



CRIME AND DISORDER SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, YSTRAD MYNACH
ON THURSDAY, 17TH MARCH 2016 AT 5.00 P.M.**

PRESENT:

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

Councillors:

L. Binding, Mrs P. Cook, C.J. Cuss, C. Hawker, G. Kirby, A. Lewis, C.P. Mann, D. Rees and J. Simmonds

Cabinet Member:

N. George (Community and Leisure Services)

Together with:

R. Hartshorn (Head of Public Protection), B. Davies (Solicitor) and C. Evans (Committee Services Officer)

Outside Bodies: S. Curley (Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent) and N. McLain (Gwent Police)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors E. Forehead, J.E. Fussell, Ms J.G. Jones, R. Saralis 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 – 10TH SEPTEMBER 2015

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 10th September 2015 (minute nos. 1 - 8) 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

The Chair welcomed J. Hay – Head of Women’s Services, Llamau and C. Jones - Regional Officer, Violence Against Women to the Committee to provide information on the Regional arrangements.

R. Hartshorn presented the report, which was provided in response to a Member request for an annual update on the services available to Domestic Abuse Victims, follows on from a report previously presented 19th March 2015.

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

Members noted that in the Caerphilly Council area during 2015 there were 3064 police logs of domestic abuse with 1483 crimes and 2,899 cases being discussed on the Domestic Abuse Conference Call (DACC); there were 134 high risk cases heard at Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs) with 36 of those being repeat cases; 75% of children on the Child Protection register have domestic abuse within the household. Despite the high numbers of reported incidents they represent only part of the true picture of domestic abuse across Caerphilly; on average only 23% of all incidents are reported to the police (British Crime Survey 2004).

The report provided details of the emergency accommodation available to victims and their families, which can be accessed 24 hours. Within Caerphilly it was noted that, at any one time Llamau are able to house and support 17 families across 4 refuges and 1 safe house and a variety of safety measures can be put in place to support the victim to remain in their own home.

From the 1st of April 2015 a regional approach to domestic abuse coordination is being piloted. Welsh Government funding is provided to Newport Council who host a Gwent Regional Team comprising of a Regional Advisor, two Domestic Abuse Officers and a Domestic Abuse Assistant.

This year a new process known as “Ask and Act” will be piloted in Gwent. “Ask and Act” is a process of targeted enquiry to be practiced across the public service for forms of violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence. The term targeted enquiry describes the recognition of indicators of violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence as a prompt for a professional to ask their client whether they have been affected by any of these issues. The pilot will test how such an approach can be implemented within relevant local authority departments. These will include the development of supporting policies, a consideration of data sharing legislation and the establishment of clear referral pathways with specialist service providers in the field. It also includes a supporting training programme which will be delivered across all five local authorities. Welsh Government will be funding the work and an evaluation to assess its success.

In addition, Members were asked to note that Domestic abuse support services in the authority are delivered in a number of ways, however the central hub for support services, the Safer Caerphilly Multi-agency Centre, is situated at Cameron House in Ystrad Mynach. It is occupied by Llamau Women’s Services, the Independent Domestic Violence Advocate, BAWSO (specialist BME support provider), and other agencies on a drop in basis. Local domestic abuse centres have previously been funded via Welsh Government capital grant.

As there has been no determination of capital funding for the coming year notice to quit the building has been given in advance of the current lease ending in August 2016. As the leaseholder the local authority will work with the support services currently working from the building to ensure continued support to victims. This may, however, be from other locations in the county borough.

Members thanked the Officer for the detailed report, however raised concerns for the Regional Model and sought further information on any issues encountered with the Model and its implementation. C. Jones explained that there are a number of Officers across Gwent that deliver different work streams. The Model is very much still in its infancy and as a result there are a number of projects and agendas which are yet to be established, which include perpetrator work. J. Hay added that there are positives and negatives to the Regional approach, for example, Regional working has seen the loss of the Coordinator Roles, which has been a significant loss, however, with the provision of Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVA), there can be increased capacity and staff cover if someone is off on long term sick and services are better maintained.

Members discussed the Whole School Approach and the Donaldson Report and it was noted that work is underway to encourage both Primary and Secondary Schools to take up the resources offered to deliver healthy relationships education. In addition, it was noted that from September, Estyn Inspections will also include education on healthy relationships.

Members expressed their concerns for the closure of the MAC and the implications to victims. Officers agreed that the loss of the MAC raised significant concerns and risks, which have been expressed to Welsh Government (WG). Members noted that whilst the service provision will continue as usual, the MAC provided Victims with a single "Front Door" to services and a single point of entry. J. Hay added that appeals have been made to the WG to continue funding and it is hoped that, with the support of the Local Authority and Regional support, Capital Funding could be provided to continue to service within Caerphilly CBC. Members discussed and unanimously expressed their support for the continuation of the MAC within Caerphilly CBC.

The Scrutiny Committee thanked the Officer for the report and the Witnesses for their presentations and responses and reiterated their support for the continuation of a MAC in the Caerphilly County Borough and noted the report.

5. SAFETY CAERPHILLY COMMUNITY SAFETY PERFORMANCE 2015 UPDATE

The report provided an overview of the work of the Safer Caerphilly Community Safety Partnership throughout the calendar year 2015.

Members noted that The Safer Caerphilly Community Safety Partnership consists of five agencies (Caerphilly County Borough Council, Gwent Police; South Wales Fire and Rescue Authority; Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, National Probation Service (statutory body) and Wales Community Rehabilitation Company (support agency)) who work together to reduce anti-social behaviour and crime and disorder across the Caerphilly county borough. The partnership work is facilitated by the Community Safety Team employed by Caerphilly County Borough Council and based in Penallta House. The report outlined some of the main work that has been carried out by the partnership in 2015.

Members thanked Officers for the detailed report and discussion ensued. Upon noting the Anti-Social Behaviour Civil Injunctions, for which there were 3 during 2015 (2 were on youths and one on an adult), Members queried whether there had been any impact to the new areas following the relocation. Whilst this information was not available at the time, Officers assured Members that the perpetrators would be known to the Police and would be subject to monitoring by local officers, particularly due to the Anti-Social Behaviour. In addition, it was noted that a number of other approaches had been undertaken before a move was initiated,

and support would have been provided to both the victims and perpetrator. Often a new area can offer a fresh start and issues do not arise again.

Members discussed Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) and young people and it was noted that there is often limited availability of activities, especially during the winter and often the Youth Services is not accessible during holidays. Officers highlighted that a review is underway into the Youth Service and feedback on the hours of service and provision will be considered.

The Scrutiny Committee noted the report.

6. SAFER CAERPHILLY PERFORMANCE SCORECARD

R. Hartshorn, Head of Public Protection and Chief Inspector N. McLain, Gwent Police, presented the report to Members, the purpose of which was to detail the Safer Caerphilly Performance Scorecard for the end of Quarter 3 2015 - 16.

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 home and communities in safety.

S5 – Improve the education, information, early intervention, prevention and harm reduction in relation to substance misuse in the county borough. (previously H4).

The Committee thanked the Officer for the report and discussion ensued. Members discussed the figures outlined in the scorecard, with particular reference to the figures outlining the number of calls received reporting incidents of Anti-Social Behaviour. Clarification was sought on the difference between S1.1 and S1.2 within the report and it was confirmed that S1.2 outlined the calls for Service to CCBC. Members requested further clarification on call data to the 101 service, and it was agreed that the Officer would provide the Committee with Gwent data.

The Scrutiny Committee noted the report.

7. REQUESTS FOR REPORTS TO BE INCLUDED ON THE NEXT AVAILABLE AGENDA

There were no requests for items to be placed on the next available agenda.

The meeting closed at 7.05 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 15th September 2016, they were signed by the Chair.

CHAIR