

Lancashire County Council

Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the Meeting held on Friday, 7th November, 2014 at 10.30 am in Cabinet Room 'B' - County Hall, Preston

Present:

County Councillor Bill Winlow (Chair)

County Councillors

C Crompton	C Pritchard
R Newman-Thompson	J Shedwick
Mrs L Oades	V Taylor
D O'Toole	C Wakeford
M Parkinson	G Wilkins

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from County Councillors Darren Clifford and David Watts.

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

None were disclosed.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 10 October 2014

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 10 October be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

4. Lancashire Community Safety Agreement 2014 - 16

The Chair welcomed Bob Stott, Director of Universal and Early Support Services; and Mel Ormesher, Community Safety Manager, to the meeting.

A report on the Community Safety Agreement to be considered by Cabinet in December was presented to the Scrutiny Committee.

Lancashire had to continue to deliver effective community safety and reduce crime. There was a strong history of partnership working in Lancashire and commitment to continuing to making Lancashire a safer place to live, work and visit. Key community safety partners included LCC, all District Authorities, Clinical Commissioning Groups, Crown Prosecution Service, HM Courts and Tribunal

Service, HM Prison Service, Lancashire Constabulary, Lancashire Fire and Rescue, Lancashire Police and Crime Commissioner, and Lancashire Probation Trust. Changes to the Probation Service meant that its duty would be carried out by the National Probation Service and the local Community Rehabilitation Company.

Lancashire Community Safety Strategy Group (LCSSG) brought together representatives of these organisations to set the strategic direction for coordinating partnership activity under a range of statutory duties. The responsible authorities were required to work together to:

- Reduce crime and re-offending, tackle anti-social behaviour and substance abuse;
- Ensure information collection and sharing arrangements were in place to inform direction of services and develop a Community Safety Agreement (CSA) for Lancashire;
- Maintain good partnership working between organisations;
- Engage and consult communities on community safety issues; and
- Have due regard for the strategies and priorities of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire where appropriate.

The agreement acknowledged and reinforced the linkage with other local partnerships such as the Children's Safeguarding Boards, Children's Trust arrangements, the Lancashire Criminal Justice Board and the Health and Wellbeing Boards.

The Community Safety Agreement had the following guiding principles:

- Communities – the Community Safety Team would put benefit for communities at the heart of decision making whilst recognising local differences.
- Culture – open and honest debate was encouraged, respecting differences of opinions and challenges to views.
- Outcomes – the Community Safety Team would focus on outcomes to achieve its objectives and get results.

The Community Safety Team reported on its progress and achievements. Much had been achieved through good partnership working since the last Community Safety Agreement. There were many progressions and achievements such as:

- Domestic Abuse Service Commission 2013 – 2016: There were commissioned services in Blackpool, Blackburn with Darwen and Lancashire providing specialist domestic abuse services for victims, children and young people, and perpetrators.
- Community Safety Intelligence: This was a collaborative approach to data collection and analytical capacity in Lancashire which supports the production of strategic analytical products and a performance scorecard.

- Supporting Victims and Reducing Harm: Anti-social Behaviour Risk Assessment Conferences supported victims and managed risk of harm to the most vulnerable in our communities.
- Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub: This had a crucial role in reducing harm caused by domestic abuse and child sexual exploitation through effective information sharing and ensuring that the right agency provided appropriate support.
- Re-settlement and Rehabilitation: ' Inside Out' worked with short sentence offenders before release to encourage them to take responsibility for their own resettlement and rehabilitation by utilising their assets and skills.
- Preventing Entry to the Youth Justice System: Youth Offending Teams in Lancashire, Blackburn with Darwen, and Blackpool had commissioned a 'Triage' service to reduce the number of young people entering the youth justice system through providing early support to prevent future offending.
- Reducing Alcohol Harm: The Team's joint alcohol strategy focused on specific harm reduction priorities, which included Community Alcohol Networks (CANSafe) which engaged in communities, schools, and licensed premises to address anti-social behaviour and crime linked to underage drinking with a focus on safeguarding young people and enabling family support.
- Partnership Communication: There would be regular newsletters, campaign resources and a programme of stakeholder events to ensure partners were engaged.

Councillors were invited to ask questions and raise any comments in relation to the report, a summary of which is provided below:

- Members asked if the Police Commissioner, the Panel and LCC were able to be proactive in directing grant money into the right places and if had there been cut backs. With regard to funding one of the things done was preparing guidance with partnerships for the transition over to Police and Crime Commissioners. Previously funding came to the partnership through a system of area based grants via LCC which were then used to commission projects locally. This funding transferred to the PCC in 2011 and it allocated funding to each of the districts.
- In terms of larger projects such as domestic abuse one of the things done by the Team was to mainstream its approach. The Team had moved to a full budget arrangement over a fixed period of time and this gave stability.
- Concerns were expressed about unsupported police activity surrounding anti-social behaviour in rural areas. It was suggested that residents did not report crimes because there was no action taken. More work needed to be done to alleviate the concerns of residents. It was pointed out that the

Community Safety Team looked at the whole county area and that the degree of risk and harm greatly varied, some areas had greater challenges than others. In terms of anti-social behaviour members were made aware of other activity other than just a police presence taking place, this included community assets to work around resilience and other agencies such as housing providers and district authorities who had powers available to address anti-social behaviour. Residents had to be encouraged to report anti-social behaviour so as it could be addressed.

- In terms of community consultation one of the mechanisms the Community Safety Team had in place was the 'Living in Lancashire Survey' which reflected the communities of Lancashire Another mechanism was the Service User Consultation, so when the Team was developing things like the Domestic Abuse Commission, or anti-social behaviour responses it actually went out and spoke directly with service users. The Team was also working with the PCC around developing a victim's support service. The feedback returned was largely positive and it was stated that LCC were committed to early intervention. Members felt there must be more funding for early intervention.
- Members commented that there was a perception that recording of farm and rural crimes didn't take place and felt rural areas didn't receive sufficient police coverage.. The Community Safety Team agreed to forward the concerns of members regarding the issue of rural and urban crime recording to the relevant partnerships.
- Regarding communities members commented that often it was very difficult to find out which bodies and agencies would take responsibility to address the issues. It was acknowledged that partners needed to know the evidence of the incidents that were occurring. Partners needed to provide effective signposting to the relevant leaders of the agencies and bodies. Members' concerns would be taken back to the relevant forums.
- Members stated the cuts in the police budget had a significant impact in the services provided.
- Regarding a discussion about 20 mph zones it became clear that there was some confusion regarding enforcement in the zones. Further information would be provided the members but all agreed drivers had to be educated.
- One member raised a concern relating to street racing and officers agreed to discuss this issue with the Road Safety Partnership.
- In terms of the Victim's Code and support to victims, a new code had come into place in 2014 which set out new principles. The Community Safety Team was working directly with the PCC to try and receive the best funding arrangements for Lancashire.

- The Committee was informed that there was a big drive for the recruitment of special constables and police cadets.
- Members felt that the Community Safety Partnership made a significant contribution to the delivery of positive outcomes. They also felt that it may be productive to invite the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Leader of the County Council to a future meeting of the Scrutiny Committee.
- The Committee was informed that the Agreement acknowledged and reinforced the linkage with other local partnerships such as the Children's Safeguarding Board, Children's Trust arrangements, the Lancashire Criminal Justice Board and the Health and Wellbeing Boards.
- Regarding the reduction in numbers of young people offending, Members enquired if this was a total across the county or was it in every district. They were informed that this was across the county. Members requested that a breakdown of statistics by district be made available

Resolved: That the Committee,

1. Support the Community Safety Agreement and for their comments to be forwarded to the Executive Scrutiny Committee for further discussion with particular regard to how accountability between partners is identified and managed;
2. Request that all the additional information be provided to Members;
3. Give consideration to future engagement of scrutiny with the Police and Crime Commissioner

5. Work Plan and Task Group Update

A report was presented summarising the work to be undertaken by the Committee in the coming months, including an update on task group work.

Resolved: That the report be noted

6. Urgent Business

None.

7. Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee would be on Friday 5 December, at 10.30 at the County Hall, Preston.

I Young
County Secretary and Solicitor

County Hall
Preston