

COMMUNITY PROTECTION PANEL

A meeting of the Community Protection Panel was held on Wednesday 18th February 2009 in the Members Conference Room at Police Headquarters.

PRESENT: Cllr Hazel Pearson OBE (Chairman), Cllr Victor Tumilty (Vice Chair), Mr Ted Cox JP, Mr Mike McGrory JP, Cllr Ron Lowes, Mr Chris Coombs (ex officio), Cllr Paul Kirton, Cllr Steve Wallace and Miss Pam Andrews-Mawer.

OFFICIALS: Mr John Bage, Mr Norman Wright and Mrs Sarah Wilson (CE) ACC Sean White, A/ACC Michael Hartnack, Cmdt Ann Shaw and Miss Kate Rowntree (CC).

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Dave McLuckie (ex officio), Mr Chris Coombs (ex officio) and Mr Peter Race MBE.

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interests.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Community Protection Panel meeting held on 18 December 2008 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

OUTSTANDING RECOMMENDATIONS

ORDERED that:-

1. The outstanding recommendations be noted.

PROGRESS ON THE CLEVELAND POLICE SPECIAL CONSTABULARY

The Assistant Chief Constable and the Commandant updated Members on the progress of implementation of the Special Constabulary.

Cleveland currently has 137 serving Special Constables and a further 41 in training due to be attested in March and May 2009. A further 48 will be recruited in the 2009/10 financial year. The core strength for Specials should be in the region of 170 officers – 10% of our regular establishment.

The National Strategy for the Special Constabulary was launched in March 2008. The aim of the strategy is to enable the Special Constabulary to strengthen its position as a valuable part of policing provision and to make best use of Specials to increase force performance.

ORDERED that:-

1. the contents of the report be noted.

UPDATE ON THE SEXUAL ASSAULT REFERRAL CENTRE

The Acting Assistant Chief Constable updated Members on the progress of the Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC).

The SARC was founded on the basis of best practice recommendations from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) and Her Majesty's Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate (HMCPSI). The purpose of the SARC is to improve the service to victims of rape or sexual assault.

The Centre, based in the North Ormesby Health Village combines bespoke facilities for forensic medical examination and video interview of victims with direct access to crisis support, contraceptive and sexual health advice and signposting to counseling and ongoing support. This is all carried out within a single location, designed to provide a safe and appropriate environment for victims.

The SARC is functioning well and meeting its key objectives in providing an excellent facility for dealing with victims of rape and sexual assault. The SARC has taken advantages of additional Home Office funding to make further improvements to the facility.

ORDERED that:-

1. the contents of the report be noted.

PROGRESS ON THE CLEVELAND POLICE VOLUNTEER SCHEME

The Assistant Chief Constable updated Members on the present position with regard the Cleveland Police Volunteer Scheme.

Volunteers were launched in force in February 2008. The Cleveland Police Volunteer Scheme had been established with the primary aim of getting local communities more closely involved with their police service, and so improving the service we can offer. To date 120 volunteers have attended and completed the Volunteer induction course which comprises of four, three hour sessions.

At the end of January approximately 30 volunteers were in place across the Force and a further 45 are waiting posting – this is in consultation with the Chief Inspectors from Districts. The remaining 45 are still waiting to clear our processes, namely vetting. By the start of the new financial year we would expect at least 90% of our original 120 volunteers to be in post within the organisation.

ORDERED that:-

1. the contents of the report be noted.

AUDIT COMMISSION REPORT ON CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARDS

The Consultation and Performance Officer informed Members of the findings of the Audit Commission report 'Are we there yet? Improving governance and resource management in Children's Trusts'.

Members were informed that the Laming Report following the death of Victoria Climbié recommended that services for children and young people should become more integrated. This led to the publication of the Government's Green Paper, Every Child Matters, and the establishment of local children's trusts to bring health and social care of children under one management structure.

Members were informed that the Audit Commission report concluded that there was little evidence of better outcomes for children and young people resulting from the requirement that arrangements are put in place to co-ordinate children's services.

The Audit Commission found that the creation of Children's Trust Board's had not improved the outcomes for children and young people, and that Boards had not developed as much as would have been hoped.

ORDERED that:-

1. the contents of the report be noted.

POLICING PLAN AND 3 YEAR STRATEGY

The Acting Assistant Chief Constable presented to Members the final draft of the 2009-12 Local Policing Plan. Members were informed of the work carried out in compiling the Plan so that Members would be in a position to now 'issue' the plan.

Members were informed that under the Police and Justice Act 2006 (section 6ZB) Cleveland Police Authority shall, every year, issue a policing plan setting out:

- The authority's policing priorities for the policing of its area during that year;
- The proposed arrangements for the policing of Cleveland for the period of three years beginning with that year.
- Policing objectives should be consistent with the strategic priorities determined by the Home Secretary under section 37A of the 1996 Act.

The Local Policing Plan is a key document in communicating the policing priorities, activities and the resources to the public, as well as to Force managers for the forthcoming financial year.

The Local Policing Plan is in effect the action plan for the year

ahead. It sets out in an accessible format the process by which we will meet our priorities and objectives allowing the Authority to measure the performance of the Force.

ORDERED that:-

1. the final draft of the 2009-12 Local Policing Plan be issued, subject to minor amendments and the additions of budgetary details, performance targets and outturn results.

LOCAL SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGIES

The Strategy and Performance Manager informed Members of the contents of the Sustainable Community Strategies, published by the Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) for Hartlepool, Stockton, Middlesbrough and Redcar & Cleveland. A summary of the four documents was attached in appendices A – D to the report.

Members were informed that the police have a key role to play on LSPs, with the District Commander sitting on their local Executive Board and that all local authorities have a statutory duty to work with partner organisations, to produce a Sustainable Community Strategy (Local Government Act 2000 and Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007). Any document should set out the long-term vision for the local authority area concerned, identifying local priorities for improvement and shaping the future direction and plans of the major public service providers.

The Sustainable Community Strategies for the four boroughs describe the partners' aspirations for community development over the long-term. These documents will form part of the evidence base for the Audit Commission when carrying out the new Comprehensive Area Assessments from April 2009. The report apprised Members of the contents of the latest versions of the Community Safety Strategies as published by the local LSPs.

ORDERED that:-

1. the contents of the report be noted.