

SAFER PORTSMOUTH PARTNERSHIP

NOTES OF A MEETING of the Partnership held on Thursday 19 February 2009 at 9 am in the Civic Offices, Portsmouth.

(NB These minutes should be read in conjunction with the agenda for the meeting.)

Partners Present

David Peacock, Hampshire Police Authority (In the Chair)
Penny Heyward (on behalf of Steve Crocker, YOT)
Ken Moon, Federation of Small Businesses
David Renouf, Hampshire Probation
Councillor Andy Fraser, PCC and Fire & Rescue Authority
Councillor Paula Riches, PCC and Hampshire
Police Authority
Dr Paul Edmondson-Jones, Director of Public Health
Kevin Evenett, Fire Service
Mark Poingdestre, Drug Services Voluntary Sector
Charlie Adie, Chief Executive, Motiv8 Voluntary Sector

Support Officers

Rachael Dalby
Lisa Wills
Carrie Pither, Chief Inspector, Hampshire Police
Alan Knobel
Cherry Sullivan, Health Development Service
(Young People's Substance Misuse)
Matt Gummerson, Local Strategic Partnership
Vicki Plytas (minutes)

9 Apologies for Absence

LW

Apologies for absence were received from David Williams Chief Executive, Dr John Turner, Steve Crocker and Sue Wade. Councillor Paula Riches requested that a letter should be written to Dr John Turner asking him to send a deputy if he is unable to attend himself. David Peacock was nominated to Chair the meeting in the absence of the David Williams.

10 Minutes of a Meeting Held on 15 January 2009

The minutes of the SPP meeting held on 15 January 2009 were approved as a correct record.

11 Strategic Discussion and Decision Items

(a) SPP Plan and Joint Strategic Assessment 2009 Timeline

LW

(TAKE IN REPORT - SPP PERFORMANCE)

A request was made by Councillor Paula Riches that the partnership should in future receive colour copies of papers where relevant.

Lisa Wills presented her report on the Safer Portsmouth Partnership Performance Management Framework which sets out the development of the new performance framework and assesses performance in quarter 3 2009/09.

The proposed Police strategic assessment timeline, forwarded to Rachael after the last meeting of the Policing Plan Strategy Group (19th Jan 09) was circulated. Rachael had expressed her view at the meeting that timeline did not give the partnership sufficient time to gather and analyse all the data required by the end of June.

It was suggested therefore that the Partnership Support team would support the Police to achieve their deadline and use the Police strategic assessment as a 'first draft' with a view to completing a **Partnership Strategic Assessment** in time for the SPP business planning meeting on 17th September.

The partnership then looked at the **draft Partnership Plan for 2009 to 2012**.

With regard to page 3, the partnership considered whether or not to add other indicators of progress under the various refreshed strategic priorities for 2009/10.

After discussion the following decisions were made:

- The partnership decided that under item 1 they would not add reports of homophobic violence to the indicators of progress column but may decide to include this at a later stage.
- Under item 2, the partnership decided to add criminal damage to the indicators of progress column.
- Under item 3, Drugs and Alcohol, it was decided that the exact wording for this local indicator of the target concerning parental substance misuse should be left to a sub-group. Under the same section the partnership supported the addition of a new local indicator to measure the number of offenders that require alcohol intervention. and the effectiveness of the intervention. The exact wording of this indicator would be confirmed by the Alcohol Strategy Group. Work will be done by the Reducing Reoffending Strategy Group on how best to measure the influence of alcohol on re-offending in the next 12 months.

The partnership heard that much new work is being done by Hampshire Probation and nationally with regard to health trainers working with offenders who misuse substances. Alcohol is by far the biggest problem with regard to motivating offending.

LW

It was agreed that following discussion outside the meeting, a report would be brought back to the partnership concerning whether the IDAP indicator is still needed in connection with adult re-offending.

- It was agreed that the PPO re-offending rate should be added under item 5 – Adult Re-offending and that NI 38 relating to drug-related acquisitive crime should also be included.
- With regard to priority 6 – Acquisitive Crime, the partnership decided not to add robbery as a specific new local indicator but that a breakdown of the individual crime types would be provided.

The partnership decided to move priorities 7 and 8 to the Appendix rather than having them as specific indicators. In addition the partnership decided that under existing priority 7, the wording should be changed to “safeguarding people is a current partnership priority.”

The partnership agreed to keep existing number 9 of the refreshed strategic priorities for 2009/10 as the new priority 7.

- Page 9 of the plan should have a corresponding alteration so that it reads “our 7 priority areas” rather “our 5 priority areas.”

The attention of the partnership was then drawn to page 2 of the draft Partnership Plan to look at “How did we do in 2008/09”. The partnership was advised that the Performance 08/09 column employed the Red Amber Green (RAG) system.

Under priority 1 Violence – The partnership asked that the wording be changed to reflect that although more serious violence has decreased, there is still an increase overall.

With regard to priority 3 Drugs and Alcohol the part of the indicator relating to alcohol-related hospital admissions is still on red. However it was suggested that the wording should be altered as the current situation is in line with the original trajectory for alcohol-related hospital admissions - it is just that the previous two years showed alcohol-related hospital admissions as being lower than the trajectory would have suggested.

With regard to priority 4 Young People, new data has been encouraging and this indicator should now be green rather than amber.

Lisa Wills next explained the problem with NI 21 and the wording of the indicator which is the police and council confidence target. There is concern that the question to measure this indicator is different in the British Crime Survey and the local authority Place Survey which means that there is potential for the measures to produce different results and cause confusion amongst partners and the public.

Adding this indicator to the LAA had already been discussed and was considered a good idea. The Partnership was advised that it is

intended that the Police had commissioned a new local telephone survey to support this indicator and this would mean that data for Portsmouth will be available quarterly. The intention is that approximately 600 calls would be made. This will provide useful data which will be more immediate than the Place Survey results and will also be gathered at no cost to the Safer Portsmouth Partnership.

LW

Lisa Wills agreed to make the changes to the draft Plan as agreed at this meeting. The Plan will then be circulated and will go to the Cabinet and then on to a full Council meeting and to the police, fire authority and PCT.

DECISIONS:

- (1) the SPP agrees and endorses the methods of measuring alcohol-related violence in Portsmouth, first time entrants to the Criminal Justice System, re-offending in young people;**
- (2) the SPP recommends the inclusion of NI 21 in the refresh of the Local Area Agreement;**
- (3) the SPP supports the efforts of the Theme Champion for Drugs and Alcohol in obtaining good quality data from the Hospital Trust and the Ambulance Service;**
- (4) the SPP notes current performance (Q3 08/09) set out in Appendix A and agrees actions to address those indicators assessed as red ;**

(c) Drug Intervention Programme – Budget Cuts

(TAKE IN BRIEFING REPORT)

A briefing for Safer Portsmouth Partnership meeting on 19 February 2009 regarding drug intervention programme funding was circulated. Dr Paul Edmondson-Jones explained that Hampshire Constabulary have reviewed their spending across the county with the result that they intend halving their funding for the arrest referral element of the drug intervention programme for 2009/10 and to cease contributing to the funding of this service completely from April 2010.

Mr Peacock explained that the reduction in funding for drug intervention programmes is a countywide decision and although the drug strategy group have agreed to look again at the funding issue, Mr Peacock's view is that it is unlikely to be reversed and that he would explore the possibility of continuing the funding using the BCU Fund.

Councillor Riches expressed concern that as the Link Member for Hampshire Constabulary, she had not been consulted about the funding situation.

DECISIONS:

- (1) the Chair of the SPP will write on behalf of the Partnership to the Hampshire Constabulary to express disappointment**

BD/PE
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at the reduction in funding for 2009/10 and the cessation of contributions to the funding of this service completely from April 2010;

PEJ (2) **the SPP will seek to mitigate the effect of the reduction in funding this year; and**

BD (3) **the SPP will look at funding opportunities for 2010 and beyond and that an options paper will be brought back to the SPP. This will be circulated to the partnership at least 14 days before the next meeting.**

(b) Drug Treatment Plan

(TAKE IN SLIDES)

Barry Dickinson outlined the progress made against last year's plan, the numbers in effective treatment, the priorities for 2009 to 10, the financial overview and obstacles and risks. In response to questions, it was confirmed that the main GP contract is nationally set. Barry went on to say that the full plan will be submitted in March and will be available to members on request. Once published the final plan will be available on the NTA website and via the Community Safety Team.

(d) Portsmouth Business Crime Reduction Partnership (BCRP)

An update was given to the SPP by Chief Inspector Carrie Pither. Chief Inspector Pither explained that the BCRP had been established three years ago and was a not for profit organisation involving the police and the local authority. There were internal issues around funding the partnership and following a meeting in 2008 a one off cash injection from the Community Safety Team had been made. A review was then conducted in order to ascertain the full costs of continuing the partnership.

Mr Ken Moon said that the organisation he represents - The Federation of Small Businesses - had not been involved in looking at the costs of continuing the partnership, but had carried out its own survey and has collected statistical information which the SPP could use.

Ch Supt David Peacock said that he thought a nominated representative would be useful to take matters forward outside this partnership. Rachael Dalby, said there had been lengthy discussions about what value there is in having a business crime reduction partnership and that the BCRP directly contributes to the seven priorities outlined in the draft Safer Portsmouth Partnership Plan 2009/12 and that every effort should be made to enable this body to continue. Rachael said that the BCRP is reliant upon its members to submit instant reports to enable the information to be shared by members of the BCRP, for example information concerning banning

orders or ASBOs. Banning orders can have a big impact on reducing violence. In her view it would be a negative step if the BCRP ceased to exist. She went on to say that PCC has some funds available this year and could make a contribution to BCRP funds.

Mr Ken Moon said that crime against businesses is a massive problem in Portsmouth - especially fraud and that the cost involved is around £55M per annum. He explained that the FSB had recently organised an event to which partners had been invited but that very few had attended. Rachael explained that it had not been possible to attend as less than two week's notice had been given.

Ms Dalby agreed to progress this via email and that this would directly link in to priorities agreed in respect of acquisitive and violent crime.

12 Performance Against Targets

(TAKE IN APPENDIX A)

The SPP looked at the new performance framework – Appendix A Q3 April – December 2008 - concentrating particularly on those targets which are currently red. The following comments were made:

- NI 20 Assault with less serious injury: Mr Peacock explained some offences which were not previously in this category have had to be included this year and this has led to an increase in numbers. Apart from Western area, every other Operational Command Unit (OCU) in Hampshire were not meeting the target. However, the SPP was reassured that there is much work going on to address this crime type as set out in the performance summary. The SPP also heard that sometimes the data is skewed because if an incident occurs, in some cases the Home Office counts it as a crime whereas the Crown Prosecution Service would not count the same incident as a crime because there is not enough evidence. This can often result in lower detection rates for the police. There will be a change to the baseline next year when targets will be set on a three-year average. Overall the figure of 1,588 is not as significant an increase as the red indicator suggests.
- NI32: Sally Jackson, Hidden Violence Manager had recently negotiated a target with GOSE of 30% repeat rate for victims subject to a Multi-agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC). David Peacock added that overall repeat incidents of domestic violence, shows a reduction of 10% according to the Police Performance data. Lisa Wills agreed that this was clarified in the comments section.

- SPP2 Domestic abuse incident resulting in arrest: David Peacock reported that Portsmouth Police are trying to adopt a zero tolerance approach. This means that if an arrest is not carried out, the officers concerned must submit a report to say why no arrest took place. The SPP heard that the target will change next year so that it records arrests as a % of domestic abuse crimes as opposed to incidents. The arrest rate in Portsmouth is high but there are many other incidents which are not recorded as crime. Positive action should be taken to ensure there is an increase in the number of arrests for domestic violence and the performance indicator needs to capture changes effective from April.
- The SPP was advised that the difference between a crime and an incident can be illustrated by for example when a person hears their neighbours having a fight and reports the incident. When the police arrive, however, there is no damage, no injury and no evidence that anything has occurred. This will usually be recorded as an incident. It was also explained that although this situation could arise and present difficult decisions for the officers attending, the nature of domestic abuse was such that despite there being no evidence of an assault/violent crime, there may be other arrestable offences that could be used to make an arrest - for example, breach of the peace.
- There is a danger that if a performance indicator is included around the number of arrests arising from reported incidents, that arrests may be made to enable the police to achieve their targets.
- NI39: Rate of alcohol-related hospital admissions: Paul Edmondson-Jones explained that although this target is RAG rated as red, the figures are in line with the original trajectory and following two years where the figures were lower than the trajectory, they have now reverted to what was originally expected. Although this is disappointing it is not as bad as the indicator suggests. Paul said that he was surprised by the figures as all other crime figures, for example assaults, have gone down. The expectation was that the rate of alcohol-related hospital admissions would similarly have reduced.

PEJ Following questions, Dr Paul Edmondson-Jones said that there is a sub-set of data which can show exactly which areas have worsened and which have improved. He agreed that figures could be brought back to this partnership's meeting either in May or the meeting after that.

- NI16 Serious acquisitive crime; there had been a marked increase in burglary but a smaller increase in robbery. Since Operation Nemesis had been launched, the figures for burglary had dropped from 40 per week to 5 per week. Seven prominent burglars are now in custody. However, the serious acquisitive crime rate is still going up which means that the indicator is still on red.

- The SPP heard that the local police have introduced a policy whereby they meet newly released prisoners as they leave prison and try to monitor them closely. It is hoped that this will stop newly released prisoners from immediately re-offending.

The SPP also heard that money for the arrest referral scheme is under threat. It was decided that Barry Dickinson should be contacted about this with a view to him suggesting other sources of funding – perhaps by using some of the money in DIP. This could also be raised in the DIP steering group. The Chair suggested that the sub-group of DIP – the re-offending group - could look at these issues. Lisa Wills said that she would follow up the analogy and research programme with Barry Dickinson outside the meeting. With regard to the recommendations of the report itself headed Safer Portsmouth Partnership Performance Management Framework, it was decided that the partnership would support all the recommendations. (decision set out earlier)

DECISION:

As set out in Minute 11, Decisions 1-4

13 Officer Update

(a) Alcohol Strategy Development

Dr Paul Edmondson-Jones explained that Portsmouth University had been commissioned to provide an alcohol needs assessment and that a focus group has been formed to look at qualitative research and also quantitative research.

There is a need for a new strategy and it is hoped to have a first draft of the alcohol strategy by July 09 in time for the Local Strategic Partnership away day. The hospital authority is supporting this and Alan Knobel is the lead officer.

It was agreed that the SPP should also consider having a representative from the Ambulance Service when they review the membership.

(b) Operation Nemesis

David Peacock explained this operation by the Hampshire Constabulary aimed at reducing the incidents of burglary. as outlined earlier in the minutes.

(c) Research and Analysis

The Research and Analysis programme was attached to the SPP Plan and approved by the partnership.

(TAKE IN HANDOUTS)

(1) Young People’s Substance Misuse Needs Assessment

Cherry Sullivan circulated a summary of the Young People’s Substance Misuse Needs Assessment.

The SPP’s attention was drawn to the fact that –

- In 2008, 49 young people (19 or under) were admitted to hospital for self poisoning/alcohol or mental and behavioural disorders. There was a rise in the number of under 16s admitted.
- With regard to at risk groups, young carers data shows that 13 have parents who misuse substances. This figure is probably vastly under reported.
- The priority areas for inclusion in treatment plans for 2009/10 were included at the end of the handout.

(2) Initial Guidance Note on Implementing “Think Family”

(TAKE IN HANDOUT)

The SPP heard that there are a number of groups involved in ‘Think Family’ and that there is a need to co-ordinate the work. Charlie Adie and Dr Paul Edmondson-Jones will meet to discuss how this can be done.

(3) Youth Crime Action Plan Funding

(TAKE IN HANDOUT)

This paper provided an update on Youth Crime Action Plan Funding and referred the partnership to a web link for further details (bruce.marr@portsmouthcc.gov.uk) if separate briefing notes are required.

(d) Area Based Grant

The SPP heard that the decisions taken at 10 February Council granted all the funding requested. However, the SPP is relying on the capital allocation from the Home Office amounting to £69K and if this is not forthcoming, the Area Based Grant will be reduced by the amount of the shortfall. Although the grant includes £365K for young people and £750K for early intervention projects, only a proportion of the allocation will come to the SPP.

(e) Community Tasking & Co-ordinating Review

(TAKE IN COMMUNITY TASK & CO-ORDINATING GROUP’S EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND COMMUNITY TASK & GROUP REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS)

The handouts updated the SPP on the review of the Portsmouth City Community Task Group which took place between August and October 2008. The partnership heard that the Chief Executive of Portsmouth City Council and David Peacock of Hampshire Police will be writing a joint letter about the outcomes of the review to all Councillors.

Cllr Riches confirmed that the new communications officer job has been offered subject to satisfactory references being received.

Lisa Wills said at the last meeting it was hoped that the Police secondee would take up the role of support officer to Paula Riches and this will be followed up.

A query was raised regarding locality panels. These seem to have been divided on a North/South city basis with Doug Wright being in charge of the respective areas, ultimately reporting to Andy Hough. Hayden Ginns will take up this issue with the new director of Children's Services once in post.

A discussion followed during which it was agreed that there is a need for long term planning with regard to 'co-terminosity' (the same area boundaries for all agencies) It was also suggested that the Theme Champions could look at this issue which would also be considered at the joint commissioning group away day. Concern was raised that tiers of responsibility seem to be growing and are being based on various areas of the city.

14 Forward Planning/Dates of Meetings

The Safety Portsmouth Partnership members' attention was drawn to the dates of meetings and in particular attention was drawn to their away day and that it was likely that the date would remain at Friday 17 July. Lisa Wills confirmed that there will be a Membership Review at the away day on 17 July.

15 Agenda Item 7 Briefing Papers – For Information

The Chair advised that there is a need to publicise– The Shoe Ball – as this is a major event planned to raise awareness and money for survivors of domestic violence. The Chair advised that there is a need to identify and formally invite key people to this event, which will take place on 12 May. Councillor Riches said that this clashed with 'Mayor Making' and such clashes should be avoided in future. The meeting ended at 12.17 pm.