

TRAFFIC, ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY SAFETY SCRUTINY PANEL

Minutes of the meeting of the Traffic, Environment & Community Safety Scrutiny Panel held on Tuesday, 2 February 2016 at 3pm at the Civic Offices, Portsmouth

Present

Councillor Stuart Potter (in the Chair)
Lynne Stagg
Ryan Brent
David Tompkins

1. **Apologies for Absence. (AI 1)**
Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Lee Hunt and Ian Lyon.
2. **Declarations of Members' Interests (AI 2)**
No interests were declared.
3. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting. (AI 3)**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 10 December 2015 be agreed as a correct record.

4. **Review into how community safety partners can work together to reduce demand and cost for intensive specialist services currently supporting individuals with complex needs. (AI 4)**

The chair reminded everyone of the objectives for this review.

RESOLVED that the terms of reference for this review be agreed.

Councillor Stagg commented that Southern Health (a health care provider) was recently castigated for poor investigation procedures into the deaths of adults with learning and mental health issues in their care. A lack of communication between departments was identified as a key factor. This highlights the importance of communication within organisations and with partners.

Chris White, Partnerships Inspector and Acting Chief Inspector included the following points in his presentation:

There has been and continues to be a significant amount of change in the police and its partners agencies since 2008 and close working between everyone involved is essential.

The political boundaries and police boundaries in Portsmouth are aligned.

The Police & Crime Commissioner intends to match these sector boundaries. This is good opportunity for the police activity to be aligned with the Police & Crime Commissioner and the councils' delivery and priorities. At a recent

meeting with key partners it emerged that some had not had sight of different partners' organisational change proposals.

The policy and performance team is based in the court in Winchester.

Crime recording methods have changed e.g. if a victim of domestic violence informs the police that there have been previous unreported incidents, these are then logged. There is a subsequent increase in crime statistics.

The structure of governance has changed; there are now divided strands that have their own hierarchy. This led to dissolution of some meetings including the Community, Task and Co-ordinating Group (CTCG) which looked at crime and anti-social behaviour very successful outcomes. Dave Smith, Hampshire & Isle of Wight Fire Authority is currently looking into re-establishing this group with a focus on more forward looking agendas to tease out emerging problems and identify who will take responsibility for dealing with them.

It is important that the new partnership structures and objectives are understood by all and that information and resources are shared. This will be facilitated by the multi-agency teams that are coming on line in April.

During the discussion, members made the following comments:

- The structure of the police force was not understood.
- In the Drayton & Farlington ward, the PCSOs are more highly regarded than the police officers because they are a more constant presence.
- It is important that residents help themselves rather than rely on statutory services, but if they do not receive any feedback they will quickly become discouraged.
- Enforcement is important but there is a greater need for prevention and community empowerment and education is key to both these.
- The lack of understanding of the organisations involved is a barrier to change. However, there is an opportunity to deliver services differently and better.
- The police are involved in identifying the needs of service users and informing the appropriate service.

Sarah Beattie, Local Delivery Unit Head, National Probation Service, Southampton, Portsmouth & Isle of Wight and Barbara Swyer, Head of Operations, Hampshire & Isle of Wight Community Rehabilitation Company included the following points in their presentation:

There had been significant changes in the probation service and partnership working. In June 2014, the Hampshire Probation Trust was split into the National Probation Service (NPS) and the Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC). The former is part of the National Offender Management Service and is responsible for assessing offenders when first come to court and during their journey. If they are classed as posing a high risk of harm or fall under Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) the NPS deals with them. The NPS commissions treatment programmes from the CRC and also runs probation hostels. The CRC is a sub company of Interserve, a large facility management company which works with people at

low or medium risk of harm and those at high risk of re-offending (approximately 60% of offenders). It also provides the programmes bought by the NPS, which cover domestic violence, alcohol dependency, employment training and drink-driving. The government has plans to open up the market for the provision of these programmes.

There are a number of structures available for the NPS and CRC to feed into including the Safer Portsmouth Partnership (SPP) and authority meetings.

The council and its officers are very proactive and approachable.

One of the aims of the NPS is to transform behaviour.

It is important to understand the drivers for all partners.

In response to questions from the panel, the following points were clarified:

- Many of the programmes are accredited and some are in the process of being accredited.
- If an offender under supervision commits a further serious offence, there is a full investigation involving both organisations, if both the NPS and CRC are involved. Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation could get involved in some of these cases.
- Although the CRC is a private company, it is not all about profits and shareholders.
- The Ministry of Justice contracts the CRC on a payment by results basis. The first payment is for dealing with the person and the second for targets relating to a decrease in re-offending on a sliding scale. The government collates the data and publishes reoffending rates. There is a time lag of two years for the NPS and one year for the CRC.
- Desistance from offending is not always linear and may instead decrease over time rather than immediately ceasing as it can be related to a very entrenched lifestyle.
- They deal with people over 18 years old. However, some NPS staff are seconded to a youth offending team to supervise youth offending team cases.
- Close working with all the agencies involved is crucial.
- The offender is at the heart of things as the aim is to reduce re-offending and protect the public.
- There is a service-user group in Portsmouth whose membership has grown from 3 to 20 or 30 people. It meets regularly and there is a focus on self-help within that group with mentoring and recognised skills.
- Restorative justice.
- It is essential that partners understand what drivers each organisation, what they provide and then focus on the synergies.
- The responsiveness of each agency is variable.
- There is better working across services. This is particularly noticeable when the probation service works with mental health and alcohol treatment agencies.
- The Through the Gate Initiative was introduced in May 2015 and means that prisoner has an initial assessment and then a resettlement

assessment two or three days later. This is carried out by a company called Catch 22 on behalf of the CRC. Twelve weeks before release, they are offered interventions dealing with employment, training, accommodation and debt management. Catch 22 either signposts offenders to the intervention or provides it.

- Community Payback formerly known as Community Rehabilitation has been very poorly portrayed in the media. Raising awareness of what can be done and its success rates in terms of reducing re-offending is essential.
- The media has a significant responsibility for public perception. Residents are not aware of the success stories regarding re-offending rates.
- The NPS does not currently have any volunteers involved in its work.
- The CRC has volunteer ex-service personnel who help offenders with a similar background. This has been very successful and it might be extended.
- Educational courses in prison are not as well paid as employment.

The Strategy & Partnership Manager explained that:

- It is essential that all the partners understand each other. She suggested that the panel could consider asking the SPP to work on raising awareness.
- Preparation is underway for this year's survey which will start in April and the results published in May.

During the discussion, members commented:

- Residents are concerned with issues that have a significant impact on them. Many base their perception of the police's performance on these highly visible indicators which could include minor anti-social behaviour in the park or a low attendance of police at neighbourhood forums.
- They do not know exactly what the police, court and probation do. Their priority is that offenders are caught and dealt with quickly.
- The Circles of Support is a charity that helps sex offenders reintegrate safely into society.
- There are areas where more work is required including data and resources sharing and communication.
- Raising educational attainment of prisoners is essential with a certificate awarded at the end of courses. Many retired teachers would be involved in assisting with this.

The meeting concluded at 4.45pm.

Councillor Stuart Potter
Chair