

A MEETING OF THE GOSPORT COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP STRATEGIC BOARD

WAS HELD ON 15 JANUARY 2009

Membership: Councillor Smith (Gosport Borough Council) (P), Councillor Mrs Snaith (Hampshire Police Authority) (P), Chief Inspector Jeremy Patterson (Gosport Police) (P) and Councillor Hunt (Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority).

Also Present:

Gosport Neighbourhood Watch
Hampshire Fire and Rescue

Alan Scard
Peter Watson

Gosport Borough Council Officers

Head of Community Safety
Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator
Democratic Services Officer

Jamie O'Reilly
Sharon Dalrymple-Bray
Chris Wrein

6. APOLOGIES

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting were received on behalf of Councillor Hunt and Peter Wilson (in addition, Neil Lockett (Hampshire Primary Care Trust) was unable to attend and tendered his apologies the next day).

7. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Partnership meeting held on 16 October 2008 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

8. VICE-CHAIR ARRANGEMENTS

It was agreed that Councillor Mrs Snaith be elected Vice-Chairman of the Strategic Board. With regard to the question of representation at the County Community Safety Group in the absence of the Chairman, officers advised that this role would be fulfilled by the Vice-Chairman or, should the Vice-Chairman be unavailable, the Borough Treasurer as the Council's appointed deputy to the Chair for this purpose.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Mrs Snaith be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Strategic Board.

9. SCRUTINY ARRANGEMENTS

Jamie O'Reilly advised of the legal requirement for the setting up of a Community Safety Scrutiny Panel. Several Councillors had served on the original Community Safety Partnership before the new arrangements were put into place and it was these Members who would form the new scrutiny panel in the first instance. Terms of reference and a schedule of meetings were being drawn up

10. INFORMATION SHARING PROTOCOL

Consideration was given to the draft County Strategy Group for Crime and Disorder Information Sharing Agreement (a copy of which is attached in the Minute Book as Appendix A).

The Board was advised that the agreement was to be shared by all responsible authorities and was designed to ensure that all parties shared information properly. Work was in progress regarding protocols for the sharing of personal information.

Peter Watson advised that the expression "Road Traffic Accident" (RTA) had now been replaced by the term "Road Traffic Collision" (RTC).

RESOLVED: That the draft County Strategy Group for Crime and Disorder Information Sharing Agreement be noted and agreed as suitable for adoption by the Group subject to it being signed by Gosport Borough Council and adopted by the County Community Safety Strategic Group

11. UPDATE ON THE COUNTY COMMUNITY SAFETY GROUP

Consideration was given to the following three documents:

- Commissioning Sub-Group report by Alan Hagger, Strategic Commissioning Director, Hampshire County Council
- Performance Sub-Group report by David Renouf, Probation Service
- Presentation on Youth Crime Prevention by Steve Crocker, Youth Offending Team

The three documents are attached in the Minute Book as Appendix B.

The Commissioning Sub-Group report looked at the interim grant funding for 2009/10 via the Crime and Disorder partnerships through the Area Based Grant. The Chairman of the Group had met with representatives of each partnership and this interim review would determine funding across the district. It was expected that each partnership may have to take a cut in funding which would be reinvested centrally for common objectives.

Jamie O'Reilly discussed an attached spreadsheet which set out the level funding for all Hampshire district CDRP's – including Gosport, for 2009/10. He explained that this showed a roughly 15% cut in funds directly passported to the CDRP to be re-invested by the County Strategic Community Safety Group.

Information was currently being gathered in order to identify key themes to be progressed.

Gosport Community Safety Partnership had contributed to the indicators contained in the Performance Sub-Group report. The scoring was generally considered to be good. Hard figures were encouraging but those based on public perception were yet to be received.

With regard to Youth Crime Prevention, it was reported that there was a move towards more "common sense" policing which would reduce unnecessary entry by young people into the criminal justice system by taking alternative, more sensible, measures. Work had been carried out by the Youth Inclusion Support Panel and other initiatives had been used.

This was welcomed by the Board and the value of working with young people was recognised. There had been a concern that recorded long standing minor offences could still have a serious effect on a young person's future.

Jamie O'Reilly reported that there was a 20% reduction in first time entrants to the Criminal Justice system in Hampshire during the first two quarters although the information was varied across the districts. It was felt that young people were interested in the criminal justice system and there was huge scope for deterrent work such as young offenders appearing before a panel

Jamie O'Reilly undertook to look into arrangements in other areas. Chief Inspector Patterson felt it may be worth introducing not only deterrents such as reprimands but also talking to young people about their aspirations and how these could be compromised by offending.

12. MURDER OF WILLIAM WICKHAM

Chief Inspector Patterson advised the Board of the necessity to take stock and learn from incidents such as the murder of Mr Wickham by two 15 year olds. The issues that had arisen were from this case:

- The callousness of the murder
- The lack of appreciation by the offenders of their actions
- The offenders' intent to commit further crimes that night
- The ease with which they obtained alcohol
- The role of alcohol
- The fact that the alcohol had been bought for them on this occasion by an adult
- The role of MSN live messenger
- The drinking of alcohol in public by youngsters
- The effectiveness of the Youth Offending Team and other partners in this case

It was felt that the message still needed to be got across about the dangers of buying alcohol and tobacco for young people. Shops should be involved in putting over the message and a degree of “naming and shaming” could be introduced.

Jamie O'Reilly suggested that cases there might be a benefit in carrying out a multi agency review if the case to try to ascertain what lessons could be learnt by partners. A working group could be established, including the Youth Offending Team, to this end. The Board agreed that Jamie O'Reilly should progress this on their behalf and report back.

Councillor Smith suggested that a certificate could be awarded by the Partnership to the members of the team who carried out the investigation of this murder. CI Jerry Patterson agreed to consider this on behalf of the Board.

13. CDRP PERFORMANCE AND FINANCE REVIEW INCLUDING FEATURE ON PPO'S AND PENINSULA AND GOSPORT 2008/09 STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT

The Board considered the Community Safety Performance and Finance report and the Strategic Assessment. These documents are attached in the Minute Book as Appendix C.

Jamie O'Reilly advised that the Community Safety Plan was coming to the end of its first year and would need to be 'refreshed'. This would be based on the findings of a 'strategic assessment' of crime and disorder in the Borough which was currently underway. The outcomes of the William Wickham case could be included.

It was noted that performance figures showed that there had been an improvement in the last quarter and Gosport no longer had the highest crime rate amongst the Hampshire districts.

With regard to dealing with assaults, Chief Inspector Patterson advised that performance had improved but the figures were still too high.

With regard to sexual offences Chief Inspector Patterson advised that this was a very broad range of offences and he was unaware of any analysis which suggested any particular pattern and that any increase would be on an originally small figure.

RESOLVED: That the reports of the Head of Community Safety be noted.

The meeting commenced at 6.00 pm and concluded at 19.50 pm

Chairman