

SAFER HALTON PARTNERSHIP

At a meeting of the Safer Halton Partnership Monday, 25 November 2013 The Board Room - Municipal Building, Widnes

Present	M. Andrews	Community Safety
	E. Anwar	Public Health
	S. Boycott	Cheshire Police
	J. Bucknall	Children's Provision & Organisation
	D. Cargill	Police Crime Panel
	J. Davidson	Cheshire Probation Service
	J. Duff	Faith Representative
	D. Gordon	Community Safety
	S. Henshaw	Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service
	A. Jones	Democratic Services
	D. Parr	Chief Executive
	D. Perchard	Halton Trading Standards
	L. Smith	
	E Sutton-Thompson	Policy & Resources, Communities
	J. Williams	Commissioning Manager Drugs

Action

SHP9 WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

David Parr welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made around the table.

It was noted that Deana Perchard from Trading Standards would be replacing Linda Smallthwaite on the Partnership.

SHP10 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 24 September 2013 were taken as read and agreed as a correct record.

SHP3 – It was noted that feedback had been received from Jeremy Duff regarding the SCS outcome targets and this was discussed. The Partnership then agreed that they were all happy with the draft document.

SHP11 DOMESTIC HOMICIDE POLICY

A report was presented to the Partnership that described the process that was being developed to manage

any Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) that was established in Halton. The report briefly described:

- The DHR context;
- Puts forward a policy and procedure for consideration by the Partnership; and
- Discussed the process that was being developed for sharing the role of chairing Domestic Homicide Reviews across localities.

The Partnership was advised that the DHR was a key feature of the *Domestic Violence, Crimes and Victims Act 2004* and was only implemented in 2011 following the publication of the Government's strategic narrative "*Call to end violence against women and girls*" and the subsequent Action Plan. Statutory guidance was issued following this, and this guidance was revised and reissued nationally in August 2013.

It was reported that DHR's were statutory reviews set up to consider the areas of learning, and what needed to change as a result of the learning, for individuals and organisations following an incident of domestic violence that had resulted in death. It was noted that the responsibility of setting up a DHR rested with local Community Safety Partnerships, which were regarded as ideally placed to discharge this duty because of their multi-agency design.

It was noted that the draft *Multi Agency Policy, Procedure and Practice – November 2013*, which was presented to the Partnership today for approval, had already been to the Children's and Adults Safeguarding Boards' and to the Halton Domestic Abuse Forum for comment.

The report provided members with an overview of the contents of the Review and discussed the need for the DHR process to have an independent Chairperson. It also discussed the Home Office training plans across the country and its aim to create a 'pool' of Chairpersons in each region, to ensure that there was an adequate supply of people to call upon when needed. It was stressed that it was also important to have legacy planning; to ensure that there would always be an adequate supply of potential DHR Chairpersons in the region.

It was suggested that as there was an existing consortium in place across Warrington, Chester West and Cheshire and the Wirral, that Halton Joined this group. A Memorandum of Understanding was being developed therefore in consultation with the legal services from each

authority for agreement with this.

It was commented that the trigger for such a review would be the death of a person aged 16 years and above. The potential cost and time implications were noted and the fact that the frequency of such reviews were totally unpredictable. The Partnership agreed the draft DHR policy and procedures and noted the information provided in the report.

RESOLVED: That the Safer Halton Partnership:

1. Notes the contents of the report and the developing arrangements for ensuring an adequate supply of DHR chairpersons; and
2. Approves the draft policy and procedures.

SHP12 DRUGS STRATEGY 2014-18

The Partnership was presented with the Safer Halton Partnership (SHP) Drug Strategy 2014-2018 and accompanying evidence document.

It was reported that the National Drug Strategy 2010 changed the focus of drug service delivery from maintenance of an individual's dependent misuse of drugs to enabling and promoting recovery. The substance misuse service was a partnership approach to improving the outcomes for individuals and families affected by drug misuse problems as well as reducing the impact of drug related crime and anti-social behaviour for the communities of Halton. The strategy had been extensively consulted upon with a range of partners' agencies, service users, carer groups and voluntary agencies.

It was noted that budgets for drugs had now been transferred to Public Health England and the Police and Crime Commissioners, providing an opportunity to draft a four year Drug Strategy with an action plan that all key partners could deliver upon.

The Strategy was appended to the report together with an evidence paper that set out the context in which the Strategy had been developed, including national and local context and supporting data and information on the issues of drug misuse within Halton.

It was reported that the strategy had been to other Boards for consultation, namely; the Safer and Health Policy

and Performance Boards, the Health and Wellbeing Board and Executive Board. Members noted that the Action Plan was a working document and that the success of the Strategy would be monitored.

RESOLVED: That the contents of the report be noted.

SHP13 TASK GROUP UPDATES

The following task group updates were received:

- a) Alcohol Harm Reduction Group – Alcohol Harm Reduction Week had taken place 16 to 20 September 2013. A Late Night Levy report had been compiled and submitted to the Chief Superintendent. Street Pastors in Widnes were discussed and it was agreed that Dave Gordon and Jeremy Duff would liaise and prepare a report on the Street Pastors for the next meeting.

- b) Quarterly Alcohol Update – Clarification was provided on the information displayed on pages 155-156. It was noted that the data showed that Halton was below the 2013-14 threshold for (a) alcohol related admissions and (b) admissions which were wholly attributable to alcohol. Performance data had now started to flow from the two providers of the Alcohol Liaison Nurse Service: Whiston and Warrington hospitals. Work was underway to develop the reporting mechanisms and the level of detail provided that related to Halton. Noted that an alcohol 'app' was being promoted and a review of the alcohol strategy for Halton would start soon.

Halton had submitted an expression of interest to be a Local Alcohol Action Area (LAAA) and would find out the success of this in the New Year. A copy of the documentation relating to this would be emailed to Partners following the meeting. Any feedback from Partners was welcomed.

- c) Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) – Quarter 2 showed increased numbers of ASB incidents which followed the trend from Quarter 1. Again this was mainly due to increased incidents with 'mini motos' and neighbour nuisance. Discussion took place around the possibility of an off road area for mini motos to be driven and the problems so far of locating a piece of land for this.

With regards to neighbour nuisance incidents it was commented that these were becoming more complex as they were often alcohol driven or caused by people with mental health issues. Input from the RSL's was needed here as they were often the first point of contact when incidents took place.

Comments regarding the lack of ASB preventative measures in Riverside would be looked into. Additionally it was commented that geographical areas needed looking at to see where most of the ASB was happening and it was noted that some ASB was in fact a 'generational' issue. The troubled families agenda would become involved here. The Partnership agreed that the resources for ASB should be looked at again, although this would be difficult with limited resources and money.

- d) Domestic Abuse – The number of incidents in Halton had risen. The report highlighted the *Voluntary Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programme* which would be delivered in partnership with Halton CCG and Self Help, a locally commissioned provider. The provider had undertaken bespoke training or order to facilitate them to deliver the course to a national recognised standard. The intention was to launch the programme in January 2014.

A *MARAC Participation Guidance Document* and '*How it Works*' leaflet were attached to the report for information.

- e) Substance Misuse – Discussed mainly in Drug Strategy item 4 on the agenda. Main emerging issue was the impact of welfare reforms on service users incomes; if benefits are stopped then this may lead to hardship and increased dependency on family and carers or potential increase in crime. Work was ongoing between Ashley House and Young Addaction to ensure that children were identified and supported due to the impact of their parents drug use.
- f) Partnership Tasking & Coordination – The problem profiles of Bechers and Upton Green, Stewards Av and Dundalk Road, and motorcycles and mini motos were discussed. Respect weeks were delivered in Runcorn and Widnes in July and August respectively.
- g) Hate Crime & Community Tensions – Reported incidents showed a reduction of 15% when compared

to Q1 and reported crimes showed a 33% reduction on Q1. Detected crime had increased in Halton from 13% in Q1 to 33% in Q2? It was reported that staff in reporting centres were undergoing training to increase disability awareness amongst them.

SHP14 POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

It was noted that the PCC, Mr John Dwyer, had recently attended the Safer Policy and Performance Board meeting and several local Area Forums to provide Council Members and residents with an overview of his areas responsibilities and plans for the future.

The Chairman advised the Partnership that it was recently announced that the PCC had awarded £800,000 to the four Cheshire Community Safety Partnerships. A working group would be set up to identify individual priorities for Halton where the money could be spent. It was noted that that a process would need to be developed for the PCC based on needs, to assist with the allocation of the money. As progress developed it would be fed back to the Partnership.

SHP15 POLICE CRIME PANEL

Dave Cargill, Chairman of the Police Crime Panel, advised the Partnership that business was progressing at a steady pace, with the scrutiny protocol yet to be agreed. There was debate presently over the plans of the PCC to recruit special constables as opposed to PCSO's, which were popular with the community.

SHP16 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

The following were attached for the information of the Partnership:

- Widnes Blue Lamp Report (July – September 2013); and
- Runcorn Blue Lamp Report (July – September 2013)

Meeting ended at 12.00 p.m.