

## Safer Halton Partnership

At a meeting of the Safer Halton Partnership, Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2015 in the Boardroom, Municipal Building, Widnes from 10am.

### Present:

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| C Patino        | Community & Environment                     |
| Cllr D Thompson | PPB Chair Police Crime Panel Representative |
| D Parr          | Chief Executive                             |
| D Perchard      | HBC Trading Standards                       |
| E Anwar         | Public Health                               |
| G Jones         | Cheshire West, Halton and Warrington YOT    |
| M Andrews       | Community Safety                            |
| N Hallmark      | Policy & Performance – People and Economy   |
| Cllr D Cargill  | Community Safety – Member Representative    |
| N Ellwood       | Office of Police and Crime Commissioner     |
| L McDonnell     | Cheshire Police                             |
| M Bushall       | Cheshire Fire and Rescue                    |
| E Davies        | CRC Probation                               |
| J Duff          | Faith Community                             |

### Apologies

|            |                              |
|------------|------------------------------|
| S Ashcroft | Domestic Abuse Co-ordination |
|------------|------------------------------|

| AGENDA ITEM  | ACTION |
|--|--------|
| <p><b>1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS</b></p> <p>David Parr welcomed all to the meeting and introductions were made.</p>  |        |
| <p><b>2. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING</b></p> <p>Minutes of last meeting agreed as a true record.</p>   |        |
| <p><b>3. TASK GROUP UPDATES</b></p> <p><b>a.) Alcohol Harm Reduction</b></p> <p>Enforcement activities highlighted from quarter one report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Windmill, Runcorn – pre-planning visit conducted – DPS and partners arrested and closure order issued.</li> <li>• The Bradley, Widnes – assault took place - DPS commended for</li> </ul> |        |

assistance given.

- Licencing Committee – revoked a licence following a rape (Pulse Bar, Widnes).

Other warnings and advice issued over the period through effective work between the enforcement team and the licencing officers.

Passive Drug Dogs – looking to conduct an operation in the next quarter. Queries raised around Novel Psychoactive Substances (NPS), also known as ‘legal highs’, and whether Drugs Dogs could detect them. View given that the presence of the Drugs Dogs acts as a deterrent to those people intent on supply of substances. MA clarified that the main use of the Dogs was in relation to the use of cocaine, and that the premises have requested their presence for this reason.

NPS/‘legal highs’ – further discussion took place around voluntary work undertaken by premises to highlight the dangers of these substances and deter use; including a PowerPoint presentation which plays in premises.

Old Town Carvery – concern was raised over the number of times the premises has changed hands. MA suggested that the move towards making it a family-friendly eating venue had not worked and that it is now been sold and has been reinvented as the ‘Bar Bananas’. MA stated that to-date there have been no incidents under this new image and that the DPS has complied with requirements.

#### **b.) Quarterly Alcohol Update**

LAAA – work now complete on this Home Office Scheme. Final Report (submitted with For Info papers) was submitted in May 2015. EA reported good progress was made against objectives however the wider partnerships formed were felt to be the real success, particularly in leaving a long-term legacy.

Alcohol Inquiry – the group met for nine weeks, with various input from stakeholder agencies. From this an Action Plan was formed and pledges were made against this as a launch event. The first meeting to take forward the actions was held yesterday.

Illicit Alcohol – operation took place in the area following the discovery of a warehouse of illicit vodka. Effective partnership work took place between Trading Standards, Environmental Health and the Police.

Under 18s Hospital Admissions – figures have seen the big reduction in Cheshire and Merseyside. Excellent partnership work was cited as the success factor.

Adult Hospital Admissions – Slight downward trend witnessed. Future work involves building on the work already undertaken and embedding the partnerships formed. Much of this work will be driven by the Alcohol Strategy Group.

Statement of Licencing Policy – new policy is currently being progressed through ratification process, and due to go to Regulatory Committee shortly. Main content driven by legislations with some additional scope to restrict.

Voluntary Code ('landlord's declaration') – DP fed back that this is currently being explored.

**c.) Crime, Anti-Social Behaviour and Partnership Tasking**

Overall decrease in ASB was reported during quarter one. Within Widnes this are the lowest figures in June for five years.

Busway – Public Space Protection Order now put in place.

Upton Rocks – in response to the number of police calls made, monitoring and interventions are taking place involving Young Addaction; Operation Stay Safe; installation of CCTV; environmental work; and working with the planning department in relation to additional retail space in the area. Two victims of ASB have been supported through work undertaken and the profile has now been closed as a result of the work done.

Asda/McDonald's – current issue reported regarding gatherings of young people. While no ASB has been present there is concern around the congregation. Negotiations are taking place with McDonald's around the use of the free WiFi, which seems to be the lure for the young people.

Discussions took place around the potential to exploit the opportunity for outreach and engagement work, and to build relationships both through Youth Services and the PCSO for the locality.

MB reported that the Fire and Rescue Service have an event setup for this location for 16<sup>th</sup> October and are working with both Asda and McDonalds on this.

Further discussion took place around the emerging issue of accessible sites open in the evening with free WiFi on offer, and the propensity for young people to congregate. DP reiterated a need to exploit the opportunities to engage and undertake interventions. Also discussed was the need to work with the managers of such locations on how to handle large groups and the issues that could potentially arise.

D Perchard fed-in that Trading Standards have developed a programme of training for retailers regarding age challenges and that this is freely available.

JB confirmed that free WiFi is available at CRMZ and it was suggested that there may be a promotional opportunity to be taken advantage of to shift patterns of assembly.

DP to circulate for Partnership input once Members have been consulted.

MA to bring report to next meeting.

Operation Stay Safe – it was reported that no vulnerable people were taken to a place of safety during quarter one. This reflects trends for the time of year, and it is anticipated that quarter two will look differently.

Indications were offered suggesting that alcohol is, generally, no longer a feature of vulnerability during these Operations. However, there is an increasing trend towards use of other substances, in particular Nitrous Oxide from canisters. Discussion took place around the need to continue to adapt services to meet needs. The group felt that education of parents/carers is pivotal to this and while some, responsive, work is taking place through schools there needs to be an additional, proactive approach taken – particularly between Community Safety, the Youth Services and Public Health.

Areas of note emerging for next reporting period include the Respect campaign over the Summer; new policing structure and a look at this in-practice; and planning for Halloween and Bonfire Night.

The group briefly discussed the new policing structure and consensus was given around satisfaction regarding the investment made in the area within the new structure.

MA additionally reported that work with immigration is going well.

Brennan Lodge – emerging issues to be monitored around perceived ASB. Queries raised around placements made to the location and reassurance given that work is ongoing to look at appropriateness of placements.

CRI – service has now fully re-located to Ashton Dane (Widnes site).

MA clarified that, going forward, the crime statistics contained within the quarterly reports will be backed by anecdotal explanations. This will allow for better understanding of the figures.

Schools Partnership Officer – a wide breadth of activity was reported.

#### **d.) Domestic Abuse**

On-track with performance levels – supplementary report (development plan) contained in 'Items for Information' reports confirms this.

Triage service for MARAC is working well for Halton.

Increase in reporting of incidents reflects promotional/awareness work undertaken, and this is viewed as positive.

MA explained that the graph of incidents is currently misleading and in future will reflect a 'per 1000' count for each area.

Refuge – still heavily utilised.

Domestic Abuse Forum – due to undertake further work with victims and survivors.

Community-based Services – Changing Lives – referrals have risen, though some criticism levied at the fact that the majority of referral comes from the police. MA said that additional referral pathways are being sought.

Domestic Homicide Review – Halton’s first recently completed and is now with the Home Office. Halton awaiting feedback on the few learning outcomes identified.

RASAC – training dates available. Information and contact details contained within meeting papers/report.

Quality Assurance Report – action plan progressing well with no areas of work currently in red.

Incident graph – observation were made around the peaks and troughs for all geographical areas at certain times of year. MA confirmed campaigns take place to match up to this, for example, the Christmas till receipt campaign; and intensification of activity during major sporting events.

SB reported back on Cheshire and Merseyside campaign – ‘Be a lover, not a fighter’- from which a reported penetration rate of 9,000+ people reached.

Queries raised around access to services. MA confirmed that domestic violence services are available 24/7, though while initial contact is made immediately, follow-up can be the next day. DP detailed the potential for a new piece of work to take place to support early intervention and greater access to service support following incident. The group agreed that the work should be taken forward.

Perpetrator schemes – questions asked about activity within Halton. MA established that an evaluation is currently taking place to review provision across the region and future intervention in Halton will draw on best practice from this.

DVPO/DVNO – validation given to the use of these in that they provide opportunity to intervene at an early stage. Additionally, they further support and safeguard any children in the situation.

DP commended the good progress being made in relation to issues faced.

DP to speak to SA, CI Debbie Hooper and CS Serena Kennedy to explore an innovative pilot on DV in Halton

**e.) Substance Misuse**

Facilities (CRI) now offered either side of the bridge and services now fully settled in their locations.

New treatments uptakes match trends.

Discharge – local success rates are above Public Health average.

Harm reduction agenda – a particular focus is being taken on blood-borne viruses. NHS Health Checks are also to be utilised to engage with people.

Prolific Offenders Team – co-located with CRI, and this relationship is set to continue.

Recovery Walk – plans afoot to situate in Halton – working group established and Stadium offered for celebration event.

Halton Brew – project now moving forward after initial set-backs around venue. Now at mobilisation stage.

CRI continue to be involved in key operations e.g. Stay Safe.

Funding has been secured for an additional Support Workers within CRI for a 12 month period.

The contract for services is due to expire next March and will go out to tender imminently. Procurement process will result in a five-year contract being awarded.

NPS – lots of secondary use identified but still little evidence of primary use or engagement into treatment from primary use.

Needle service – good uptake but little in the way of entry into treatment. Primary user group include steroid users and Melanotan users who don't see themselves as having a substance misuse issue.

**4. POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER (PCC)**

Your Policing Annual Report – included in papers 'For Information'.

NE highlighted support for victims and stated that a new contract is to be piloted from Oct which will involve the identification of victims through other services, such as CAB.

Hate Crime Reporting Centres – definition to be clarified and training identified as a need.

Compact Agreement – launch to take place to celebrate the agreement

between the PCC and the voluntary sector.

Youth Ambassador – is now moving on; joining the constabulary. Report to be produced on key activity prior to his departure. Formal thanks were given by the Partnership for his work.

CSE – DP reported that he is working with PCC to develop a pan-Cheshire seminar. CSE work area to include missing and absent and modern slavery.

DP also reported that a protocol has been developed and will be issued in the next few days around the ‘missing and absent’ and prevention activity, procedure for dealing with the situation, and reviewing data following incidents. DP to make documents available on request.

Community Safety Partnership funding – evaluation to be written on the pan-Cheshire area approach to allocation of funds. All requested to feed-in to NE as appropriate.

NE/DP gave an overview of specific funding allocations for Halton. Clarification was given regarding the rationale for selection of specific geographical areas (based on high crime and community disengagement). It was explained that measures of success were based on hard and soft outcomes, for example, community engagement and comfort levels of PCSOs.

MA to report back at next meeting on impact within The Grange area.

#### **5. POLICE AND CRIME PANEL (PCP)**

Cllr Thompson said that the Panel is due to meet next on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September.

He reported that some initial dissatisfaction, from neighbouring boroughs, with the new policing structure has now quietened.

One of the key areas for discussion due for the PCP will revolve around responses to major incidents, and in particular the support given to communities following an event.

LM praised the effective multi-agency approaches taken to recent incidents and the effective mobilisation of response. Cllr Cargill welcomed these remarks.

M56 – discussion took place around a spate on incidents along a particular section. DP gave detail of a meeting due to take place with Highways England and the local MP to discuss this issue, and in particular Junctions 10 to 16 and proposals for an extra lane in the longer-term.

DP confirmed that Junction 12 is to be closed for five weeks in October to facilitate the Mersey Gateway work. Notifications will go out shortly.

Cllr Thompson said that the PCP will additionally raise questions around the future of Cheshire policing and the potential for election of a Regional Mayor, and the effect of this on the PCC. DP elaborated that

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| <p>the LCR proposals will look at the current PCC arrangements. Halton is presented with a difficult position in that policing is made by the Cheshire Constabulary, rather than the Greater Merseyside Police. DP confirmed that he is currently leading on an enquiry regarding this issue and the initial reaction is to maintain the status quo. He suggested that there is no strong business case to bring Halton under the Greater Merseyside Constabulary; and the situation presents a complex an electoral situation for both the PCC role and a Mayoral role. He said that ultimately, however, the decision will be made by the six LCR authorities involved in the devolution deal.</p> <p>DP confirmed that there are also Government talks to combine Police and Fire services under the PCCs, in particular in relation to shared back-office functions and head office locations. He suggested that what comes out of this will additionally impact on the LCR devolution situation.</p> |            |
| <p><b>6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b></p> <p>Cllr Thompson praised the work of Trading Standards and requested some future reports within the Items for Information section.</p>  | D Perchard |
| <p><b>7. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION</b></p> <p>Items for information were highlighted for partners to absorb:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a.) Widnes Local Policing Unit – Quarter One Report 2015</li> <li>b.) Runcorn Local Policing Unit – Quarter One Report 2015</li> <li>c.) LAAA – Final Report</li> <li>d.) Quality Assurance Report – Halton MARAC 2015 (Development Plan – Priority Actions)</li> <li>e.) PPC Annual Report</li> </ul>  |            |

Meeting ended at 11.55am