

## **ADULT SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

MEETING, 28TH NOVEMBER, 2006

Present – Councillors Shaw (Chairman), Higson (Vice-Chairman), Bashir-Ismail, Burrows, L. Byrne, Price, R. Ronson, J. Rothwell, A. Wilkinson, R. Wilkinson, Williamson and Woodward.

### Lay Members

Mr. J. Hartshorne  
Mrs. E. Tatman

### Also in Attendance

Councillor Clare	-	Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Health
Councillor Ibrahim	-	Executive Member for Culture and Community Services
Mr. J. Rutherford	-	Director of Adult Services
Mr. A. Doodson	-	Assistant Director of Adult Services (Environmental Health and Trading Standards)
Mr. N. Maher	-	Community Safety Manager, Adult Services
Chief Inspector Greenhalgh	-	Greater Manchester Police
Mr. D. Swain	-	Research Analyst, Adult Services

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Hamilton.

Councillor Shaw in the Chair.

## **33. MINUTES**

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Committee held on 10th October, 2006 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

**34. PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETINGS OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH**

The minutes of the proceedings of the meetings of the Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Health held on 23rd October and 13th and 21st November, 2006 were submitted.

Resolved – That the decisions of the Executive Member be noted.

**35. PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETINGS OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CULTURE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES**

The minutes of the proceedings of the meetings of the Executive Member for Culture and Community Services held on 23rd October and 13th and 21st November, 2006 were submitted.

Resolved – That the decisions of the Executive Member be noted.

**36. EXTRACT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE RELATING TO THE ALBERT HALLS SCRUTINY PANEL**

An extract of the proceedings of the meeting of the Executive held on 13th November, 2006 relating to the Albert Halls Scrutiny Panel was submitted.

Resolved – That the decision of the Executive be noted.

**37. PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE CULTURE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP**

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Culture and Community Services Policy Development Group held on 10th October, 2006 were submitted.

Resolved – That the minutes be noted.

**38. PROCEEDINGS OF THE ADULTS POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP**

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Adults Policy Development Group held on 31st October, 2006 were submitted.

Resolved – That the minutes be noted.

**39. PROCEEDINGS OF SPECIAL JOINT BUDGET MEETING OF ADULTS AND CULTURE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUPS**

The minutes of the proceedings of the special joint budget meeting of the Adults and Culture and Community Services Policy Development Groups held on 21st November, 2006 were submitted.

Resolved – That the minutes be noted.

**40. PROCEEDINGS OF SOCIAL NEED TRANSPORT REVIEW POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP**

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Social Need Transport Review Policy Development Group held on 26th September, 2006 were submitted.

Resolved – That the minutes be noted.

**41. ADULTS SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2006/2007**

The Director of Legal and Democratic Services submitted a report which put forward a list of issues that the Committee had

agreed to receive reports on or investigate further during the current Municipal Year.

Resolved – That the Work Programme, as now submitted, be approved.

#### **42. TOWN CENTRE SAFE – TACKLING ALCOHOL RELATED CRIMES**

Mr. N. Maher and Chief Inspector Greenhalgh attended the meeting and gave a presentation on the work undertaken by the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership in tackling alcohol related crimes over the last 12 months.

The Committee were advised that a dedicated targeted partnership response was needed to tackle crime to achieve a sustained reduction in the harm caused by drugs and alcohol and in February, 2004, Bolton had become involved in the Home Office Tackling Violent Crime Programme. A 23% reduction in violent crime was required by March, 2008.

April, 2005 to March, 2006 saw an increase in violent crime in the Borough, with more violent offences recorded than in the previous two years. The reduction target for violent crime for 2006/2007 was 2,797. Based on six monthly figures, it was projected that a level of 3,181 would be achieved. If current performance continued, it was likely the target would be missed by 14%.

The overall trend in violent offences was upwards public order offences were rising more steeply whilst serious assaults were declining. The rise in public order offences may not be due to a rise in incidents, however, but an increased use of Fixed Penalty Notices. The more serious assaults of Wounding and Grievous Bodily Harm had decreased, with further reductions also seen in criminal damage. In addition, since February, 2004, serious harm violence (murder, woundings) had fallen by 19%.

The Committee was then informed that Bolton Town Centre was the main hotspot for violent crime with 22% of offences

happening there. Outside the Town Centre, the areas with the highest number of violent crimes included Great Lever, Deane and Willows, Brownlow Fold and Brightmet North and together they contributed to 27% of Bolton's total.

The presentation then focused on the link between alcohol and crime and, although a causal link was difficult to establish, it was widely recognised that alcohol played a significant part in violent crime. 58% of violent crimes, not including domestic violence, and 42% of criminal damage happened within 200m of licensed premises, 39% of violent offences happened within 100m of licensed premises and 206 licensed premises contributed to 12% of offences, 93 of which were the location for more than one offence and 55 for more than two.

Members were informed that a Partnership approach had been adopted to tackle the problems and the following initiatives were highlighted:-

- Town Safe Partnership – now delivered locally;
- Strategic Direction – Tackling Violent Crime Programme and Alcohol Sub-Theme; and
- Tactical delivery via Local Area Planning Meeting.

An outline of some of the intervention work conducted across the Borough was also provided:-

- Evening Economy Project;
- Home Office (Police Standard Unit) Funded Campaigns – Alcohol Misuse Enforcement Campaign (AMEC), Domestic Violence Enforcement Campaign (DVEC) and Tackling Violent Crime Programme (TVCP);
- Targeted Operations – Multi-agency enforcement visits, targeted policing operations;

- Safe Haven – Holistic support service to domestic violence victims who were resident within emergency housing accommodation;
- Media and Publicity;
- Late Night Transport Initiatives;
- Accident and Emergency PND (Penalty Notice for Disorder) Pilot Project;
- Town Centre and Middlebrook Public Drinking Ban;
- Townsafe across the Borough; and
- Exclusion Orders.

Finally, members were advised of future opportunities to tackle the problem:-

- Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 – use of the powers made available under this Act, for example, Alcohol Disorder Zones (ADZ) – charging the trade for disorder, Drinking Banning Orders and powers available to tackle problem premises;
- CCTV Strategy Development;
- enhancement of established interventions based on needs analysis;
- opportunities around the development and regeneration of the Town Centre;
- closer input into work of the licensing department, e.g. around conditions of licence;
- development of targeted interventions in response to need, e.g. minor injuries unit;

- BID Status 2008; and
- Violent Crime Evaluating pending – impact on the future direction of the Partnership’s work to tackle violent crime.

The presentation concluded that the drinking culture could not be changed overnight but it was hoped in the future to tackle the problems with a pro-active targeted response, based on intelligence, lessons learnt, strategic partnership working and effective use of powers available.

Following the presentation, Mr. Maher and Chief Inspector Greenhalgh invited and responded to members’ questions.

Various issues, questions and comments were raised, as follows:-

- there was a responsibility of Pub managers to cease serving customers who appeared to be over the limit;
- need for curfews for ringleaders of gangs and the use of Anti-Social Behaviour Orders;
- it would be useful for local Police representatives to meet local Ward Councillors from hotspot areas;
- more resources were needed in the Town Centre and increased numbers of Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs). Bolton was approximately halfway to meeting its target for the number of PCSOs;
- it would be useful to have a programme with schools to tackle underage and binge drinking. There was already in existence a programme for secondary school children on drugs and alcohol abuse; and

- the invaluable service offered by the Community Police. A Safer Neighbourhoods scheme was also in operation, where the Borough was split into four areas, each with a designated Police presence.

Resolved – (i) That Mr. Maher and Chief Inspector Greenhalgh be thanked for their informative presentation; and

(ii) That a similar presentation be given to this Committee in 6-12 months time.

#### **43. BRITISH CRIME SURVEY KEY CRIMES – TARGET REVIEW**

Mr. D. Swain attended the meeting and gave members a presentation on Bolton's performance on the following 10 British Crime Survey categories:-

- burglary dwelling;
- criminal damage and arson;
- vehicle taking;
- theft from vehicles;
- vehicle interference;
- theft of pedal cycle;
- theft from the person;
- all wounding;
- robbery; and
- common assault.

The Council was performing well against targets in tackling burglary, vehicle taking, theft from vehicles and robbery.

Resolved – That Mr. Swain be thanked for his informative presentation.

(The meeting started at 6.00 p.m. and finished at 7.45 p.m.)



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**NOTES**