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CRIME AND DISORDER SCRUTINY PANEL - 17 December 2014

MINUTES

- Present: Councillor K Hawkins (Chairman). Councillors K Grinsell, M Hewings, T Hodgson and M Parker.
- Apologies: Councillor M Robinson.
- Officer(s) in attendance: Lee Stevenson (Solihull MBC, Governance Directorate).
- Report authors/ witnesses in attendance: Gillian Crabbe (Community Safety Manager – Solihull MBC, Places Directorate).
- External report authors/ witnesses in attendance: Inspector Nigel Sarling (Performance Lead - West Midlands Police).

1. APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Councillor M Robinson.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest from Members of the Panel.

3. QUESTIONS AND DEPUTATIONS

There were no questions or deputations.

4. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 8th October 2014, was submitted for approval.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes be agreed as a correct record.

5. SAFER SOLIHULL PARTNERSHIP - INCORPORATING THE SOLIHULL LOCAL POLICE AND CRIME BOARD QUARTER 2 PERFORMANCE FOR THE PERIOD JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2014.

In attendance: Gillian Crabbe (Community Safety Manager – Solihull MBC, Places Directorate); and Inspector Nigel Sarling (Performance Lead - West Midlands Police).

The Panel considered a report from Gillian Crabbe (Community Safety Manager) that set out a summary of the Safer Solihull Performance Scorecard for Qtr 2 (July to September 2014).

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Noting that Councillor Robinson had given apologies, advance notice of his questions to be raised during the meeting had also been circulated.

The Panel welcomed Inspector Nigel Sarling to the meeting who offered the Panel a further verbal narrative to support the report and performance data being presented. The following was discussed and noted:

- Household burglary was reducing across the Force area, particularly in Solihull. In the past, policing would be carried out geographically. Nowadays, policing targeted individual offenders which had proved to be a better use of Police resources. 23% of the whole Force wide reductions were attributable to improvements in Solihull for this crime type.
- Convictions and custodial sentences were now more likely than ever for crime types such as theft due to the use of DNA in detection and evidence.
- A national change in offending was developing. There were now growing instances of cyber-crime and this was seen as a shift in focus by offenders. West Midlands Police advised that this was a very complex area of policing to investigate. The Panel sought an update on figures for reported cyber-crime. West Midlands Police gave some individual examples, such as criminality attributed to goods offered for sale on internet auction sites.
- Shop lifting was also now a very popular crime; particularly small, high value, retail goods such as baby powder and coffee which had a street price of circa 50% of its recommended retail price. Larger goods, such as electrical items were less popular amongst offenders looking to commit this crime type. West Midlands Police advised that strategic targeting of known criminals was now a proven and more effective method of policing.
- In response to a question, the number of bilking offences was reported as being between 56 and 60 offences per month which equated to there being more than 160 more bilking offences in the Borough in the last 12 months. Lower fuel prices also appeared to be making little difference in reducing the number of recorded offences. West Midlands Police advised that only a change in retail/operator practices (i.e. pay up front) would drastically reduce the number of offences. However, retailers/operators were unlikely to make any changes as this would limit their opportunities to “up-sell”. In addition, the financial loss to the retailer was very small and any duty on stolen fuel was written off. Most petrol retailers also still had old CCTV technology, rather than digital. In terms of policing resources, the top 5 most problematic locations were targeted by the Police each month. Vehicle identification (looking for known bilkers), staff awareness and sale refusals did make a small contribution to deterring this type of crime although high staff turnover in this retail sector meant that the importance of awareness raising was sometimes difficult to consistently maintain. West Midlands Police would also park

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decommissioned marked police vehicles at bilking hot spots across the West Midlands as a further deterrent.

- Number plate theft was also discussed, although this was reported as only contributing to around a 5th of all reporting instances of bilking. Many detached number plates frequently recovered from the roadside by streetcare crews also did not have any links to criminality, more often than not. However, West Midlands Police advised that the use of anti-tamper screws and frequent reminders through the Partnership's literature would help to heighten public awareness of the need to be vigilant.
- Nationally, a rise in business crime was being seen. West Midlands Police held operational business crime meetings every week and a frequent question asked was whether the level of policing towards business crime was proportionate in comparison with other crime types. Business crime was reported as a growing problem and bilking, in comparison with burglary, was currently at a ratio of 4:1.
- Car theft was also a high priority. West Midlands Police advised that night crews often checked car doors in residential areas. 25% of reported car crime arose from un-secure cars.
- In response to a question posed to West Midlands Police as to what the Partnership could do better? They advised that intelligence sharing was highly valuable and the Partnership should always look towards better and more innovative ways of timely intelligence sharing. Other schemes such as Neighbourhood Watch and other community initiatives which prompted community engagement were also highly valued by West Midlands Police. The importance of the Partnerships website and the use of social media was also acknowledged and encouraged.
- A Member explained that they frequently heard from residents that the Police Non-Emergency 101 offered poor service. West Midlands Police explained that there were now three 101 call hubs and a commitment to ongoing staff training. Reassurances were given to the Panel that the 101 number services were now much improved. It was noted that this topic featured on the Panel's Work Plan for a later meeting.
- In respect of responses to reports of Anti-Social Behaviour, the Panel discussed the role of Solihull Community Housing during normal working hours. Outside of that, responses to reported instances of ASB would be dealt with by the Police teams on duty at that time. Each reported incident was considered on its own merit and West Midlands Police gave reassurances that, in instances of vulnerability, an immediate police response would be given even if the incident was reported via the 101 Non-Emergency number.
- The Panel also discussed the links between substance abuse and vulnerability and they were pleased to note the progress in tackling re-offending as contained within the report.
- Crimes against the elderly were also discussed and examples were given by West Midlands Police as to how such types of targeted criminality were carried out, investigated and detected.
- Further information regarding road safety performance (KSI's) was also submitted and it was acknowledged by the Panel that Solihull's

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performance was good. Target Monitor and Fatal and Serious Collision Monitor data for the period 1st January 2014 (to date) was submitted and discussed which sought to demonstrate the additional KSI trend information that had been requested (Appendix A). The Panel was also advised that future reports would be amended to reflect that data in the scorecard and to give year on year comparisons.

- Much work was also being done around public place violence (with injury). Night time economies contributed particularly to this crime type and West Midlands Police advised that there were other overlapping crime types such as domestic violence to consider (i.e. DV not committed in a dwelling). The Panel noted that there was lots of Partnership work going on to create a perception of feeling safe when coming into the Borough's town centres at night.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the contents of the report be noted;
- (ii) That no matters of concern be drawn to the attention of the Cabinet Member for Community & Partnerships at this point in time; and
- (iii) That the value that West Midlands Police adds to the scrutiny of the Safer Solihull Performance Scorecard reports be recognised at that they be invited to attend all future meetings where this report is being considered.

6. WORK PLAN

The Panel received and considered its Work Plan for the remainder of 2014/15 which suggested a small number of variations to a number of topics to ensure that they could be dealt with during the remaining meetings. For the next meeting (10th February 2015), it was confirmed that the agenda would be as follows:

- Reducing the Fear and Perception of Crime.
- Early Crime Interventions and Reducing the Risk of Reoffending.
- Safer Solihull Partnership Annual Strategic Assessment & Community Safety Plan.
- Safer Solihull Performance Scorecard 2014/15 – Summary – Qtr3.

RESOLVED

That the Panel's revised Work Plan be agreed.

7. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

Not applicable for this meeting.

8.00 pm

TARGET MONITOR

1st January 2014 – 31st December 2014 - Including Motorways

Accident Type	Jan	Feb	Mar	Q1	Apr	May	June	Q2	July	Aug	Sept	Q3	Oct	Nov	Dec	Q4	Target	Accumulative Total to date
All Fatal Casualties	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	4
All Serious Casualties	5	6	3	14	1	1	2	4	2	2	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	22
All KSI Monthly Total	5	6	4	15	1	1	2	4	3	3	1	7	0	0	0	0	0	26
Child Fatal Casualties	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Child Serious Casualties	1	1	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Child KSI Monthly Total	1	1	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3

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NOTES

- The West Midlands Local Transport Plan 3 has set a road safety performance aim for the West Midlands Metropolitan districts which is to reduce the annual figure of killed and seriously injured casualties by 17.3% between the baseline 2005-09 average and the 2011-15 average.
- In Solihull we have set a local target which is in line with the agreed regional targets and shown in Table 2 and Chart 7 of the 'Road Safety Strategy for Solihull'. The local indicators suggested by the Department for Transport (the rate of killed or seriously injured casualties per million people & the rate of killed or seriously injured casualties per billion vehicle miles) will also be monitored to ensure there is a reduction each year.
- * The target is a 5 year average of 72 or less KSI casualties for 2010 to 2014. The number of KSI's over the last three years has been lower than the target and so the (2010-14) 5 year average target **is achieved if there are 129 or less KSI casualties during 2014.**

FATAL AND SERIOUS COLLISION MONITOR

1st January 2011 – 31st December 2014 - Including Motorways

Fatal and Serious Collision	Jan	Feb	Mar	Q1	Apr	May	June	Q2	July	Aug	Sept	Q3	Oct	Nov	Dec	Q4	Yearly Total
2011 Collisions	9	2	5	16	4	4	1	9	4	6	6	16	2	4	7	13	54
2011 Casualties	13	2	5	20	4	5	2	11	5	6	6	17	2	5	9	16	64
2012 Collisions	3	2	7	12	7	5	3	15	5	1	2	8	10	8	6	24	59
2012 Casualties	3	2	7	12	9	5	3	17	5	1	2	8	10	8	6	24	61
2013 Collisions	1	2	5	8	2	2	4	8	6	3	5	14	0	5	4	9	39
2013 Casualties	1	2	6	9	2	4	4	10	6	3	5	14	0	6	4	10	43
3 Year Average Collisions	4 1/3	2	5 2/3	12	4 1/3	3 2/3	2 2/3	10 2/3	5	3 1/3	4 1/3	12 2/3	4	5 2/3	5 2/3	15 1/3	50 2/3
3 Year Average Casualties	5 2/3	2	6	13 2/3	5	4 2/3	3	12 2/3	5 1/3	3 1/3	4 1/3	13	4	6 1/3	6 1/3	16 2/3	56
2014 Collisions	4	5	3	12	1	1	2	4	2	3	1	6					22
2014 Casualties	5	6	4	15	1	1	2	4	3	3	1	7					26

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