

MINUTES of the meeting of the **COMMUNITIES SELECT COMMITTEE** held at 10.00 am on 31 October 2013 at Ashcombe Suite, County Hall, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey KT1 2DN.

These minutes are subject to confirmation by the Committee at its meeting on Wednesday 15 January 2014.

Elected Members:

- * Mrs Denise Saliagopoulos (Chairman)
- * Mr Chris Norman (Vice-Chairman)
- Mrs Jan Mason
- * Mr John Orrick
- * Mr Saj Hussain
- * Rachael I. Lake
- * Mrs Mary Lewis
- * Mr Christian Mahne
- * Mr Chris Pitt
- * Ms Barbara Thomson
- Mr Alan Young
- Mr Robert Evans

1/13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS [Item 1]

Committee Apologies- Apologies were received from Jan Mason, Robert Evans and Alan Young.

Co-opted Member and Witness Apologies- Apologies were received from Amy McLeod, Cllr Helyn Clack, Cllr Paul Tuley, Cllr Glynis Whittle, Cllr Liane Gibson and Cllr Chris Townsend.

2/13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST [Item 2]

There were none.

3/13 COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIPS IN SURREY [Item 3]

Declarations of interest: None.

Witnesses:

Cllr Penny Forbes- Forsyth, Spelthorne
Cllr Jean Smith, Epsom & Ewell
Cllr Rita Renton, Reigate and Banstead
Cllr Carole King, Waverley
Cllr Beryl Hunwicks, Woking
Cllr Christine Cross, Elmbridge
Cllr Kay Hammond, Cabinet Associate for Community Safety

Gordon Falconer, Community Safety Unit Senior Manager
Jeff Harris, Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner for Surrey
Wendy Roberts, Community Safety Manager for Runnymede
Debbie Stitt, Community Safety Manager for Reigate and Banstead
Helen Atkinson, Interim Director for Public Health
Jane Last, Programme Manager and Lead Manager for Community Safety and Partnership
Katie Webb, Community Safety Manager for Waverley
Gavin Stephens, Temporary Assistant Chief Constable
Lin Pendrick, Director for Surrey Local Delivery Unit, Surrey and Sussex Probation Trust
Liz Mills, Chief of Staff, Surrey Fire and Rescue Service
Phelim Brady, Governing Body Lay Member, Guildford and Waverley CCG
Yvonne Rees, Strategic Director for Customers and Communities and Interim Chief Executive of Mole Valley district council

Key points raised during the discussion:

1. The report was introduced by the Community Safety Unit Senior Manager to Members of the Select Committee. The Community Safety Unit Senior Manager explained that the report gave an oversight of community safety (CS) at both the county and district and borough level. The report took account of the changes that were brought about with the introduction of the Police and Crime Commissioner in Surrey and the resulting effects on community safety budgeting. The report also covered issues around the single strategic assessment and key county wide priorities such as anti social behaviour and domestic abuse.

2. A Member of the Committee asked how the transfer of the budget to the office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) had affected the work of the CSPs. The Community Safety Unit Senior Manager stated that the Community and Public Safety Board (CPSB) anticipated this change would come about and had prepared accordingly. Locally there have been fewer resources which has had an impact on the CSP's local work. The Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner for Surrey explained that there had been an amalgamation of various budgets into one. The office of the PCC had decided to continue with funding for the drug intervention programme and domestic abuse programme. Each CSP has been given the opportunity to bid for money, half of which has already been allocated to grant funding. The details of this can be found on the PCC website.
3. Members of the Committee expressed their concern with the reduction to funding which they felt has had an impact on the activity of CSPs. There was a concern that in the future this funding will go into the police budget and not to CSP's.
4. Another Member of the Committee agreed that funding has been greatly affected across all areas but that there was an opportunity for CSPs to work together in a joint funding model. Members of the Committee agreed on the importance of partnership working and asked if there was an opportunity for joining up the work of CSPs and health and wellbeing.
5. The Community Safety Unit Senior Manager explained that with the reduction to funding, CSPs needed to focus their work. The Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner for Surrey stated that the office of the PCC had not yet set the budget for 2014 but would aim to ensure that as much money as possible was made available for community safety partnership working. He went onto further state that there was a lack of coordination among some CSPs. There were opportunities for cross border work with other organisations which would ensure there was no duplication of work.
6. A Member of the Committee asked what the CSPs' experiences were of bidding for funding from the office of the PCC. The Community Safety Manager for Runnymede stated that six from seven bids for Runnymede had been successful. The money from this has been used to support the junior citizen scheme and clear up days in the community.
7. The Community Safety Manager for Reigate and Banstead explained that tackling domestic abuse was a priority for the Borough and that it was good to see central funding allocated to this issue. There was a bid pending for a youth club in Redhill where local people will be trained as youth workers. Reigate and Banstead were focusing on combining issues with other areas and pushing joint working across the boroughs.
8. Referring to the terms of reference for the Public Safety Board in the report, the Cabinet Associate for Community Safety asked what

impacts health and wellbeing had on community safety. The Community Safety Unit Senior Manager explained that officers from health had been included in the membership of the CSPB as both health and crime were intricately linked. There was therefore a need to link the agendas of health and wellbeing and community safety. It was further commented that including officers from health on the board would shape service delivery in the future.

9. The Interim Director for Public Health explained that she was a member of both the CSPB and health and wellbeing board. She went on to say that the aims and objectives of both CSPs and health and wellbeing were the same - by reducing crime you would improve health. It would therefore be helpful to form a shared action plan.
10. It was acknowledged by the Committee that excellent partnership working was being done through the supporting families agenda. It would be agreed that it would be good for CSPs to learn from the work being done on this.
11. A Member at the Committee asserted that the County Council works with CSPs and does not control them in any way. The Chairman of the Committee reaffirmed that the purpose of the present meeting was not to scrutinise any organisation or person.
12. A question was asked by a Member of the Committee to the Temporary Assistant Chief Constable on whether he found the CSPs effective. The Temporary Assistant Chief Constable commented that CSPs were excellent providing that they all contributed to the discussions at hand. Effective work took place when all partners contributed to the discussion and things would only become difficult when a partner did not engage. There was therefore a significant need to ensure all partners worked together.
13. A Member of the Committee congratulated the CSPs on all their achievements as shown in Annex 6. The Member went on to further state that there were some commonalities in the work each CSP was doing and asked what was being done to ensure CSPs were aware of similar work streams. The Community Safety Unit Senior Manager explained that there were distinctions in the work different boroughs did but work was going on to ensure there was commonality in delivery. As new anti social behaviour legislation is introduced it would be important to ensure a process that works cross county is introduced. The Community Safety Manager for Waverley stated that Annex 6 was a brief synopsis of the achievements of Waverley community safety and that a full report on the work of the team went to council.
14. Members of the Committee were concerned around resourcing issues in relation to domestic homicide reviews (DHR) and asked whether there was any justification for taking these on. The Programme Manager and Lead Manager for Community Safety and Partnership explained that CSPs found DHR work a drain on resources but that the experience of working on DHR meant CSPs were adjusting their processes.

15. A Member stated that Waverley had recently had a DHR which required independent chairing. Undertaking the DHRs was resource heavy and had impacted upon the budget the CSP had. Other Members explained that undertaking DHRs had been a learning experience and the future aim would be to create a pool of resources. It was further stated that many people would have to undertake DHRs on top of their day jobs. The Community Safety Unit Senior Manager expressed concern over the impact on resources the DHRs had. He explained that training and a 'how to' guide was being created to train people on DHRs. Budget issues meant CSPs were restricted and therefore had to make the best of what they had. The Community Safety Unit Senior Manager stated that the length of time it took for the Home Office to respond to DHR reports was inadequate. At the moment there was a backlog which the Home Office hope to clear by the end of the year.

16. A Member of the Committee asked if CSPs could bid for funding from the PCC when undertaking DHRs. The Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner for Surrey stated that he felt it was unacceptable that the Home Office was taking such a long time to respond to DHRs. The Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner for Surrey said he would write to the home secretary on this matter. He went on to state that no specific funding was being made available for resourcing DHRs.

17. Another Member of the Committee asked how detection rates compared for Surrey in relation to the national picture. The Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner for Surrey explained that Surrey was performing better than it had done in the past and there was an improvement in detection rates. The Temporary Assistant Chief Constable explained that although he did not have the figures at hand, Surrey was still the safest county in the UK. There had been a reduction in burglary numbers from last year and measures were being taken to ensure campaigns to get people to register their belongings were promoted.

18. Members of the Committee expressed concern over attendance at local partnership boards. This meant that there was disconnect at meetings and it was therefore difficult to discuss key issues. Another Member of the committee explained that partners regularly sent different people to each meeting which meant there was no clarity and consistency.

19. A Member asked witnesses at the committee if they felt there were capacity issues with attending CSP meetings. The Director for Surrey Local Delivery Unit, Surrey and Sussex Probation Trust commented that there were capacity issues. The local delivery unit was comprised of three officers and managers who try and attend meetings but can find it challenging. The Director for Surrey Local Delivery Unit, Surrey and Sussex Probation Trust supported the idea to join more CSPs together. The Chief of Staff, Surrey Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) explained that capacity was reducing but that the SFRS had a varying degree of involvement at the local level which was not necessarily reported to the CSPB. The service was currently supporting the junior

citizen scheme. Members at the Committee commended Fire and Rescue on the work they had done with the CSPs.

20. Some Members at the Committee explained that they were having difficulty engaging with Clinical commissioning groups (CCGs). The Governing Body Lay Member, Guildford and Waverley CCG explained that he had been to a few CSP meetings but demand on doctors meant it was hard for them to always attend meetings. With the small size of the CCG, the Governing Body Lay Member, Guildford and Waverley felt that enough had been to support the CSP's over the last 12 months. A Member of the Committee recognised that timings of CSP meetings meant it would be hard for duty doctors from the CCGs to take time out of their schedules to attend.
21. The Community Safety Unit Senior Manager recognised that there were attendance issues with various partners and it was essential that a key contact was maintained. It was not always necessary to attend meetings so it was therefore important that feedback and discussion between partners was upheld outside of meetings. Members suggested teleconferencing options.
22. The Strategic Director for Customers and Communities and Interim Chief Executive of Mole Valley district council explained that CSPs in East Surrey were working well with the CCGs in the area and were receiving valuable feedback. A Member of the Committee pointed out that each of the CCGs in Surrey were responsible for different services and that CSPs should be made aware of this.
23. Cllr Renton explained that Reigate and Banstead had a memorandum of understanding with the CCGs which she was happy to share with the Committee.
24. The Vice Chairman of the Committee rounded up the discussion. He thanked the Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner for Surrey for his reassurance on future funding. He pointed to the greater need for joint working especially with health and the need to maintain attendance rates. The benefit and good work of CSPs was recognised by the Committee and the issues around DHRs were identified as finance and resource heavy.

Recommendations:

- a) That District, Boroughs and partner organisations be encouraged to establish a set list of substitutes for CSP meetings to allow for greater clarity.
- b) That the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner write to the Home Secretary regarding the issues raised by the Committee in relation to domestic homicide reviews.
- c) That the Police and Fire Service safety campaigns be supported and driven through the Community and Public Safety Board (CPSB) where appropriate
- d) That District, Boroughs and partner organisations be encouraged to explore closer collaborative working among Community Safety Partnerships in the County.

Actions/further information to be provided:

Reigate and Banstead's Memorandum of Understanding with CCGs to be shared with the Committee.

Committee Next Steps:

None.

4/13 DOMESTIC ABUSE STRATEGY 2013 - 2018 [Item 4]

Declarations of interest: None.

Witnesses:

Cllr Jean Smith, Epsom and Ewell
Cllr Rita Renton, Reigate and Banstead
Cllr Richard Billington, Guildford
Cllr Penny Forbes-Forsyth, Spelthorne
Cllr Kay Hammond, Cabinet Associate for Community Safety
Cllr Helen Clack, Cabinet Member for Community Services

Kaye Howick

Jane Last, Programme Manager and Lead Manager for Community Safety and Partnership

Jeff Harris, Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner for Surrey

Gavin Stephens, Temporary Assistant Chief Constable

Garath Symonds, Assistant Director for Young People

Gordon Falconer, Community Safety Unit Senior Manager

Key points raised during the discussion:

1. The Chairman introduced the witness, Kaye Howick to the Committee. The Programme Manager and Lead Manager for Community Safety and Partnership explained that Kaye had written into the leader on her experiences of domestic abuse and working with agencies involved.
2. The Programme Manager and Lead Manager for Community Safety and Partnership introduced the report to Members of the Committee and explained that a domestic abuse strategy along with an action plan had been developed. The action plan was still in its early stages but focuses on key work activities up on to the end of 2014.
3. Kaye Howick spoke to Members of the Committee and described her experience of domestic abuse. She explained how she was helping with the freedom programme in Cobham and wants to make a difference in the lives of other women going through the same experience. Kaye explained that as a victim and now facilitator, there is no clear pathway for domestic abuse victims. It seems as if partners are not coherently working together. The freedom programme is currently running at the Oasis family centre in Cobham and the East Surrey Domestic Abuse Service (ESDAS) and gives victims the opportunity to learn more about domestic abuse. Kaye explained that

she undertook the training for this programme and believes it should be made available out to professionals.

4. A Member of the Committee asked if there were any positive examples that had come out of the domestic abuse work. The Programme Manager and Lead Manager for Community Safety and Partnership explained that there was greater joint working between organisations as a result of the Rapid Improvement Event which was held in June 2012. There are currently talks for a multi agency safeguarding hub to be set up in the future. Where there are concerns over under reporting, campaigns have been launched to promote domestic abuse issues.
5. Another Member of the Committee asked if those people involved in DHRs were known to the service. The Temporary Assistant Chief Constable said that these individuals were often already in the system. The Programme Manager and Lead Manager for Community Safety and Partnership stated that in some cases some people are known and in other cases they were unknown. The Cabinet Associate for Community Safety commented that there seemed to be a gap in knowledge on domestic abuse and hence under reporting. Coming from a legal background, the Cabinet Associate for Community Safety explained that solicitors rarely reported domestic abuse unless there were safeguarding issues. Kaye Howick agreed with the Cabinet Associate and confirmed she had experience of this.
6. Referring to the Governance section of the strategy, a Member at the Committee stated that CSPs and Boroughs and Districts were not listed under the range of organisations involved and further asked if district and boroughs had signed up to the 'Transforming Public Services' programme. The Programme Manager and Lead Manager for Community Safety and Partnership stated that CSPs are key in the governance and would be included as part of the strategy. All district and boroughs had also signed up to the 'Transforming Public Services' programme.
7. The Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner for Surrey stated that he would like Kaye Howick to meet with Jane Anderson, Assistant Commissioner for Victims and would provide contact details. The Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner for Surrey explained that there was a great amount of legislation when dealing with domestic abuse and in many cases the victim's journey is disjointed.
8. A Member of the Committee explained that the Oasis family centre in Cobham does a great amount of work for Surrey residents but that at one point the centre was close to being shut down due to funding issues. The Member went onto express the importance of funding for

these types of organisations and asked the Committee to ensure they are fully supported going forward.

9. A Member of the Committee commented that domestic abuse is a generation issue and therefore links needed to be made with the family support programme. Members of the Committee commented that there were a lot of young people caught up in domestic abuse and asked whether anything could be done to make a difference through council representation in schools. It was recognised that Sure Start centres did a good job at helping tackle domestic violence.
10. A Member of the Committee asked what was being done to promote domestic abuse prevention in schools. The Assistant Director for Young People explained that the council commissioned Babcock 4S to provide a range of programmes for schools, including sex education programmes. Work was also being done in youth centres around positive relationships. The council's digital youth platform meant that a variety of campaigns on positive relationships were being promoted. The Assistant Director for Young People recognised the importance of the family support programme in helping to prevent domestic violence in the home and drew upon the value of restorative justice in helping to tackle domestic abuse.
11. Members of the Committee recognised the importance of rolling out domestic abuse programmes in private schools and asked what was being done to ensure information relating to domestic abuse was reaching students in private schools and those living in private areas. The Programme Manager and Lead Manager for Community Safety and Partnerships stated that early prevention was key to the strategy and working with schools was therefore vital. There were a number of programmes that were rolled out to schools and the service would like to offer these to private schools. The Programme Manager and Lead Manager for Community Safety and Partnerships explained that the service had strong links with workers in schools and these members of staff were being provided with training on how to spot signs of domestic violence.
12. A Member of the Committee asked Kaye Howick if she had experience of using the Surrey Against Domestic Abuse website. The Member felt the website was not safe for victims as its use could be easily traceable in the home. Kaye explained that she had not used the website but felt that printed campaigns such as posters in toilets had more of an impact. The Cabinet Member for Community Services explained that some staff members in Surrey libraries had domestic abuse training and could help victims access online information in the library. It is important that the domestic abuse strategy includes libraries as an organisation involved in helping deliver the strategy.

13. Comments were raised by Members of the Committee on understanding domestic abuse among men. The importance of having a national campaign highlighting domestic abuse was agreed on as being vital. It was agreed that central government should be encouraged to highlight domestic abuse nationally. The Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner agreed that he would write to the Association of PCCs on behalf of victims of domestic abuse. This information would be shared with the Committee.
14. A member of the Committee asked for the action plan to include the need to raise awareness in independent schools and communicate a domestic abuse campaign nationally. Finally the Member asked for more details as to when a multi agency safeguarding hub would be formed and the key partners involved.
15. In order to deal with early intervention, the Programme Manager and Lead Manager for Community Safety and Partnership explained that there were plans to roll out Identification and Referral to Improve Safety training (IRIS) to GPs across Surrey.
16. The Community Safety Unit Senior Manager explained that the service had recently received agreement from hospitals on using domestic abuse campaign stickers on the back of both male and female toilet doors. More leaflets had been produced and were being distributed amongst various partners such as the police. The Community Safety Unit Senior Manager assured the Committee that work on raising awareness around domestic abuse was taking place.

Recommendations:

- a) The committee endorsed the five year domestic abuse strategy and the developing action plan.
- b) The committee support the shared partnership vision.
- c) That Surrey County Council is encouraged to use its representation in schools to educate and raise awareness of domestic abuse at all levels, including primary and secondary schools.
- d) That County communication and education programmes on domestic abuse be offered to both private and state schools.
- e) That the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner encourage the National Association of Police and Crime Commissioners to raise the issue of domestic abuse and support a national campaign to raise awareness.

Actions/further information to be provided:

None.

Committee Next Steps:

None.

5/13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING [Item 5]

The date of the next meeting is 28 November 2013.

Chairman