

**Safer Halton Partnership**

At a meeting of the Safer Halton Partnership Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> September 2014 in the Boardroom,  
Municipal Building, Widnes

Present:

E. Anwar	Public Health
S. Ashcroft	Community Safety
S. Boycott	Cheshire Police
D. Cargill	Community Safety Portfolio Holder
J. Duff	Faith Representative
D. Gordon	Community Safety – Cheshire Police
N. Hallmark	Policy & Performance – Communities
S. Henshaw	Cheshire Fire & Rescue
A. Jones	Democratic Services
G. Jones	Youth Offending Team
C. Patino	Community & Environment
E. Sutton-Thompson	Policy & Performance – Communities
T. Tierney – Standing in for N. Sharpe	Halton Housing Trust
D. Thompson	Police Crime Panel
J. Williams	Commissioning – Communities
D. Yates	Cheshire & Greater Manchester CRC

Apologies:

M. Andrews	Community Safety
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<p><b>WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS</b></p> <p>David Parr welcomed all to the meeting and introductions were made. Cllr Thompson was welcomed to the Partnership as the new representative for the Police Crime Panel (PCP).</p>	
<p><b>MINUTES OF LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING</b></p> <p>Minutes of last meeting agreed of true record.</p>	
<p><b>LOCAL AREA ALCOHOL ACTION (LAAA) UPDATE</b></p> <p>Report submitted on the work of the Local Alcohol Action Area (LAAA) status - Halton one of a few areas across country given support to take action on alcohol issues. LAAA tasked with learning from and sharing good practice. Key areas of work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Conversation around alcohol to be instigated. This will create community advocates</li> <li>• Alcohol and pregnancy – some local insight work conducted and a</li> </ul>	

campaign being developed

- School-based 'social norms' campaign – to challenge the beliefs of young people and alcohol
- Alcohol harm reduction work, including self-assessment tool
- Ties to ArcAngel programme

Future work:

- Looking to review pathways into services
- Links to domestic violence to be explored
- Benchmarking exercise against purple flag standards
- Looking at practices in other areas

Question asked what support is received. Confirmation given that quarterly meetings were held with the Home Office and Public Health and that support was more 'in-kind' than financial.

Confirmation given that engagement would be through the Community Conversation.

The night-time economy of Victoria Square night-time was raised as a concern, following opening of The Hive. It was stressed that The Hive has been developed to provide alternative, and more family-led, leisure opportunities for the area and while there has been an economic downward in respect of Victoria Square the purple flag status is aimed at driving up business; ensuring people know it is a safe environment.

Investigation work to be done on the cumulative health impact of drinking and how licencing hours affect this. Results to form a seminar event.

Issues raised around 'pre-loading' on shop-bought drinks and while Council have imposed a minimum unit price at venues they are unable to do so with shops.

Halton Lea area raised as an issue as little leisure/night time facilities are leading to street drinking and greater purchasing of drinks to consume at home.

Confirmation given that Halton applied for LAAAs status and were not approached as a target area.

The group were encouraged by work towards Purple Flag status and the opportunity this gives to develop the local economy in a safe way. It was pointed out that a Local Authority in the North East has been clear in their licencing policy as to the strategies they wish to see implemented. Consideration of this to be made in the development of new licencing policies.

EA

## TASK GROUP UPDATES

The Partnership received the following Task Group Updates:

- a.) ALCOHOL HARM REDUCTION GROUP – Group informed that this week is Alcohol Action Week. This involves spot checks for compliance and a number of initiatives in the area.

Report summarised:

- A number of Section 27s enforced, where people have been asked to leave the area. No escalation following these
- Only one of the monitored premises came under review in the reporting period and no closures
- Some action plans issued as an interim prior to review
- Incidents fed back – no major ones during reporting period
- Use of passive drugs dogs has been a success and arrests have been made. Cheshire Police now to have four of their own passive drugs dogs
- ArcAngel – 15 premises signed up across borough
- Pubwatch Runcorn – two meetings have now been held
- World Cup – no significant incidents over period

It was confirmed that the catering establishment mentioned in the report have been contacted by Environmental Health and that they are progressing their own enforcement actions.

Raj Tandoori - remains on the radar and follow-up visits are being made.

- b.) QUARTERLY ALCOHOL UPDATE – strategies being developed tie in with the LAAAs activities.

Attention was drawn to areas of the report:

- Reduction in under 18s alcohol admissions
- Adult admissions are in-line with national trends
- Alcohol-related mortality – increase for women
- Reduction in alcohol-related crime

The strategy actions are aimed at tackling and supporting the issues raised by the data. Group agreed that interventions targeted through solid data allow informed decisions to be made.

Query raised in relation to classifications of sex crime in relation to alcohol.

Details requested regarding budget spend and measures to ensure well spent e.g. Wellbeing magazine. Confirmation given that evaluation specifications are in place.

SA and EA to discuss further, outside of group.

Attention was drawn to male/female mortality divides by Ward. Community Enquiry partially aimed at investigating this further.

Suggestion made that overlaying licencing patterns with mortality rates could provide some interesting insight.

c.) ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Trends showed a downward turn in ASB. This was cited, in part, as a result of interventions such as partnership and multi-agency work, as well as peer engagement. 51 information sharing interventions were made in the period, leading to multi-agency link ups.

From reporting period:

- D1 Group being targeted for intervention
- Festival Way, Runcorn – particular problem area to be tackled
- Pecks Hill – work done with Youth Provision

The subject of information sharing timescales were explored and verification given that a 14-day turnaround period is required.

It was stressed that the number of ABSO/CRASBOs were low because of the early intervention being made.

Discussion was held around specific areas coming up time after time, and concerns for little change. The group talked about wider agency work having a positive impact, in particular the Inspiring Families work. All agreed prevention and community engagement are key to success.

A 16% reduction in ASB within the current quarter was highlighted and commended.

d.) DOMESTIC ABUSE - Attention was drawn to CPS figures and the work done regarding cases being taken on.

Key achievements for the Council and its partners:

- Domestic Abuse Community Services – means a more integrated approach
- Young People’s Voluntary Perpetrator Programme – going ahead
- Halton Domestic Abuse Forum – robust training agreed
- Operation Encompass – schools are being notified of incident so that practical support can be put in place
- World Cup – no increase in incidents

<p>e.) SUBSTANCE MISUSE - Positive movement was reported in benchmarking against figures for the NW, particularly in terms of engagement.</p> <p>Treatment service is out to tender in the next 12 months. Awareness was raised around a drop in performance following the last tender, and pre-emptive work is being done around this.</p> <p>Preventative work on Hepatitis B vaccinations is saving money. Project is also monitoring refusal rates.</p> <p>Success rate, in terms of exits and returns, was discussed. Confirmation given that interventions are deemed a success if there is no return within six months. Figures are based on the National treatment Agencies data capture, which enables local and national bench marking.</p> <p>Attention was drawn to the second half of the report which captures the work achieved.</p> <p>Multi-agency training has been successful and helped build networks.</p> <p>Work is ongoing with service users to engage them into the activities.</p> <p>Budget information – drug and alcohol services – approx. spend £1.6m (PA)</p> <p>Ashley House – two reports to be submitted to SMT outlining proposals – lease up to renewal next year (March 2015).</p> <p>The emergence of issues relating to legal highs was discussed. It was pointed out that lots of these are low level but can be taken in conjunction with other drugs. It was noted that the issue is coming more to the fore and is being looked at on a national level and monitored closely across the borough. It was highlighted that the categories that legal highs fall into are massive and agreed that it is a very unregulated area nationally. Confirmation was given that, at present, the service would route people down similar intervention routes to current issues. Verification was given that the police are monitoring issues related to legal highs in relation to other crimes. Practical steps were considered, including non-admittance to the stadium. Suggestion was made around links to licencing, regarding checks across premises. All agreed there is an issue with calling them ‘legal’ highs. Further suggestions were made around educative work be to undertaken with users and sellers.</p> <p>f.) PARTNERSHIP TASKING &amp; CO-ORDINATION – Crime figures</p>	<p>JW to feedback options to the partnership.</p> <p>JW to capture picture of the issue, including details of what substances are included and what can be done, and report at the next meeting.</p>
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<p>over the quarter reported as comparatively down on last year.</p> <p>Discussion held around mini motos and motorcycles. Some environmental changes were reported as having a positive impact on certain areas. The Preston on the Hill project was raised and it was agreed that an update was needed.</p> <p>King George's Field was cited as a trouble spot and environmental changes were recommended.</p> <p>Respect Week – multi-agency activities have taken place over peak times, including school holidays. Figures to be sought for Q2 will show impact of the initiative over the summer period. Link to the community and voluntary sector were queries and confirmation was made that all partners were encouraged to put forward ideas. Suggestion was made for dialogues to be opened with voluntary and community sector organisations.</p> <p>Jane Tetlow – has been recruited as new schools liaison officer.</p> <p>g.) HATE CRIME &amp; COMMUNITY TENSIONS – It was reported that there is no specific intelligence, at this time, suggesting any significant activity.</p> <p>Gypsy/ Traveller groups –The recent activity at the traveller/transit site and the impact of this on activity was noted.</p> <p>Halton's approach to hate crime was commended, and in particular steps taken to monitor activity and take action.</p>	<p>MA requested to follow up from his side and report back.</p> <p>CP to look at costs for King George's Field with Paul Wright.</p>
<p><b>POLICE &amp; CRIME PANEL</b></p> <p>Cllrs Thompson and Lea had recently been appointed to the PCP to represent Halton.</p> <p>It was reported that the panel membership has changed and that the panel meet four times a year with 'informal' meetings in-between.</p> <p>Submission made that sickness absence within Cheshire Police is currently an issue and that work is being done to tackle this.</p> <p>A Crime Data Integrity Study was discussed, and concerns were raised over the sample of cases used to collate this and their reflection on the service.</p>	
<p><b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b></p> <p>Attention was drawn to the two Blue Lamp reports and the</p>	

<p>presence of PCSOs having a positive impact. Confirmation was given that these reports go out as part of the Members' Bulletin.</p> <p>It was established that the Youth Justice Strategy having been agreed.</p> <p>The site of Widnes police station was examined. It was reported that a decision to situate within John Briggs House has been made. Consultation for this closes at the end of September.</p> <p>Assurances were given that, following the publicity around the child sexual exploitation situation in Rotherham, a review of current and historical practice within Halton is to be undertaken. The group were confident that appropriate approaches are well embedded within the Authority.</p>	<p>GJ to provide copy, to go on next agenda for information.</p> <p>All – view to be fed back to PCC.</p>
<p><b>ITEMS FOR INFORMATION</b></p> <p>The following documents were noted for information:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.) Widnes Blue Lamp Report</li> <li>2.) Runcorn Blue Lamp Report</li> </ol>	

Meeting ended 12.05pm