



CRIME AND DISORDER SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT COUNCIL OFFICES, TREDOMEN PARK ON THURSDAY, 12TH SEPTEMBER 2013 AT 5.00 P.M.

PRESENT:

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

Councillors:

C.J. Cuss, J. Fussell, C. L. Hawker, J.G. Jones, G. Kirby, C.P. Mann, S. Morgan, D. Rees,
J. Taylor

Cabinet Members: Councillor D.V. Poole (Community and Leisure Services)

Together with:

R. Hartshorn (Head of Public Protection), K. Peters (Community Safety Manager),
Chris Walsh (Mental Health and Drug and Alcohol Team Manager), C. Forbes-Thompson
(Scrutiny Research Officer), C. Evans (Committee Services Officer)

Outside Bodies: Inspector K. Childs (Caerphilly Local Policing Unit), S. A Bosson (Chief
Executive, Office of Gwent Police and Crime Commissioner), R. Morris (South Wales Fire and
Rescue Service)

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors L. Binding, D.G. Carter, Mrs. D. Ellis,
A. Lewis and R. Saralis. Together with Bobby Bolt (Caerphilly Local Health Board),
Brandon Williams (Safer Caerphilly Community Safety Partnership) and Nic Davies (Wales
Probation Trust).

CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed all parties to the meeting and introductions were made.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at the beginning or during the meeting. Cllr Rees
declared a professional interest in the production of the DVD on the mephedrone project.

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee, held on 21st March 2013 (minute nos. 1 - 9, on page nos. 1 - 5) be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3. MATTERS ARISING

Kath Peters provided the Committee an update on the Mephedrone Project, following a Member request. A DVD has been produced, which will be ready, along with an Education Pack in October. The Committee agreed to recommend showing the DVD at a screening event/ Member Seminar. Cllr Rees declared a professional interest in this item.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Consideration was given to the following reports.

4. BERNIE PROJECT: DELIVERY AND EVALUATION 2013- PRESENTATION BY ROB MORRIS, SOUTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Members were asked to note the performance information provided in the presentation and in particular, the educational work carried out within local fire stations, as a result of financial support provided by the Safer Caerphilly Community Safety Partnership. It was confirmed that the Partnership provided £10,000 funding, which provided additional activities and merchandise, during the Easter Holidays 806 young people places were secured

Members discussed the report and it was confirmed that project has been successful overall in reducing crime rates. However it was noted that expanding the project beyond the Bargoed area would require additional funding and resources.

The Scrutiny Committee noted the contents of the report.

5. PARK VIEW, Highbury Drive, Blackwood

Chris Walsh, Mental Health and Drug and Alcohol Team Manager, provided an overview of the Supported Housing Project at Park View. It was explained that the project opened in 2009, providing care and support services to residents of Caerphilly County Borough. The project supports people who have undergone residential rehabilitation or community treatment for drug or alcohol addiction and who also have issues of homelessness.

Charter Housing own Park View, with Gwalia providing care and support services and Caerphilly Borough Council, through Supporting People, funding and commissioning the project. The project provides 8 places and residents must commit to abstinence.

Park View opened in November 2009 following lengthy public consultation that commenced in 2006. Initially there was considerable opposition to the project from local people and a sustained campaign against it.

Liaison meetings were set up with local people living in proximity to the project to provide a forum where a dialogue could be continued and address concerns and build relationships. The meetings were divided into contact compliance and liaison. Since the project opened Officers of the Council and representatives from Gwalia, Charter Housing and Supporting People have attended numerous meetings with the neighbouring residents. Officers remain available to meet with the neighbouring residents but there have been no liaison meetings since November 2012.

Councillor Taylor thanked Chris Walsh and explained that he had requested the report following concerns raised of inaccuracies in the previous report. This report has been circulated to residents and no issues have been raised.

Members discussed the report and officers responded to general queries. It was confirmed that project has been successful with 100% of residents being moved onto relevant care/support as required and none have been moved into long-term residential care. Chris Walsh explained the position of Park View in the Caerphilly treatment system and said that it was the final stage for people who had undergone either community treatment or residential rehabilitation and had issues of homelessness. In relation to residential rehabilitation it was clarified that although the service is means tested potential service users receive an assessment of their ability to pay under the fairer charging policy. Accommodation at Park View is funded through supporting people and housing benefit. The project is receiving increasing referrals for its service and is more recognised by partner organisations such as Health, CRI, GP's etc.

Councillor Rees requested a satisfaction survey to be conducted with the local residents in proximity of Park View and results to be circulated to the Committee Members.

6. SAFER CAERPHILLY SCORECARD

The Chair asked Members to note that an additional presentation on Caerphilly Local Policing Unit Performance Review will be provided under this agenda item from Gwent Police, which links into this report.

Welsh Government has implemented a significant reform of the role of Local Service Boards that has affected the way in which statutory plans and partnerships work. This includes the development of a Single Integrated Plan based on an outcomes methodology, owned by the Local Service Board. This Plan builds in and replaces the separate statutory plans, which were in place- Children and Young People, Health Social Care and Well Being, and Community Safety. Full Council approved Caerphilly County Borough Council's Single Integrated Plan, "Caerphilly Delivers", on 23rd April 2013.

The Safer Caerphilly Delivery Group has developed a Scorecard for the Safer Caerphilly outcome, which details all of the objectives under each priority that the Partnership will work towards to achieve the overall outcome. The scorecard will be updated quarterly and reported on to the members of the Delivery Group who will monitor the progress against the targets. The Scorecard could also be reported on at each of the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee Meetings if required.

Members discussed the report and officers responded to general queries.

Members requested the Safer Caerphilly Scorecard in respect of Anti Social Behaviour to be broken down into under 18's and adults. The Partners are to look at the scorecard and include actions and evidence alongside performance information with exceptions highlighted.

Inspector Childs offered apologies for Superintendent Brandon Williams and presented Performance Review and data since April 2013.

Members discussed the information presented and it was confirmed that the figures are reflective of the summer weather, changes in data recording for theft (now includes wheelie bins) and training undertaken by the force to deal with harassment.

Members felt that a background report with contextual information would be beneficial, and were concerned that there is no one to provide analysis to the Local Service Board.

Councillor Cuss requested information on the number of crimes reported compared to previous years.

7. PROTOCOL BETWEEN CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL CRIME AND DISORDER SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AND SAFER CAERPHILLY COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

The report outlines the changes made to the protocol between Caerphilly County Borough Council and the Safer Caerphilly Community Safety Partnership (SCCSP) for the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee. The revised protocol reflects the changes the statutory responsible partners on the SCCSP since the election of the Gwent Police and Crime Commissioner.

Members were asked to note that the recommendations are to be made to Cabinet not Council.

It was moved and seconded that the recommendations in the report be approved. By show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED:

The Committee endorsed the recommendation that Scrutiny Committee recommend to Cabinet that:

- The revised protocol for Caerphilly County Borough Council Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee and the Safer Caerphilly Community Safety Partnership is approved.

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

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

1. Councillor D. Rees requested a satisfaction survey to be conducted with the local residents in proximity of Park View and results to be circulated to the Committee.

9. INFORMATION ITEMS

The following reports were received and noted:

1. Minutes of the Safer Caerphilly Community Safety Partnership Strategy Group held on 6th December 2012, 10th April 2013 and 16th May 2013.

The meeting closed at 6:57 p.m.

CHAIRMAN