

**At a meeting of the EAST SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE, SUNDERLAND on MONDAY, 13<sup>th</sup> JUNE, 2016 at 5.30p.m.**

**Present:-**

Councillor Ball in the Chair

Councillors M. Dixon, Emerson, English, E. Gibson, Hodson, Hunt, Kay, Marshall, McClennan, Mordey, Oliver, O'Neil and Scanlan

**Also Present:-**

Hazel Clark	- VCS Representative
Alan Duffy	- Head of Operations, Gentoo
Michael Fascia	- Area Response Officer
David Groark	- Place Manager, Sunderland City Council
Matthew Jackson	- Governance Services Officer, Sunderland City Council
Jen McKevitt	- VCS Representative
Jackie Pitt	- Community Partnership Co-ordinator, Gentoo
Sarah Reed	- Assistant Chief Executive & Area Lead Executive, Sunderland City Council
Gillian Robinson	- Area Co-ordinator, Sunderland City Council
Nicky Rowland	- Place Manager, Sunderland City Council
Jamie Southwell	- Neighbourhood Inspector, 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 Councillor Wood together with Jeff Boath.

**Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2016**

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2016 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

## **VCS Area Network Progress Report**

Jen McKevitt delivered a verbal update on the work of the VCS Network. There had been two meetings of the network and a number of presentations had been received including presentations on the e-learning lounge and the national citizenship service. There was a vacancy on the VCS network and this vacancy would be dealt with at the next meeting of the network.

The Chairman thanked Ms McKevitt for her report and it was:-

2. RESOLVED that the VCS Network progress report be noted.

## **Northumbria Police Update**

Inspector Jamie Southwell presented the update from Northumbria Police; he introduced the crime figures for the Central area. There had been an issue with burglaries of dwellings with 17 more offences than last year; there had been some offenders imprisoned and the number of offences occurring had slowed down. There was a lot of work being done to target the known offenders and there was evidence against another two known offenders who were now being pursued. Commercial burglaries in the city centre were also a problem at the moment. Burglaries were currently the top priority. There were houses in the Hendon area where offenders were known to be residing en-mass; this was a major concern for the police and work was being done to target these addresses.

There had been reductions in vehicle crime, criminal damage and antisocial behaviour in the area.

In the East Area there had been an increase in burglaries of dwellings of 9 offences compared with last year; as with the city centre this was a top priority for the police; there were 24 hour resources in place and offenders were being targeted. Burglaries of properties other than dwellings had increased by one offence compared with last year.

Antisocial behaviour had reduced by 112 incidents however there had been an increase in incidents in Blakeney Woods; work was being done with Box Youth Project to try and tackle this issue.

Shoplifting was still a concern and there was work being done at weekends to tackle this.

To date there had been no problems caused by the Fan Zone in Park Lane however it was acknowledged that it had not been as busy as expected due to the poor weather.

Councillor Kay commented that offenders were often not young tearaways but were career criminals. He asked whether rehabilitation was likely and stated

that the penalties were not enough risk for the rewards involved. Inspector Southwell advised that the top ten list of offenders was all people who were over 30; he had been arresting the same people for over 15 years. Rehabilitation was often difficult and criminals often got a lot of money out of commercial burglaries which meant that the potential punishments did not deter them.

Councillor Mordey commented that he had heard anecdotally that there had been an increase in burglaries in Hendon. He also referred to a property that was being occupied by a large number of people which had a caravan dumped outside of it which was being used as an extension to the house; this property was the source of a lot of antisocial behaviour in the area including drug use and people had been seen carrying knives. Local residents were very concerned and he asked that the LMAPS group looked at this property. Ms McKeivitt added that there was a lot of rubbish being left around the property, the caravan was an eyesore and cars visiting the property were driving along residential streets at high speed. Inspector Southwell advised that he had not received any reports of knife crime from the property; he would have officers visit the property and caravan and he agreed to refer the issue to the LMAPS.

Councillor English asked for more information on the antisocial behaviour in Blakeney Woods; he knew that there was underage drinking and drug use took place. Inspector Southwell agreed to provide the information to ward councillors.

Councillor M. Dixon queried what the attendances were like at PACT meetings in the different wards as from his experience residents meetings attracted a number of people however PACT meetings were sometimes only attended by councillors. The Chairman advised that in Ryhope the forum meetings attracted around 30 people however the PACT meetings did not attract anyone; Councillor Emerson added that the Grangetown PACT meetings held at St Aidan's normally had around 10 to 12 attendees. Councillor McClennan advised that in Hendon there was a group of 8 to 10 people who attended each meeting; residents of the East End did not like the PACT branding however as they were worried about recriminations should they be associated with the police. Councillor Scanlan stated that in Millfield there had not been any attendance at the PACT meetings however the meetings were now held just before the St Marks residents meeting and the residents now all attended the PACT meeting as well. Councillor E. Gibson stated that the Doxford community was involved in the meetings which were well attended. Inspector Southwell advised that Inspector Sarah Pitt was looking at the differences between different meetings to identify ways of improving attendances.

The Chairman thanked Inspector Southwell for his presentation and it was:-

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

## **Gentoo Update**

Mr Alan Duffy circulated a document to Members which included details of the work Gentoo carried out and also provided details of the staff who worked in the East Area; he advised that the Community Partnership Coordinator was a new role and advised that there were now direct contact numbers for each office. Gentoo were providing advice and support services and were working closely with external partners. There would be major changes as a result of the welfare reforms and the introduction of universal credit.

Councillor Mordey queried what was happening with the works on the tower blocks in Hendon. Mr Duffy advised that the work at D'Arcy Court had been completed however all improvements works had now been stopped pending the outcome of the stock condition survey which was currently underway. The only works that would be on-going were those which had already been committed to.

Councillor Kay referred to the 300 people who were now on universal credit; he asked whether there had been any early lessons learned by Gentoo from this initial change. Mr Duffy advised that there were a lot of lessons to learn and that it was a big change for people receiving benefits. More resources had been put into providing money matters advice however it would be a challenge to continue to provide this level of support as the number of people in receipt of universal credit increased.

Councillor Mordey commented that it would be worth inviting a representative from the DWP to a future meeting to explain the plans for universal credit. Vulnerable people were being asked to change from weekly payments to monthly payments and it was necessary to know what mitigation measures were in place to ensure that people did not suffer from hardship during the changeover. Sarah Reed advised that Bernadette Topping would be the best person to invite to the meeting.

Councillor Kay commented that he had attended a presentation held by the DWP; they had a much narrower definition of vulnerable than the council did. He agreed that they should be invited to a future meeting.

Jen McKevitt advised that between 5 and 10 percent of Back on the Map tenants were in receipt of universal credit. When claimants were changed onto universal credit it caused a delay in payments of six weeks which then caused problems including rent arrears.

4. RESOLVED that the update from Gentoo be noted.

## **Place Board Proposed Priorities and Governance Arrangements for 2016/17**

The Chair of the East Sunderland Area Place Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which sought approval of the priorities to be taken forward as part of the Work Plan for 2016/17 and which provided an update on the Place Board governance arrangements for 2016/17.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

The Chair of the Place Board, Councillor E. Gibson, introduced the report and advised Members of the proposed priorities which were set out in section 3 of the report and in the work plan attached at annex 1. The Chairman then advised Members of the governance arrangements including the board Membership.

### **5. RESOLVED that:-**

- a. Approval be given to the East Sunderland Area Place Board Work Plan priorities for 2016/17, as set out in section 3 and annex 1.
- b. Approval be given to the area governance arrangements for 2016/17 as set out in section 4 and annex 2.

## **People Board Proposed Priorities and Governance Arrangements for 2016/17**

The Chair of the East Sunderland Area People Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which sought approval of the priorities to be taken forward as part of the work plan for 2016/17 and which provided an update on the people board governance arrangements for 2016/17.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

The Chair of the People Board, Councillor Marshall, introduced the report and advised Members of the proposed priorities which were set out in section 3 of the report and in the work plan attached at annex 1. The Chairman then advised Members of the governance arrangements including the board membership and the representation on the Children's Centres Local Area Board. For the East LMAPS group which covered Doxford, Hendon and Ryhope wards there had been nominations for both Councillor Marshall and Councillor McClennan to represent the Area Committee; this was put to the vote and with 5 Members voting for Councillor Marshall and 2 Members voting for Councillor McClennan it was agreed that Councillor Marshall would represent the area on the East LMAPS group.

### **6. RESOLVED that:-**

- a. Approval be given to the East Sunderland Area People Board Work Plan Priorities for 2016/17, as set out in section 3 and annex 1.

- b. Approval be given to the area governance arrangements for 2016/17 as set out in section 4 and annex 2.

### **Area Budgets Report**

The Head of Area Arrangements, Scrutiny and Members Support submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided Members with an update on the financial statements for Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) and Community Chest.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Nicol Trueman introduced the report and advised Members that there was a starting balance for SIB funding of £279,033. The Community Chest starting balances, including remaining balances carried over from last year were:-

Doxford - £12,710

Hendon – £10,053

Millfield - £12,677

Ryhope - £12,298

St Michael's - £9,367

There had been 9 SIB projects carried over from last year and these were set out in the table at paragraph 2.1 and also in annex 1.

7. RESOLVED that the financial statements set out in sections 2 and 3 be noted.

### **Planning Applications – For Information Only**

Current Planning Applications relating to the East Sunderland Area for the period 1<sup>st</sup> May to 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2016 were submitted for Members information only (copy circulated).

(For copy report – see original minutes)

8. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

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

(Signed) E. BALL,  
Chairman.