

## SAFER HALTON PARTNERSHIP

*At a meeting of the Safer Halton Partnership Tuesday, 24 September 2013 in The Board Room - Municipal Building, Widnes*

|         |                    |  |
|---------|--------------------|--|
| Present | M. Andrews         | Community Safety                       |
|         | S. Bell            | Public Health                          |
|         | J. Davidson        | Cheshire Probation Service             |
|         | S. Doore           | Policy & Resources                     |
|         | D. Hebden          | Cheshire Police                        |
|         | D. Johnson         | Communities, HBC                       |
|         | A. Jones           | Democratic Services                    |
|         | A. Royale          | Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service         |
|         | S. Semoff          | Halton Strategic Partnership           |
|         | L.Smallthwaite     | Warrington & Halton Trading Standards  |
|         | E. Sutton-Thompson | Policy & Performance Team, Communities |

*Action*

### SHP1 WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Dwayne Johnson welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made around the table.

Apologies had been received from Dave Cargill, Sarah Boycott, Jeremy Duff, David Parr, John Williams, Alex Waller, Neil Ellwood and Dave Gordon.

### SHP2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 15 May 2013 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

It was noted that Simon Bell would pursue the attendance of the Alcohol Liaison Nurse at the next SHP meeting (minute SHP 67 (b) refers).

### SHP3 REVIEW OF THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY (SCS)

The Partnership received a presentation on the progress on the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) content review and the draft interactive online format of the SCS.

It was reported that the current SCS was due for review and refresh by December 2013, to ensure that the strategy reflected current activity and national public sector

changes. The overall vision, aims and objectives were not being reviewed and the overall direction of work remained the same.

As part of the review it was proposed that the format of the SCS became interactive and be hosted on the Halton Strategic Partnership's new website ([www.haltonpartnership.com](http://www.haltonpartnership.com)). The front page of the SCS would be an interactive graphic showing the vision, the Specialist Strategic Partnerships (SSP's) and the thematic partnerships. By clicking on the relevant hyperlink the reader would be taken to the page relating to the SSP they were looking for. Each SSP page would then demonstrate the aim and objectives of the SSP, the themes it covered, specific outcomes that were being achieved and the performance measures. Current performance information would be available via hyperlink from this page.

Officers proposed that each SSP would review and update the content of their section of the SCS with support from the Policy Officer, with input from the Principal Performance Officer, Principal Policy Officer and Partnership Officer. Officers discussed the considerations that needed to be made in respect of these updates and stressed that it was important to note that the aims and objectives of the SCS were not being reviewed and that the overall strategy remained the same. The purpose of the review was to ensure that the current measures were still fit for purpose. It was noted that the SSP's would need to agree on the thematic areas of activity and a number of measurable outcomes. Once the content of each SSP area had been agreed, the full strategy would go to the December meeting of the Halton Strategic Partnership Board for approval.

The report discussed the benefits of the review approach in detail and provided timescales needed to meet its presentation to HSPB members on 27 November 2013, for formal approval at the HSPB meeting on 11 December 2013.

It was requested therefore that SHP Members provide feedback on the content and appearance of the site by Friday 18 October, so that the above deadlines could be met. Members were requested to send their feedback to Steve Doore via email.

RESOLVED: That the Safer Halton Partnership:

1. Agree the proposed interactive layout of the SCS; and

2. Agree to review the current content of the SHP section and provide updated content by 18 October 2013.

#### SHP4 DRAFT HATE CRIME & HARASSMENT STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

The Partnership received the draft Hate Crime and Harassment Reduction Strategy (2012-16) and Action Plan as part of a wider consultation process.

It was noted that the Strategy and Action Plan had been reviewed and updated, following the launch of the Government's plan to tackle Hate Crime, "*Challenge It, Report It, Stop It: The Government's Plan to Tackle Hate Crime*" March 2012. The document followed the "*Hidden in Plain Sight Inquiry into Disability Related Harassment*" and the later "*Out in the Open Tackling Disability Related Harassment – A Manifesto for change*", both published by the Equality and Human Rights Commission.

The paper *Challenge It, Report It, Stop It* provided an overview of all the activity either already underway or proposed by various Whitehall departments. The Plan called on all Government departments to support councils, the Police and other local agencies to meet three key objectives:

- Challenging the behaviours and attitudes that fostered hatred and encouraged early intervention to reduce the risk of incidents escalating;
- Encourage more victims to come forward and report hate crime; and
- Improve the response to hate crime by better identifying and managing cases.

It also called on councils and other local partners to work jointly with the criminal justice system to bring offenders to justice, by for example, making available information on hate crime and local support services. It was noted that the Council had worked in conjunction with Cheshire Constabulary and aligned its Action Plan with theirs. The Council's Action Plan was based on the Criminal Justice Board's Plan and was included in the Strategy, together with Appendices: (a) Legislative Framework (b) Hate Crime Reporting Centres, (c) Third Party Reporting Form and (d) Hate Crime National Data.

The group discussed the apparent lack of use of the hate crime reporting centres and the possible reasons for

this and the overall low reporting rate of hate crime in Halton in general. It was suggested that work could be done around the recognition of a hate crime amongst staff and the responsibility on individuals to report such crime.

Partners were asked to review the Strategy and provide any comments they may have to Mike Andrews and Shelah Semoff as soon as possible.

RESOLVED: That

1. SSP Members agree to the draft Strategy and Action Plan; and
2. SSP Members acknowledge their role in monitoring the final strategy once approved.

#### SHP5 TASK GROUP UPDATES

The following Task Group updates were received:

- a) Alcohol Harm Reduction Group – There were no real issues presently in public houses. Arc Angel status was being implemented at The Hive. There had been some activity with UK Border Agency carrying out operations. Trading Standards had seized illegal vodka and planned some night time operations in the future. Operation Ski Bob would shortly be introduced, which was a new form of restorative justice intervention for young people. The ‘night time levy’ was being looked into with regards to its suitability for Halton.
- b) Quarterly Alcohol Update – Noted that the data presented was old. It was hoped that the next quarter would reflect more recent information. The ‘Alcohol Liaison Nurse Service’ data was just received showing that 17% of patients who came through A and E used the service. The local alcohol strategy was being developed. Public Health apps were being developed relating to alcohol units etc. The ‘Dry January’ campaign was being planned.
- c) Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) – Numbers had increased this quarter by 6%, notably alcohol related and possibly due to good weather conditions. ‘Mini moto’ incidents and neighbour nuisance complaints had increased with some due to an emergence of mental health issues. Mental health issues were currently being looked into with Dave Sweeney from Halton CCG.

- d) Domestic Abuse – More cases had been through MARAC lately, Lindsay Smith was reviewing the figures. It was noted that the Safeguarding Board had raised concerns regarding the number of children involved. Dwayne Johnson had been asked to lead on a piece of work on Domestic Abuse across Cheshire with Chief Inspector Dave Griffiths from Cheshire Police.
- e) Substance Misuse – Halton joint highest in Quarter 1 for drug abuse engagement. A drug strategy was currently being developed with multi agency input and was in its final stage of completion. It would be presented at the next SHP meeting. Data was requested on under 18's solvents and aerosols abuse, this was not available here but would be looked into. CRI were praised for their achievements by Councillor Wright, portfolio holder for *Health and Wellbeing*, and Dwayne Johnson.
- f) Navigate Offender Management – Good work in general. It was noted that a new report format was being developed which would provide more detailed information. Navigate Team experienced difficulties with employment, accommodation and benefits for repeat offenders. It was noted that on entering prison, a person effectively makes themselves homeless, and therefore are not the responsibility of the local authority. Emma Sutton-Thompson to raise this issue with Lindsay Smith.
- g) Partnership Tasking & Coordination – Activity in the Bechers and Upton Green areas of Widnes still problematic, adding to the increase in overall crime in Widnes. They were also experiencing problems with mini motos. Planning for bonfire night and Halloween was underway.
- h) Hate Crime – Not much activity here, as mentioned in previous strategy item there were concerns raised over under reporting. Another traveller site was planned and planning permission had been applied for a permanent site next to the transit site in Daresbury.

SHP6 POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

Mike Andrews, Community Safety Manager HBC, advised the Partnership that the PCC was currently looking at witness support systems in Cheshire.

SHP7 POLICE CRIME PANEL

It was noted that Dave Cargill, The Chairman of the Police Crime Panel, would be speaking at the anti-social behaviour Conference – *Changing Times, Changing Lives: the Future of Anti-Social Behaviour*, at Local Government House in London on 7 October 2013.

SHP8 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

The following documents were provided for information:

- Widnes Blue Lamp Q2 (April – June 2013)
- Runcorn Blue Lamp Q2 (April – June 2013)
- Meeting Dates for 2013-14

And;

- Fire & Rescue Service – all were reminded of the industrial action taking place on Wednesday 25 September 2013 between 12 noon and 4pm.

*Meeting ended at 3.15 p.m.*