

## **CAERPHILLY LOCAL SERVICE BOARD**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 23RD JUNE 2009 AT 9.15AM AT THE INNOVATION CENTRE, TREDOMEN**

#### **PRESENT:**

Councillor L. Whittle - CCBC  
Stuart Rosser – CCBC  
Richard Davies – WAG  
Mike Bridgman – GAVO  
Colin Palfrey – Caerphilly tLHB  
Chief Constable Mick Giannasi – Gwent Police  
Chief Superintendent Paul Symes - Gwent Police  
Superintendent Jon Burley – Gwent Police

Together with:

Colin Jones - CCBC  
Dorothy Phillips – CCBC  
Alison Palmer – GAVO

#### **APOLOGY**

An apology for absence was received from Chrissie Hayes - Caerphilly tLHB

#### **1. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 19th May 2009 were agreed.

#### **MATTERS ARISING**

##### **WCVA Convergence Funding**

AP reported that the Convergence Bid had been progressed and the Business Plan now completed. An assurance had been given from the WCVA that there would be some flexibility on a local basis regarding the role of the voluntary sector support post.

##### **Aggregate Information Sharing Project (minute no 1)**

CJ reported that a letter from the Welsh Assembly Government had confirmed that they would be appointing consultants (Sungard) to carry out a research study into Data Observatories, following concerns regarding possible duplication. Their work will involve consultation with local authorities and the Data Unit.

#### **2. PREVENT AGENDA**

Chief Superintendent Paul Symes introduced the presentation and Superintendent Jon Burley gave a presentation on the Prevent Agenda.

The presentation was given to enable the Board to gain an appreciation of emerging work in conjunction with the Prevent Agenda.

The Prevent Agenda was launched on the 14th January and although it will be led by the Police there will be a need to work with the local authorities, Community Safety and other partnerships, statutory partners, Multi Agency Forum and the community to take the agenda forward.

The vision of Prevent is to mainstream counter terrorism prevention functions into everyday policing and partnership working. It will not be about working in a different way but being aware of different things.

For Prevent in Caerphilly the following will be the focus:-

- The Prevent Agenda will be overseen by the Community Safety Partnership against the Plan.
- Issues of hate crime and the Prevent Agenda will be the subject of action plans owned by the Multi Agency Forum (MAF).
- Tackling hate and prejudice within the communities will be a priority.
- The Police and other partnerships will need to be involved in activities that create community cohesion.
- MAF has no commissioning powers or budget for cohesion work and the Community Safety Partnership views will be sought on funding opportunities and commissioning process.

The reporting structure for the MAF and Community Safety Partnership were discussed (at present the MAF reports directly to the Community Safety Partnership) and it was also noted that funds might be aligned to the Prevent Agenda in due course.

The Board would therefore need to consider the reporting mechanisms and commissioning opportunities. Copies of updates of counter terrorism activity and a local profile would be presented when available.

SR questioned the speed of implementing the Prevent Agenda and considered that some other local authorities seemed more advanced.

*A response was given that the county borough was seen as a lower risk than larger cities and that progress is proportionate to the risk.*

Another question was raised regarding the need to communicate the Prevent agenda to staff and members of the public

*A response was that in view of the county borough being a low risk area, widespread communication might not help the situation. Although there is a need not to be complacent, selective information may be given to the public to prevent undue alarm as it needs to be kept in context to risk.*

An update will be given to a future meeting.

A DVD is also available on the Prevent Agenda and this will be circulated to members of the Board in addition to a paper currently being prepared by Valrec.

### **3. CROSS CUTTING THEMES REPORTING TO LOCAL SERVICE BOARD**

Lianne Rees was attending the meeting to present this item. Lianne reminded the Board that in October last year a Partnership Performance Management proposal was accepted on the methodology for strategic partnerships to report to the Board. The Health Social Care and Well Being Partnership had been the pilot and the Living Environment Partnership is currently in the process of using the recommended performance reporting structure.

In order to move forward a performance reporting structure has now been proposed for the cross cutting themes which would be consistent with the reporting mechanism for the Strategic Partnerships.

Lianne explained that the development would ensure that all partnerships are given equal importance, that all work under the cross cutting themes is captured and that a consistent reporting structure exists across all the partnerships.

Members discussed the report and expressed concern that although the performance monitoring reports may be informative, the main focus should be on strategic issues with exception reporting only on key and major issues.

The Board has a role to oversee and drive forward the Community Strategy but not to provide day to day monitoring. The Chairs of the Partnerships should be aware that the Board expected to be brought difficult issues which could not be resolved at a partnership level. There may be a need for Board members to have access to monitoring reports but to not be overloaded by them.

Concern was raised on the level of commitment and perhaps complacency of some Chairs and whether internal monitoring was rigorous.

SR reminded members that the Board had agreed to take a "twin track approach" by receiving exception reports from partnerships on difficult issues and, in overseeing the community strategy, through the partnerships by adding discipline to delivery through developing the monitoring structure. It was thought that the good relationships between the agencies involved with the Board meant that often the difficult issues are dealt with more informally and without a need for reference to the LSB.

JB suggested that geographically based information for the county borough might be useful in identifying hot spots for partnership priority activity, working together operationally to identify and address long term concerns. It was noted that Infobase Caerffili could provide this information and JB also reported that an analyst had been appointed with Gwent Police who may be able to assist with providing this information.

SR suggested that he discuss the issue with Colin and Lianne to progress a form of 'filter' on information with exception reporting only to the Board.

RD commented that he still had concerns and had been given no assurance that the community strategy was performing well. He also had no evidence that the Chairs and Co-ordinators were working well together. The Board must focus on difficult issues and not get involved in 'clutter'. If the partnerships are not working well they may not identify difficult issues.

There needs to be consistent reporting, hence the development of the reporting structure, and an assurance that partnerships are working well with evidence that there has been a positive impact on the residents of the county borough.

SR suggested that the Chairs and Vice Chairs be brought together to discuss if they are operating as effectively as they could be.

#### 4. COMMUNITY STRATEGY REVIEW ACTION PLAN

CJ outlined the report and noted that a lot of the Lessons Learnt in the report had already been discussed e.g work to be done to improve the impact evaluation methods to ensure that the Community Strategy is making a difference to the life of citizens within the borough.

He suggested that the Lesson Learnt Action Plan could be looked at and an Action Plan developed for this Board.

The recent Standing Conference had been consulted on the Community Strategy and responses are due by mid July. The Board were invited to make comments by that date.

A question was raised on the importance of capturing good work and MB suggested that it might be useful to visit successful projects within the county borough although as a Board it was agreed that they are expected to make things happen not to deliver projects. He also noted that the Compact Action Plan was updated and reported on twice a year which captured activity at grass roots level across the borough.

It was agreed that the LSB needed to prioritise its time in order to spend the 3 hours a month on key issues, driving forward the community strategy and dealing with intractable issues.

**It was agreed that the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the partnerships be invited to the September meeting and that meeting be a single item one where the LSB will explore with the various Partnership representatives how positive progress can be made and maintained on the Action Plan developed from the Lessons Learnt. It was agreed that CJ would work on the format for the meeting.**

#### 5. WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE BOROUGH ?

The following successful event was reported:

- Voluntary Sector Achievement Awards held at Blackwood Miners Institute on 10th June
- Standing Conference : It was suggested that the format/content/attendees of this meeting needs to be reviewed to further stimulate interest

The following events have been arranged :

- 2nd July - Annual Funding Day at Penyrheol Community Centre
- 2nd July – Bargoed Regeneration Launch
- 10th July – Community Safety Partnership Open Day at Penallta House with Question Time session

Concern was expressed about the timing of events to avoid clashes and the need to schedule ministerial visits to ensure that the Leader and Cabinet were available.

#### 6. AGENDA - 21ST JULY 2009

The proposed items for the agenda on the 21st July were agreed.

**7. COMMUNITY STRATEGY QUARTERLY BRIEFING – APRIL TO JUNE**

The Community Strategy Quarterly Briefing (April – June) was noted.

**8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

JB reported that the Community Safety Partnership had received the performance targets for 2010/2011 – a reduction in violent crime by 10%, less serious assault 5% and inquisitive crime 9%. A reduction of 8% for sexual offences would also be sought although this must be balanced with the need to encourage more reporting of these offences.

Thanks were placed on record to Gwent Police for their work in recently dealing with a number of major incidents within the borough.

The meeting closed at 11.15 am.