarily for the sustainable of the system but added that if funding is available from this pot for the extension of CCTV provision the Northern Parishes could be considered if supported by Police evidence.

In request to a question on police resources Graham Coulston-Hermann advised the Partnership that the constabulary currently has a freeze on recruitment as there maybe future funding cuts. He advised that Neighbourhood Policing and Response structures are under review but added that the impact in this area is likely to be less than was thought. Graham added that we would review current vacancies across the division once the review is completed.

Cllr Nolan stated that performance in his ward is currently very good and he is keen for this to be sustained.

Steve Wilson advised the CSP that a significant increase in deliberate primary fires has been recorded and this is directly attributable to wheelie bin fires. Steve advised that this issue would be highlighted with the Strategic Assessment as an emerging threat.

Dave Tilleray advised the Partnership that the Council is working closely with its colleagues in Fire and Rescue to address this issue and added that a meeting has recently being held and a robust action plan has been developed to tackle this issue.

Mike Lock highlighted the improved performance against NI 30, which has seen a 33% reduction in the first quarter of 2010/11, which is above target. Mike continued by providing an overview on key performance areas.

The subject of community payback was debated and Dave Tilleray advised the Partnership that a meeting has been arranged for the 28th January 2011 between officers from the Borough Council and Lancashire Probation Trust to examine the potential for the development of a formal Service Level Agreement. Dave added that discussion with Chorley and Preston Council has taken place to assess the arrangements in these areas. Dave stated that fundamental steps will have to be taken to examine how this will impact on staff relations and consultation with the union will also have to take place.

Jan Tyrer advised the Partnership that GMW were awarded the contract for managing substance misuse services in Central Division on the 1st October 2011. Jan highlighted that the service is currently receiving a massive amount of alcohol referrals. Jan advised the partnership that a sub contract is in place with Lifeline for delivering brief interventions and recovery. Jan added that Domestic voice is an area that the service is currently looking at developing and are conscious that they currently undertake more work with perpetrators than victims.

6 FUNDED INTERVENTIONS UPDATE

Andrew advised the Partnership that a written progress report for funded interventions for 2010/2011 was enclosed in members meeting packs. Andrew advised that all interventions are currently on track and the Partnership expects to spend its full ABG allocation. Andrew added that £1,000 remained in the LPG pot and partners were currently drawing up potential bids.

Andrew provided the group with a brief overview of the Domestic Abuse Christmas Campaign stating that there are early indications of reductions in offences during the Christmas period, which historically sees a seasonal spike in these types of offences. The campaign was supported by a press release and promotional literature and Louisa added that the campaign also linked in with the Divisional Police lead campaign entitled Operation Harmony. Lou thanked colleagues for all their support in the delivery of the campaign.

Andrew advised that the next Task and Time Group developed through the Local Priorities Group would look at Domestic Abuse issues in West Lancashire. This is in response to its high profile in the West Lancashire Strategic Assessment and its impact on violent crime performance.

Cliff provided a brief overview of the progress made by the Motorcycle Nuisance Task & Time Group. Cliff advised that the LPG had authorised the purchase and erection of Section 59 signage and a K barrier to support police activity in key areas associated with high levels of motorcycle nuisance. The campaign was supported by the production of a motorcycle nuisance leaflet and press release. Other multi agency activities included joint visits by the police and Trading Standards to all of the petrol station managers in Skelmersdale to promote responsible retailing. Early indications show that there have been significant reductions in motorcycle nuisance during January and the group will meet at the end of January to fully assess the campaigns impact.

7 THE POLICE REFORM AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY BILL

Chief Inspector Dean Holden, Lancashire Constabulary, provided a brief verbal summary on the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill. The Bill covers five distinct policy areas: police accountability and governance; alcohol licensing; the regulation of protests around Parliament Square; misuse of drugs; and the issue of arrest warrants in respect of private prosecutions for universal jurisdiction offences. The proposed bill can be accessed on the link below:

[Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill \(new window\)](#).

Colleen Martin stated that there was still some debate to be had over how this reform will be managed within a two-tier authority. Colleen added that the Police and Crime Commissioner who will hold a crime reduction grant would manage future community safety funding. ABG grants will go directly to the Police and Crime Commissioner and this will impact on community safety delivery. Colleen added that officers are currently looking at several proposals.

8. FACE THE PEOPLE

Andrew Hill briefed the CSP on the planned agenda and subject matter for this year's Face the People event, which will take place on the 2nd March 2011 at 7pm in the Ecumenical Centre, Skelmersdale.

Andrew advised that the event would be themed on anti-social behavior and feature three presentations, which will cover the areas of prevention, detection, prosecution, diversionary activities and the criminal justice system. The event will include two joint presentations to demonstrate to the community that agencies are working together to tackle ASB, which would best reflect the ethos of partnership working in West Lancashire. A third presentation will be delivered on the work of the Lancashire Youth Offending Team. Andrew advised that invites have gone out to partner agencies, councilors and the event will be advertised in the local press and on the councils website. Andrew requested Councillors promote the event in their local communities.

9. BREAKING THE CYCLE GREEN PAPER

Mike Lock, Mike Lock, Probation Service Area Director introduced this topic and delivered a summary on the key elements of the Green Paper entitled 'Breaking The Cycle: Effective Punishment, Rehabilitation and Sentencing of Offenders.' The Green Paper sets out plans for fundamental changes to the criminal justice system and the full document can be accessed on the link below:

<http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm79/7972/7972.asp>

10. IDENTIFYING THE PERPETRATORS OF ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Dave Tilleray introduced the agenda item identifying the Perpetrators of ASB and provided the Partnership with a brief background on the subject matter, which were debated at the Councils Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The debate centred on the issue of individuals being named in a

council report, which are held electronically, who have been successfully prosecuted and the appropriateness of keeping these named individuals in the public domain. Dave advised that this issue was referred to the CSP for debate and a decision regarding formal policy and invited comments from Partners agencies.

The Chairman supported the view that the names of the individuals who have been prosecuted will already be in the public domain and highlighted that the Borough Council have always been very balanced in the way we publicise peoples names in relation to crimes.

Councillor Greenall supported The Chairman's comments and added that part of the sanctions is the publication of named individuals who commit criminality and therefore the information automatically becomes public knowledge. This view was supported widely by members of the CSP and Steve Mahon advised that this approach is encouraged the in the paper written by Louise Casey entitled Justice Seen, Justice Done.

Mike Lock stated that offenders need to be brought to the attention of the public but added that there also has to be a continued focus on the rehabilitation of offenders.

The debate concluded that the Partnership support are supportive of the policy of publicising the names of individuals in a reasonable and balanced way who are prosecuted, which is the approach advocated by Louise Casey.

11. DRAFT COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT

Andrew Hill introduced this agenda item stating that the draft Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessment was included within the CSP Meeting pack. Andrew added that the document, which is still in draft form, was included on the agenda for endorsement by the CSP. Andrew added that a number of amendments had been requested which included reference to the growth of Edge Hill University and the subsequent impact on the Town Centre Night Time Economy as an emerging threat and the issue of public finance and its potential impact on CSP's.

The West Lancashire Strategic Assessment document and process was endorsed by the CSP subject to the inclusion of the additional information noted above. It was agreed that the draft assessment would be sent out to partners for a short consultation period before the final draft is produced.

12. IMPLEMENTATION OF INTEGRATED OFFENDER MANAGEMENT

Mike Lock, Probation Service Area Director provided the CSP with a brief verbal progress report on the plans for the implementation of Integrated Offender Management in Southern Division.

Mike stated that there are delays around the funding and team structures in relation to funding but added that the plan is in place. Mike added that there is a South Lancashire IOM briefing planned in March 2011 to enable practitioner to better understand the principles of IOM. Mike advised that the workshop to support the development of the Reducing Re-offending strategy has been held and officers will meet to write up the findings and complete the document. Mike stated that the group will be focusing on the criminogenic needs of offender and added that we will be looking at involving the third sector and substance misuse services more in this area of work.

13. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR RISK ASSESSMENT CONFERENCES

Dean Holden provided the CSP with an overview of the objective of the Anti-Social Behaviour Risk Assessment Conferences (ASBRAC), which are a similar model to the DV MARAC's. Dean advised that they have been created following the introduction of ASB minimum standards and the need to assess and manage the most vulnerable victims of ASB. Dean requested support from partner agencies for the West Lancashire ASBRAC adding that there was currently less attendance than the Partnership envisaged. Steve Mahon stated that ASBRAC's are a very useful format for managing ASB and vulnerable victims and added that the work continues outside of the meeting and provided partners with a recent example of a successful outcome.

Dean advised the partners that although repeat ASB callers are an indication of possible vulnerability he highlighted that it is sometimes that people that are too scared to call who are the most vulnerable and the ASBRAC process will aim to identify these individuals and put support mechanisms in place.

14. MULTI AGENCY BONFIRE PERIOD INITIATIVE 2010

Steve Wilson provided a brief verbal report on the multi-agency bonfire initiative held in November, which produced unprecedented reductions in deliberate fires and anti-social behaviour during this seasonal period. Councillor Aldridge praised the work of the Skelmersdale Fire and Rescue Team and the initiative, which was a great success. The Chairman stated that the effort that Lancashire Fire and Rescue put into prevention is very commendable and added that West Lancashire was one of the first areas to support this approach. Eleanor Maddocks requested that her thanks be recorded to the LF&RS for their support to the Women's Refuge during the period of bad weather.

15. IDVA FUNDING 2011/12

Eleanor Maddocks provided the position with an overview of the current picture for IDVA funding for the next financial year. Eleanor advised the CSP that the Government have announced the potential for 4 years of matched funding but bids must be submitted before the end of February 2011.

Colleen advised the group that the Home Office have relaxed the criteria on what constitutes matched funding and this could now potentially include value in kind and added that it would be better if matched funding could be identified

over the 4 year period. Colleen added that a meeting would take place on Friday to discuss the funding issue with potential bidders within Lancashire to look at the best deal for the Lancs. The Chairman advised Eleanor to speak to officers with respect to next year's budgets.

The Chairman emphasised the issue of finance and the very difficult decisions, which members will have to be make when identifying our priorities for 2011/12. Colleen added that officers are working hard on trying to identify matched funding or resources to enable the Home Office funding to be accessed. It was emphasised however that the date for submissions for funding is before the date that Local Authorities set their own budgets and therefore makes applications at this stage very challenging.

Greg Mitten stated that he appreciated the effort of partners in trying to access funding but added that he gets the clear message that domestic abuse is a key priority and stated that we therefore need to ensure the LSP understands this area is a key priority for the CSP when considering funding applications.

16. COMMUNITY SAFETY ISSUES

Councillor Nolan request information on new legislation announced for fast tracking tenant responsible for ASB. Steve Mahon advised that he is aware of new legislation on this subject and advised that he would provide a briefing note to Councillor Nolan.

The Chairman raised the issue of the challenging weather period we endured during December 2010. He stated that lessons had been learned from the previous year and although the response is still not perfect staff within the borough and across the County put in more and more effort and resources.

The Chairman advised the CSP that due to financial constraints we would no longer be in a position to provide a buffet at future CSP meetings.

17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other business raised.

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on the 20th April 2011 at 6pm in the Council Chamber, 52 Derby Street.