



## **CRIME AND DISORDER SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, YSTRAD MYNACH  
ON THURSDAY, 11TH SEPTEMBER 2014 AT 5.30 P.M.**

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PRESENT:

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

Councillors:

D.G. Carter, C.J. Cuss, Ms E. Forehead, J.E. Fussell, C. Hawker, Ms J.G. Jones, G. Kirby, A. Lewis, C.P. Mann, S. Morgan, D. Rees and R. Saralis.

Cabinet Member:

C. Forehead (Human Resources and Governance/ Business Manager), D.V. Poole (Community and Leisure Services)

Together with:

R. Hartshorn (Head of Public Protection), K. Peters (Community Safety Manager), R. Jenkins (Tenancy Enforcement Officer), N. Kenny (Community Safety), C. Forbes-Thompson (Scrutiny Research Officer), C. Evans (Committee Services Officer)

Outside Bodies: S. Bosson (Chief Executive, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent), P. Staniforth (Safety Caerphilly Community Partnership).

### **1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors L. Binding and A. Lewis, together with Superintendent M. Budden (Safer Caerphilly Community Safety Partnership), P. Jenkins (South Wales Fire and Rescue Service) and E. Richards (Wales Probation Service).

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

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

### **3. MINUTES – 20TH MARCH 2014**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 20th March 2014 (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. CRIME AND ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR TRENDS- PRESENTATION.**

Chief Inspector P. Staniforth provided Committee with a presentation, which highlighted Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) performance figures for all crimes over a 2-year period; specific breakdowns in areas including Burglary and Criminal Damage and a concentrated look at overall crime figures between April 2014 and August 2014.

Chief Inspector Staniforth informed the Committee that there have been a number of events, which have impacted on the services provided by Gwent Police, in particular the NATO Summit. Members noted that significant, successful works have been implemented in order to reduce crime, including a focus on high-risk areas for Criminal Damage and implementing Prevention Strategies; working to identify the core offenders that had been responsible for an increase in the number of burglaries and making arrests.

The Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee thanked Chief Inspector Staniforth for the presentation and Members were invited to pose questions.

A Member queried the performance data and requested further information on the increase in Crime between July and August 2014. Chief Inspector Staniforth highlighted that during the summer months, it is expected that there would be increase in metal theft and garden thefts, as well as an increase in disruption from the night time economy, however, July to August 2014 saw a significant decrease in the norm as a result of concentrated prevention in these common problematic areas and work to ensure that core offenders were not in operation. Further more, Members noted that March to April 2014 saw an increase in wing mirror damages on thoroughfares. Joint Prevention work with South Wales Fire and Rescue and Gwent Police was conducted within schools to educate young people on the costs of the damages.

A Member queried whether the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee would be considering the budget proposals within the partnerships and the implications on the Community Safety Partnership. Following detailed discussion and consideration, it was agreed that this could be raised at Scrutiny Leadership Group and consider the Terms of Reference of the Scrutiny Committee.

The Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee thanked Chief Inspector Staniforth for the presentation and noted the information.

### **5. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR- THE SAFER CAERPHILLY COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP PROCESS AND TENANCY ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY IN RELATION TO CAERPHILLY HOMES TENANTS.**

Kath Peters, Community Safety Manager, provided Members with an overview of the report, which was presented in response to a member request for information on the work of the Safer Caerphilly Community Safety Partnership, and specifically that of Housing's Tenancy Enforcement Section, to tackle incidents, and reports of anti-social behaviour in CCBC.

Members noted that the Safer Caerphilly Community Safety Partnership (SCCSP) addresses anti-social behaviour (ASB) via the “Anti-Social Behaviour 4 Strike Process” developed by the Anti-Social Behaviour Team, based in the Caerphilly County Borough Council Community Safety Section. This long-standing process was developed, in conjunction with partners, as a response to the statutory requirements placed on responsible authorities under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. Over the years the process has built on its previous successes and emerging best practice. The ASB 4 Strike Process is a comprehensive and dynamic multi-agency approach to tackling ASB that has been very effective in dealing with perpetrators and, more recently, the victims of ASB.

Members thanked the Officer for the detailed presentation of the report and it was noted that information sharing is an integral part of the process. The Chief Inspector added that a robust mechanism is in place and that there are good working links and working relationship between the Police and Tenancy Enforcement.

R. Jenkins, Tenancy Enforcement Officer, explained the complaints and enforcement process to Members, the Court process and possible outcomes and the preventative and Intervention measures available to tenants. Councillor C. Mann requested a report on the work of the Family Intervention Programme in relation to the impact of their work on the SCCSP, successes and financial costs and any similar projects that are available.

Discussions took place around the criteria for Anti-Social Behaviour Orders and Links to Strategy within the report. A Member queried whether an ASB could be issued to a tenant if the property were unkempt and collecting litter etc. Officers confirmed that this would be dependent on the level of complaint, however the first port of call would be to contact Environmental Health or the Housing Office. Members were advised that it would be the responsibility of Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee to determine if the policy for dealing with such complaints is appropriate as they are responsible for Housing.

The Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee thanked the Officers for the report and noted its contents.

## **6. DOMESTIC ABUSE PROCESS FOR VICTIMS**

This item was deferred to the next meeting as Cllr Binding, who gave apologies at the meeting, had requested it therefore the Committee felt that he should be present for its consideration.

## **7. PACT REVIEW**

Chief Inspector Staniforth provided the Scrutiny Committee with an overview of the report, which brought to their attention, a review of the partnership engagement process with members of the public.

Gwent Police and Caerphilly County Borough Council (CCBC) adopted PACT as a recognised engagement method in 2006 as a result of the guidance provided in the National Reassurance Policing Programme. The basis of this original neighbourhood-policing model was to have dedicated police resources working together, with partners and the public, to understand and tackle the problems that matter to them the most.

In response to representations made to the Police and Crime Commissioner during public surgeries and meetings across the Force, it has been decided that the PACT process is in urgent need of review. It was recognised that there is a poor level of attendance in the majority of PACT meetings that take place. It was accepted that there are pockets of success in terms of the level of attendance across the Force and it is important that those meetings are retained and enhanced so as not to damage public confidence in those wards.

Members noted that a number of recommendations have been made as a result of the PACT Review, which included re-naming the process and enhancing the feedback and accessibility of the meetings through the use of Social Media, improved local advertising and surgeries.

Members were pleased to note the recommendations as a result of the review but sought further information on how the Force would measure the success. The Chief Inspector stated that it would be difficult to measure the success of the process as a whole as there are different issues with the process throughout different wards. Work would be conducted to survey the residents of individual areas in order to determine their satisfaction with the process.

A Member highlighted that residents often raise concerns at the PACT Meetings and receive little or no feedback on the actions taken or outcomes. The Chief Inspector agreed that residents, who were taking the time to get involved in the process, should receive feedback on the issues raised. It was noted that this would be fed back to the Force.

The Force was congratulated on OWL. Members felt that the service it provided to residents and members is invaluable. Members noted that the consultation/ survey process for PACT would be partially conducted through the use of OWL, as well as electronic Surveys on Tablets.

A Member queried the Equalities Impact Assessment and how the Force plans to target those residents, who would otherwise be unable to engage in the process. The Chief Inspector explained that a review was conducted of the minority groups, the results of which are pending. Members noted that it was not the intention to create a process that would restrict residents attending but encourage and accommodate where possible.

The Scrutiny Committee noted the report.

## **8. SAFER CAERPHILLY PERFORMANCE SCORECARD**

Rob Hartshorn, Head of Public Protection, presented the report to Members, the purpose of which was to detail the Safer Caerphilly Performance Scorecard.

Since the last Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee, the Safer Caerphilly Delivery Group have taken on the additional responsibility for delivery of substance misuse activity formerly under the 'Healthier Caerphilly' theme. The reason for this is that the funding allocated by Welsh Government (approx £1.2million), while managed on a regional basis, through the Gwent Substance Misuse Area Planning Board is the statutory responsibility of the Community Safety Partnership. As the Safer Caerphilly Delivery Group acts as the Community Safety Partnership the work has been aligned under 'Safer Caerphilly'.

The strands relevant to Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee are now therefore:

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

Members noted that the Scorecard is based on the Single Integrated Plan (SIP) and is the responsibility of the Community Safety Partnership. Each of the Partners has specific Performance Indicators and Actions to collect, which are fed into the Community Safety Team (based in Caerphilly), who then update the Performance Database.

Members queried the Anti-Social Behaviour statistics within the Scorecard. Officers stated that the information is gathered from the Household Survey. Members noted that more detailed analysis can be obtained at a ward level, however the survey responses demonstrate a snapshot during a 2-year period.

Following detailed discussion and debate, Members thanked officers for the report and noted the contents.

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

The following requests were received:-

- (i) Councillor C. Mann requested a report on the work of the Family Intervention Programme in relation to the impact of their work on the SCCSP, successes and financial costs and any similar projects that are available.

The meeting closed at 19.25 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 19th March 2014, they were signed by the Chair.

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CHAIR