

**JOINT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
RETFORD TOWN HALL
MONDAY 7 DECEMBER 2009**

ATTENDANCE:

Bassetlaw District Council:

Cllr J Holland (Chairman)

Cllr Mike Bennett, Cllr P Offer, Cllr J Ogle, Cllr Mrs A Simpson, Cllr Mrs V Wanless, Cllr G Oxby, Cllr D Pressley, Cllr A Rhodes, Cllr I Jones and Cllr J Scott.

Newark & Sherwood District Council

Cllr K Rontree, Cllr N Allsopp, Cllr Mrs B Brooks, Cllr M Shaw, Cllr K Sheppard, Cllr Mrs I Brown and Cllr G Merry.

CSP and Partner Agencies

D Hunter, A Muter, D Wakelin, A M Hawkins, C Kelly, A Wragg, K Cole, Cllr M Quigley, Cllr I Walker, J Moore, R Theakstone, G Blenkinsop, G Connor, E Brockel, S West.

APOLOGIES:

Cheryl George, Rebecca Rance (NSH), Nigel Hill (probation), Lisa Lancaster, Ian Harrison, Cllr P Jenkins, Cllr P Bird, Cllr M Cope, Cllr D Thompson

- (1) **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS** - Cllr Holland - welcomed O&S members from both Bassetlaw and Newark & Sherwood.
- (2) **APOLOGIES** - as above
- (3) **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** - none
- (4) **SCRUTINY OF THE BASSETLAW, NEWARK AND SHERWOOD COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP** - Gillian Blenkinsop introduced.
- (5) **PRESENTATION ON NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE** - Gerald Connor

Included results from the survey of the public, which indicated that over 70% of people who responded felt either Very Safe or Safe. In addition, this had not changed in the last six months.

- (6) **PRESENTATION ON PARTNERSHIP WORKING** - David Hunter
- (7) **PRESENTATION ON THE STRATEGIC INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENT** - Eleanor Brockel

It was noted that a legal obligation had been placed on all CDRPs/CSPs to prepare an annual Strategic Assessment on behalf of all the responsible authorities in that area; this constituted a review of current and emerging priorities and an evaluation of the risks and threats that were evident, or may appear in the future, and would be used to review the BNSCSP Partnership Plan 2008-2011.

ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR AND CRIMINAL DAMAGE

It was recommended that:

- 'Anti Social Behaviour and Criminal Damage' remain a strategic priority.
- Criminal Damage continues to be monitored, due to its links with youth offending, re-offending and alcohol.
- Public perception of ASB as a problem be merged into an overarching 'Public Perception, Satisfaction and Confidence' strategic priority.

SERIOUS ACQUISITIVE CRIME

It was recommended that:

- 'Serious Acquisitive Crime' remains a strategic priority, with burglary dwelling and vehicle crime (theft of and from vehicles) as primary reduction targets.
- Robbery be monitored within the 'Serious Acquisitive Crime' strategic priority, but should not be a primary target.

VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON

It was recommended that:

- 'Violence Against the Person' remains a strategic priority.
- Assault with less serious injury, remains a target.
- The Bassetlaw, Newark & Sherwood Strategic Domestic Violence Group takes on domestic abuse related violence against the person offences as a distinct issue that requires very different agency representation and initiatives.

ALCOHOL AND DRUGS

It was recommended that:

- 'Alcohol' be incorporated into the Violence Against the Person and Anti Social Behaviour Thematic Groups.
- 'Drugs' be incorporated into the Serious Acquisitive Crime Thematic Group.
- Public perception of alcohol or drug related ASB as a problem is merged into an overarching 'Public Perception, Satisfaction and Confidence' strategic priority.

REDUCING RE-OFFENDING

It was recommended that:

- 'Reducing Re-offending' remains a strategic priority.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

It was recommended that:

- The Violence Against the Person Thematic Group tackles youth offending, re-offending, victimisation and alcohol within its remit.
- The Serious Acquisitive Crime Thematic Group tackles youth offending, re-offending, victimisation and drugs within its remit.
- The Anti Social Behaviour Thematic Group tackles youth offending, re-offending, victimisation and alcohol within its remit.
- Where the Thematic Groups are unable to problem solve issues relating to **individuals**, referrals be made to:

Additionally, it was agreed that:

The Partnership's contribution towards the Bassetlaw and Newark & Sherwood Local Strategic Partnerships' Children and Young People Delivery Plans be improved to impact on related health and welfare priorities, such as sexual health, teenage pregnancies and alcohol related admissions.

It was recognised that preventing young people from becoming offenders is the best option for all parties in the long term and, as such, a strategic approach to the education of, and early intervention with, children and young people must be implemented.

PUBLIC PERCEPTION, CONFIDENCE & SATISFACTION

It was recommended that:

- 'Public Perception, Satisfaction and Confidence be adopted as an overarching strategic priority by the partnership.

(8) QUESTION TIME - from Elected Members

TO WHAT EXTENT DO YOU FEEL THE PARTNERSHIP IS MAKING PROGRESS?

Q1 Cllr G Oxby - Congratulates the role of the partnership and supports the work being done. Concerned that Bassetlaw has the highest rate of alcohol related hospital admissions, and the 3rd highest rate of Anti Social Behaviour. It would appear, from the report, that Bassetlaw is performing poorly - what can we do to reduce the figures.

As Work is being undertaken by the Probation Service to reduce the number of re-offenders.

GC - work is needed to make inroads into problem areas in Bassetlaw; some has been started and will carry on through 2010. Government Office for the East Midlands visited Bassetlaw to see what can be done to improve the situation. Partnership work is being organised.

Dave W - regarding the culture of Bassetlaw - it is still seen as acceptable for many adults to drink heavily. It is important to try to change this culture, to set a good example for young people who often follow the example set by such adults.

The Partnership, in conjunction with the DAAT, are taking measures around education and alcohol awareness to try to improve this.

Police have been putting work into targeted patrols around the main towns in the Partnership area. For a long term solutions, partnership work is vital.

CK - Alcohol related hospital admissions - around the country, alcohol related hospital admissions have increased. The data regarding this has not been gathered until recently. Parallel to this increase, is an increase in recorded Domestic Violence incidents, as more people become aware of this and it is more readily reported.

Within the increase in hospital admissions relating to alcohol, these figures also show an increase in the number of young people being admitted.

Q2 **Cllr D Pressley** - asking on behalf of his constituents in Sandy Lane (North West Worksop) and also relating to Manton.

It is noticeable that the two wards covering Sandy Lane and Manton consistently show as the 'worst' areas. When setting priorities, it is important to recognise this and tackle the problems in these areas and bring the results back to the Scrutiny Committee.

As AW - the Partnership is prioritising Sandy Lane, and have been working in that area for over a year. There is a multi agency Pilot Scheme taking place in Sandy Lane involving partnership agencies, such as the Police, PCT, Face it and the District Council. This involves outreach workers going into the community. From this, 70 young people have been contacted, who have no contact with such services, many of whom have specific issues related to alcohol.

Partner agencies are working closely within the Community Safety Partnership to drive forward a community plan in Sandy Lane to tackle the problems.

DW - Police are closely managing these two areas; Inspector Alan Hamilton is responsible. Further, to ensure closer connections with areas, two Chief Inspectors will now be responsible for each District area; Richard Stapleford for Bassetlaw and Glenn Harper for Newark & Sherwood.

Attention is now being focussed by the Police on problem families in hotspot locations, and they are keen to get intelligence from communities as to who the problem families are in their area.

Q3 **Cllr K Sheppard** - commenting on the section 'Putting the Public in the Driving Seat' - expressed that most members of the public do not want to get involved, but would rather have someone to do it for them, explaining that people feared repercussions if they got involved and do not like to upset their neighbours.

As DW - agreed. As a result, people often prefer to speak to Police representatives after meetings, rather than raise issues during them.

Crimestoppers is an anonymous way of people providing intelligence to Police on their concerns. Additionally, further measures are being considered in respect of caring for victims.

GC - need to get public on our side to address concerns and problems they have:

- Crimestoppers - 0800 555 111
- Professional Witnesses
- Use of cameras

Long term goal is to get communities on board, gain their confidence and to gain their support.

Q4 **Cllr K Rontree** - How useful is information from the Safer Neighbourhood Groups, or is it a hindrance?

As Some SNGs are more effective than others, but they are an important and need to be developed in order to suit the needs of each area.

Cllr Quigley - success depends a great deal on the quality of the SNG; the role of the Chair and the involvement of the local Beat Manager/Safer Neighbourhood Team.

DW - in terms of understanding local priorities, SNGs represent the best opportunity to get involved in policing and community safety. If they are well done, and well managed, they should represent the best opportunity to get a clear view of local priorities and can offer the Police a good deal of community intelligence.

The role of the two Chief Inspectors; Harper and Stapleford, will be to get closer to the neighbourhood structure.

Q5 Cllr Jones - Concentrating on the format of asking Officers from different agencies, is crime and punishment high on the agenda of both local and national government?

DW – Funding is often available at short notice at the end of the financial year, with strict criteria on how it can be spend. Need to know what local people want.

DH - The Partnership needs to use intelligence to target work and resources and needs to concentrate more in the future on prevention.

JT - In national terms, for the Probation Service, it seems that priorities are changed regularly. Although these priorities may be changed, the fundamental need to move people away from offending does not alter.

In the last few years, engagement between the Probation Service and the Community Safety Partnership has increased, and the services are looking to target resources in conjunction with the Partnership.

Q6 Cllr Irene Brown - Chair of the SNG on Bridge Ward, Newark. The ward had numerous problems which had grown too big to tackle by that SNG alone. The issue was taken to the Local Action Group, where a good deal of support was given and the problem was being solved.

What can be done, if one of the partners isn't doing what they should be doing?

Congratulations to the partnership on its work.

Q7 Cllr Annette Simpson - In the SIA, it identifies young people as being disproportionately likely to become offenders, re-offenders and victims of crime. What is the Partnership putting in place to tackle the statement in that respect?

AM - on part of the question ' What is the partnership putting in place?'

The CSP is involved in a whole range of things for young people. Newark & Sherwood hold an annual event for young people which takes place each year in Local Democracy Week. The young people spend a day attending workshops and activities, including one concentrating on ASB. In this workshop, the young people are encouraged to think about the impact that ASB has on communities. An issue also highlighted was that young people think that adults often categorise them wrongly, based on their own prejudices.

It is vital that a dialogue is opened with young people, and early intervention, particularly in respect of alcohol, is important for the future.

DH - The partnership is involved in working with schools, however

CK - it was important to remember that 78% of young people never engaged in any criminal activity.

AMH - County Council were looking creatively at working with young people and reaching out to them.

DW - No-one wants to see young people unnecessarily criminalised.

In the New Year, the Partnership needs to have a multi agency workshop to look at ways of preventing youth crime to build on the activities that have been taking place in both Newark and Sherwood and Bassetlaw.

It was important to get multi agency partnership work; to formalise primary school liaison and to identify and work with 'risky' families. These were families with parents who were offenders. In such a family, there was a high link between parental offending and the likelihood of children following this pattern, therefore, these were being referred to the Youth Inclusion Support Panel (YISP). A parent/parents receiving custodial sentences increased that likelihood yet further.

** Eleanor provided the statistics that showed the percentage of young people who were offenders, victims and re-offenders.

GC - the partnership did have links with Sure Start.

PUBLIC PERCEPTION

Community leaders need to be aware of the fact that there is a small element or real criminal behaviour.

AW - Young people, when asked why they drink, say it is to escape the very pressures that are experiencing. Problems occur, however, when young people drink alcohol they may engage in activities they would not normally do, which puts them at risk of offending or damaging themselves. There is a role within the family to guide young people. There is too often the view that 'at least its not drugs'

GB - raised the work by the residents of Spital Hill, which has encouraged young and older people to engage and work together on community projects. This kind of activity brings together communities and has real results.

TWO RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE OPENING REPORT – Agenda Item 4 ON THE SCRUTINY OF THE BASSETLAW NEWARK AND SHERWOOD COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP WERE NOTED i.e.

- 1) The Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee had considered the information and presentations on the work of the Bassetlaw Newark and Sherwood Community Safety Partnership and made representations to the Partnership as detailed in the minutes.
- 2) The Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee had considered the priorities for 2010 and agreed these. Members wished it to be noted that they had particular concerns regarding the well-being of young people and areas where crime has been a persistent problem over a long period of time. Both areas required the specific, concerted attention of the Partnership.

NO OTHER BUSINESS

MEETING CLOSED