

**KENT COUNTY COUNCIL**

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**KENT COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP**

Notes of a meeting of the Kent Community Safety Partnership held at Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone on Tuesday, 3 July 2012.

PRESENT: Mr P M Hill, OBE (Chairman), Mr D Coleman (Vice-Chairman), Zena Cooke, Mr R Hales, Ms N Hussain, Mr N Howlett, Cllr M Rhodes, Mr P Jackson, Mrs E Martin, Mr S Bone-Kill, Ch. Insp. Bradley, Ch.Insp. S Barlow, Mr P Carroll, Ms S Billiald, Ms R Scantlebury, Ch. Sup.S Corbishley, Chief Inspector G Ellis, Mr S Griffiths, Mr S Skilton, Mrs C Waters, Ms C Turner, Mrs A Gilmour, Ms A Slaven, Mr S Beaumont, Mr J Parris, Mr N Wilkinson and Mr G Mills (Democratic Services)

**1. Apologies**

Noted.

**2. Notes of meeting held on 6 March 2012 and Matters Arising**

(1) The notes of the meeting held on 6 March 2012 were agreed as a true record.

**3. Kent and Medway Strategic Plan for Reducing Reoffending – 2012-2015**

*(Report by Sarah Billiald, Chief Executive Kent Probation)*

- (1) Sarah Billiald said this report provided the Partnership with the opportunity to review and endorse the final Strategic Plan for Reducing Reoffending. The intention was that the Plan would be utilised at CSP and statutory partnership level across the county as the core approach to reducing reoffending. The plan would also provide a consistent focus on key principles and help drive forward local initiatives against a back drop of common themes and principles.
- (2) During the discussion members of the Partnership spoke in support of the principles and aims of the Plan and the important links it had to other initiatives such as the Troubled Families Programme.
- (3) Following further discussion the Partnership:
  - (a) Endorsed the Kent and Medway Strategic Plan for Reducing Reoffending 2012/15;
  - (b) Noted that the Partnership would receive an annual update and review on progress;
  - (c) Note the establishment of the newly formed Reducing Reoffending Strategic Board and recommended that consideration be given to its membership, including amongst others, a representative of the Kent Chamber of Commerce, a representative of women services and a representative of community safety managers.

#### **4. Preparations for the Police and Crime Commissioner**

*(Report by County Community Safety Team)*

- (1) Mr Steve Griffiths of Kent Fire and Rescue Service introduced the report which set out the terms of reference for a piece of work to be undertaken by the Partnership aimed at establishing a review of community safety arrangements in Kent as part of the preparation for the Police and Crime Commissioner. The review would also be used to look at ways of developing a working partnership arrangement which linked with the agenda and work of the Commissioner. The review would be undertaken by a multi-agency group (including a representative from Medway), and a report setting out possible options would be submitted to a future meeting.
- (2) During the discussion Mr Hill spoke of the importance of any briefing information prepared or held by the Partnership being shared equally with candidates in to ensure fairness and demonstrate the independence of the Partnership.
- (3) The Partnership noted the report and that there would be an update to the next meeting.

**Action: Steve Griffiths and Stuart Beaumont**

#### **5. Joint Commissioning Framework**

*(Report by Stuart Beaumont, Head of Community Safety and Emergency Planning)*

- (1) The report asked the Partnership to consider suggested options regarding the establishment of a joint commissioning framework for community safety across Kent. The report provided details on 3 possible Community Safety Commissioning models these being, adopting a strategic commissioning approach, a service level commissioning model and a co-commissioning or joint commissioning model.
- (2) During the discussion it was agreed that in looking at these options legal advice should be sought around issues of probity and any possible conflicts that may arise as part of the commissioning process. It was also said that the Partnership should be seen as acting more in an advisory role than as a provider of services.
- (3) Following further discussion it was agreed that options should be developed in more detail around firstly the Partnership being a body which was able to provide expert advice and support, rather than taking on a specific commissioning role. And secondly, a commissioning role option, to include legal advice around probity and how avoiding conflicts of interest during the commissioning process. This option should also include holding discussions with Medway Council and the Kent Criminal Justice Board with a view to establishing a joint Kent and Medway approach.

**Action: Stuart Beaumont**

## **6. Kent Independent Domestic Violence Advisors – Critical Funding Requirement**

*(Report by Sarah Billiald, Chair of the Kent Criminal Justice Board and Chief Executive, Kent Probation Trust)*

- (1) Sarah Billiald said the Partnership received a report in September 2011 highlighting the critical shortfall in funding for Independent Domestic Violence Advisors. This current report provided a further update to the one submitted in September 2011 and provided figures which showed the service was under severe pressure to maintain its ability to support high risk victims of domestic abuse.
- (2) Supported by a presentation Stuart Skilton gave an overview of the current financial position stressing the need for all partners, including those in the voluntary sector, to understand the critical situation the service faced through a lack of funding.
- (3) In the short term the recommendation was to look to provide additional funds in those areas with the biggest gap in provision i.e. Dartford, Gravesham, Dover, Shepway and Ashford. For the longer term the report suggested an option which amongst other matters would see public sector resources being pooled with bids also being placed for funds from the Police Commissioner and Health and Wellbeing Boards. This longer term option also suggested the joint strategic commissioning an IDVA service across Kent and Medway with services being aligned to MARACS rather than districts, with funding being targeted at high risk clients. This option was costed at some £810k which would provide for an IDVA service capable of looking after some 1300 clients and further provide 4 court based IDVAs.
- (4) During the course of discussion Robin Hales said that he would arrange for this report to be discussed at the next meeting of the Kent and Medway Leaders' and Chief Executives' Group. He also suggested the matter should be discussed at the Kent Forum. Other partners at the meeting supported the report and its findings but there was a recognition that each partner would need to go back to their own organisation to determine what they would be willing to contribute.
- (5) The Partnership therefore gave its endorsement to the principles of options 2 and 4, as detailed in the report and to each member of the Partnership taking up with their own organisation how much could they add to the required level of funding. The Partnership also endorsed the proposal that this report should also be placed before meetings of the Kent and Medway Leaders' and Chief Executives' Group, the Kent Forum and other agencies considered to be of relevance.

**Action: Stuart Beaumont together with Stuart Skilton and Angela Slaven**

## **7. Listening and Learning: Improving Support for Victims**

- (1) With links to the work being undertaken in respect of Domestic Abuse, this report was submitted to the Partnership for information and endorsement. The

report was researched and written by the Victims' Services' Advocates project in anticipation of the election of a Police and Crime Commissioner for Kent.

- (2) The report summarised the support available for victims in Kent. The report also identified what victims needed from local services and proposed a course of action by the PCC to meet those needs. The report looked at the needs of a number of groups and in particular victims of anti-social behaviour; victims of domestic abuse; victims of sexual violence; victims of hate crime, people bereaved by murder and manslaughter and young victims of crime.
- (3) The report set out a number of proposed actions for the PCC to consider, including leading on a joint Police and Partnership process to ensure that there is a service which meets the needs of each individual victim.
- (4) Following discussion The Partnership fully endorsed the report and its proposed actions.

## **8. Domestic Homicide Reviews**

*(Report by Stuart Beaumont, Head of Community Safety and Emergency Planning, KCC)*

- (1) This report provided the Partnership with an update regarding the delivery of Domestic Homicide Reviews across Kent and Medway to fulfil the requirements of the Domestic Violence and Crime Act 2004. There had been 8 domestic violence homicides in the past 12 months and the report highlighted the pressure placed on the resources, both in terms of finance and administration needed to support these reviews.
- (2) The Partnership endorsed the report and further agreed that the Local Government Association should be made aware of the resources situation in Kent and Medway with a view to taking this up with Government as part of a national campaign.

**Action: Stuart Beaumont**

## **9. Putting Victims First - More Effective Responses to Anti-Social Behaviour**

*(Report by Stuart Beaumont, Head of Community Safety and Emergency Planning, KCC)*

- (1) This report provided a summary of the Government White Paper 'Putting Victims First – More Effective Responses to Anti-Social Behaviour'. In some quarters concerns have been expressed about abolishing current powers before it being clear that the proposed new ones will provide effective replacements. The report also said that changes to the ASB tool kit should be seen as an opportunity for community safety partners across Kent to work more closely together.
- (2) The Partnership noted the changes highlighted in the white paper 'Putting Victims First – More Effective Responses to Anti-Social Behaviour'

## **10. Anti Social Behaviour – Community Safety Agreement Priority Update**

- (1) This report provided a brief update on the work associated with the delivery of the agreed outcomes around anti-social behaviour that were included within the Kent Community Safety Agreement Delivery Plan. The report also provided a brief update regarding the progress towards developing a shared Anti-Social Behaviour Case Management System.
- (2) The Partnership noted the progress made in relation to the development of an ASB Case Management System and endorsed the adoption of the associated partnership protocols and the proposed minimum standard.

## **11. Kent Community Safety Agreement – Update on Performance Monitoring and Annual Review**

*(Report by Stuart Beaumont, Head of Community Safety and Emergency Planning (KCC))*

- (1) This report outlined progress in relation to the Kent Community Safety Agreement including a review of the countywide policies.
- (2) The Partnership noted the report and agreed the existing priorities and cross cutting themes within the Kent Community Safety Agreement 2011-14 should remain unchanged.

### **Date of next meeting**

Thursday 1 November 2012 in the Darent Room, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone, commencing at 2:00 PM.