

At a meeting of the EAST SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE, SUNDERLAND on MONDAY, 16th SEPTEMBER, 2013 at 5.30p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Ball in the Chair

Councillors Emerson, Errington, Forbes, E. Gibson, Kay, Marshall, McClennan, Mordey, Price, Scanlan and Wood

Also Present:-

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| Jeff Boath | - Station Manager, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service |
| Andrew Carton | - Locality Manager, Sunderland City Council |
| Hazel Clark | - VCS Network Representative |
| Maureen Crawford | - Director of Public Health, Sunderland City Council |
| Joe Cummings | - Station Manager, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service |
| Philip Foster | - Head of Care & Support, Sunderland City Council |
| David Groark | - Area Response Manager, Sunderland City Council |
| Mick Hall | - Neighbourhood Inspector City Centre & Millfield, Northumbria Police |
| Paula Hunt | - VCS Network Representative |
| Matthew Jackson | - Governance Services Officer, Sunderland City Council |
| Sarah Reed | - Assistant Chief Executive and Area Lead Executive, Sunderland City Council |
| Gillian Robinson | - Area Co-ordinator, Sunderland City Council |
| Nicky Rowland | - Area Response Manager, Sunderland City Council |
| Jamie Southwell | - Neighbourhood Inspector Sunderland East, Northumbria Police |
| Nicol Trueman | - Area Officer, Sunderland City Council |

Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received on behalf of Councillors Farr, Maddison and T. Martin along with Jen McKeivitt.

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 25th June, 2013

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 25th June 2013 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Strengthening Families Presentation

Andrew Carton delivered a presentation on the work that had been done around strengthening families. He advised the committee of:-

- i) the context in which the Strengthening Families Programme would operate;
- ii) the underlying strategy supporting the programme including the Common Assessment Framework, Family Focus and the weekly meetings of the referral panels in each locality;
- iii) an overview of the Family Focus Project, its criteria and its development within the wider context of the Strengthening Families Programme;
- iv) the delivery model for the Strengthening Families Programme together with its links to the Community Leadership Programme.

(For copy presentation – see original minutes)

Councillor Wood queried the numbers of troubled families. The presentation had stated that there were 805 however it had also been stated that there were 108. Nonnie Crawford advised that 805 was the number for the whole city while 108 was the number for the East Area.

Councillor Forbes commented that while it was good to see that young people who were involved in crime were being targeted she felt that there was also a need to target parents who were involved in crime as they were likely to influence their children leading to the children committing crimes. Mr Carton agreed that they were linked issues and stated that police intelligence was used to identify problem families. He then went on to advise that nothing could be achieved without the agreement of families. Work was done to encourage people to change their behaviour using positive reinforcement; the law was able to be used to tackle antisocial behaviour or crime.

Councillor McClennan stated that in Hendon and amongst the Bangladeshi community there were often 3 generations lived together; she felt that there was a need to look at working with grandparents as well as they had an influence on the rest of the family. She also commented that it was assumed that families would cooperate with the agencies involved in the project

however problem families were unlikely to cooperate. She was also concerned that the public could see this as rewarding bad behaviour. Mr Carton stated that it was recognised that grandparents played a large part in family life and that they were sometimes a negative influence. He was optimistic that the project would be able to help problem families but he accepted that there would not be success with every family.

Councillor Errington referred to the sharing of information between agencies and advised that there was often a lack of sharing of key information and this was a problem with all organisations. Mr Carton stated that some of the communication issues had been resolved while others were still ongoing. He acknowledged that there was still a lot of work needed to be done.

Councillor Kay stated that he felt that this was a worthwhile initiative and he wanted to see it succeed although his initial instinct was that the project was more likely to fail than succeed as for some families' antisocial behaviour and crime were their lifestyle choice. He also referred to the carrot and stick approach and stated that some families had become conditioned to only respond to the stick and not the carrot. There was a need to look at the aspirations of families and family influences. Mr Carton advised that there had been some success stories so far and there had been positive changes in attitude.

2. RESOLVED that the presentation be received and noted.

VCS Progress Report

The East Area Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Network submitted a report (copy circulated) which updated the Committee on the work that had been done by the VCS network since the last meeting of the Area Committee.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

VCS Network Representatives Hazel Clark and Paula Hunt presented the report and advised that the network had met twice since the last meeting of the committee. They advised of the work done which included supporting the better than basic signage for the coastal path; improving the visual appearance of shopping centres and supporting the development of the online directory for adult social care.

The Chairman thanked Ms Clark and Ms Hunt for their update and it was:-

3. RESOLVED that the update from the VCS Network be noted.

Northumbria Police Update

Inspector Mick Hall presented the figures for the central area. He advised that there had been a significant increase in the number of crimes however there

had been a number of prolific offenders recently released from prison and while there had been an extra 170 crimes compared with last year; last year there had been a reduction of 1000 crimes on the year before.

Violent Crime had reduced by 6 percent while robbery had reduced by 29 percent and sexual offences had reduced by 11 percent. Acquisition crime had increased though with thefts from motor vehicles increasing by 68 percent and burglary other than dwellings had increased by 52 percent. This was mostly opportunist crime with CDs and Sat-Navs being stolen from cars and metal and tools being stolen from empty buildings and those being refurbished. Burglary from dwellings had increased by 6 offences. Shoplifting had reduced by 2 percent and would be targeted as part of Operation Soundwave. There had been 464 fewer incidents of antisocial behaviour, a reduction of 28 percent.

Inspector Hall advised that theft from vehicles and burglary other than dwellings were the highest priorities at the moment. He also advised that during Freshers week the police had been working with students to provide advice on personal safety and crime prevention; door staff were also being worked with to provide assistance for people who are vulnerable. There was also a 'spotlight on shoplifting' campaign where the 20 most prolific offenders were being targeted.

Councillor Errington queried whether the university still had a dedicated police officer; Inspector Hall advised that this was the case and the officer had been providing a significant amount of crime prevention and personal safety information to students.

Councillor Kay referred to the burglaries from commercial premises undergoing renovation; he asked whether any advice was provided to the contractors about site security. Inspector Hall confirmed that advice was provided and that one premises had been burgled three times and each time advice had been provided however the advice was often not followed.

Inspector Jamie Southwell then presented the figures for the east area, which included Ryhope, St. Michael's and Hendon Wards. He advised that it was a similar situation to in the central area; last year had been very successful and there had been a reduction of crime of 24 percent however this year there had been 13 additional crimes, an increase of 2 percent.

Violent crime had increased by 28 offences; although over the last few weeks there had been a reduction in violent crimes. Most of the violent crime was within the home rather than street violence.

Burglary had reduced with burglary from dwellings dropping by 4 percent and burglary other than dwellings reducing by 13 percent.

There was currently a focus on catching shoplifters and over the coming weeks there would be a different focus each week with theft of bikes; handling stolen goods and burglary other than dwellings being the main targets.

There had been a reduction in the amount of shoplifting however there had been problems at Morrisons following the implementation of a new store layout which had led to opportunist thefts and also people leaving cash at the self service checkouts which was then stolen by the next customer. There was a problem with thefts of metal and garden furniture by youths looking for an easy way to make money; there had also been an increase in the number of people committing crimes who had not been in trouble with the police for a number of years, it was thought that this was due to the poor state of the economy and people becoming desperate for money.

4. RESOLVED that the update from Northumbria Police be noted.

Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service Update

Joe Cummings introduced the update from Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service. Prior to delivering the update he advised that this was likely to be his last meeting and he introduced Jeff Boath who would be taking over.

Mr Cummings advised that the problem of antisocial behaviour was still high on the agenda. He advised that there had been a reduction in the number of fires and provided the figures for primary and secondary fires. In July there had been 49 secondary fires and 3 primary fires. In August there had been 23 secondary fires however primary fires had increased to 8 due to an increase in vehicle fires. The problem had been reported to the LMAPS. A number of years ago East Sunderland had a reputation as the arson capital however there had been a lot of good work done to reduce the number of fires. Bonfire night was approaching and although the last couple of years had been quiet there was always an increase in the number of fires. Wheelie bins were also a problem as people left their bins out in the back lanes; there had been 8 wheelie bin fires this month.

Councillor McClennan referred to the recently introduced charge for collecting bulky waste and asked whether this had led to an increase in the number of rubbish fires. Mr Cummings advised that it had been expected that there would have been an increase in the amount of waste left in back lanes and fire service staff had been reporting dumped waste so that the Council could remove it. There had been an increase in the amount of waste dumped and the situation was being monitored. Councillor McClennan then added that she was concerned that the savings would not be realised as there would be an increase in flytipping and fires. She also referred to the 'skip week' that was being organised by Home Housing which would allow residents to dispose of bulky waste without charge.

Councillor Errington referred to the problem of bins being left out in the Chester Road area; it was a problem on both the Millfield and Barnes sides of the road and the bins were often left in the back lanes for the whole week. Mr Cummings advised that Mr Boath would be liaising with his counterpart in the West Area to tackle the issue. It had always been a problem; people would

often put their bins out the night before collection and then forget to bring them back in again.

Councillor Price queried whether there was a problem with commercial bins being set on fire as these were often left out all week. Mr Cummings advised that he did not have specific figures for this however the problem did seem to mostly be domestic wheelie bins. Nicky Rowland added that commercial bins tended to be made from metal and as such any fire would be contained unlike plastic wheelie bins which would melt.

5. RESOLVED that the update from Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service be noted.

Place Board Progress Report

The Chair of the Place Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update on the progress against the Place Board's Work Plan for 2013/14.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Scanlan, in her role as chair of the Place Board, introduced the report and welcomed the Area Response Managers, David Groark and Nicky Rowland, who would be providing an update on the work done in the area.

David Groark presented the update on the city centre; he advised that there had been a number of roads closed to allow maintenance to the verges and central reservations. The trees on Sans Street had been cut back to reduce the possibility of antisocial behaviour. The demolition of Crowtree Leisure Centre would be commencing soon and the street furniture from this area had been relocated. There had been jetwashing of pavements carried out to remove chewing gum and other dirt. Preparations were underway for the start of the winter planting programme.

Nicky Rowland introduced the update for the rest of the area; there had been a lot of work done dealing with the impact of the introduction of the charge for bulky waste collections. The goalposts which had been installed as part of the FA National Game Strategy had been a huge success with them being used regularly. The works under the Gateway 1 project had been completed however the bulbs planted on the roundabouts at Doxford had not grown. Work was still ongoing around the nuisance parking at Gordon Terrace Ryhope and the possibility of landscaping the area to prevent nuisance parking was being investigated.

Councillor Mordey referred to the dog control orders and asked that Members complete and return the matrix provided to them as soon as possible so that the most appropriate actions could be identified. Ms Rowland added that enforcement of the orders was being looked into; it was felt that giving all front

line staff enforcement powers would be the most appropriate way of implementing whatever enforcement may be necessary.

Councillor Scanlan advised that the works under the gateway 1 project at Holly Court had not yet started; there had been a meeting with the landscape artist and the residents association and the tree planting would be taking place during October and November.

On the Gateway 2 programme Ms Trueman advised that there had been several meetings around improving shopping centres and the areas which needed work had been identified. A workaround had taken place and there had been 16 issues identified. Work would be done with various council departments to address the issues raised.

Councillor Scanlan then referred to the walk and talk programme; there had been a focus on the good things that were happening in the area and at each walk and talk there had been a meeting with young people in the area. Members were asked to consider what activities they may need within their area.

6. RESOLVED that the report and work plan be noted.

People Board Progress Report

The Chairman of the People Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided the committee with an update on the progress against the People Boards Work Plan for 2013/14.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Emerson, Chair of the People Board, introduced the report and advised of the work that had been done by the board since the last meeting of the area committee. the areas of work carried out by the board included influencing the development of library services; re-commissioning of Children's Centres; the continued use of the XL Youth Villages; the introduction of youth commissioned contracts; delivering roadshows to help get young people who were currently NEET into work, education or training; and the transformation of adult social care. The detail of the work was set out in paragraph 3.1 of the report and the work plan was at annex 1.

Andrew Carton updated the Committee on the NEET roadshows; there had been a lot of work done to arrange the roadshows and despite the low turnout there had been a lot of positive outcomes from the roadshows.

Philip Foster advised that the mapping exercise in relation to Adult Social Care and Community Connectors was nearly complete. He advised that there was now one directory for setting up packages of care for adults. There was a desire to work with the Clinical Commissioning Group to develop services and

it was felt that an event to bring together the agencies involved would be beneficial.

Nonnie Crawford informed the Committee of the wellness service review. She advised that the Council had a mandatory responsibility for the provision of certain services which included sexual health services, including the provision of free contraception and STI awareness. There were difficulties with reaching all of the target groups and there would be a stakeholder meeting held which members could attend if they wished. She also advised that the numbers smoking had reduced and teenage pregnancy rates had reduced.

7. RESOLVED that the report and work plan update be noted.

Community Chest and Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) – Financial Statement and Proposals for Further Allocation of Resources

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided Members with the financial statement for the allocation of Community Chest and SIB.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Nicol Trueman presented the report and advised Members of the financial statements which were set out in paragraphs 2.1 and 3.1 and advised of the previously approved Community Chest applications which were detailed in annex 1 of the report.

There were two applications for SIB funding totalling £49,753 which were detailed in annex 2 of the report. There was also a request for SIB funding of £108,400 for the Gateway 2 – Shopping Centres project, the Committee received a verbal update on this project including details of how the funding would be spent should Members approve it. In addition Members were asked to note that £6000 of SIB funding had been allocated to the Walk and Talk programme for the City Centre as a delegated decision.

8. RESOLVED that:-
 - a. The financial statements for Community Chest and SIB be noted.
 - b. The 14 approved Community Chest applications set out in Annex 1 be noted.
 - c. The SIB requests be approved.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the Meeting.

(Signed) E. BALL,
Chairman.