

WEST LANCASHIRE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

HELD: 20th April 2011

Commenced: 6.00 pm

Finished: 7.45 pm

PRESENT:

Andrew Hill	-	WLBC
William J Taylor MBE	-	Chairman (outgoing), WLBC
Sue Swift	-	Lancashire Constabulary
David Tilleray	-	WLBC (Chairman)
Sam Jones	-	LDAAT
Steve Mahon	-	WLBC
Mel Ormesher	-	LCC
Mary Lyons	-	NHS Central Lancs.
Steve Wilson	-	LF&RS
Cllr Greenall	-	WLBC
Robert Ruston	-	Lancashire Police Authority
Gareth Dykes	-	West Lancs. PACT
Andy Hewitson	-	LF&RS
Eleanor Maddocks	-	DV Support Services
Faye Kellet	-	Safer Travel
Dorothy Shields	-	Probation
John Fleet	-	Community Member
Roger Merry	-	Ormskirk Bench
Lee Ormandy	-	Trading Standards
Cllr Ashcroft	-	WLBC
Jan Tyrer	-	GMW

IN ATTENDANCE:

Cliff Owens	-	WLBC
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1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from:

William Cropper, Bruce Jassi, Greg Mitten, Cllr Una Atherley, Christine Coleman, Grant Murdoch, Gail Stanley, Louisa Armitage-Parkinson, Mike Lock, Graham Coulston-Herrmann, Stewart Williams, Shirley Johnson, Teresa Fox

3. APPOINTMENT OF NEW CSP CHAIRMAN

Andrew Hill provided the Partnership with a brief summary of the process that was agreed with the Strategic Review Group for the appointment of a new Chairperson for the CSP.

The Chairman advised the Partnership that we had received one nomination for the role, which was Mr David Tilleray, Assistant Director Community Services and the Chairman added that his nomination had received wide support.

The nomination was supported by the CSP and the outgoing Chairman stated that David Tilleray has an extensive knowledge of the community safety agenda and is very partnership oriented. The Chairman continued by adding that throughout his 10 years in the role, the CSP has done a sterling job and he thanked partners for their efforts and support. He continued by adding that it was his view that in these challenging times the Home Secretary is not always in tune with public opinion with the public wanting more police and a more proactive approach for tackling offenders and bringing them to justice.

The outgoing Chairman continued by adding that we have achieved excellent reductions against crime and the fear of crime and thanked the Council for its support to the CSP. The outgoing Chairman also commended the wider community safety achievements and highlighted the progress made locally by LF&RS in both its significant improvements against performance measures and their contribution to wider partnership objectives.

David Tilleray in his capacity as the new Chairman of the CSP stated that we have an excellent partnership but added that we must now rise to the challenge of getting every ounce of value from the Partnership. The Chairman continued by thanking the Partnership for supporting and endorsing his nomination and appointment as CSP Chairman.

4. ILLEGAL MONEY LENDING PRESENTATION

The Chairman, David Tilleray introduced Lee Ormandy from Trading Standards and advised that Lee would be delivering a presentation on the theme of illegal money lending. It was agreed that a copy of the presentation would be circulated with the minutes.

Cllr Iain Ashcroft asked how wide spread the issue is in West Lancashire and what kind of response do we have locally to the problem. Lee advised that loan sharks will operate across the Borough but will be more prevalent in urban areas and advised their impact on small businesses is a worrying trend. Lee continued by adding that there is no recorded increase in their numbers as they are very territorial but there will be a potential increase in victims in the current financial climate.

Chief Inspector Swift advised that the Partnership has set up a Task and Time Group to look at the issue in more detail and added that one of the key challenges is to identify the loan sharks and gather evidence against them. Sue added that the Police strongly suspect that loan sharks do operate in West Lancashire but cautioned that we need to raise public awareness on the

subject and gather community intelligence. Sue provided an overview of Operation Credit which has been set up in response to the issue.

Cllr Ashcroft stated the importance of Trading Standards engaging with the local Parish Councils and John Fleet recommended that Trading Standards highlight the issue in the community newsletter 'Home Front News'. Lee Ormandy welcomed these recommendations.

5. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING/MATTERS ARISING

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

6. PUBLIC SECTOR SPENDING

The Chairman provided the partners with an opportunity to give a verbal update on the issue of Public Sector Spending and its impact on their services. The Chairman began by highlighting the savings that the council must make over a 3-year period beginning next year. The Chairman stated that whilst officers are given the task of putting options forward the difficult decision on making cuts rests with the Council.

Dorothy Shields advised the Partnership that the Probation Service have lost a significant part of their budget which will affect staffing resources but added that the service had made cuts early to reduce future impact. Dorothy added that the service would face a major review in July 2011. Dorothy concluded by highlighting a number of changes affecting the senior probation management structure.

Cllr Greenall highlighted to the Partnership that a couple of posts that support the CSP have been funded through the ABG grant and from other agencies. He continued by stating that decisions on funding for posts should not be left to the 11th hour as these decisions affect people's lives.

The Chairman supported Cllr Greenall's comments and requested that where external funding is concerned the CSP is given as much notice as possible, especially when it impacts on funding posts.

Eleanor Maddocks highlighted to the Partnership the significant reductions in funding faced by the Women's Domestic Violence Service. Eleanor stated that to date they have lost approximately 30% of their budget that equates to approximately £150,000 and added that they are currently struggling to provide a service.

Sue Swift provided an overview of the anticipated changes to the policing structure across the Division and its impact on West Lancashire Policing. Sue added that the police would be moving locally to a single operating centre, which will be Skelmersdale Police Station. Sue added that the Police Estates Team is undertaking the review of Police Stations and buildings and this work is currently ongoing with no key decisions taken to date.

7. PERFORMANCE MONITORING

The Chairman invited partner agencies to provide a verbal overview of their quarterly performance and highlighted as an introduction that year-end performance against key CSP targets was excellent.

Sue Swift provided a detailed overview of the Police performance figures against agreed targets and advised that we have seen excellent reductions across nearly all of the categories. Sue continued by stating that we have seen significant improvement in performance against some very good baseline performance from the previous year.

Sue thanked the CSP for its support and added that the CSP and Local Priorities Group have been instrumental in helping to meet and exceed targets. Sue added that the one exception target was Assault with Injury, which we just missed out on.

The Chairman acknowledged the excellent performance and added that even the standstill figure against violence was good in comparison to the wider national picture.

Sue continued by providing the Partnership with an overview of planned police operations aimed at sustaining the good performance and tackling key crime threats including violent crime, cross border crime and burglary. A full summary of the performance figures was contained in members meeting packs.

Cllr Ashcroft raised the issue of CCTV and supporting technology in helping to fight crime and whether or not the Police felt it made a positive contribution to their work.

Sue Swift responded that the Police are very supportive of the use of CCTV as a tool for tackling crime and developing community confidence. Sue continued by stating that CCTV is also an invaluable asset in helping to detect and deter crime and added that the Police are supportive of the Councils continued investment and commitment to CCTV in West Lancashire. Sue highlighted other technologies including ANPR, which assists in helping to detect crime and act as a deterrent to cross border criminals. Cllr Ashcroft added that he recognised the value of CCTV in combating crime and ASB and added that he would like to see more investment in CCTV in the Northern Parishes.

The Chairman advised the Partnership that the CSP has received funding through the Local Strategic Partnership to upgrade the local CCTV system and it is anticipated that limited funding will remain from this pot to commission some new cameras in the Borough. The Chairman added that this will need to be done in partnership with the police to ensure it is an evidenced led process and within the framework national CCTV guidance.

Sue Swift advised the Partnership that the LSP has also funded a CSP bid led by the Police for the funding of body cameras for operational police staff. This

will help support officers in gathering evidence and tackling issues including cross border crime and violent crime.

Steve Mahon provided the Partnership with an overview of the performance figures for the ASB Team. Steve continued by highlighting to the Partnership the change in recording practices by the Police for ASB which will now be broken down into just 3 categories entitled Personal, Nuisance and Environmental.

Steve Wilson echoed the earlier comments of William Taylor and added that West Lancashire is now considered a model of best practice across the County with double-digit figures for reductions for deliberate secondary fires. Steve cautioned however that fires, which are directly attributable to wheelie bins continue to be a key threat which is reflected in the Strategic Assessment and Partnership Plan. Steve advised the CSP that he acknowledged the Chairman's proactive approach to the issue and recognised partner contributions but stated that the issue remains a key local threat.

Cllr Greenall commented that clearly there was significant action ongoing to tackle the issue and asked was it still a problem. Steve advised that there have been 10 incidents so far this month and although there has been significant work done in key areas the problem will continue to move. The service will still need a full picture over 1-2 years to help identify a pattern. Steve added that the issue is specifically a Skelmersdale issue with some historic problems around the storage of bins. Steve advised that when a specific perpetrator is caught and prosecuted he would be seeking some positive local publicity.

The Chairman advised the Partnership that the Council is working closely with its colleagues in Fire and Rescue to address this issue and thanked Steve for his commitment and strong intention to tackling this issue.

The Chairman advised that we had received apologies from Young Peoples Services and noted that their performance information was contained in the meeting pack.

Eleanor Maddocks provided an overview of the performance for IDVA service. Eleanor advised that there had been a slight increase in referrals on quarter 3 with a total of 118 referrals to the service over the past financial year.

Dorothy Shields referred partners to the Probation report that was circulated prior to the meeting and preceded by providing the CSP with an overview of the report. Dorothy highlighted that the current rate of reoffending in West Lancashire is below the County average. Dorothy also highlighted that a significant amount of good preventative work is carried out by the local team, which is not reflected in the statistics including the work carried out supporting MAPPA and MARAC arrangements.

Jan Tyrer provided the partnership with an overview of performance for Greater Manchester West. Jan advised that the number coming through the criminal justice system is currently quite low. Jan advised that the current pathways have been identified as intensive by custody staff and discussions

are ongoing to improve the picture. Jan added that Mags O'Neil has now been appointed as the new GMW area manager for West Lancashire. Jan continued by providing an overview of the performance figures.

8 FUNDED INTERVENTIONS FIANL REPORT 2010/11

Cliff advised the Partnership that a written progress report for funded interventions for 2010/2011 was enclosed in members meeting packs. Cliff further stated that the Partnership has spent its full ABG allocation and added that all of the funded interventions have contributed to assisting the CSP in meeting the agreed 2010/11 targets. Cliff continued by highlighting a number of successful initiatives including the motorcycle nuisance campaign and added that full details were contained in the funding plan report.

Cliff also provided an update on the work of the Domestic Violence Task and Time Group stating that the group has met twice. Cliff highlighted a number of key actions that are currently being undertaken by the group, which included researching current national and regional campaigns that could be rolled out locally. Cliff also highlighted the work undertaken by the group to engage local schools to raise awareness and the development of a focus group led by Eleanor Maddocks to address the reasons why domestic violence is underreported.

9 FUNDED INTERVENTIONS UPDATE 2011/12

Andrew Hill provided the CSP with an update on the subject of Area Based Grant Funding for 2011/12. Andrew explained that LCC is looking at introducing more accountability against ABG allocations to CSP's. Andrew continued by providing an overview of the funding allocated to West Lancashire against the funding plan that was produced and endorsed by West Lancashire CSP.

West Lancashire CSP was asked to prepare a draft-funding plan based on a 30% reduction against last year's allocation. A funding plan endorsed by the Strategic Review Group was put forward for a total of £49,060. To date, the Safer Lancashire Board have agreed funding to West Lancashire CSP in the amount of £32,000 and we await confirmation of this funding, which will fund 6 of the proposals within the plan. Two of these proposals to support diversionary activities which included the local Brightsparx campaign will be supported once assurance has been gained that it does not duplicate mainstream or children's trust provision. It was indicated that two of the proposals put forward in the funding plan will be included in the work by the Communications sub group of the SLB.

The remaining proposals will be subject to further discussion to determine if the activity should be supported through mainstream service planning/delivery and this will be led by the thematic leads for the SLB. If these proposals are considered by the themed lead as added value then they will be discussed for consideration at the May 2011 SLB meeting.

10 DRAFT COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP PLAN 2011-12

The Chairman introduced this agenda item and Andrew Hill provided a brief overview of the duty to have in place a Community Safety Partnership Plan. The key changes for the 2011/12 plan were highlighted and Andrew described the plan as being 95% complete with some further contributions currently being developed by partner agencies including YOT. The Chairman acknowledged the hard work that had gone into the production of the document and thanked partners for their support.

The West Lancashire Partnership Plan for 2011/12 was endorsed by the Partnership.

11 ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR CONSULTATION EXERCISE

Andrew Hill provided the group with an update on the ASB consultation exercise. In July 2010 the Home Secretary announced a review of the many new tools and powers introduced since 1998 for dealing with anti-social behaviour. The consultation document entitled 'More Effective Responses to Anti-Social Behaviour,' outlines the findings of that review, and puts forward some proposals for radically simplifying and improving the toolkit.

The closing date for the consultation is the 3rd May 2011 and to read the document in full click on the link entitled: [More effective responses to anti-social behaviour - PDF version of the consultation \(PDF file - 374kb\)](#)

The Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group that West Lancashire CSP is represented on is leading on developing a consistent countywide response.

12. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ISSUES

Andrew Hill advised the CSP that the refreshed West Lancashire Domestic Violence Strategy was sent out in the meeting pack. A draft of the refreshed 2007 document was sent out for consultation on the 15th March 2011 and colleagues were invited to feed any observations, comments or amendments back prior to this meeting.

Cllr Greenall highlighted the importance of tackling this very serious issue and introduced a discussion on what actions are taken against perpetrators of domestic violence. Sue Swift advised the Partnership that not all domestic incidents that the police respond too are serious assaults but added the police deal with all incidents in a professional manner and take action appropriate to the offence committed.

Roger Merry provided the CSP with a brief overview of how the magistrate's court operates and highlighted that the bench can only sentence on the offence on which a person is charged. Roger assured the CSP that the Ormskirk Magistrates Bench are well trained on DV related issues and take incidents that come before the bench very seriously.

The refreshed West Lancashire CSP DV Strategy was endorsed by the Partnership.

IDVA FUNDING

Eleanor Maddocks advised that the service is due to receive funding that equates to 3/12ths of a £20k allocation from the SLB. This will allow the service to fund a part time IDVA service for 3 months up to end of June 2011. The post has previously operated as a full time position.

The Domestic Violence Support Service has used funding reserves for the IDVA to be full time during April 2011. Eleanor advised that the service which will need to move to part time will not be in a position to continue to support the same number of victims. Eleanor highlighted to the partnership that we have already had 2 DV related murders here in Lancashire this month alone.

Eleanor advised the CSP that it is not the responsibility of the Women's Domestic Violence Service to fund the IDVA adding that this responsibility rests with the CSP and SLB.

Mel Ormesher advised the CSP that the funding bids to the Home Office for IDVA provision were oversubscribed nationally. Mel advised that further funding will follow but it will be nowhere near the level of provision anticipated. Mel stated that £180k of ABG monies for supporting DV was allocated to the SLB for commissioning.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOMICIDE REVIEW

Andrew Hill introduced this agenda item and provided the Partnership with an overview of the new requirement on CSPs to hold an inquiry if there is a DV homicide. This requirement under section 9 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 came into force on 13 April 2011.

Andrew advised the CSP that a draft paper written by Chief Inspector Sam Mackenzie has recommended that a sub group of the SLB be established with the designated statutory partners forming the quorate group. This group whilst permanently constituted would only need to meet as and when a relevant case occurred and was referred. The relevant CSP Chair would be responsible for convening the panel.

This approach is currently being considered by CSP Chairs across the County footprint.

13. FACE THE PEOPLE

Andrew Hill provided the CSP with a summary of the evaluation of this years Face the People event, which took place on the 2nd March 2011 in the Ecumenical Centre, Skelmersdale. .

Andrew advised that the event, which was themed on anti-social behavior, was attended by 105 people with a higher proportion of local residents than during previous events. Andrew advised the CSP that minutes of the event are available on the Council website. Andrew continued by advising that the event was well received with very positive feedback given. The only negative

comments were in relation to the acoustics and parking. John Fleet advised the CSP that he was unable to attend the event but had received some very positive comments from community members that had attended.

Andrew concluded that the duty to hold the event is likely to be repealed in 2011/12 and will bring the subject back to the CSP for further discussion when we know more. Andrew added that the funding element of this years funding proposed plan contained an allocation for local community engagement, which was not supported by the SLB.

14. COMMUNITY SAFETY ISSUES

There were no community safety issues raised.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The group discussed moving the time of the CSP meeting slightly back to give colleagues the opportunity to have a meal prior to meeting, however, it was agreed that future meetings should continue to be held at 6pm.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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