



## **CRIME AND DISORDER SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, YSTRAD MYNACH  
ON THURSDAY, 19TH MARCH 2015 AT 5.30 P.M.**

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PRESENT:

Councillor H.W. David - Chair  
Councillor S. Morgan - Vice Chair

Councillors:

L. Binding, C.J. Cuss, Ms E. Forehead, Ms J.G. Jones, G. Kirby, A. Lewis, C.P. Mann,

Together with:

R. Hartshorn (Head of Public Protection), K. Peters (Community Safety Manager), R. Haycock (Domestic Abuse Coordinator), C. Forbes-Thompson (Scrutiny Research Officer), C. Evans (Committee Services Officer)

Outside Bodies: P. Staniforth (Safer Caerphilly Community Partnership) and N. McLain (Gwent Police).

### **1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J. Fussell, D.M. Gray, C. Hawker, D. Rees, R. Saralis, Mrs J. Summers and J. Taylor.

### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest received at the commencement or during the course of the meeting.

### **3. MINUTES – 11TH SEPTEMBER 2014**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 11th September 2014 (minute nos. 1 - 9) be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

### **REPORTS OF OFFICERS**

Consideration was given to the following reports.

#### 4. DOMESTIC ABUSE PROCESSES FOR VICTIMS.

K. Peters (Community Safety Manager) and R. Haycock (Domestic Abuse Coordinator), in response to a members request at the meeting held on 20th March 2014, provided Members with an overview of the report, which highlighted the services available across the borough to victims of Domestic Abuse and in particular, what support is available to victims in crisis outside of normal working hours.

The Safer Caerphilly Community Safety Partnership (SCCSP) addresses domestic abuse and support to victims through direct intervention by Gwent Police, in supporting victims and investigating crimes, and through the support and refuge provision provided by third sector and funded agencies.

In addition, the Committee noted that various projects and preventative educational activities are conducted with young people, such as Safe Relationships Training within schools, to educate young people on the signs of Domestic Abuse and the #caerphillystandingtogether campaign, which asks young people to 'tweet their feet' to raise awareness of domestic abuse and demonstrate their support to the campaign.

P. Staniforth (Safer Caerphilly Community Partnership) added that, Domestic Abuse and Victim Support is a top priority for the police. There has been a great deal of preventative work undertaken by a number of agencies and it is anticipated that additional support would be provided for victims of Domestic Abuse through the Victim Support hub.

Members thanked the Officers for the report and expressed that further work should be conducted to promote the prevention agenda. Officers were agreement and added that there is more focus on prevention and intervention services, which provide education and awareness to young people on healthy relationships, types of domestic abuse and violence against their parents.

Discussions ensued around the support services available to victims of Domestic Abuse. It was noted that support is provided by a range of third sector providers, such as Llamau and concerns around Domestic Abuse are often picked up by other services, such as Schools or Social Services, in which case, preventative measures are implemented.

Members discussed the refuges across the borough and sought further information on the support provided to service users with additional support needs. Officers highlighted that there are establishments within the borough to temporarily house people in crisis, the locations of refuges are not publicised for safety reasons and In addition, where victims are demonstrating additional support needs, for example substance misuse or mental health issue, appropriate support is provided.

Discussion ensued around the funding for support and refuge services and it was confirmed that Supporting People provide funding for many of the services. Concerns were raised around the impact to the services, as there is an anticipated reduction in Supporting People funding for the future. Members noted that information on Supporting People budgets were not available within this Scrutiny Committee, however it was agreed that the information be sought at Health Social Care and Well-Being Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor L. Binding requested an annual report on Domestic Abuse Processes for Victims, including additional information/ data on occupancy levels at all refuges within the borough, the number/ percentage of victims presenting with additional needs, commissioning information for support provision and a cost effectiveness exercise on intervention services

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the report be noted. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons outlined at the meeting, the Scrutiny Committee note the report.

## 5. SAFER CAERPHILLY PERFORMANCE SCORECARD

K. Peters, Community Safety Manager, presented the report to Members, the purpose of which was to detail the Safer Caerphilly Performance Scorecard for Quarter 3 2014 - 15.

The Safer Caerphilly Delivery Group has responsibility for ensuring that the Safer Caerphilly elements on the single integrated plan encompass the statutory responsibilities placed on community safety partners to develop strategies to: reduce crime and disorder in the area, combat substance misuse in the area, and reduce reoffending in the area.

The Safer Caerphilly Delivery Group monitors its activities through the Safer Caerphilly Partnership Performance Scorecard. Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee has previously agreed that the most recently updated Scorecard will be presented at each meeting.

The single plan priority areas relevant to Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee are:

S1- Reduce incidents of anti-social behaviour and reduce fear of becoming a victim of anti-social behaviour for residents.

S2- Reduce crime and the fear of crime for the residents of the county borough

S3- Reduce the harm caused to communities through substance misuse

S4- Ensure people are supported to live in their own homes and communities in safety

S5- Improve the education, information, early intervention, prevention and harm reduction in relation to substance misuse in the county borough.

The Committee thanked the Officer for the report and considered the information within the Scorecard.

Members, having queried the data within the report noted that the graphs within the scorecard demonstrated cumulative data and were assured that the issue would be raised with Performance Management with the aim to make clearer for the future.

Members discussed a number of areas within the report and further information was sought on the Needle Exchange project, types of exchanges and the implications of the project. Officers highlighted that the Needle Exchange project is a positive project, which aims to reduce the number of discarded needles in the community. The project has a 77% return rate and the project is co-located with drug-support services. Members noted that there are different effects and risks between image enhancing drugs and heroin etc.; however there has been an increase in the number of exchanges of this nature.

The Committee discussed the Diversionary Activities highlighted within the scorecard, which aim to prevent Anti Social Behaviour. It was noted that the scheme is supported by the Partnership Fund. Funding for Commissioning is dependent on WG approval of the business plan on an annual basis and organisations are invited to apply for funding to provide activities to young people in problem areas, intelligence is sought from the police and various other organisations in order to determine need.

Members discussed the performance indicators from the Household Survey and discussed crime reduction and residents fear of crime. Members sought the views of the Police on the data provided. It was noted that the performance data was encouraging and demonstrated a good response. Crime figures appear to be increasing, however there has been a reduction

in crime, and careful scrutiny is conducted on how crime is recorded. The new Policing Model was discussed and Officers expressed their confidence that there would be a reduction in response times, as well as a better service offered to the public. In addition, PACT was discussed and it was noted that in many places PACT was not successful and replaced by Your Voice process, however, similar set ups have been maintained in areas where PACT was successful.

Finally, Officers expressed their confidence in the Performance figures and highlighted that they were happy with the performance and were on track.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the report be noted. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons outlined at the meeting, the Scrutiny Committee note the report.

## **6. REQUESTS FOR REPORTS TO BE INCLUDED ON THE NEXT AVAILABLE AGENDA**

The following requests were received:-

- (i) Councillor L. Binding requested an annual report on Domestic Abuse Processes for Victims, including additional information/ data on occupancy levels at all refuges within the borough, the number/ percentage of victims presenting with additional needs, commissioning information for support provision and a cost effectiveness exercise on intervention services

The meeting closed at 19.02 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 10th September 2015, they were signed by the Chair.

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CHAIR