

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

KENT PARTNERSHIP: SAFER AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES GROUP

MINUTES of a meeting of the Kent Partnership: Safer and Stronger Communities Group held in the John Wigan Room, Oakwood House, Maidstone on Thursday, 26 November 2009.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr P Gilroy (Chief Executive, KCC and Chairman of the Group), Mr C Bainbridge (Director of Community Safety & Regulatory Services, KCC), Mr S Beaumont (County Manager, Community Safety, KCC), Mr G Brown (Kent Agreement 2 Manager), Mr D Coleman (KALC), Mr B Clout (Kent CAN), Mr C Hendry (Chief Executive, Kent Fire and Rescue Service), Ms A Gilmour (K&M Domestic Violence Strat. Group), Mr M Gilbert (Kent DAAT) Mr S Griffiths (Kent Fire and Rescue Service), Mr R Hales (Chief Executive, Sevenoaks District Council), Ms S Latta (Kent Police Authority), Ms C Martin (Head Of Supporting People), Mr O Mills (Managing Director - Adult Social Services), Chief Superintendent M Nix, Chief Inspector R Nyman, Mr J Parris (Assistant Manager, Community Safety), Ms M Peachey (NHS) Ms J Pells (Kent Housing Group), Ms M Royale (Community Development Managers Development Group) Mr T Smith (Kent Police), Mrs G Hopkin (Kent Youth Offending Services, Mr G Thomson (Chief Executive, Gravesham Borough Council) and Mr G Mills (KCC, Democratic Services)

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

1. Apologies

(Item 1)

Noted.

2. Notes of the Last Meeting & Matters Arising

(Item 2)

The Minutes of the meeting held on 10 September 2009 were agreed as a true record. Matters arising were noted as appropriate.

3. Kent Agreement 2: Performance Monitoring the eight targets for which SSCG is accountable

(Item 3 -report by Graeme Brown, KCC and Matthew Nix, Kent Police)

(1) This report provided an update on the progress being made in respect of the eight KA2 targets for which the Safer and Stronger Communities Group is responsible. The Group received additional verbal updates from lead partners and noted the positive progress being made against this set of indicators.

(2) The report also suggested that the Group should take responsibility for the delivery NI 47 *(People killed and seriously injured in road traffic incidents)* from the Kent Economic Board and this was agreed.

Action: Graeme Brown

(3) It was also agreed that a letter should be sent to the Home Office asking why the definition of 'serious crime' appears to keep changing without any apparent and meaningful consultation. It was further agreed that some work should be undertaken focusing on the data held by partners relating to the most vulnerable groups, such as young children and for a report to be submitted to a future meeting

Action: Matthew Nix

(4) Subject to the above, the Group noted the Performance Report and agreed to take responsibility for NI 47 - People killed and seriously injured in road traffic incidents

4. Stronger Communities: Presentation giving feedback from the 'Connecting with Communities in Kent' workshop 18 November 2009

(Item 4 -Report by Ms E Hudson (Communities Development Management Group), Ms S Wakeham (Community Development Managers Group) and Ms H Jones, (KCC), attended for this item)

- (i) This was an oral report on some of the work being done by the Community Development Managers Group (CDMG) which supports the Kent Partnership by focusing on working with local communities to increase public participation and volunteering.
- (ii) The report highlighted 3 specific projects the first of which was around helping parish councils, community forums and other community groups to work more effectively with young people. The second project is 'Lend a hand' which is a campaign aimed at promoting and encouraging civic participation opportunities throughout Kent. With the third project the Group is working in collaboration with the Improvement and Development Agency to develop the concept of 'The Community Practice' which aimed at bringing together people so they can share a common area of interest and a variety of expertise and skills or have issues or problems to air, share or solve.
- (iii) During discussion on this item several members of the Group spoke in support of the work being undertaken by the CDMG. As part of this it was said the Group needed to market and promote these projects and in particular with young people by using all the communication tools available through the use of modern technology.
- (iv) Following discussion Peter Gilroy thanked the representatives of the CDMG for attending the meeting.

5. The Development of Sexual Assault Referral Clinics in Kent & Medway

(Item 5 - This report was presented by D.Supt. Paul Fotheringham together with Meradin Peachey)

- (i) In June 2009 the Department of Health National Support Team – ‘Response to Sexual Violence’, carried out a planned review of the policies and procedures implemented around the investigation and prosecution of Rape and Serious Sexual Assault.
- (ii) Although recognising a number of areas of good practice in operational delivery through the existing SARC hosted by Darent Valley Acute Trust, the NST were concerned about the lack of consistency in service across Kent & Medway and the lack strategic ownership & governance including limited involvement of Chief Officers/Executives in promoting a countywide strategy for victims of sexual violence.
- (iii) A multi-agency action plan had been drafted to deliver the NST recommendations, Police & Health have initiated the Kent & Medway Sexual Assault Strategy Group to deliver the action plan and seek governance of the SSCG to support the development of a countywide service for the victims of sexual violence in Kent & Medway.
- (iv) During the course of discussion the Group recognised the importance of this work but the discussion widen as to whether this was the right place for these issues to be debated. The consensus was that it was right for this Group to debate these issues but other bodies such as the County Strategy Group also had a role to play. Therefore in supporting the work being undertaken in this important area it was agreed that there needed to be clarity between the role of this Group and that of the County Strategy Group.

Action: Graeme Brown and Clive Bainbridge

6. Data Sharing Protocol

(Item 6)

- (i) This report was introduced by Graeme Brown and reviewed the current position with the development of an Information Exchange Protocol and made recommendations designed to ensure that the progress made to date was capitalised on and the protocols properly embedded into partnership working across Kent.
- (ii) During the course of discussion it was said that this piece of work needed to be woven into what others are doing so that as far as is feasible there was one protocol embracing the responsibilities and work of the main agencies. Clive Bainbridge said that the whole system needed a refresh and he felt that KCC’s Community Safety Unit was well placed to take a lead in developing training and improving communication. Peter Gilroy endorsed this view and spoke about the

need to look at reducing risks and focusing work around what will give the best returns. It was therefore agreed that there would be some further work done with a report being submitted to the Group's next meeting.

Action : Oliver Mills and Stuart Beaumont

7. Overview & Scrutiny Arrangements

(Item 7 -oral update by Clive Bainbridge)

- (i) During the course of discussion members of the Group spoke about the need to try as far as possible to prevent duplication of effort and to work with those both at County and District level tasked with administering these new arrangements in order to achieve that.
- (ii) The Group noted there would as appropriate be further updates on this matter to future meetings.
- (iii) Building on some of the discussion that took place under item 5 above, Peter Gilroy said this item also prompted the need for there to be greater clarity around the role and responsibilities of the Safer and Stronger Communities Group and that of the County Strategy Group, and the way the two Group's interacted. He asked therefore that a piece of work around these issues be undertaken and a report submitted to the next meeting.

Action: Graeme Brown and Clive Bainbridge to lead in consultation with partners as appropriate.

8. Home Secretary's letter on Confidence TO FOLLOW

(Item 8)

- (i) The Group discussed the content of his letter detailing a package of measures the Government designed to improve the collective response to tackling issues around Anti social behaviour.
- (ii) Following discussion it was agreed that the Chairman of the County Strategy Group would be briefed and asked if he wanted a meeting of the County Strategy Group called to discuss this matter before its next scheduled meeting which was due to take place in February/March 2010 on a date yet to be arranged. Peter Gilroy also said that a briefing letter should be sent to the political leaders in the County as well as the Chairmen and CEOs of the PCT's.

Action: Clive Bainbridge

9. Prevent - Verbal Update

(Item 9 -oral update by Glyn Thomson)

- (i) Glyn Thomson gave an update on the main areas of activity these being training, working in the community, funding, the development of a toolkit (which would be piloted in 3 schools in the Dartford and Gravesham area) , referrals and work being done with the PCT's . He also gave details of a conference being arranged for 5 February 2010.
- (ii) Glyn said he would be contacting his district chief executives colleagues to advise them about the training opportunities that are being developed with the funding provided by GOSE. He also spoke about the on going discussions and meetings with community and local authority representatives.
- (iii) In thanking Glyn for his update the Group placed on record its ongoing support for this important area of work.

10. Meeting Dates for 2010

(Item 10)

These were agreed as follows:

Thursday 4 March - 2.30 - 5.00

Thursday 20 May - 9.30 - 12.30

Thursday 16 Sept - 9.30 - 12.30

Thursday 25 Nov - 9.30 - 12.30

All meetings will be at Oakwood House, Maidstone

AOB

Peter Gilroy said he would be leaving KCC in May 2010 and suggested the Chairmanship of the Group should be taken on by Charlie Hendry. He said he would speak to Charlie with a view to him being confirmed as the Group's Chairman with effect from the March 2010 meeting.