

# **JOINT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE OF THE BASSETLAW, NEWARK & SHERWOOD COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP**

**TUESDAY, 12<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2013**  
**RETFORD TOWN HALL**

## **ATTENDANCE:**

### **Bassetlaw District Council:**

Councillor J C Shephard (Chair);  
Councillors G Freeman, J W Ogle, J M Sanger and T Taylor.

### **Newark & Sherwood District Council:**

Councillors I Brown, T Gurney, J L Osborne and A Truswell.

### **Community Safety Partnership and Partner Agencies:**

G Blenkinsop (BDC), E Brockel (BNSCSP), B Coleman (Notts Fire & Rescue), G Connor (BDC), K Dennis (Notts Office PCC), Councillor G Gilfoyle (NCC), J Hamilton (BDC), L Lancaster (NSDC), M Manley (Notts Police), A Peacock (NCC), M Taylor (Notts Probation), R Theakstone (Chair BNSCSP-JSG), C Walker (NCC), Councillor G J Wynne (Deputy Leader BDC), and S West (BNSCSP).

(Meeting commenced at 6.30pm.)

(The Chairman read out the Fire Evacuation procedure and asked if anyone wanted to film any part of the meeting, in line with the Council's Filming at Meetings Protocol; however, no members of the public were present.)

## **1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Cllr J C Shephard, Chairman of Bassetlaw District Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee, welcomed Members from Bassetlaw and Newark & Sherwood District Councils and also representatives of the Safer Neighbourhood Groups and partner agencies to the fifth meeting of the Joint Committee. He went on to explain that every local authority is required to scrutinise the work of the Community Safety Partnership, its partners and their activities (but not individual agencies), also to review and challenge the effectiveness of the Partnership. Presentations on activities will be given and Members will then be given the opportunity to ask questions of the panel of partner agencies.

## **2. APOLOGIES**

Cllr B M Brooks (NSDC), Cllr D Challinor (BDC), C George (PCT), Cllr P Harris (JSG), Cllr R B Laughton (NSDC), Cllr J A Leigh (BDC), Cllr D G Pidwell (BDC), Cllr D R Pressley (BDC), Cllr A Simpson (BDC), K White (NSDC) and Cllr R B Carrington-Wilde (BDC).

## **3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **4. SCRUTINY OF THE BASSETLAW, NEWARK AND SHERWOOD COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP**

R Theakstone reflected on her year as Chair of the Community Safety Partnership and the pressures ahead. The Partnership will continue to work together to make a difference and provide value for money for the communities, and she felt that it is important to capture the added value of the Partnership. Joint working is to be valued and can positively influence outcomes.

#### **5. PARTNERSHIP PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS**

A copy of the slides was included in the Agenda, together with a briefing note, and the Strategic Assessment and Performance Report.

(Councillors I Brown and T Gurney (NSDC) joined the meeting at this point.)

R Theakstone, Chair of the Community Safety Partnership, gave a presentation on: the Partnership and its partners; its vision; and the Partnership Plus areas for 2013/14. Further details of Partnership Plus case studies and activities were given by the relevant lead officers.

Case studies:

- Street Drinkers (Notts Police) – reducing the number of drinkers in the streets
- Operation Kinetic (G Connor) – targeting the hard core responsible for criminal/ASB
- Domestic Violence Medium Risk (L Lancaster) – intervention to prevent homicides
- Peer Mentoring (Notts Probation) – working with medium risk perpetrators
- Cycle Project (Notts Fire & Rescue) – targeting those on the fringe of being excluded to keep them occupied
- In Our Hands (Notts County Council) – a project by poor attainments at Portland Outwood Academy which involved a visit to the Holocaust Centre (a video by the students was shown)
- Substance Misuse (Health)

Activities:

- ASB Victim Support Case Worker – to support victims of ASB
- SAFE Scheme - to prevent burglary and domestic violence
- CAB Gateway Advisors – outreach services in the rural areas e.g. to advise on debt
- Media campaign – to promote responsibility within the community
- Reducing the Strength campaign – to encourage off-sales not to sell super-strength cider
- Positive Futures – targeting troubled families and training youngsters e.g. sports coaching
- YISP (Manton) – tender won by Barnardo's to deliver from the Centre of Learning in Manton from January 2014
- Taxi Marshalls – managing the queues for taxis on weekends

E Brockel, Partnership Analyst, gave a presentation on: performance for 2012/13; current performance for both Bassetlaw and Newark & Sherwood; performance into context; and current performance for the Partnership Plus. It was noted that all crime has increased, mainly business crime (shop thefts) but that ASB has decreased, possibly due to the harsh winter and cold spring. The reduction of all crime by 9% in the Worksop North West Ward is the best Partnership Plus area

in the country. The Strategic Assessment report within the Agenda gave detailed analysis on performance.

G Connor outlined the Partnership's successes and L Lancaster its challenges.

(Councillor J M Sanger left the meeting at this point.)

## 6. QUESTIONS

Cllr T Taylor (BDC) asked:

*"If there are more homicides from the Medium Risk Domestic Violence group, compared to the High Risk group, is the assessment process working?"*

L Lancaster (NSDC) replied that there is a strong assessment process but the High Risk has much more intervention so homicides are prevented. M Manley added that the assessment process was developed in America over a number of years. The management process for the High Risk group helps victims to escape whereas in the Medium Risk group this is not happening.

Cllr I Brown (NSDC) commented:

*"People have worked hard to get the crime rates down but they have now increased and there is very little funding until the rates go up."* She also felt that ASBOs are not effective.

M Manley (Police) replied that the focus is on the Wards most in need and that there is an exit strategy for those Wards which have previously been helped, which gives the community confidence to challenge the perpetrators. For example, Harworth Ward is no longer a Partnership Plus area but there is a shadow group to continue the work and maintain the success.

Cllr I Brown (NSDC) commented:

*"Residents are too frightened to go to court and, if they do, are victimised afterwards. There is often no response when I dial 101 and even when I dial 999 you have to wait for action."*

Cllr J C Shephard (BDC) asked:

*"When the Police and Crime Commissioner came into post there was uncertainty about whether Community Safety Partnerships would receive funding – has this now been resolved?"*

R Theakstone (BDC) replied that the PCC made it clear early on that this year's commitment would be honoured. There is to be an assessment process for next year and the PCC has written to the CSP Chairs. K Dennis added that it will be a challenge to maintain funding due to Government cuts but it is hoped that this is possible; however, there will be discussions as to how the money is spent. Cllr G Gilfoyle reiterated that NCC funding has decreased by some £60,000 so there will be a cut in grants to the Partnership Plus areas. If these are to be sustained, we need to see that a difference is made. Are quick fixes needed to prevent what is happening now, rather than the longer term?

Cllr J W Ogle (BDC) asked:

*“There are also problems in the rural areas but resources are targeted at the Partnership Plus areas and urban areas – what is being done in the east of Bassetlaw?”*

G Connor (BDC) replied that the decision was made to maintain the work in Harworth by an exit strategy. There was a problem-solving meeting today with multi-agencies regarding East Bassetlaw. This is a monthly meeting led by the Police and intelligence leads to priority setting, led by the Police. There are strong links with the Neighbourhood Policing Teams and multi-agency help is given if needed. There are dedicated resources for the rural areas, including PCSOs.

Cllr G Gilfoyle (NCC) added that there is a Rural Crime Conference in Newark on 25<sup>th</sup> November. This is being funded from a successful bid, made jointly with Crimestoppers, to the PCC, which was match-funded by NCC. People can always report to Crimestoppers as an alternative to the Police. The A1 corridor gives many problems in the rural areas, including thefts from lorries and farms, and there is significant work being done; the Police have a Rural Crime lead.

Cllr J W Ogle (BDC) asked:

*“The taxi marshalls show that the community is helping – what other ways can communities take responsibility for their problems?”*

M Manley (Police) cited Neighbourhood Watch, supporting co-ordinators; Police Cadets, accessing young people; and Farm Watch.

Cllr G Freeman (BDC) asked:

*“Why were the Safer Neighbourhood Teams withdrawn?”*

M Manley (Police) replied that there had been a transition phase with leavers and then recruitment, although not all the posts have been filled. For example, many PCSOs are now Police Officers. Less resources mean different working methods but the commitment to beat areas remains, even though there may only be PCSOs at times.

Cllr J C Shephard (BDC) asked:

*“We have spoken about recent increases in burglary, vehicle crime and violence – how are these spikes being tackled and what impact is this having, particularly as PCSOs are being used instead of beat managers?”*

M Manley (Police) replied that the number of calls to the Police for assistance has increased and there were not enough response officers to meet this demand. During the summer months, a number of beat managers were recalled to handle the response work; and recently, a team of beat managers worked together to blitz the problem. Although this led to success in Mansfield, these beat managers were not on their original beat areas. Communication with key people is needed and incidents are monitored; if necessary, beat managers will be sent back to these areas. The spikes are complex and the PCC is using funds for target hardening of victims. Offenders may travel and we have sent a small team into South Yorkshire using complex technology to track and prevent. A push on victims is also being done to prevent valuables being taken from cars and to stop lorry drivers parking in isolated and vulnerable areas.

Cllr T Gurney (NSDC) asked:

*“Nuisance crimes are not reported because people think there is no point as the Police do not come out, therefore the Police perceive that there isn’t a problem. Do we need a campaign to reinforce reporting?”* She also commented that 101 is often not answered.

M Manley (Police) replied that 101 is always answered when he rings it. Do we target what is thought to be happening or what is really happening? There are gaps in what is happening and what is thought to be happening. For example, domestic violence victims are now more confident in reporting incidents.

Cllr T Taylor (BDC) asked:

*“What impact do you think the proposed changes to the Probation Service will have on crime in our respective Districts?”*

M Taylor (Probation) replied that, due to the nationalisation of the Probation Service, the Trusts are closing down at the end of March. There will be a prototype rehabilitation centre for Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Leicestershire, run by a private provider. The revised framework will come into effect from January 2015. We are determined to do the best for victims and communities, and are locally focussed and committed. There will be a split in the organisation over the next few months to separate the public and private workers. There won’t be mass redundancies and the offices will be retained. We have individually and collectively put forward our concerns and sensible proposals for perceived difficulties.

Cllr T Taylor (BDC) asked:

*“Will there be two seats at this table then, i.e. from the public and private sector?”*

M Taylor (Probation) replied that the Trust seeks to be in the best place. Any private provider will have to reduce re-offending so efficiency working will be maintained. K Dennis added that, through procurement, a local consortium of providers will be encouraged, which could be either public or private. Such a contract would be beyond local providers but these could be second or third tier providers. Final bids to the Ministry of Justice will have to identify suppliers, this will maintain offender management and retain local jobs.

Cllr G Freeman (BDC) asked:

*“How would you describe the night time economy in our major towns and are we able to present a positive image about a night out in both Bassetlaw and Newark & Sherwood?”*

R Theakstone (BDC) admitted that Bassetlaw does not have the most vibrant NTE, and the numbers have reduced steadily over the last few years. The Council has spent time understanding why and how we can improve it and we have consulted recently to gauge public opinion. Bassetlaw has two major towns within a large land mass, but the reputation of the area is based on its towns. Retford is different to Worksop but its footfall is still reducing. Worksop has its problems so it will be a challenge to improve its NTE. As local authorities we do not create businesses but can look at the culture and environment, and place the infrastructure. It is very

important for agencies to come together to raise standards, and it is not right for Worksop to be left “festering”. We need to improve our town centres and safety at night-time, and encourage businesses which will cater for families, particularly around the cinema in Worksop.

(C Walker left the meeting at this point.)

Cllr G J Wynne (BDC) added that the cinema is attracting families and the Council is looking to develop this area; however, the offer in the town centre is poor, and the Council is working with the Police, health and licensees to improve it.

Cllr G Freeman (BDC) asked:

*“Does the problem of drinkers impact on the hospital?”*

R Theakstone (BDC) replied that these are the wider issues of responsible drinking, with many drinking before they go out. This will impact on other service providers.

Cllr J C Shephard (BDC) asked:

*“What has been the impact of the absence of the custody suite in Worksop?”*

M Manley (Police) replied that it is perceived that there is no deterrent as officers will leave the area to transport offenders to the nearest custody suite and therefore are not present when other incidents occur. Low level disorder is now challenged but there is no intervention. A van provided by G4S has been piloted to transport offenders to the custody suite. New legislation means that minor offenders can be taken home and given a £90 spot fine. Door staff are also involved to maintain standards. We must change the mind-set of 18-25 year olds.

L Lancaster added that the offer in Newark is different as there are many eating places, but there are still similar issues with late night drinking. Street pastors, taxi marshals, licensees and the CCTV Control Room are all working with the Police.

Cllr I Brown (NSDC) asked:

*“There are areas within Newark town centre that are ‘no drinking’ areas but these are not enforced – why?”*

M Manley (Police) replied that these are enforced but not 24/7. He has even taken drinks off people. New communities coming in from outside the UK are bringing their culture with them, and they think that this is acceptable as it is in their country; however, these are regularly challenged by PCSOs.

## **7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS TO BE URGENT**

As there was no other urgent business, the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and the partner agencies for their work over the last year. He felt that the Partnership is providing a valuable forum and he hopes that its importance is recognised. He closed the meeting.

(Meeting closed at 8.35pm.)