

'Members of the Council: If you identify any personal training / development requirements from the items included in this agenda or through issues raised during the meeting, please bring them to the attention of the Committee Clerk at the close of the meeting'

Officers will be in attendance prior to the meeting for informal discussions on agenda items.

Public Document Pack Agenda Item 3

CLEANER GREENER AND SAFER COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 5th September, 2012

Present:- Councillor Mrs Gillian Williams – in the Chair

Councillors Allport, Hailstones, Mrs Johnson, Robinson, Stringer, Sweeney, Tagg and Wemyss

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Mrs Burgess and Councillor Miss Reddish.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 30 July 2012 be agreed as a correct record.

4. THE MOVE OF FENTON MAGISTRATES COURT TO NEWCASTLE MAGISTRATES COURT - SCRUTINY BRIEF

The move of Fenton Magistrates Court to Newcastle Magistrates Court was considered by the Committee and the invited representatives. HM Courts and Tribunals Service were unable to attend but provided a response to questions.

Members questioned whether the area around Newcastle Magistrates Court would be policed or if there was an anticipation of extra policing. There were concerns that offenders may stay in the area of the courts all day and there were off licences situated around the court. Furthermore, the actual situation of CCTV around the court appeared to only cover the court building itself.

Members questioned whether there were any plans regarding safety issues for the former Sainsburys' car park as there were dependent street drinkers who could be found on there. It was believed that only the ground floor was in use and the other floors were secure.

The Committee considered that an officer working group should be set up to monitor the move of the courts.

RESOLVED: (a) That the information be received.

(b) That an officer and partner working group be set up to monitor the court move.

5. THE REVISED ACTION PLAN FOR THE ALCOHOL STRATEGY

The Committee considered a scrutiny brief regarding the revised action plan for the Council's Alcohol Strategy. The action plan needed to be approved by the Alcohol Strategy PAG in September, and was therefore in draft form.

The Committee agreed that regular updates were required regarding the revised action plan.

With regard to the Alcohol Strategy, the Committee were offered the opportunity to receive the results of the young persons and parent survey.

It was confirmed that there was a triage service in the town centre which had been paid for by the Council and other agencies. There had been a verbal agreement to enhance this scheme with paramedics and consultants, but this had since fallen through and the Chief Executive was currently heading a group of officers who were looking at putting a project together regarding this.

Many organisational priorities had now changed including those for the NHS, but they were still prepared to pay two thirds of the cost as it could not be met by Safer Nights. Members questioned whether there was greater capacity at the new Accident and Emergency department and that if this was the case then was the initiative no longer a priority for the NHS. Members could understand why WMAS did not want to fund the scheme and it was considered that it could be a new funding project for the University Hospital of North Staffordshire. There were problems with capacity at the new Accident and Emergency Department and they had received a fine for not hitting their targets. It was suggested that a wider investigation be carried out regarding funding opportunities.

There was consideration by Members of unit prices for alcohol. It was also questioned whether there could be block closing of venues in Newcastle and Stoke at 12.00pm.

Members noted that Gloucester Borough Council had converted a bus where night-time drinkers could receive treatment, and questioned whether the Borough Council had spoken to them about the service. Officers confirmed that the Borough Council had looked into the idea with St. Johns Ambulance and First Bus, but there were no decommissioned vehicles available at the time. There was also the issue of making any suitable vehicle safe and compliant with the law, and there would also be insurance implications. It was considered that it could cost a few thousand pounds and was therefore not a viable option at the present time.

RESOLVED: (a) That the information be received.

(b) That regular updates be received regarding the revised action plan.

6. THE NATIONAL ALCOHOL STRATEGY AND ITS IMPACT ON LOCAL ISSUES

The Committee received a presentation from the Council's Community Safety Officer (Alcohol Lead) and considered a briefing note regarding the National Alcohol Strategy and its impact on local issues.

RESOLVED: That the information be received.

7. **UPDATE ON THE STRONGER AND SAFER STRATEGY FOLLOWING THE CLOSE OF CONSULTATION ON 10 AUGUST 2012**

The Committee considered the updated Stronger and Safer Strategy 2012-2017 along with the strategy's action plan.

The consultation had run from 16 May to 10 August 2012. The Committee were supportive of the strategy. It was expected to be signed off towards the end of September.

RESOLVED: That the information be received.

8. **UPDATE ON THE NEWCASTLE PARTNERSHIPS STRUCTURE**

The Committee received a presentation from the Council's Partnerships Manager and considered a briefing note regarding the Newcastle Partnerships Structure.

There had previously been a Local Strategic Partnership with Staffordshire County Council and the Children's Trust Health Group, which had been a very large structure. There was now one Newcastle Partnership Strategic Board. Members questioned how often the group met and whether the Leader of the Council sat on the group. It was confirmed that the group met monthly and the Leader did not sit on it. Members considered that the new structure was a vast improvement.

RESOLVED: That the information be received.

9. **DEVELOPING WARMZONE TO MAXIMISE FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES**

The Committee considered a report regarding developing WarmZone to maximise future opportunities.

Green Deal was a new government scheme whereby work to improve a home would be funded by a loan, which would be based on the expected savings made as a result of the work. Five low income areas had been identified within the Borough that additional (ECO) grant funding could be targeted at.

Members considered that WarmZone had been a resounding success and that the Council should continue to support the North Staffordshire Warm Zone to enable it to maximise the uptake of funding which will be on offer from the national Green Deal and ECO energy efficiency programmes

RESOLVED: (a) That the information be received.

(b) That the Committee recommend that North Staffordshire Warm Zone should continue to be supported.

10. **WORK PLAN**

The Committee considered the work plan items to be on track.

11. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no urgent business considered.

COUNCILLOR MRS GILLIAN WILLIAMS
Chair

Briefing Note for Scrutiny

Alcohol Action Plan

As the alcohol action plan is so broad we have decided initially to concentrate on two key projects:

1. Early Intervention/Prevention Project in Schools

The aim is to secure support for the introduction of a comprehensive prevention and education programme within some or all of the Secondary Schools within Newcastle Borough. A key component of this is to refresh the Personal, Social, Health and Education agenda within Schools ensuring that alcohol and drugs education cross cuts throughout the whole curriculum.

Currently two secondary schools have signed up to be early implementers with a further 2 middle and secondary schools willing to take part.

The Education Transformation Team (ETT) has been awarded the contract to initiate this programme of change.

Currently over 40 front line Learning Support Families First staff have been trained up to deliver the resources within the Schools.

Current internal developments

Staffs County Council via the Alcohol Change Lead have asked Districts to lead on this project.

This project was articulated both verbally and in a written report to the Partnership Delivery Group (PDG) on 1st November. The PDG are considering the projects but require more information/clarity from the Alcohol Change Lead at Staffs County Council who has been invited to the next meeting to answer questions.

2. Strengthening families programme

This project covers ages from 10 to 14 and looks to prevent and deter a number of issues such as anti-social behaviour, substance misuse, alcohol fuelled violence and domestic abuse. It is a prelude to the Troubled Families agenda which focuses on intervention after the event has occurred. Although this project has been driven by Staffs County Council the Alcohol Change Lead has asked each District to take some local governance over this project.

Current progress: Learning Support Teams have been engaged, training has been delivered, extra funding is being sought, and a course approach with looked after children and parents with drug issues are being formulated.

Current internal developments

As with the previous project the Strengthening Families project was articulated both verbally and in a written report to the Partnership Delivery Group (PDG) on 1st November. The PDG are considering the projects but require more information/clarity from the Alcohol Change Lead at Staffs County Council who has been invited to the next meeting to answer questions.

East Cheshire alcohol pricing update

Regarding the East Cheshire pricing work my understanding was that their plans were being put on hold pending the Government taking forward primary legislation, which they had been campaigning for very strongly as the panacea. The introduction of a nationwide approach towards minimum unit pricing overcomes some of the challenges associated with 'border' areas etc.

As I recall, at the time they felt there was little point in spending money and effort trying to introduce something that would happen anyway and there were some benefits in someone else taking responsibility. However, if following consultation, the government choose not to pursue this then they would still be able to pick up from where they left off. I am not sure whether this was their 'formal' position as I don't think it had gone to their partnership board.

Trevor Smith
Community Safety Officer

Brief for Scrutiny – Kidsgrove Policing

<p>Topic to be scrutinised</p> <p>The potential move into Kidsgrove Town Hall and out of Kidsgrove Police Station by the local policing team.</p> <p>How policing of Kidsgrove and the rural area will look in the future.</p>
<p>Questions to be addressed</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are the arrangements going to be for this move and for future policing in the area? 2. How have these arrangements been developed and what issues have been considered in this development? 3. What is the impact of these moves on the community and partners? 4. What opportunities are there for partnership working as a result of these moves and what benefits are there for citizens and other key stakeholders? 5. What benefits have resulted from any changes and what positive outcomes may be felt in the future? 6. What are the timescales for the developments? 7. How can local Councillors and community members be kept informed about future changes and what role can they play in assisting these moves?
<p>Outcomes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enhanced knowledge and awareness of forthcoming changes 2. An understanding of the background and ongoing issues relating to this matter and an ability to consider developments as and when they occur 3. An opportunity to put forward possible suggestions for further consideration where possible 4. An enhanced understanding and consideration of partnership working and key factors involved in the delivery of safer and stronger communities outcomes
<p>Background materials</p> <p>Any documentation provided by the Police to the Cleaner, Greener, Safer Overview & Scrutiny Committee</p>
<p>Evidence and witnesses</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Neil Hulme or another nominated rep, Staffordshire Police 2. Partner organisations (if relevant) 3. Relevant Cabinet Portfolio Holders (if relevant) 4. Heads Of Service & Business Managers (if relevant)
<p>Method of scrutiny</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Cleaner, Greener, Safer Overview & Scrutiny Committee may wish to examine this Brief and suggest particular areas of focus 2. The Cleaner, Greener, Safer Overview & Scrutiny Committee may wish to agree a proposed methodology for this work, which could include presentations to the Committee members by appropriate partners and/or task and finish groups if felt relevant
<p>Timetable</p> <p>To be considered at the 30th July meeting of the Cleaner, Safer, Greener Overview & Scrutiny Committee</p>
<p>Constraints</p> <p>Work is needed to establish appropriate linkages with key Police contacts who the Committee wishes to engage with the process or attend meetings.</p> <p>Work needed to understand timescales for any proposed moves.</p>
<p>Members to undertake the scrutiny</p>

Members of Cleaner, Safer, Greener Overview & Scrutiny Committee
<p>Support Chief Inspector, Newcastle Neighbourhood Policing Team Head of Business Improvement & Partnerships (also TWWW Programme Manager) Heads of Service & Business Managers</p>
<p>Newcastle Borough Council Corporate Plan Priority area (s)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Creating a cleaner, safer and sustainable Borough ○ Creating a Borough of opportunity ○ Creating a healthy and active community ○ Transforming our Council to achieve excellence
<p>CfPS Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provides and critical friend challenge to executive policy makers and decision makers ● Enables the voice and concerns of the public to be heard ● Is carried out by independent governors who lead and own the scrutiny role ● Drives improvement in public services
<p>Brief approved by Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee Signed Date</p>