

## CRIME AND DISORDER SCRUTINY PANEL – 21 OCTOBER 2015

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#### MINUTES

**Present** Councillors Mrs D Holl-Allen MBE (Chairman), A Mackenzie, B Holmes, T Hodgson and I Chamberlain

**Apologies:**

There were no apologies

**Officers in attendance:**

Joseph Bright (Solihull MBC, Resources Directorate).

**Report authors/witnesses in attendance:**

Gillian Crabbe (Community Safety Manager – Solihull MBC, Managed Growth Directorate).

Julia Haywood (Community Safety Officer – Solihull MBC, Managed Growth Directorate).

**External report authors/witnesses in attendance:**

Chief Superintendent Alex Murray (West Midlands Police).

**Cabinet Members in attendance as observers:**

Councillor K Grinsell (Stronger Communities & Partnerships Portfolio).

**1. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest declared by Members of the Panel.

**2. QUESTIONS AND DEPUTATIONS**

There were no questions or deputations.

**3. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> October were submitted for approval.

**RESOLVED**

That the minutes be agreed as a correct record. There were no matters arising.

**4. WEST MIDLANDS POLICE – NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING REVIEW**

In attendance: Chief Superintendent Alex Murray (West Midlands Police).

The Chief Superintendent provided a verbal update on the review of neighbourhood policing as part of the West Midlands Police WMP2020 change programme. He detailed how, as part of the change programme, West Midlands Police were focusing on how to ensure a sustainable service, whilst managing budget cuts. The Chief Superintendent explained that West Midlands Police had been advised they would be receiving a 20 percent budget reduction between now and 2020 – overall, this would mean a budget cut of nearly 45 percent over a period of ten years. It was explained this meant West Midlands Police would need to operate with a reduction of more than 2,500 officer and staff posts.

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The Chief Superintendent informed Members that West Midlands Police was particularly impacted due to the precept model – they raised one of the lowest levels of revenue through Council Tax. As a consequence, West Midlands Police was more reliant upon central government funding and therefore severely impacted by the reductions.

The Chief Superintendent explained that, in the face of severe reductions, they were looking not to 'salami slice' services and the West Midlands Police 2020 programme had been established to identify innovative solutions. He detailed how the current levels of Neighbourhood Policing were not sustainable and the service would need to focus more on essential services. The Chief Superintendent emphasised the Service recognised they still needed to take account of community concerns; however he stressed they also needed to focus on critical areas that may not be visible to the public, such as domestic violence and child sexual exploitation.

The Chief Superintendent also emphasised the Chief Constable recognised the importance of having Neighbourhood Police Officers in designated areas; however he explained a greater number of Officers would be allocated to higher demand areas. He also provided as an example that, in regards to Schools, the Police would focus on Pupil Referral Units and the major Secondary Schools, rather than visiting and building relations with all of them.

It was also noted that, as part of the WMP 2020 programme, there was an emphasis upon effective partnership working with communities, via key programmes such as Neighbourhood Watch and Street Watch. The Chief Superintendent explained they would focus upon mobilising the local community, whereby they helped empower people, allowing the Police to focus on critical areas.

### **RESOLVED**

That the verbal update be received and noted.

## **5. DRUG AND ALCOHOL TREATMENT SERVICES CONTRACT**

The Commissioner for Substance Misuse presented the report, explaining how they commissioned a partnership of organisations known as SIAS (Solihull Integrated Addiction Service) to provide treatment for drug and alcohol additions. She detailed how these services were led by Birmingham and Solihull Foundation Trust with Solihull MBC. The Commissioner also emphasised they were clear with service users and their families that, whilst there were various providers, there was one service that met all their needs.

The Commissioner detailed how the current contract was awarded in April 2014 for 3 years, with an option to extend for a further 2. She also explained how the commissioning of these services was overseen by a multi-agency group, the Drug and Alcohol Joint Commissioning Group (DAJCG) – it was noted a review of the service was scheduled in October.

The Commissioner explained how an agreed performance management framework was monitored by DAJCG, which consisted of a number of key performance indicators – it was noted 4 of these indicators related to the Community Safety Plan and was included in the Community Safety Partnership scorecard. The Commissioner identified the relevant indicators as follows:

### Numbers in effective treatment – all drug users

The Commissioner highlighted this indicator was below the minimum performance standard. She explained how the providers were putting together an action plan to address this, with a particular emphasis upon raising awareness of the treatment services available amongst drug users and their families. However, the Commissioner did also emphasize the evidence demonstrated that, once drug users engaged in treatment, the quality of intervention was good.

### Number of users of opiates and/or crack cocaine recorded as being in effective treatment

The Commissioner detailed how this indicator was above the minimum performance standard – it was noted that 411 out of 740 known opiate and/or crack cocaine users across

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the Borough were engaged in treatment, which indicated a very good engagement rate, especially compared to other areas across the West Midlands. The Commissioner explained the volume of opiates and/or crack cocaine users were declining and this indicated treatment services needed to focus on other drug users

### The Number of alcohol clients in contact with treatment in the last 12 months

The Commissioner highlighted this indicator was below the minimum performance standard. She explained how an action plan had been developed that focused on identification and engagement of residents drinking at hazardous and harmful levels. It was noted this plan placed particular emphasis upon raising awareness of services via social media, as well as greater partnership working with GP practices.

Members noted the Commissioners observation that opiate and/or crack cocaine use was declining – they queried whether this was correct, especially amongst young people. The Commissioner explained there was a significant drop in use of these drugs, especially amongst young people – she emphasised the issue here was use of legal highs and cannabis. She noted that young people may have a high level of awareness regarding opiates/crack cocaine, but they were not users.

The Commissioner explained that treatment services needed to focus to a greater extent upon legal highs, as use of this amongst young people was rising – it was noted they needed to identify types of intervention to prevent use. Members emphasised the need to raise awareness of the issue of legal highs – the Commissioner explained she agreed with this and noted awareness was a particular problems with these drugs, as they were constantly changing. She explained how they would look to raise awareness of this issue amongst Teachers and Governors, as well as work and share intelligence with different partners, such as the Police and Trading Standards.

Members highlighted alcohol abuse and queried whether an issue here was access, due to low prices. The Commissioner agreed having minimum unit prices would have an impact upon consumption and explained Public Health England was currently collating evidence regarding this.

### **RESOLVED**

That the update be received and noted.

## **6. SAFER SOLIHULL PARTNERSHIP**

The Community Safety Manager presented the Safer Solihull Performance Scorecard for Quarter 2. She detailed how, previously, there had been some seasonal variance in crime rates, whereby incidents of anti-social-behaviour had typically risen – the Partnership had focused upon this, which had led to 30 percent reduction in reported levels.

The Community Safety Manager detailed how the indicator for victim satisfaction had declined and had been attributed red RAG status. She explained this may be attributable to victims' expectations as to what measures the Police/Partner organisations could undertake to address their concerns. The Community Safety Manager provided the example that tenants may expect problem neighbours to be evicted – this may not be an option; however she emphasised the Police/Partners would still look to undertake action to address any antisocial behaviour.

### **RESOLVED**

That the Safer Solihull Performance Scorecard for Quarter 2 be noted.

## **7. SAFER SOLIHULL PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT & COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN**

The Community Safety Manager presented the report, where she detailed the Safer Solihull Partnership's Strategic Assessment and its priorities for the partnership for 2016/17.

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The Members emphasised they agreed with the recommendations as per section 5 of the report, which included that the two partnership plus areas, Chelmsley Town and Smiths Town Centres should remain the focus for partnership activity together with Solihull and Shirley Town Centres. Members also stressed that, in relation to Solihull Town Centre, people needed quick and easy access to taxis when they left pubs and clubs, in order to help mitigate against anti-social behaviour. The Community Safety Manager explained she agreed and detailed how this issue had been looked at by the relevant Partners.

### **RESOLVED**

The Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel:

- (i) Endorsed the Safer Solihull Partnership Annual Strategic Assessment & Community Safety Plan.
- (ii) Endorsed the recommendations as per Section 5 of this report; and
- (iii) Endorsed the recommendation that, following this review of crime and disorder, the current priorities remain for 2016/17