

OPERATIONAL POLICING PANEL

A meeting of the Operational Policing Panel was held on Tuesday 14 July 2009 commencing at 10.00 am in the Members Conference Room at Police Headquarters.

PRESENT	Councillor Barry Coppinger (Chair), Councillor Hazel Pearson OBE, Councillor Victor Tumilty, Councillor Ron Lowes, Mr Peter Race MBE (ex officio)
OFFICIALS	Mrs Joanne Hodgkinson and Mr John Bage (CE) Mr Sean White, Mr Dave Pickard, Mr Christian Ellis and Mrs Louise Drummond (CC).
ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES	Mr Ted Cox JP, and Mr Alf Illingworth TD JP.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from, Councillor Dave McLuckie (ex officio), Councillor Steve Wallace (Vice Chair). Miss Pam Andrews-Mawer, Mr Aslam Hanif, Councillor Mary Lanigan, Councillor Paul Kirton and Mr Chris Coombs.

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interests.

OUTSTANDING RECOMMENDATIONS

ORDERED that:-

1. the outstanding recommendations be noted.

NEIGHBOURHOOD SURVEY

The Corporate Planning & Performance Manager gave a presentation to Members on Neighbourhood Surveys. Members were informed that both the Authority and the Force were committed to effective surveying of individuals, families and communities across Cleveland to further understand the effectiveness of policing services that are provided and the context of neighbourhood problems that communities face.

Members were informed that as part of the ambition to promote greater confidence in the work of local police forces, neighbourhood survey data information was invaluable in understanding opinion, issues and challenges at the local level. The Force were encouraged by many of the findings of the pilot Neighbourhood Survey that had been conducted during April 2009.

The Corporate Planning & Performance Manager informed that the Authority and Force were committed to undertake further, more detailed surveys which would make use of 'face to face' or telephone interviews. The results of these surveys, together with the April 2009 data, will be made available

through a range of mediums including the internet and published material.

ORDERED that:-

1. the content of the presentation be noted.

PLACE SURVEY – ANALYSIS OF RESULTS

The Strategy Manager informed Members that from April 2008 a new performance framework had been introduced based around a comprehensive National Indicator Set of 198 performance measures. This replaced Best Value Performance Indicators. Members were informed that 18 of the 198 indicators were collected through the newly introduced Place Survey, which was administered by Local Authorities. This includes 5 community safety indicators.

Members were informed that at Force level the community safety indicators were measured through British Crime Survey (BCS) data. At Local Authority level, the community safety indicators were measured through the Place Survey, which is a bi-annual postal survey

The Strategy Manager informed Members that the results of the Place Surveys carried out in each of Cleveland's 4 Local Authority areas provides performance results that will form part of the evidence base for the Audit Commission when carrying out the new Comprehensive Area Assessments from April 2009.

ORDERED that:-

1. the content of the report be noted.

NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING UPDATE

The Assistant Chief Constable (Territorial) presented the report to Members on the progress of implementation of Neighbourhood Policing.

Members were informed that the Force's approach to Neighbourhood Policing was based on the Chief Constable's Ward based model of a named police constable per neighbourhood. In addition, each neighbourhood had a minimum of one PCSO working alongside the Constable. In line with the principles of Neighbourhood Policing additional Constables and PCSOs had been allocated to Wards where demand is greatest.

The Force had dedicated 11 Inspectors, 28 Sergeants, 148 Constables and 198 PCSOs as at 31st March 2009 (target figure 197) to Neighbourhood Policing. These resources were further supported by Neighbourhood Support Team Officers, the Special Constabulary and Volunteers, as well as members of the extended police family.

The Force continued to build upon the experience and identification of effective practice in embedding Neighbourhood Policing. Surveys continued to indicate public support for Neighbourhood Policing and recognised the increase in visible patrols and improved service. The Force continued to reduce crime rates whilst embedding Neighbourhood Policing

Debate took place involving Members seeking clarification on a number of the issues in question pertaining to Officer and PCSO deployment in Wards and Neighbourhood Policing areas across the Force.

ORDERED that:-

1. the content of the report be noted.

CRIME AND DISORDER SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

The Strategy Manager informed Members that Section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 required every local authority to have a crime and disorder committee with the power to review or scrutinise decisions made in connection with the discharge of duties by responsible authorities with reference to their crime and disorder functions.

Members were informed that clear protocols need to be established to ensure that Members co-opted onto community safety committees are not unwittingly drawn into political debates, or commit the Police Authority to undertake a course of action without agreement/authority. Where issues arise which relate specifically to Cleveland Police, it may be appropriate to refer such issues to the Police Authority.

ORDERED that:-

1. the content of the report be noted.

LOCAL CHILDREN'S AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN

The Strategy Manager informed Members of the contents of the Children and Young People's Plans, published by the Children's Trust Boards (CTBs) for the four local authority's. The document should be the key overarching plan for the provision of services to children, young people and their families.

The Children and Young People's Plans for the four local authority's described the partners' plans for the provision of services to children and young people. The documents will form part of the evidence base for the Audit Commission when carrying out the new Comprehensive Area Assessments from April 2009.

ORDERED that:-

1. the content of the report be noted.

COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP PERFORMANCE AGAINST NATIONAL INDICATOR SET

The Strategy Manager informed Members that the Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) have an overarching performance framework that is based around a comprehensive National Indicator Set of 198 performance measures. In 2008 the LSP partners for each area targeted around 35 of these performance measures to be included within the Local Area Agreement (LAA).

Members were informed that a typical LAA has between 4 and 7 community safety measures and targets that are formulated by the local Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP), on which the police authority is a statutory partner. The report presented progress against those national performance indicators for each community safety partnership (CDRP).

The report apprised Members of progress made against the national indicator set for the four Local Community Safety Partnerships. The performance results will form part of the evidence base for the Audit Commission when carrying out the new Comprehensive Area Assessments from April 2009.

ORDERED that:-

1. the content of the report be noted.

YOUNG PERSONS LOCAL POLICING SUMMARY 2009-2010

The Strategy Manager informed Members that the Serious and Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 introduced the requirement on police authorities to produce and distribute a local policing summary to all council tax paying households in their local area.

Members were informed that for the last two years, Cleveland Police Authority had worked with groups of young people from each of our policing districts to produce a version of the summary specifically for 11-19 year olds. This project had achieved national acclaim through publication in the APA report 'Accountability in Action'.

Production of a young person's summary formed part of our youth engagement and consultation work. This year the project will involve a group of young people from each of the four Local Authority area's in designing and producing the young person's version for each of the four police districts. There are approximately 38,000 young people aged 11-19 in the Cleveland Police Area. Members were informed that it is proposed that 38,000 copies of the young person's summary

be distributed to schools and colleges across Cleveland during September 2009.

ORDERED that:-

1. the content of the report be noted.

DRUGS UPDATE

The Assistant Chief Constable (Crime Ops) provided Members with an update in relation to drug treatment, enforcement, recovery, and disruption efforts across the Force area.

Members were informed that the Force continued to support the government sponsored Criminal Justice Intervention Programme (CJIP) through the Drug Intervention Programmes (DIPs) that are in place within each of the four policing districts. This followed recognition of the importance of pro-actively tackling the local supply and demand problems, whilst at the same time engaging users and guiding them into treatment support services.

The Assistant Chief Constable (Crime Ops) informed that drug intervention programmes had evolved over the course of the last four and a half years and are aiming to involve a wider client base. Testing on arrest, was introduced in April 2006 and sought to test those over 18 years of age, whilst in police custody, who had been arrested for a trigger offence. The trigger offences are defined by legislation and have been identified as those offences that tend to be committed in order to finance a drug habit.

The Force continued to tackle drug use and abuse in line with Government strategy and the expressed wishes of local people as articulated in our consultation processes.

ORDERED that:-

1. the content of the report be noted.

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR UPDATE

The Assistant Chief Constable (Crime Ops) informed Members that anti-social behaviour included a variety of behaviours covering a whole range of selfish and unacceptable activities that can blight the quality of life within communities.

Most types of anti-social behaviour fit into one of three categories; street problems, nuisance neighbours or environmental crime. Incident types recorded by the Force are assigned to categories including: abandoned vehicles; animal problems; hoax calls; rowdy and nuisance neighbours; environmental damage, and rowdy and inconsiderate behaviour.

Members were informed that anti-social behaviour is a policing priority and is a problem that calls for attention and collaborative working between partner agencies. Due to its public nature and widespread community impact, it is important the Force is responsive to community and local needs.

Debate took place involving Members seeking clarification on a number of the issues in question pertaining to Officers and the Force, working where practicable, in partnership, to create holistic long term solutions to local problems.

ORDERED that:-

1. the content of the report be noted.

ALCOHOL ABUSE UPDATE

The Assistant Chief Constable (Crime Ops) provided Members with an overview of the current alcohol abuse initiatives taking place in the Force area.

Members were informed that national research and performance data indicated that the impact of harm associated with alcohol is affected by a number of factors. Alcohol-specific hospital admissions were 60% higher and alcohol-related hospital admissions were 35% higher in the NE than the national average.

The Assistant Chief Constable (Crime Ops) informed Members that in order to promote a safe, sensible and social drinking culture in Cleveland where violent and anti-social behaviour is not tolerated, the widest range of interventions should be maintained and utilized.

ORDERED that:-

1. the content of the report be noted.

UPDATE ON THE INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VISITING SCHEME

Councillor Ron Lowes, the portfolio holder for Independent Custody Visiting, provided Members with an update on the operation of the Independent Custody Visiting Scheme, operated throughout Cleveland, this included recruitment, visits undertaken and training of the Independent Custody Visitor Volunteers.

Members were informed that Police Authorities are required to operate an Independent Custody Visiting Scheme under the provisions of the Police Reform Act 2002. Guidance published, recommended that regular visits were undertaken by volunteers, who had been recruited and managed by the Police Authority, to attend Police Custody units.

Members were informed that visits had been undertaken to all

Cleveland Police Custody units on a regular basis, the frequency of which is usually weekly, but variations occur due to the turnover and cell usage.

The Police Authority continued to fulfil its obligation and commitment to the Independent Custody Visiting Scheme with sufficient volunteers to maintain their interest and yet not overburden the individuals. On average, individual visitors undertake a visit every 6-8 weeks which met the Authority's requirements.

ORDERED that:-

1. the content of the report be noted.
2. appreciation by the Police Authority, to the continuing commitment of the volunteers within the scheme, be noted.