



CRIME AND DISORDER SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT COUNCIL OFFICES, TREDOMEN PARK ON THURSDAY 21ST MARCH 2013 AT 6.00 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillor H.W. David - Chairman
Councillor Mrs. J. Summers - Vice-Chairman

Councillors:

L. Binding, D.G. Carter, C.J. Cuss, Mrs. D. Ellis, C. Hawker, Ms. J.G. Jones, G. Kirby,
A. Lewis, C.P. Mann, R. Saralis, J. Taylor

Cabinet Member: Councillor D.V. Poole

Together with:

R. Hartshorn (Head of Public Protection), K. Peters (Community Safety Manager), H. Rees
(Partnership Development and Collaborative Improvement Programme Manager),
C. Forbes-Thompson (Scrutiny Research Officer), H. Morgan (Senior Committee Services
Officer)

Also Present

Chief Inspector S. Jefferies, Phil Lewis, Anna Lewis and Maria Evans (Drug and Alcohol
Youth Support Services)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J.E. Fussell, S. Morgan, D. Rees and
K.V. Reynolds, Brandon Williams (Safer Caerphilly Community Safety Partnership),
Nic Davies (Wales Probation Trust), Bobby Bolt and Sam Crane (Caerphilly Local Health
Board).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

3. MINUTES - 13TH SEPTEMBER 2012

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources, Crime and
Disorder Scrutiny Committee, held on 13th September 2012 (minute nos. 1 - 4, on
page nos. 1 - 9) be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Consideration was given to the following reports.

4. DRUG AND ALCOHOL YOUTH SUPPORT CAERPHILLY AND BLAENAU GWENT

Mr. Phil Lewis, Services Manager of Drug and Alcohol Youth Support (DAYS), advised that CRi have been commissioned to provide a Young Persons Substance Misuse Service across both localities to support service users in the recovery journey. The aim is to provide a Young Persons Substance Misuse service to engage service users in a continuum of service provision in order to reduce substance related harm and improve access to more rewarding lives.

Mr. Lewis advised that the Young Persons Service is available to all young people under the age of 18 who reside in the Caerphilly and Blaenau Gwent Boroughs. Young Person Recovery Workers offer support to those who take substances at a level where it disrupts the young persons functioning and provides 1:1 support. The service also targets and prioritises identified at risk groups who exhibit a higher vulnerability to drug and alcohol problems. He gave an overview of the service, which is delivered on the basis of a 'Tiered' model approach, and explained the provision of services to the different levels of need. The service delivers a single point of contact for providing advice and information, for making referrals and for receiving telephone enquiries from potential services users.

Mr. Lewis then gave an overview of each of the tiers and the specific services they provide:-

Tier 1 - substance misuse services are part of services that are provided for the general population, everyone can access Tier 1 services. This level mainly involves interventions from generic young people's services. The service offer facilities such as information and advice, screening for drug misuse and referral to specialist drugs services.

Tier 2 - services may be targeted to meet the needs of groups who may be more vulnerable to developing substance misuse problems.

Tier 3 - is drug treatment in the community with regular sessions to attend, undertaken as part of a care plan. Tier 3 services are generally provided by specialist drug workers and care plans are developed which are client led.

Members were pleased to note the Service has established links with relevant organisations in order to exchange information and has formed effective working partnerships which has led to the ongoing development of recovery in communities within the boroughs. They were advised that regular feedback through service users, partner agencies and service providers is collated to enhance service development and delivery of the service.

Members sought details of the ways in which the service can be promoted and were advised that during May/June a number of drug awareness sessions are being undertaken (which will include schools) and details of the services that are available will be provided at that time. A toolkit is also being development for use in schools.

During the course of the ensuing debate, reference was made to the number of drugs that are in existence. Mr. Lewis spoke of the specific drugs that are in circulation at present and advised that new drugs are constantly being developed and are being marketed on a regular basis. Officers continue to offer guidance and support to those who use the service and outreach facilities are available where required. Scoping exercises are also undertaken to target specific areas. Members were advised that referrals can come from a number of sources and that the provision of service is modelled to the different levels of need. The process which each of the referrals goes through was outlined in detail.

Members thanked Phil, Anna and Maria for their presentation and for responding to the queries they raised during the course of the debate.

5. MEPHEDRONE EDUCATION PROJECT

The report informed Members of a Mephedrone (Meow Meow) project being undertaken in conjunction with Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council.

Kathryn Peters, Community Safety Manager, advised that at the last meeting it was reported that the county borough had become a full partner in the Mephedrone educational project. Members were pleased to note that the Project has received funding from the Safer Caerphilly Community Safety Partnership with a view to developing an educational resource for use in secondary schools from Autumn 2013.

She advised that a BBC standard half hour filmed drama based around a Mephedrone dealer in a valleys town is being developed and, to supplement the warning and educational messages in the film, an educational pack for school's PSE tutors is being developed, led by a former headmaster and a small group of key PSE tutors and Healthy Schools Co-ordinators. Members were advised that the intention is to load the product onto school intranet sites along with the film so that it may be used in PSE lessons with the relevant age group.

A query was raised as to where the drug has come from and what steps are being taken to find its source. The Chief Inspector advised that the Welsh Organised Crime Team concentrates on intelligence received and there have been a number of successful prosecutions undertaken. Members recognised the work being undertaken but accepted that with the number of other drugs available it would not be possible to eradicate the problem completely.

Members noted the content of this report and welcomed the update given by both Ms. Peters and Chief Inspector Jefferies.

6. SAFER STRAND OF THE SINGLE INTEGRATED PLAN

Mr. Howard Rees (Programme Manager Partnership Development and Collaborative Improvement) gave a presentation on the development of "Caerphilly Delivers" - the Caerphilly Local Service Board Single Integrated Plan and highlighted specifically the Safer Caerphilly Outcome/Strand as contained therein.

He advised that during 2011 it was identified that there was a need and an opportunity to rationalise the Caerphilly Community Strategy Partnership landscape, reduce bureaucracy, re-prioritise and focus on enhancing Partnership delivery. This work programme was complimented by the publication (19th June 2012) by Welsh Government of "Shared Purpose - Shared Delivery: Guidance on integrating Partnerships and Plans". This document provided statutory guidance to and required Local Service Boards to rationalise their respective Partnership landscapes and produce a Single Integrated Plan to discharge statutory planning and delivery obligations.

In his presentation he provided an overview of the process that had been undertaken to develop the Plan and of proposals to simplify and strengthen joint working and collaboration. As a result of ongoing consultation it has been concluded that the Plan should incorporate five key strands, Prosperous Caerphilly, Safer Caerphilly, Learning Caerphilly, Healthier Caerphilly and Greener Caerphilly. It is proposed that the Plan will outline the delivery mechanism for each of those outcomes and priorities.

In his presentation he then referred specifically to the Safer Caerphilly theme, which is defined as where residents:-

- Are safe and feel safe inside their homes and out in the community
- Are reassured, listened to by community safety agencies and encouraged to report any crime and disorder issues they may have
- Need to feel safe and independent and when they need additional support, or where they have additional need, they should be able to access support from community safety and safeguarding agencies

Four Safer Caerphilly outcome priorities have been identified and each are being progressed:-

- Reduce incidents of anti-social behaviour and reduce fear of becoming a victim of anti-social behaviour for residents
- Reduce crime and the fear of crime for the residents
- Reduce the harm caused to communities through substance misuse
- Ensure people are supported to live in their own communities and to lead safe, fulfilled and independent lives

Mr. Rees advised that the next step of the process is to consider and assimilate consultation responses, determine and finalise delivery mechanism/structures and redraft and the "Caerphilly Delivers" document, which will then be presented to the Local Service Board and Council for approval. After that it will be published and formally launched.

Members were pleased to note that as part of the development of the Plan will build on the success of Strategic Partnerships, and that there will continue to be comprehensive involvement of strategic partners, their respective networks and stakeholders. Members noted that at the end of the public consultation period (22nd March, 2013) the comments and additional information received will be taken into account in the production of action plans for each of the priorities.

Members were pleased to note the five themed outcomes and the priorities identified under each, which were Identified following the comprehensive data collection exercise, and supported those priorities under the Safer Caerphilly Outcome/Strand. They were advised that the Plan will become a strategic document and specific action plans will be developed for each priority.

Members thanked Mr. Rees for his presentation and for responding to the queries they raised during the course of the debate.

7. GWENT POLICE PERFORMANCE

Chief Inspector Simon Jeffries, Gwent Police, circulated force performance data performance (as at 18th March 2013) and advised that there has been an 11.2% reduction in total crimes recorded so far for this year. He also detailed the IQUANTA data (comparison between Caerphilly LPU and most similar partnerships - data to end January 2013) and highlighted Caerphilly performance as a comparison between most similar populated LPU's within Gwent (based on data for financial year 2012/13).

Members noted the improvement in crime rates in the majority of the 18 categories listed but noted that both the assault without injury and harassment categories remained high. The Chief Inspector advised that harassment also includes social media and as such the reporting of incidents has risen. Whilst assault without injury has slightly risen, most serious violence has reduced by 30.4%.

The Chief Inspector then praised the work of the Council Community Safety Wardens and the way they liaise with the local police. He also advised on a number of special operations that have been undertaken over the past months. He referred specifically to Operation Crystal which has resulted in the arrest of 33 of the most prolific offenders over the past few weeks. He also advised of other innovative projects, including the use of DNA gel substances, the launch of a computerised system to record crime and to the OWL project which, once registered, will provide an email to residents keeping them fully informed about any local crimes, or any scams, frauds etc which they need to be aware of. In that some stations are now closed or open for specific periods, Members expressed concerns at the perceived lack of accessibility to a Police Officer. The Chief Inspector advised that most persons telephone rather than visit stations and as the footfall to certain stations was low, as part of the efficiency of the service such changes were made. There are however a number of mobile police stations now in use. A query was then raised as to how effective the mobile police stations have been. The Chief Inspector advised that their times and locations are well publicised and Officers are in the process of assessing how they are being used. He stressed the importance of working with the community and providing ways in which the public can engage with the Police.

Members thanked the Chief Inspector for his informative presentation and for responding to their queries during the course of the debate.

8. REQUESTS FOR AN ITEM TO BE INCLUDED ON THE NEXT AVAILABLE AGENDA

The following requests for reports to be prepared for consideration at future meetings of the Scrutiny Committee were made as follows:

1. Progress report on Park View, Highbury House, Blackwood - Councillor J Taylor
2. Request for details of Operation Bernie from the South Wales Fire and Rescue Service

9. 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 June 2012;
- (2) Minutes of the Safer Caerphilly Community Safety Partnership Strategy Group held on 6th September 2012.

The meeting closed at 7.45p.m.

Approved as a correct record, and subject to any amendments or corrections agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 12th September 2013, they were signed by the Chairman.

CHAIRMAN