

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MEETING, 19TH NOVEMBER, 2009

Present – Councillors Higson (Chairman), A.S. Walsh (Vice Chairman), R. Barrow (substitute for Councillor J. Walsh), Chadwick, Connell, Harkin, Mistry (substitute for Councillor Hornby), Morgan, Mrs. Rothwell (substitute for Councillor J. Rothwell), and R. Silvester.

Also in attendance

Councillor Bashir-Ismail	Executive Member Cleaner, Greener, Safer
Ms. S. Johnson	Deputy Director of Corporate Resources and Committee Chief Officer Support
Mr. J. Rutherford	Director of Adult and Community Services
Chief Supt. S. Hartley	GM Police
FO J. O'Byrne	GM Fire and Rescue
Ms. G. Hughes	Head of Community Safety Services
Mr. D. Hashdi	Information and Evaluation Manager
Mr. M. Emerson	Principal Community Safety Officer
Mrs. C. Poole	Crime Disorder Reduction Officer
Mr. J. Addison	Principal Performance and Scrutiny Officer

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hollick, Hornby and J. Walsh

Councillor Higson in the Chair

28. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 7th October, 2009, were submitted and signed as a correct record.

29. PERFORMANCE OF SAFER BOLTON STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

The Director of Adult and Community Services submitted a report providing performance data on the indicators relevant to the Safer block for quarters one and two of 2009/10.

The report advised that, overall, the performance was very positive and the direction of travel good. However, there were a small number of indicators where performance was not as anticipated. These indicators were:-

- NI 144 - Offenders under probation supervision in employment at the end of their licence;
- NI 15 - Serious violent crime;
- NI 40 – Number of drug users in effective treatment;
- NI 49 – Primary Fires; and
- NI 33 - Arson

Appended to the report was a commentary detailing action being taken by Be Safe to address these underperforming targets. A verbal update was provided at the meeting advising that NI40, Number of Drug Users in Effective Treatment was now on track to meet its end of year target.

Specific indicator targets set either for the LAA or Community Plan were shown with an indication of whether they were on target for the 2009/10 out turn. Such indication was based on whether there was a very good chance, a relatively good chance or little chance of reaching the target/milestone.

All other indicators for the Safer block were shown using the traffic light system to indicate progress.

The majority of the perceptually based indicators had their baselines and targets derived from the Place Survey and the quarterly GMP Neighbourhood Survey provided information on which to monitor such targets. Some issues existed around the compatibility of the data fit to the indicator. Data relating to repeat incidents of domestic violence and the reoffending rates of young offenders was only available as a year end figure. Information relating to reoffending (Nis 18 and 30) was collated centrally and Government Office North West were still awaiting returns for the first quarter of the year. In terms of NI 35 (Building resilience to violent extremism) the Counter Terrorist Unit were yet to provide data for this indicator which needed to be put into the Greater Manchester context before it could be understood locally.

Members sought further information/clarification on the following issues:-

- a) The fall in performance in relation to non-domestic arson as opposed to domestic arson. In this regard, the Executive Member, Cleaner, Greener, Safer advised the meeting that she had opened discussions with the Council's Building Control Section in an effort to clarify what the Council's policy was in relation to making vacant, non-domestic buildings secure from arson. The Executive Member undertook to raise the matter with the Executive Member for Development, Housing and Skills with a view to the policy being examined and reviewed at the appropriate Policy Development Group.
- b) Whether GM Police Officers routinely reported incidents of vandalism of vacant business premises during the course of their duties;
- c) The measures being put in place to reduce serious violent crime and Bolton's position in relation to

other AGMA authorities; and

- d) Whether knife crime was a particular problem within Bolton.

Resolved – (i) That the report together with information provided at the meeting as a result of Members questions, be noted.

(ii) That a report be made to the meeting of the Committee on 9th March, 2010, on the outcome of any review into the Council's policy relating to the securing of vacant or derelict commercial buildings.

(iii) That the Partnership be congratulated on its work in reducing acquisitive crime.

30. MANAGING THE NIGHT TIME ECONOMY

The Director of Adult and Community Services submitted a report the purpose of which was to provide Members with an update on the crime and disorder problems associated to the evening and late night entertainment industry in Bolton Town Centre and the role of the Be Safe Partnership in managing such issues.

The role of the Be Safe Partnership in the night time economy was around:-

- Maintaining public order;
- Preventing the escalation of low level violence and disorder;
- Ensuring the safety of those who lived, worked in or visited the night time economy; and
- Reassuring and supporting the town centre community.

The Partnership was working hard to tackle crime and disorder problems associated to the night time economy and deliver approaches which had a good balance between enforcement, prevention, help and support. The report went on to give

detailed information on the following initiatives and approaches:

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- Operation Siren – a police led initiative aimed at providing a high visibility uniformed presence in Bolton Town Centre on Thursday to Sunday evenings;
- Supporting licensed premises through efforts aimed at driving improvements in the operating practices of pubs, clubs and bars;
- The Bolton Town centre Alliance formed by licensees under the “Pubwatch” umbrella managed the night net radio link with support being provided by GMP. Licensees were taking collective responsibility for banning problematic individuals from all Alliance venues;
- Enforcement Action: Licensing Reviews with efforts being made to work with and support a licensee to improve their management practices, however, where these fail positive action was taken using licensing reviews;
- Designated Public Place Order (DPPO) with Bolton Town Centre being designated as an area where the consumption of alcohol in public was forbidden. Police had confiscation powers to enforce restriction;
- Direction to Leave whereby under the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006, the Police had power to direct an individual aged 16 or over who was in a public place to leave an area in order to reduce the likelihood of alcohol related crime or disorder;
- Protecting Vulnerable People and Reducing Victimisation through the Safe Space Café and Bolton Street angels; and
- CCTV with the Council leading on the development of the Borough wide CCTV Strategy in partnership with Be Safe, GMP, NCP and other CCTV operators.

The report went on to outline the Partnerships priorities and performance and its planned initiatives over the Christmas and

New Year period.

Members sought clarification/further information on the following:-

- (a) The percentage of violent crime which occurred in Bolton Town centre;
- (b) Who was funding the taxi marshalls and whether the street angels had made a noticeable difference;
- (c) The number of public houses which had had their licences reviewed as a result of bad management;
- (d) In relation to CCTV
 - The incidence of Police presence in control rooms over weekend periods;
 - If a Police officer was not present whether control room staff had access to a Police radio;
 - Whether control room staff used the “Airwaves” radio system;
 - Whether any of the CCTV cameras had voice activation capacity.
- (e) Whether any lessons learned from the actions taken to reduce the number of assaults with less serious injuries could be used to reduce the number of serious violent crimes;

Resolved – That the report, together with the information provided at the meeting as a result of Members questions, be noted

31. CRIME PREVENTION AND REPEAT VICTIMISATION

The Director of Adult and Community Services submitted a report the purpose of which was to set out the approach and activity undertaken by Be Safe Partnership in relation to crime prevention and the reduction of repeat victimisation.

The report gave detailed information on the following areas:-

- The background on crime performance monitoring and the ingredients of success for the partnership in tackling key comparator crimes;
- The range of crime prevention initiatives delivered by the Be Safe Partnership; and
- Information on repeat victimisation.

Since 2003/04 performance of Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships had been based on a count of key comparator crimes which included

- Domestic burglary;
- Theft of vehicle;
- Theft from vehicle;
- Robbery(personal);
- Theft from person;
- Theft of pedal cycle;
- Vehicle interference;
- Criminal damage;
- Arson;
- Serious wounding;
- Less serious wounding; and
- Assault Police.

Within the above definition, over the last 6 years there had been 11,000 fewer crimes committed with a continued downward trend.

The success of the Be Safe Partnership in reducing key crimes was attributed to:-

- Effective leadership and commitment from Chief Officers at a strategic level;
- Having excellent strategic and tactical analytical products throughout the year supported by a team of analysts, combining Police and Council staff to maximise efficiency;

- Maximising investment through pooling resources, bidding for external funds and having joint commissioning arrangements;
- Continues learning philosophy and adoption of proved best practice from elsewhere;
- A wide range of partnership activity delivered through well co-ordinated project and programme management by the Council's Community Safety team;
- An effective partnership business model; and
- A focus both strategically and operationally on repeat victimisation.

The report went on to detail various approaches and initiatives which the Be Safe Partnership had been instrumental in establishing and which had contributed to the continued reduction in repeat victimisation.

The report highlighted the successes of the Be Safe Partnership to date in reducing key crimes across Bolton with such success attributed to the wide range of partnership interventions in place to prevent and tackle issues.

Members sought clarification as to whether any work was being undertaken with local supermarkets to reduce incidences of shoplifting

Resolved – That the report, together with the information provided at the meeting as a result of Members questions, be noted.

32. FUNDING OF THE CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION PARTNERSHIP AND COMMUNITY SAFETY SERVICES.

The Director of Adult and Community Services submitted a report on the make-up of funding for the Be Safe Partnership and the Community Safety Services Team.

CDRPs were primarily reliant on central government grants to achieve the PSA outcomes set every three years. Up to and

including 2006/7 Be Safe was in receipt of a number of different funding streams which were pooled to form one partnership funding 'pot' (Safer and Stronger Communities Fund - SSCF) from which services were commissioned. These funding streams included:

- Building Safer Communities Fund
- Anti-social Behaviour Coordinator funding
- Partnership Support Fund - Drug Action Team Coordinator
- Basic Command Unit (BCU - a GMP budget aligned to SSCF but not pooled)

In 2008/9 the ring fence was removed from the Safer Stronger Communities Fund and it became part of the Area Based Grant along with another funding stream for Anti-social Behaviour Respect Action Areas. The following now forms Be Safe's main funding element:

Funding stream	Amount
ABG Mainstream	432,663
Basic Command Unit (GMP)	300,000
Total	732,663

In addition to the above, Be Safe was also accountable for funding streams relevant to specific policy and project areas which were either directed by central government or identified through local mechanisms. These other funding streams tended to be time-limited with specific outcomes and guidance about how funding should be spent. The following funding streams were currently being accessed by Be Safe:

Funding stream	Amount	Fund end Date
Area Based Grant Flexible Fund (Local)	833,200	March 2011
Neighbourhood Crime and Justice (Home Office)	65,000	March 2011
Operation Vigilance (Home Office)	77,000	

		March 2010
Participatory Budgeting (Home Office)	20,000	March 2010
Beacon Peer Support (Home Office)	53,500	N/A
Youth Crime Action Plan (DCSF)	170,000	March 2010
Family Intervention Programme Grant	213,000	March 2010
Alcohol Disorder Grant (NW Partnership)	20,000	March 2010
Total	1,475,700	

Community Safety Services (CSS) was the Bolton Council team responsible for supporting the Be Safe partnership. The primary function of the team was to support the partnership in developing and delivering Be Safe's strategy, policy and services.

The CSS team was characterised by a mix of mainstream and grant funded posts. A number of posts were linked to specific funding streams and had been commissioned by the Be Safe partnership to deliver activity in order to achieve its outcomes.

The team was split into 4 functions – Partnership Support Team, Research and Performance team, Safer Communities Team and Anti-social Behaviour Team. A Head of Service leads the team. The report went on to detail the officer structure of each team, the key tasks of each team and gave examples of the work the team delivered.

The breakdown between funding streams for Council posts in Community Safety Services was as follows:

Funding Stream	Annual Cost	% of salary costs	Fund end date
Council Mainstream	245,260	37	N/A
ABG Mainstream	208,801	32	March 2011
ABG Flexible	132,707	20	March 2011

Neighbourhood Crime & Justice	38,704	6	March 2011
Beacon Peer Support	35,000	5	March 2011
Total	660,472	100	

It was difficult to make assumptions about funding beyond March 2011. Be Safe was hopeful that there would be some form of grant similar to ABG Mainstream which would help maintain the majority of the Safer Communities Team and the Anti-social Behaviour Team.

A further alternative was LAA reward grant. Be Safe was delivering against five national indicators in the LAA and supporting a further two.

Members ought clarification that financial contingencies were in place to carry on providing effective service delivery post 2011.

Resolved (i) That the report, together with information provided at the meeting as a result of Members questions, be noted.

(ii) That the Committee expresses its concern that funding was only guaranteed until March, 2011.

(The meeting started at 6.00pm and ended at 7.30pm)