

## Safer Halton Partnership

At a meeting of the Safer Halton Partnership, Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2015 in the Boardroom, Municipal Building, Widnes from 10am.

### Present:

C Patino	Community & Environment
Cllr D Thompson	PPB Chair Police Crime Panel Representative
D Parr	Chief Executive
D Perchard	HBC Trading Standards
D Yates	Cheshire and Greater Merseyside CRC
E Anwar	Public Health
G Jones	Youth Offending Service
J Bucknall	Integrated Youth Service
J Horsfall	Halton Housing Trust
J Williams	Commissioning – Communities
M Andrews	Community Safety
M McDonough	Home Office – Immigration Enforcement
N Hallmark	Policy & Performance – Communities
P Hughes	Community Safety – Cheshire Police
R Langdale-Smith	Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire
S Bell	Public Health
S Boycott	Cheshire Police
S Henshaw	Cheshire Fire & Rescue

### Apologies:

J Duff	Faith Sector
L Crane	Integrated Youth Support
N Sharpe	Halton Housing Trust

AGENDA ITEM	ACTION
<p><b>1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS</b></p> <p>David Parr welcomed all to the meeting and introductions were made.</p>	
<p><b>2. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING</b></p> <p>Minutes of last meeting agreed as a true record.</p> <p>Legal Highs/Novel Psychoactive Substances The report brought to the last meeting also went to Safer Policy and Performance Board. As a result a working party has been set up to</p>	

<p>examine the subject and assess whether there are any practical steps that can be taken in Halton to alleviate the situation. Jon Bucknall requested to feed-in to the process from a young person’s perspective.</p> <p><b>Late Night Levy</b> The proposed work involving Police and Public Health not taken place as yet. It was reported however that there is some sub-regional work taking place through Drinkwise and also Community Safety have some in-roads through other groups. Suggestion made to utilise existing groups and give them added influence. It was proposed that a clear evidence base is needed in order to support a Late Night Levy. This would offer the opportunity for Members to make an informed decision.</p> <p><b>Statement of Licencing</b> Tying-in with above item it was confirmed that a Statement of Licencing Policy was under review and that this needs to include clear links to wider wellbeing issues on alcohol harm. Suggestion was made around the notion of a ‘terminal hour’ to meet the needs of different customer bases. It was stated that a new Statement of Licencing would consider the future vision for Halton in terms of the culture being established and residents’ relationship to alcohol.</p> <p><b>Anti-Social Behaviour</b> It was suggested that new tools and powers could be used in relation to travellers’ sites but would not be employed as a first port of call.</p>	<p>NH to send invite to JB</p> <p>MA - Progress report to come back to next meeting</p> <p>EA - Progress report to come back to next meeting</p>
<p><b>3. TASK GROUP UPDATES</b></p> <p><b>a.) Alcohol Harm Reduction</b></p> <p>Feedback was given on key actions over the period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 474 visits to licenced premises reported for the period</li> <li>• Pandis – fined £10,000 for breach of immigration law</li> <li>• Red Admiral – DPS issues now resolved</li> <li>• Traveller wedding – was well managed and passed without incident</li> <li>• Wine Bar – progress made on Night Watch system</li> <li>• Pub Watch, Runcorn – now well established</li> <li>• Christmas period – no issues of note – successful awareness raising activity</li> <li>• Early December – two ‘pocket book’ warnings issued</li> <li>• No passive drugs dog operations for period – this is to be re-visited for future reports</li> <li>• Monthly contact established with door staff</li> <li>• Meetings set up with licencing team</li> </ul> <p>Overall it was reported that the quarter was well managed with little incident.</p>	

### **b.) Quarterly Alcohol Update**

It was noted that good progress is being made against objectives:

- Work has been undertaken with young people to raise awareness of alcohol harm
- Public Health/Home Officer continue to support the LAAA project and goals set are being achieved
- Town Centre Manager – a meeting has taken place to look at whether there is scope to achieve impact within a short timescale
- Seminars have been run with licenced premises to look at the reduction of alcohol violence
- Alcohol Enquiry – this has started to take place with a view to looking at perceptions of alcohol and influencing a healthy relationship with it. Initial finding is that pricing is a key issue
- Colleagues were thanked with regard to the practical examples given in support of decision making for licensing purposes
- Improvements being made to Under-18s admissions and it was felt that the activity across the community is influencing positively on that
- It was reported that adult admissions have plateaued but still remain an issue
- A social marketing campaign has been developed around alcohol and pregnancy and is to be rolled out imminently
- Brief Intervention and Advice (BIA) courses have been run across various services
- Acute admission alcohol nurse now in situ

Further to a query it was confirmed that the current Street Pastors have received the BIA training. A request was made for intervention detail to be incorporated into the Street Pastor reporting.

PH

### **c.) Crime, Anti-Social Behaviour and Partnership Tasking**

Within feedback it was highlighted that Quarter Three reporting includes the Mischief Night, Halloween and Bonfire Night period, traditionally a peak time for anti-social behaviour (ASB). While this period saw a spike, overall the quarter saw a reduction in ASB on the previous year. The figures were credited to the co-ordinated approach to activities, in particular the involvement of Environmental Services over the peak bonfire period.

Over the bonfire night period Runcorn saw a small increase in deliberate fire setting but overall there has been a reduction on

<p>last year's figures due to the managed approach taken.</p> <p>ASB over the Mischief Night/Halloween period was at the high end of the scale and included attacks on emergency vehicles. This has been reviewed and findings will influence the 2015 approach.</p> <p>Interventions over Quarter Three have proved successful and have included further activity under Operation Emblem and the Respect programmes. Some issues highlighted in relation to engaging partners for Respect programmes.</p> <p>Safer Schools – Truancy sweeps resulting in a number of young people being taken to a place of safety.</p> <p>Work with schools is making a link between public transport and ASB issues.</p> <p>Arriva – incident has highlighted the need for ongoing communication and staff members now have access to community notice boards with reports being posted from Community Safety. This will allow staff to remain informed of problem areas and promote engagement with Community Safety to tackle the issues.</p> <p>Public Space Protection Order – work is being undertaken to identify and take forward and the partnership will be updated on progress.</p> <p>Operation Stay Safe – it was queried whether young people were asked how they got access to alcohol and suggested that any intelligence gleaned would be invaluable to Trading Standards. It was indicated that, at present, this is not asked however other consultation with young people, through Public Health, seems to suggest that 40% of alcohol comes from the young peoples' parents. Work is to be undertaken to look at this issue with parents.</p> <p>Gypsy/traveller encampment – one during Quarter Three.</p> <p>A victim communication mechanism, 'Track My Crime', was discussed. Confirmation was given that this has been trialled in some Police Authority areas and is to be rolled out. The system is free to use for forces but they would need to look at their own system compatibility. Cheshire Constabulary is investing in mobile technology and so would have the capacity to provide the information needed for the 'Track My Crime' system. A need was highlighted to be able to balance the information so that pre-judicial information is not shared and victims are not put at risk. General feeling was that communication is key to reassuring the public.</p>	<p>SB to feedback on timescales</p>
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The issue of increased global terrorist activity was raised and questions were asked as to the potential threat levels within the Borough. It was confirmed that risks are non-specific and there are no identified targets. A level of general vigilance was advised and a suggestion was made to continue to share intelligence on suspicious activity, individuals or groups.

It was highlighted that hate crime did not feature in the report. The reason for this was cited as a result of altered data capture within the region. It was suggested that once more robust capture of local figures could be sought it would feature on future reports.

It was stated that Hate Crime figures across the region have reduced and continued attention is being paid to the issue.

**d.) Domestic Abuse**

A reduction in cases to MARAC was reported. This has resulted from a review of the volume of cases being discussed and the introduction of a triage system. MARAC now discusses the most high levels cases and others are monitored through other mechanisms.

The refuge has seen an increase in take-up for respite. This is seen as positive as suggests more victims are being open to help.

Domestic Violence Protection Order/Domestic Violence Protection Notice (DVPO/DVPN) – A co-ordinator is now in post for Cheshire Constabulary to take these forward.

Seventeen were issued across Halton and Warrington within Quarter Three. A request was made for figures to be included in ongoing reports.

PH

The awareness raising campaigns over the Christmas period (traditionally a peak period) have included the till receipts messages, local press publicity and marketing on the bin lorries. Thanks were given to Jimmy Unsworth for supporting this campaign within his service area.

Query was raised around IDBA and confirmation was given that the gap had been closed in Halton in respect of contact time. A request was made for this to be reported on.

MA

**e.) Substance Misuse**

Quarter Three figures showed that engagement is improving.

The Hep B vaccination scheme has been well-received and uptake was good as a result of the use of an incentive of vouchers.

<p>The White Ribbon event was successful and has supported victims in coming forward.</p> <p>During November and December an Aspirations Training programme was held with service-users. This involved mentors working with learners on employability skills. This is seen as a pivotal piece of work in ensuring service-users retain their benefits in the light of Government dialogue around worklessness, engagement with work programmes and whether benefits could be cut for those not engaging. It was stressed that Halton Members did not support benefits penalties and while the Authority would follow legislative guidelines they would also act in the interest of residents' needs and those most financially vulnerable within the Community.</p> <p>A Peer Mentor Group was hosted at St Paul's Church, with positive results. The service is currently looking at other faith venues to replicate the success of the initiative.</p> <p>The 'dry café' project is underway and Department of Health funding has been applied for. It is intended that in addition to offer a community venue the 'dry café' would operate as a central point of access for drug and alcohol services (Council and partners).</p> <p>Legal highs were discussed and it was reported that use of these substances resulted in 13 deaths Nationally during 2013. National figures to be circulated to Partnership members. No local data is available at present and the current picture indicates that legal highs are being used in conjunction with other illegal drugs, and that this complicates representation of the issue.</p> <p>It was reported that a large amount of spent canisters of nitrous oxide were found following an 18<sup>th</sup> birthday party at the Stadium at the weekend. On investigation it was found that these are readily available online at 35p per 8mg canister and have a legitimate use in the dispensing of whipped cream. Initial research has indicated that just an 8mg dose of the gas could be lethal.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Safety confirmed that this was new intelligence and that work would be undertaken to investigate the issue.</li> <li>• It was resolved that Council venues, including the Community Centres, would be informed of the issue and vigilance would be requested.</li> <li>• Trading Standards agreed to look at working with retail outlets to agree an informal age restriction on the sale of the gas.</li> </ul>	<p>JW</p> <p>MA/PH</p> <p>CP</p> <p>DPerchard</p>
<p><b>4. POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER (PCC)</b></p> <p>It was announced that the Commissioner has announced a continued commitment to Community Safety at the same level as</p>	

<p>the previous year.</p> <p>RASASC have retained the contract for the rape and sexual assault aftercare programme for the constabulary region but have extended access to become an ageless service.</p> <p>Concerns raised by The Safeguarding Board have seen the inclusion of financial crime and adult sexual exploitation into the Commissioner plans.</p> <p>Child Sexual Exploitation was briefly discussed, and current public focus on the issue following the Rotherham situation. It was agreed that Halton's response to review their practices would be shared at the next meeting through a report from the Children and Enterprise Directorate. The successful Ofsted report was cited as a positive indicator of Halton's performance.</p> <p>The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment was referred to and it was agreed that this is to be brought to the next meeting.</p>	<p>Catherine Appleton to be tasked with reporting at the next meeting.</p> <p>MA</p>
<p><b>5. POLICE AND CRIME PANEL (PCP)</b></p> <p>The statutory function of the PCP was explained in relation to their role in reviewing the PCCs plans. The PCP have issued comments on the plans and a further meeting has been set to look at alterations.</p> <p>The PCP noted that PCC plan have proposed additional officers and this was viewed as positive.</p> <p>It was reported that the PCP had found a lack of localism in the PCC plans. It was stressed that Cheshire has diverse needs across its communities and suggested that the plans are not representative of these. Through consultation the PCC has set the top priority as road policing. It was felt that this did not reflect the main need of Halton as a community.</p> <p>It was proposed that all should remain mindful of the forthcoming general election and the potential impact on the current consultation and representation structure, embodied into the PCC and the PCP.</p> <p>Emphasis was placed on increased austerity and the fact that by 2016 there is a predicted National loss on policing equivalent to nine forces.</p>	
<p><b>6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b></p> <p>Youth Offending Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The closure of Hindley Youth Offender Institution was reported, along with its potential impact on Halton families. The nearest custodial centre is now Weatherby.</li> </ul>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A reported entitled 'A Matter of Trust' was cited as paying credence to good practice across Cheshire. It was agreed that the report should be circulated.</li> </ul>	GJ
<p><b>7. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION</b></p> <p>Items for information were highlighted for partners to absorb:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a.) Widnes Blue Lamp Report</li> <li>b.) Runcorn Blue Lamp Report</li> <li>c.) Street Pastors – October</li> <li>d.) Street Pastors – November</li> <li>e.) Street Pastors – December</li> </ul>	

Meeting ended at 11.35am

DRAFT