

**MINUTES OF THE SAFER COMMUNITIES EXECUTIVE BOARD (HSP)
THURSDAY, 7 MAY 2009**

Present: Councillor Nilgun Canver (Chair), John Brown, Sue Brown, Stephen Carroll, Jean Croot, Dave Grant, Jennifer James, Claire Kowalska, Enid Ledigster, Marion Morris, Joanne McCartney, Robin Payne, Jackie Thomas, J. Williams, Petra Wollasta.

In Attendance: Xanthe Barker, Samantha Evans, Patrick Jones, Sharon Kemp, Eliza Meechan.

LC109. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from:

Niall Bolger	-	Robin Payne substituted
Peter Lewis	-	Jennifer James substituted
Mohamed Maigag		
Barbara Nicholls		
Pastor Nims Obunge		
Mary Pilgrim	-	Petra Wollasta substituted

LC110. URGENT BUSINESS

No items of Urgent Business were received.

LC111. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

LC112. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 16 March 2009 be confirmed as a correct record.

LC113. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR FOR 2009/10

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Nilgun Canver be appointed as Chair for 2009/10. Dr. O'Donovan, the outgoing Chair, explained that this change was in line with the rest of the country and with principles of democratic accountability. She thanked board members for all their support and work during her tenure.

LC114. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

RESOLVED:

That Chief Superintendent Dave Grant be appointed as Vice-Chair for 2009/10.

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LC115. APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE TO THE HARINGEY STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

RESOLVED:

That Pastor Nims Obunge be re-confirmed as the Board's representative to the HSP for 2009/10.

LC116. TERRORISM UPDATE

The Board was advised that the threat of terrorism had not altered since the previous meeting and remained severe.

The Police continued to carry out a large number of targeted 'stop and search' exercises around transport hubs and sporting venues in the Borough. In addition to identifying people committing crime this also acted as a deterrent to terrorism.

RESOLVED:

That the verbal update be noted.

LC117. QUARTER FOUR PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Board received a report setting out performance against Local Area Agreement (LAA) targets during the fourth quarter of 2008/09. An overview was also provided of targets for 2009/10 and 2010/11.

It was noted that generally performance had been good with the overall crime rate in the Borough falling by 7% in comparison with the previous year.

The serious acquisitive crime rate had gone from Amber to Green and one of the most challenging targets within the Board's responsibility, the number of thefts from motor vehicles, had been missed by just 0.1% or 5 offences, which showed that there had been a significant improvement in this area over the last year.

The Chair recognised that many of the improvements seen in performance were due to the effort of all partners and she expressed her thanks to members of the Board for their contribution in particular to the Police.

Haringey Police stated that they had begun to identify how the economic downturn might impact upon crime and the preventative measures might be needed.

In response to a query, the Board was advised that there would be monitoring and evaluation of all activity by the SCEB PMG to ensure that there was a tangible impact.

RESOLVED:

- i. That the report be noted.
- ii. That the SCEB Performance Management Group continue to analyse performance and report back to the HSP.

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LC118. SAFER COMMUNITIES ACTION PLAN 2009/10

The Board received a report presenting the Safer Communities Action Plan for 2009/10.

The document set out the key actions under the Safer and Stronger Communities Service for the new financial year. Delivery Plans had been prepared for each of the areas covered by the Action Plan and the Board was advised that these were available on request from the Safer Communities Team and would also shortly be published on the Council's website.

An overview was provided of how the objectives contained within the Plan linked to the LAA priorities within the Boards responsibility.

It was noted that during the next year there would be a focus on providing greater support to victims of crime, drug and alcohol abuse and a more holistic approach to working with offenders. There would also be a new focus on community engagement, promoting the work of the whole partnership and increasing confidence in the criminal justice system in response to a raft of new perception indicators. There will also be an increased focus on co-ordinating support to 18-24 year olds and on multi-agency management of high risk domestic violence cases through a multi agency panel (MARAC).

Members of the Board were encouraged to contact officers if there was anything additional that they felt should be included within any of the plans.

RESOLVED:

That the measures set out in the Safer Communities Action Plan, which supported the key National Indicators within the Board's responsibility, be noted.

LC119. SAFER COMMUNITIES PROJECT HIGHLIGHT REPORT

The Board received a report that provided an update in relation to the projects funded by the Area Based Grant (ABG) and Borough Command Unit fund during 2008/09.

It was noted that a new performance management system had been adopted, which meant that it was possible to identify potential problems earlier. In addition, each project had been allocated a lead officer from the Community Safety Team, who acted as a point of liaison.

In order to provide a more accessible picture of the aims and objectives of each project and what they had achieved, a brief two page summary was being produced and this would be published on the Council's website in due course.

In response to a query, the Board was advised that quarterly press briefings would be produced to communicate what was being achieved by the partnership. It was suggested the local press should be contacted to see whether a monthly article could be produced focusing on a specific area. This would help improve confidence and support the LAA objective around improving perceptions.

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RESOLVED:

- i. That the report be noted.
- ii. That the local press be contacted to see whether a monthly article could be produced focusing on a specific area.

LC120. ADULTS DRUG TREATMENTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUBSTANCE MISUSE PLANS: KEY PRIORITIES FOR 2009/10

The Board received a report setting out the key priorities contained within the Adult Drug Treatment and Young People's Substance Misuse Plans for 2009/10.

Adult Drug Treatment Plan

It was noted that the Adult Drug Treatment Plan was intended to reduce the harm caused by drug misuse to residents of the Borough. During 2009/10 there would be a specific focus on tackling Hepatitis C and B as Haringey had high rates of Hepatitis C.

In order to help reduce drug related deaths 'peer to peer' training was being provided. Work was also being carried out with prisoners with drug related problems to improve access to treatment.

A joint initiative between Haringey, Barnet, Enfield, Hertfordshire and Islington was also being undertaken to procure a new drug treatment facility.

It was noted that the draft Welfare Reform Act proposed that drug users in receipt of benefits should be required to demonstrate that they were getting treatment. Therefore, the potential impact of a large increase in the number of people entering treatment would be considered and reflected in the Plan.

Young People's Substance Misuse Plan

It was noted that work had been carried to ensure that the Plan linked into the Children and Young People's Plan and the Joint Area Review (JAR) Action Plan. Therefore the Plan was also being brought to the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Board for consideration.

There was agreement that there should be a increased focus on the impact that drug and alcohol abuse by parents has upon children. The Board was advised that work was being carried out by the Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) to determine how it could feed into the work of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) and the JAR Action Plan.

The Chair noted that the Community and Voluntary Sector played a crucial role in tackling drug misuse and was often a first point of contact for people. There was agreement that the Board should receive a report at its next meeting setting out implications of the new Welfare Reform Act upon treatment services.

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RESOLVED:

- i. That the report be noted.
- ii. That the Board receive a report at its next meeting setting out implications of the new Welfare Reform Act upon treatment services.

LC121. ALCOHOL STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN UPDATE

The Board received a report that provided an overview of progress made in relation to the implementation of community safety strand of the Alcohol Strategy Action Plan.

It was noted that there were three strands to the Strategy:

- Community Safety
- Health
- Children and Young People

The relevant HSP Thematic Boards were responsible for delivering these.

It was noted that funding for a post in the DAAT team, which focused on working with victims of domestic violence, may be lost and that this was likely to affect the team's ability to address domestic violence.

In response to a query, the Board was advised that, rather than issuing fixed penalty notices in response to street drinking, a targeted approach was taken and notices were not generally issued to street drinkers on an ad hoc basis.

The Board queried how partnership funding used to support projects such as street drinkers accessing treatment was monitored and requested analysis to demonstrate effectiveness.

RESOLVED:

- i. That the report be noted.
- ii. That the Board should receive a report that provided an analysis of the effectiveness of projects funded by the Partnership in addressing street drinking.

LC122. THE IMPACT OF THE RECESSION ON COMMUNITY SAFETY

The Board received a background paper informing the chosen discussion topic: 'Likely Impact of the Recession on Community Safety in Haringey'.

It was noted that the impact of the current recession upon crime was likely to differ from that of previous economic downturns. Recently collected data showed that unemployment was rising more quickly in the west of the Borough and that young people were currently the most affected.

The Board discussed this issue and how the Partnership could act to minimise the impact upon community safety in the Borough. It was reported that the Fire Brigade

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had recorded a slight rise in the number of arsons being carried out over the last three months. However, it was not clear whether this was as a result of the economic climate.

It was noted that Voluntary and Community Sector organisations were often approached for advice in the first instance and that there may be a significant increase in the number of people accessing Social Security Benefits who had no previous experience of the system. Therefore training for people working in the sector would be useful.

It was suggested that the Council and Job Centre Plus should work with the Voluntary Sector to identify individuals who may be suitable candidates for initiatives aimed at people who had recently become unemployed. There was agreement that officers from the Council's Community Safety Team and Economic Regeneration Team should liaise with Voluntary Sector organisations on this issue and that the Board should receive an update at the next meeting on progress.

The Board discussed the wider issue of volunteering and the role that this could play in helping individuals who became unemployed. The need for better co-ordination between placing people in work opportunities, volunteering, training and apprenticeships was noted. There was agreement that partners should contact the Council's Urban Environment Department if there are opportunities within their organisation for volunteering so that these could be included within the Partnership's wider approach to tackling the recession. The Safer Communities Service would also work more closely with colleagues in Urban Environment and report back to the Board.

It was noted that the 'black market' and fraud generally tend to increase during an economic downturn and this was being monitored by the Police. At present it was not known whether levels of Council Tax and Benefit fraud had been affected.

The Board was advised that the Council had established a Steering Group to look at options around the establishment of a Credit Union. This would help reduce the number of people using 'loan sharks' and other expensive means of credit and help prevent people turning to crime to obtain cash.

The Chair requested that a quarterly report should be received by the Board setting out how the economic downturn was impacting upon crime and how the measures discussed were being taken forward.

RESOLVED:

- i. That a quarterly report be received by the Board setting out how the economic downturn was impacting upon crime and how the measures discussed were being taken forward.
- ii. That officers from the Council's Community Safety Team and Economic Environment should liaise with Voluntary Sector organisations to identify opportunities for assisting people who had recently lost their jobs to access schemes and initiatives available and that the Board should receive an update at the next meeting on progress.

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- iii. That partners should contact Urban Environment colleagues if there are opportunities within their organisation for volunteering so that these could be included within the Partnership's wider approach to tackling the recession.

LC123. PROPOSED ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the Board should receive reports on the items listed below at the next meeting:

- Flood Contingency Plan (September)
- Swine Flu Contingency Plan (September)
- Update on recession work (September)
- Area Based Working (November)

LC124. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

No new items of urgent business were received.

LC125. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Reopening of the Hearthstone Domestic Violence Centre

The Chair advised that the Hearthstone centre had been refurbished and expanded and would be reopened by Vernon Cocker MP on 1 July 2009. Members of the Board would be invited to attend the event.

Swine Flu –Impact Upon Policing

The Board was advised that the Police had contingency plans in place in relation to staffing in the event of a pandemic. Core services would be maintained in the event.

PCT representation

It was noted that the PCT had not nominated a new representative to the Board since the departure of Christina Gradowski and there was agreement that the Head of Service should contact the PCT to clarify this and secure the dates in the diary.

LC126. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The dates of future meetings set out below were noted:

- 10 September 2009
- 19 November 2009
- 4 February 2010

Cllr Nilgun Canver

Chair