

TRAFFIC, ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY SAFETY SCRUTINY PANEL

Minutes of the meeting of the Traffic, Environment & Community Safety Scrutiny Panel held on Thursday, 10 December 2015 at 5.30pm at the Civic Offices, Portsmouth

Present

Councillor Stuart Potter (in the Chair)
Lynne Stagg
Lee Hunt
David Tompkins

36. Apologies for Absence. (AI 1)

Councillors Ryan Brent and Ian Lyon sent their apologies; Councillors Simon Boshier and Scott Harris deputised for them.

37. Declarations of Members' Interests (AI 2)

No interests were declared.

38. Minutes of the Previous Meeting. (AI 3)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 28 September 2015 be agreed as a correct record.

39. Review of Community Safety. (AI 4)

Lisa Wills, Strategy and Partnership Manager gave a presentation (a copy is attached to these minutes) and in response to questions from the panel, clarified the following points:

- Both the percentage and the actual number (n) of increases and decreases are given as small numbers can result in misleading significant percentage increases/ decreases.
- The Crime & Disorder Act makes it clear that it is not a single organisation's responsibility to reduce crime.
- The Act requires the Safer Portsmouth Partnership (SPP) to use data from a number of sources, including the ambulance service and the Accident and Emergency Department at Queen Alexandra Hospital.
- The Office for National Statistics removed its quality mark previously given to the police because it is not satisfied with the integrity of data.
- The Home Office introduced National Crime Recording Standards in 2002 which had the effect of increasing levels crime overall particularly violent crime and between 2002/3 and 2003/4 violent crime increased by 50%. The council uses 2007/8 as its baseline so that the data is reliable. However, the 2014 inspection of police data by HMIC found significant under-recording in many areas including Hampshire.
- The SPP use a range of data to 'triangulate' where it is not clear what is driving increases or decreases in certain areas.
- Despite national crime recording standards, Police forces still have different methods of recording crime.

- The SPP carries out a community safety survey in conjunction with the university every two years. The latest one was carried out in 2014 with 800 face-to-face interviews. The locations are selected according to the local demographics so that the survey is as representative as possible. A booster sample was also taken with minority groups. These interviews produce more detailed views and more reliable data than online surveys. Students are trained to conduct the interviews. The SPP has two part time researchers who are paid by all the partners except the police. The police stopped contributing as it has its own researchers.
- Research has been carried out in the past to identify the drivers for violence; domestic abuse is the single most significant driver, 31% of all violence.
- Police are asked to tick a box if alcohol is a factor in incidents that they attend. However, this information is not captured 50% of the time.
- The more risk factors involved, the higher the likelihood that a person will commit a crime. An analysis of a sample group taken from the anti-social behaviour database showed that 75% of people had one or more risk factors
- Novel psychoactive substances (NPS) are commonly referred to as 'legal highs' although many are not legal.
- The reduction in acquisitive crime is likely to be linked to the increase in people receiving treatment for drug misuse over the past ten years.
- Once in care, looked after children remain at risk of re-offending.
- In 2010, reoffenders were responsible for 24% of the 22k recorded crimes and 86% of the 5461 crimes detected.
- Purple Futures is a new partnership of private sector, charities and social enterprises, which provides 70% of the probation and rehabilitation services in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight on behalf of the Ministry of Justice. The remaining 30% of cases are higher risk and are dealt with by the national probation service.
- The majority of offenders commit one or two crimes over twelve months.
- Officers are recommending the SPP's priorities will be reduced to three next year for the next two years (until March 2017)..
- The drivers of anti-social behaviour are complex and there is little co-ordination between the agencies involved in dealing with them.
- The Complex Cases Group (formerly known as dual diagnosis) discusses management issues around people with mental health and substance misuse issues.
- Closer working and sharing of information is required by all the teams that are involved e.g. mental health, substance misuse, housing and education services.
- Professor Keith Grint from the Warwick Business School labelled problems as tame, wicked or critical and set out the appropriate ways to deal with them. He emphasised the need for collaborative leadership to deal with 'wicked' problems.
- The police do not want to hold people with mental health issues in their custody suites, but often have no choice as there are only one or two mental health workers on duty and facilities are not available 24/7.

- The SPP will identify a cohort of approximately 20-30 complex cases involving anti-social behaviour in the city, identify the offenders' risk factors and analyse the way they are dealt with by the various agencies involved.
- Integrated Offender Management (IOM) brings a cross-agency response to the crime and reoffending threats faced by local communities. The most persistent and problematic offenders are identified and managed jointly by partner agencies working together. The Portsmouth team is based in the Civic Offices with the police and information is shared.
- There has been a decrease in youth offending over the years. Many offenders have low educational attainment, problems with thinking and behaviour and relationships
- The Early Help Profile (previously known as the Early Intervention Audit) identifies children who may be at risk, when they have poor attendance at school, missed medical appointments, have parents with substance misuse issues etc. The early help profile will be used to drive the work of the multi-agency teams being developed under the governance of the Children's Trust Board. Over the last few years, there has been many changes in the way organisations work and are funded. This has resulted in cutbacks and gaps in service delivery.
- There has been a 52% increase in hate crime reported to the police over past 12 months. Following the council's decision to cut the Hate Crime Team, the council will look at working with the police as to how victims can be supported.
- The Police and Crime Plan has evolved considerably and the Police Crime Commissioner (PCC) is very forward looking. However, he has looked to hold the SPP to account, which is not within his remit
- The Home Office has focussed on the PCC to the detriment of raising awareness of the benefits of existing community safety partnerships..
- The PCC has a budget to run his office, the police budget and a range of different funding streams including funding for victim support and Home Office funding that was previously available to community safety partnerships. Community safety managers have asked for details of PCC contracts to be published on the website. He has made public commitments to protect neighbourhood teams and PCSOs.
- The Community Task Co-ordinating Groups were established in 2006 as local problem solving groups. These have gradually ceased to function after police cuts forced the withdrawal of the co-ordinator post. Responsibility for managing the groups was given to the police beat teams; however they have not met recently. Talks are currently underway regarding how these could be re-instated and linked up to other work across the city.
- There are plans for neighbourhood policing teams to move into the Buckland and Paulsgrove Housing Offices. It could be useful for representatives from all agencies to come together and walk through example cases to identify areas for improved joint working.
- It is important that the effectiveness of services is regularly monitored, particularly in view of the reduction of resources, that there is mutual understanding and co-ordination between services and that multi-agency forums are empowered.

Members discussed their experiences of how cases have been dealt with in their areas. They agreed that it was essential that agencies work together to resolve problems and to ensure that they do not simply move to another area.

Actions.

It was agreed that:

- Details of the PCC's allocation over the last 12 months be sent to the panel.
- A draft form of words for the title of the scrutiny report would be circulated to the group for approval.

The meeting concluded at 7pm.

Councillor Stuart Potter
Chair