

MINUTES OF THE SAFER COMMUNITIES EXECUTIVE BOARD (HSP)
THURSDAY, 19 NOVEMBER 2009

Present: Councillor Nilgun Canver (Chair), Stephen Ayres, John Brown, Sue Brown, Jean Croot, Kevin Fitzpatrick, Dave Grant (Vice-Chair), Chris Hannington, Claire Kowalska, Enid Ledgister, Joanne McCartney, Marion Morris, Tessa Newton, Barbara Nicholls, Rev Nims Obunge, Mary Pilgrim, Chloe Stephenson.

In Attendance : Xanthe Barker, Anita Hunt, Leo Kearse, Wayne Longshaw and Rob Mack.

LC142. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from the following:

Lee Bojtor
Niall Bolger
Paul Bridge
Hywel Ebsworth
Sam Evans
Dr Ita O'Donovan
Jennifer James
Peter Lewis
Mohamed Maigag
Robin Payne
James Slater

LC143. URGENT BUSINESS

No items of Urgent Business were received.

LC144. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Declarations of Interest were made.

LC145. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That, subject to the inclusion of the paragraph set out below, the minutes of the meeting held on 10 September 2010 should be confirmed as a correct record:

Minute LC131:

'It was noted that with respect to Crime Scrutiny Option 1 the Metropolitan Police Authority should be invited to attend as a statutory invitee and expert advisor'.

LC146. HALF YEAR PERFORMANCE AND EXCEPTION REPORT

The Board received a report that detailed performance from April to September 2009 against Local Area Agreement (LAA) targets within the Board's responsibility.

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The Board was given an overview of performance during the period above and it was noted that there had been some notable successes in the first half of the year. These included a drop in serious youth violence and a reduction in acquisitive crime, despite the recession.

The main area of concern continued to be the level of serious violent crime affecting the nineteen plus age group and gang related activity both within Haringey and cross-border. The Board was advised new investment had been committed to engaging with this age group and a problem-solving group was in place to look at ways of addressing this issue.

It was noted that the level of problematic drug users in treatment had stagnated. However,, measures were being taken to address this including additional publicity for drug treatment services locally and this was having a positive effect. The final target would not be confirmed for a further four months.

The Council's Drug and Alcohol Awareness Team (DAAT) was also carrying out new work with Accident and Emergency Teams to identify ways that staff could address issues created by a number of hard core drinkers in the Borough.

In response to a query the Board was advised that the Youth Offending Service (YOS) had extensive monitoring arrangements in place to measure the impact that interventions had upon the rate of re-offending. The YOS had a triage system whereby fifty-seven young people, classed as being at a high risk of re-offending, were closely worked with and to date only three of this group had re-offended.

It was noted that Enid Ledgister had played a significant role in improving cross Borough working and Partners expressed thanks to for her contribution this.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

LC147. FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FORM THE ANNUAL STRATEGIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The Board received a report and presentation setting out the key findings of the latest Strategic Needs Assessment.

Following the presentation it was noted that the Assessment demonstrated the strong correlation between health and crime issues. It was suggested that a joint piece of work should be undertaken to assess how this could be addressed by the Council, Police and NHS Haringey and that this should draw on the model used in Glasgow.

It was noted that a visit had been made by representatives from Glasgow Police to observe good practice and this had informed work carried out in establishing the model.

It was requested that copies of the presentation were circulated to the Board. The Board was advised that the full report would be available by 27 November and it was agreed that this should also be circulated.

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Concern was expressed that data, which illustrated a prevalence of certain crimes amongst young males of African Caribbean descent, was often not addressed directly. There was agreement that a piece of work focussing on this issue was required.

The Board discussed gun crime and it was noted that the Police had recently responded to a number of serious incidents in Borough. The Board was advised that targeted work such as 'Operation Swift' was aimed at addressing chaotic gang crime and within this there was a focus on working with the families of young people to tackle this problem. This approach reflected successful work that had been undertaken with young people to address gang related crime in America.

The Chair noted that in order to address entrenched patterns of behaviour and crime all of the agencies involved would need to take on board the experiences of other communities and countries. It was suggested that the Partnership's approach to tackling gang related crime should be treated as a strategic issue and discussed by the HSP.

In response to a query with respect to Hate Crime, the Board was advised that reported incidents of race related crime were reducing; however, incidents of homophobic crime were increasing. Work would be carried out to analyse the causes of this. Anecdotal evidence suggested that as new communities developed and immigrants became more familiar with the public services available, there was an increase in the number of hate crimes reported by people from these communities.

There was agreement that, in some areas, a greater breakdown of the information would be useful to illustrate where one factor may be distorting the information. For example it was suggested that this could be applied to information with respect to drug and alcohol data in order to develop a more targeted approach.

It was noted that at its December meeting the SCEB PMG would be considering the implications for projects during the last year of the LAA and there was agreement that the findings of the DAAT Needs Assessment would need to be considered as part of this.

RESOLVED:

That the content of the report and presentation be noted.

LC148. ZONAL AND AREA BASED WORKING REPORT

The Board received a report that provided an update on the Zonal Working pilot operating in the South East of the Borough. The report also set out proposals for the rolling out of the scheme across the Borough.

The Board was reminded that the pilot project for Zonal Working in the south of the Borough had been agreed to May 2009. The Problem Solving Group attached to this met on a monthly basis to deliver the objectives set out in its Terms of Reference.

It was noted that the pilot had raised a number of issues that would be reflected in the rolling out of the scheme. These would be considered by the Zonal Steering Group, which was tasked with evaluating the project and ensuring that learning was shared.

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If the Board was agreeable the Steering Group would also lead on the rolling out of the project in the whole of the Borough.

The Chair noted that the pilot project had been successful in enabling the different agencies to analyse persistent issues as a group and to pool funding to address these issues. She expressed her support for the rolling out of the scheme.

In response to a query as to how the Third Sector could link into Zonal Working the Board was advised that at present there was not an established mechanism to facilitate this. However, any issues of concern could be raised with the local Neighbourhood Manager. There was agreement that the SCEB PMG should also consider this issue at its next meeting.

It was recognised that Zonal based working represented a significant shift in working practice and there was agreement that consideration ought to be given the training implications that this presented.

It was requested that information on the scheme was provided to the Metropolitan Police Authority (MPA) in order to inform its best practice structure.

The Board discussed the issue of displacement and it was acknowledged that in some instances resolving issues in one area, most notably anti social behaviour, meant that they were pushed into neighbouring areas. It was noted that communication with local residents was essential to monitor the impact of this on 'the ground'.

It was noted that there had been significant success seen by other initiatives where targeted work had been carried out with families that were known to a range of agencies. The Board discussed the 'Diamond Districts' initiative, which used this approach, and it was noted that if the initiative was adopted the area based working already taking place could be developed further.

Concern was expressed that the resources required to support the Diamond Districts initiative may not be available as budgets were reduced over the next two years. It was noted that the long term cost benefits that the project would bring would outweigh the additional cost. This would need to be balanced against the short term cost when considering the adoption of the scheme.

In conclusion the Board expressed its support for proposals to roll out Zonal Based working across the Borough.

RESOLVED:

That the proposals for the rolling out of Zonal Based Working, as set out in the report, be approved.

LC149. COMMUNITY JUSTICE COURT -DEVELOPMENTS

The Board received a presentation on how the Community Justice Court pilot was progressing.

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The new style of Court was intended to ensure that offenders understood the impact of their crimes on individuals and the local community and to provide the opportunity for them to make a contribution to the community as part of their sentence.

Magistrates were also given training to assist them in considering individual's backgrounds and assess how they could best assist them to change their patterns of behaviour and reduce the likelihood of re-offending. This approach was innovative and was resourced and supported by a 'Help Desk', which was staffed by a support team that worked with individuals and provided information for Magistrates to inform their decisions.

In response to a query, as to what action was being taken to ensure that public confidence was not lost, due to what might be perceived as the more lenient approach taken by the Court, the Board was advised that a great deal of effort had been made by individual Magistrates to explain what was happening as part of the pilot. Many Magistrates had briefed local community groups and any requests for this type of briefing would be met wherever possible.

RESOLVED:

That the presentation be noted.

LC150. INFORMATION SHARING PROTOCOL -FINAL AND NEXT STEPS

The Board received a report that set out changes that had been made to the Information Sharing Protocol since the previous meeting.

It was requested that the Metropolitan Police Authority (MPA) were added to the list of statutory partners include within the protocol.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

LC151. CHANGES TO LONDON FIRE AND EMERGENCY PLANNING SERVICE

The Board received a presentation on the changes to the London Fire and Emergency Planning Service.

It was noted that the key message to draw from the presentation was that the 'London Safety Plan 4' was now being consulted upon and that this was the Partnership's opportunity to respond and shape the document.

Partners were invited to contact John Brown following the meeting if they had any queries.

The Chair thanked John Brown for the presentation.

RESOLVED:

That the presentation be noted.

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LC152. PROGRESS UPDATE FROM SUB-GROUPS

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

LC153. RESTRUCTURE OF VICTIM SUPPORT

The Board received a verbal update on the restructuring of the Victim Support Service.

RESOLVED:

That information, available next week, which would provide more detailed information with respect to the changes taking place should be circulated to the Board.

LC154. MPA/MPS TARGET SETTING PROCESS

The Board received a verbal update with on this item.

It was noted that in the New Year there would be discussion around the targets that would be set to ensure that these were aligned to existing targets.

RESOLVED:

That the verbal update be noted.

LC155. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

No new items of Urgent Business were admitted.

LC156. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Changes to The Probation Service

It was noted that as the Service moved towards Trust status and its structure was revised, the current representative for Haringey, Mary Pilgrim, would be leaving Haringey to represent Redbridge and Waltham Forest.

The new representative for Haringey would Kay Gilbert.

Mary Pilgrim thanked the Board and colleagues from across the Partnership for their support and the Chair wished her well in her new role.

Second Safer Haringey Awards Ceremony

The Chair noted that this event was taking place on 11 February and advised that formal invitations would be issued shortly.

Swine Flu

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The Board was advised that although the second wave of Swine Flu was now affecting people, lower rates of infection than initially anticipated were being experienced. A vaccination programme to protect the most vulnerable groups was now underway.

LC157. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

It was noted that the next meeting was due to be held on 4 February 2010, at 11am, in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Wood Green.

Councillor Nilgun Canver

Chair

The meeting closed at 1.10pm.