

CRIME AND DISORDER SCRUTINY PANEL

9 FEBRUARY 2017

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MINUTES

Present: Councillor Mrs Holl-Allen MBE (Chairman); Councillors B Holmes, A Ludlow, Mrs A Mackenzie and M Wilson.

Apologies:

None.

Report authors/witnesses in attendance:

Gillian Crabbe (Community Safety Manager - Managed Growth and Communities).

External Witnesses in attendance:

Kobina Hall (SWM Community Rehabilitation Company).

Cabinet Members in attendance by invitation:

None.

Other Elected Members in attendance by invitation:

None.

1. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

2. QUESTIONS AND DEPUTATIONS

There were no questions or deputations.

3. REHABILITATION PROGRAMME PROGRESS UPDATE

In attendance: Kobina Hall (SWM Community Rehabilitation Company) and Gillian Crabbe (Community Safety Manager - Managed Growth and Communities).

The Panel was informed of the ongoing developments with the Community Rehabilitation Company following the introduction of the Transforming Rehabilitation agenda.

Following on from the Panel's report considered in January 2016, Kobina Hall from the SWM Community Rehabilitation Company attended the meeting and presented on the progress made to reduce offending and rehabilitate prolific and high crime offenders.

Copies of the CRC Change Programme document was circulated to Members which set out the strategies and initiatives to reduce reoffending, increase public safety and reduce the number of victims in the community through new ways of working together. The objective was to implement an operating model that transformed the rehabilitation agenda whilst still focusing on:

- Safeguarding, protecting and managing risks to the public.
- Delivering the contractual commitments and meeting commercial objectives.
- Continuing to deliver the sentences provided by the Court.
- Working actively and innovatively with partners.
- Gathering and using intelligence more effectively to continually improve services.

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RESOLVED

That the ongoing developments with the Community Rehabilitation Company following the introduction of the Transforming Rehabilitation agenda be endorsed.

4. SAFER SOLIHULL PARTNERSHIP – PERFORMANCE REPORT – QUARTER 3 2016/17

In attendance: Gillian Crabbe (Community Safety Manager - Managed Growth and Communities).

The Panel was provided with the Safer Solihull Partnership performance data for Quarter 3 2016/17. Members examined the performance scorecard and tactical priorities which focused on the Partnership's four key priorities of:

- Better protecting people from harm.
- Bringing offenders to justice and tackle re-offending.
- Supporting stronger communities.
- Making our neighbourhoods safer places.

Key issues to emerge were that total recorded crime had been above the Solihull monthly aspirational figure for the last months. Crime types with the largest difference between quarter's 2 and 3 were reported as:

- Theft from Motor Vehicle.
- Theft of Motor Vehicle.
- Burglary Other Building.
- Burglary Dwelling.

Particularly with regard to Burglary Dwelling, it was reported that the Partnership was currently drafting a Partnership Action Plan to address that increase in crime type (+40.1%). That would include tactics to catch offenders, crime deterrents, community advice and addressing people's perceptions of feeling unsafe.

RESOLVED

That the Safer Solihull Partnership performance data for Quarter 3 2016/17 be noted.

5. SAFER SOLIHULL ANNUAL STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY REPORT

In attendance: Gillian Crabbe (Community Safety Manager - Managed Growth and Communities).

The Panel had the opportunity to examine and comment upon the Safer Solihull Annual Strategic Assessment for 2016. Members also had the opportunity to scrutinise the priorities for the Partnership for 2017/20. The Panel's feedback from that exercise would aid the drafting of the Safer Solihull 3 Year Community Safety Plan.

The Safer Solihull Partnership had agreed that the established four Strategic Priorities (below) would continue into 2017/18 and then be subject to an annual review:

- Better protecting people from harm.
- Bringing offenders to justice and tackle re-offending.
- Supporting stronger communities.
- Making our neighbourhoods safer places.

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The Partnership had also agreed that the areas of focus and co-ordinated partnership work for 2017/20 should remain as set out in Appendix D of the draft Strategic Assessment, with the outcomes for the following types being considered in more detail. Key themes for 2017/18 were reported as:

- Burglary Dwelling – including preventing the winter seasonal crime increase.
- Supporting vulnerable victims of ASB. The Partnership Board had acknowledged that ASB occurred everywhere but the Partnership would give consideration to the risk of harm and the future threat to determine people and situations of priority.
- Public Place Violence prioritising Chelmsley Town Partnership Plus area and Solihull Town area.
- Delivery against the Partnership Domestic Abuse Action Plan.

It had also been recommended that the two Partnership Plus areas of Chelmsley Town and Smith's Wood should remain the focus of partnership activity, together with Solihull Town and Shirley Town areas. The Partnership would also ensure that repeat victimisation was administered with a partnership approach through multi-agency mechanisms such as Local Priority setting panels, ASB Case Conferencing or the Harm and Vulnerable Victims Group.

The Panel noted that there had been five key trends identified in last year's Strategic Assessment:

- **Seasonal Rises in Crime** - Total Recorded Crime had reduced over a five year period but for the past three years the data had not displayed significant changes and the crime levels had been controlled (static) rather than reducing. Despite the better control over crime levels, there remained rises in both November (2015) and March (2016) and in 2015/16 that trend continued in 2015 the November increase saw levels of crime remain high throughout the winter period which was unusual for Solihull. The Partnership needed to consider what could be done differently in 2017/18 to ensure those increases in crime did not occur again.
- **More Community Triggers than expected** – at the last assessment, Solihull had received ten requests to activate the Community Trigger. Six of those had met the threshold and of those that did not meet the threshold, it was because the complainant had not reported the incidents to the relevant authorities. However, those complaints were then referred to the multi-agency Problem Solving Panels for consideration. All the complaints that met the trigger were noisy neighbour complaints which in some cases had escalated to intimidation. Action plans had been instigated but the key area for learning had been the need for agencies to improve the communication required to keep complainants updated. The Safer Solihull Partnership was now using the E-CINS36 system to share information securely across multiple agencies and aid multi agency case management.
- **Increased Traveller Encampments** – from the last assessment there were 103 calls recorded by Solihull Police relating to 13 incidents of travellers encamping on parks and open spaces. It had not just been Council land that was used, with reports of travellers on private car parks, private land and farmland. A new joint protocol to manage unauthorised encampments and developments in Solihull was finalised in July 2015, and since then there has been an improvement in the time taken to remove unauthorised travellers encampments from Council land.
- **Increasing use of Social Media** had meant that people heard about events much more rapidly than they did in the past and knowing others who had been victimised raised the perceptions that they would become a victim even if they had no experience of being a victim themselves. That resulted in criticism of public services and their ability to keep people safe. The Safer Solihull Partnership used Twitter to

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communicate messages and activities to our communities. There were now a plethora of twitter accounts that sent messages but individual agencies communications departments lead on official messaging.

- **Offensive content on Social Media and tolerance** remained a concern. Comments made about or to specific individuals or groups focusing on gender, race, religion, nationality or sexual orientation continued and have received national coverage which should have educated people that this type of behaviour was criminal. The level of recorded crime related to sending a communication conveying a threatening message was low, however had increased over the past year. In Solihull particular negative comments had continued around Travellers.

The following were the trends that had been seen over the past year:

- **Domestic Violence increase** – Over the past three years the volume of domestic violence had been increasing but over the past year the increase was more significant. There had been 177 locations over the past year which had seen more than one crime recorded (a repeat rate of 19.4 percent). Twelve locations had 5 or more crimes recorded. At those 177 locations, 469 crimes had been recorded which was almost two in five domestic violence crimes recorded within Solihull.
- **Internet / Social Media Trends** – examples of social media trends which had turned into activities which had led to concerns about safety had included PokemonGo, Killer Clown, the choking game and various other challenges which involved taking photos or videos of yourself to “immortalise” the most “daring” pictures.
- **Child Internet Safety** - The Evidence Group of UKCCIS (UK Council for Child Internet Safety) had recently published a summary of the key findings from research by the NSPCC and FACTs International about the knowledge that parents had of sexting and young people. Key findings which were highlighted included that there was a lack of clarity regarding the law around sexting: half of parents were unaware that it was illegal for a child to take a naked or sexual image of themselves, and 28% did not know that it was illegal for a child to send a naked or sexual image to a peer.
- **More co-ordinated illegal off road activity** – a subculture had emerged this year which claimed to have nothing to do with crime but the ride-outs that were being organised had caused mayhem on our streets and fear in residents with reputational damage to agencies within the Partnership. The Safer Roads Group, a partnership between West Midlands Fire Service, Solihull Council and Solihull Police, deliver on the Road Safety Strategy 2012-2016 for Solihull. They were currently refreshing the Strategy which would be reported to the Transport and Highways Cabinet for decision.

In updating its 2016/17 Strategy and outlining its intended actions to address its priority areas, the Partnership had also agreed to continue to monitor levels and trends of crime and anti-social behaviour and respond to performance concerns using best practice from across the country through recognised organisations.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the published Safer Solihull Annual Strategic Assessment for 2016 be noted; and
- (ii) That the priorities for the Partnership, areas of focus and co-ordinated partnership work for 2017/20, be unanimously supported.

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6. CRIME AND DISORDER SCRUTINY PANEL WORK PLAN 2016/17

The Panel's work plan was submitted which set out the intended business for the April 2017 meeting. No additions or amendments to the work plan were made.

RESOLVED

That the Panel's work plan be noted and the agenda for its April 2017 meeting be agreed.

(End time 7.45pm)