



## **CRIME AND DISORDER SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, YSTRAD MYNACH ON THURSDAY, 15TH MARCH 2012 AT 5.00 P.M.**

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**PRESENT:**

Councillor J. Taylor - Chairman  
Councillor Mrs M.E. Sargent - Vice-Chairman

**Councillors:**

H.A. Andrews, P.C.W. Bailie, L. Binding, J.B. Criddle, G. Jones, D.V. Poole, D. Rees,  
K.V. Reynolds

**Together with:**

R. Hartshorn (Head of Public Protection), K. Peters (Community Safety Manager), S. Bosson (Gwent Police Authority), J. Burley (Safer Caerphilly Community Safety Partnership), C. Forbes-Thompson (Scrutiny Research Officer), R.J. Thomas (Committee Services Officer)

### **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D. Bolter, D.T. Davies, L. Hughes, Mrs. V. Jenkins, Mrs M.A. Tucker, A.S. Williams and C. Ace (Wales Probation Trust)

### **CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME**

The Chairman welcomed Kathryn Peters in her new role as Community Safety Manager and Chief Superintendent Julian Knight to the meeting.

### **1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made at the beginning or during the meeting.

### **2. MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting held on 15th September 2011 (minute nos. 1 - 6, on page nos. 1 - 4) be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **REPORTS OF OFFICERS**

Consideration was given to the following reports.

**3. PRESENTATION ON THE POLICE REFORM AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY BILL 2010-2011**

Ms Shelly Bosson, Chief Executive of the Gwent Police Authority, presented a report to Members on the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 and advised of local arrangements for the transition from the Gwent Police Authority to the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC).

Clarification was given as to the key roles of the PCC, in particular the appointment (and holding to account) of the Chief Constables, setting out a five-year Police and Crime Plan (the Plan) and determining local policing priorities and accompanying annual force budget (including reserves) in discussion with Chief Constables. They will also have wider responsibilities for the delivery of community safety and crime reduction, ensure that collaboration agreements with other Local Policing Bodies and police forces are effective, and the improvement of the delivery of criminal justice in their area.

Members were advised the PCC will be scrutinised by a Police and Crime Panel (PCP), which will be made up of Councillors and Independent Members. Panels will focus their attention on key strategic actions and decisions taken by the PCC including whether they have achieved the objectives set out in their police and crime plan and annual report, consider the applicable priorities of community safety partners and consult appropriately with the public. Members were asked to note that the situation in Wales in regards to the panels is different from England as they will be free standing panels established by the Home Secretary. How this will work in practice is currently being explored with the relevant parties, as is the Potential Operating Models for the PCP.

In closing her presentation, Ms Bosson confirmed the key timelines involved and advised that by November 2012 PCPs will need to be operating in order for them to be in place by the time of the election of the Commissioner. Elections for this will take place on 15th November 2012 and PCC takes up office on 22nd November. She added that these timescales were extremely challenging for Wales and she gave contact details to Members should they require further information. Members were also invited to read PCC Bulletin No. 6 dated 5th March 2012, copies of which were distributed at the meeting.

Members thanked Ms Bosson for her informative presentation and a full discussion followed. In particular, clarification was received regarding the lines of communication and responsibility between the PCP and PCC, and areas still to be determined at local level.

The Scrutiny Committee commented that the PCP should be people led and a Member expressed concern at the term of office given to the PCC but noted that the PCP would hold the successful candidate to account.

**4. PRESENTATION BY CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT JULIAN KNIGHT ON THE AREA PLANNING BOARD**

Chief Superintendent Julian Knight gave a presentation to Members on the Gwent Substance Misuse Area Planning Board (APB) which will support the planning, commissioning and performance management of substance misuse services at a regional (local health board) level.

Members were informed that Carl Sargeant, Minister for Local Government and Communities, took over in September and will spend £52m in regard to substance misuse; but will require value for money to enable justification to the general public as to the investment.

The new APB structures will provide a framework for working at the new local health board level, allowing partners to maximise opportunities to achieve economies of scale and secure

efficiencies in service planning and the performance management of service delivery. For an APB to work effectively, all of the partners will need to agree and set out how they will ensure the necessary links are maintained with the relevant national, regional and local strategic planning structures and/or strategies.

It is intended that APBs will assist Community Safety Partnerships and other relevant partners to discharge their statutory responsibility, by providing a mechanism for them to pool resources where appropriate and share expertise to deliver the Welsh Assembly Government's Substance Misuse Strategy. The need to deliver performance accountability against service level agreements, and similar, was recognised; as was the continuity of service during the migration.

Chief Superintendent Knight emphasised that local needs will have to be tailored, whilst taking into consideration regional issues (Gwent) as well as the wider community. This will require a more integrated approach across APBs.

Gwent currently performs well compared to other areas in Wales, however more work is needed to evidence performance and to be more proactive regarding preventative work and public engagement. In closing the presentation, he advised that the Welsh Government was keen to progress the boards and was driving them forward.

Members discussed the presentation and Chief Superintendent Knight responded to general questions. While appreciative of the recognition given to alcohol misuse, Members questioned the approach and available timeframe. Both family and outside factors were discussed and it was acknowledged that unified planning and development was required, rather than an isolated approach.

The increase in use of legalised drugs was also highlighted with 40% of 16-25 year olds now having tried at least one. Members raised fears that resources would be removed from Caerphilly county borough to other locations, however they were advised that the APB would expect a provision of service that could be moved around and focus on areas of need.

The Scrutiny Committee recognised the challenges to be faced and thanked Chief Superintendent Knight for his informative presentation.

## **5. THE NEED FOR A PERMANENT SUBSTANCE MISUSE RESOURCE CENTRE IN CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH**

The report updated Members on the Substance Misuse Resource Centre (Chambers House), where all local provider organisations and health promotion professionals were based to address a previous lack of co-ordinated and integrated service provision.

Following discussion on the content of the report, several Members made reference to a visit to the Centre and advised they had been impressed with the services available and the enthusiasm of the staff. Concerns were raised regarding the availability of future funding, and they stressed the need for the Centre's ability to evidence its success, in both quantitative and quality measures, to ensure its receipt of future funding from the Area Planning Board.

The Scrutiny Committee noted the contents of the report and recommended all Members visit the Centre.

## **6. PARK VIEW, Highbury Drive, Blackwood**

The report updated Members on the Supported Housing Project based at Park View, formerly named Highbury House, which opened in November 2009 following a lengthy public consultation exercise.

It was recognised that there had been considerable opposition to the project from local people during its consultation period. Liaison meetings were set up with local people living in proximity to the project to resolve any issues and at its last meeting, no residents attended. Since January 2011 there have been no issues raised by the neighbours that have not been dealt with on site and it seems that things have settled down.

The Scrutiny Committee discussed the report and officers responded to general questions. Members acknowledged that the project had been a success.

## **7. REQUESTS FOR AN ITEM TO BE INCLUDED ON THE NEXT AVAILABLE AGENDA**

Superintendent Jon Burley suggested a report on the 'Shared Purpose – Shared Delivery' (Single Integrated Plan) be prepared for consideration at a future meeting of the Scrutiny Committee.

## **8. INFORMATION ITEMS**

The following reports were received and noted without discussion:

- (1) Minutes of the Safer Caerphilly Community Safety Partnership Strategy Group held on 1st September 2011;
- (2) Minutes of the Safer Caerphilly Community Safety Partnership Strategy Group held on 1st December 2011 (subject to approval).

The meeting closed at 7.00 p.m.

Approved as a correct record, and subject to any amendments or corrections agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 13th September 2012, they were signed by the Chairman.

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CHAIRMAN