

STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL

Community Overview & Scrutiny Panel

Minutes

21st March 2016

PRESENT: Councillor C.J.S Atkins (Chair)

Councillors: D. Grocott, B. Hughes, K. Jackson, M.M. Lovatt,
L.A Malyon, C. Pearce, J.P. Redfern, T. Riley and P. Wood.

COUNCILLORS: I. Lucas.

APOLOGIES: Councillors: A. Banks, J. Bull and T. McNicol

In the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair a vote took place to nominate a chair for the meeting and Councillor Atkins was appointed.

25. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 14TH DECEMBER 2016** (25)

DECIDED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Panel held on the 14th December 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

26. **ITEMS CONSIDERED AT THE MEETING OF THE STAFFORDSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL HELD ON THE 1ST FEBRUARY 2016**

DECIDED: That the items considered at the Meeting of the Staffordshire Police and Crime Panel held on 1st February 2016 be noted.

27. **URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

There were none.

28. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

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29. QUESTIONS TO PORTFOLIO HOLDERS (29)

There were none.

30. POLICE FORCE OPERATIONAL ANNUAL UPDATE

Inspector Ian Hancock provided Members with an overview of how the area was policed. Staffing levels were explained and the Inspector was very proud of the team, the staff were excellent and various awards and commendations had been received.

The team was currently undergoing a transformation process and a new induction programme had been introduced in October 2015. All crimes were recorded ethically and there was evidence that there was confidence in reporting crime. After a report by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) a safeguarding hub had been set up, which was proving to be a success.

Performance

The Panel was also informed of the following performance statistics:-

- 316 crimes had been recorded to the end of February 2016. This equated to approximately 2 crimes per day. The average across the country for the same period was 11.6 offences per day;
- Burglary was up by 10%;
- Violence was the same as the year before;
- Sexual offences were over target following other local and national trends due to media reports and encouragement to report (many were historic offences);
- Thefts had reduced by 9.2%;
- Other violence against a person (hidden violence, social media) was a real issue and very difficult to challenge. This had increased by 59%;
- Public order issues increased by 38%;
- Vehicle crime was down by 10%;
- Anti-social behaviour was down by 1%.

A recent vulnerability report was disappointing regarding mental health and steps had been made to review and manage this, which included the delivery of an action plan.

There was a clear drive for policing to remain local, not from central hubs and different staff mixes may be introduced into teams. This would include investigating and supporting officers.

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30. POLICE FORCE OPERATIONAL ANNUAL UPDATE (CONTINUED) (30)

On a daily basis the local area policing team looked at improving safeguarding and areas that had been highlighted to focus on were counter terrorism, organised crime, cross border business crime and action against anti-social behaviour.

Members thanked the Inspector for the update and to summarise the following points and comments and questions were raised:-

- Congratulations to all staff that received awards and commendations;
- Level of education at schools with regard to online bullying;
- If police officers would be relocated from rural areas to towns and cities;
- If automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) was operational across the Moorlands;
- If the police mobile unit could be more frequently deployed in the Checkley area;
- That the police were working well within the vicinity of Checkley;
- If fighting had increased in the Biddulph town centre;
- Levels of missing children in the area and if child exploitation was high on the agenda;
- Issues around childrens' homes and how neighbouring properties could be affected.

Inspector Hancock responded to the effect, that police numbers would remain and that it was important to maintain visibility in the rural areas to provide re-assurance. On-line bullying was a difficult challenge as it was a 'hidden' crime. PCSOs worked with partners to assist with education around this type of bullying in schools.

The Force was beginning to see the benefit of ANPR in the detection of cross border criminality and further infrastructure around arterial routes and businesses such as Alton Towers and JCB had been requested. It was suggested that the Police and Crime Commissioner be invited to a meeting of the Panel to discuss this subject further.

The local police officers in the Checkley area would arrange for some dates to be planned for the mobile unit to visit the area.

A review had been completed over the last 12 months in the Biddulph town centre and there was no evidence that the level of fighting had increased. An increase in anti-social behaviour near to Sainsbury's had been noticed and a team, along with the local authority was looking into this at present.

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30. POLICE FORCE OPERATIONAL ANNUAL UPDATE (CONTINUED) (30)

The officer did not have the exact figure for missing children and explained that in the region of 1 or 2 children were reported missing on a daily basis. These children tended to be from childrens' homes and child exploitation was a concern. The police dealt with problems at such homes as neighbourhood disputes, reported to Ofsted on occasions and worked with the managers as best as possible.

Best wishes were passed on to Inspector Hancock for his retirement and he was thanked for his helpfulness and professionalism.

DECIDED: a) That the update be noted.

b) That the Police and Crime Commissioner be invited to a future meeting of the Panel in relation to Automatic Number Plate Recognition.

31. SOCIAL CARE (PEOPLE BEING ABLE TO STAY IN THEIR OWN HOMES)

The Panel received a presentation, introduced by Helen Trousdale, County Commissioner, which covered the following subject areas:-

- Our experience of people coming into hospital is through a crisis;
- What happens;
- What impacts on being able to get people home in a timely way;
- The Care Market in Staffordshire Moorlands;
- What we need more of in the future;
- Our vision of adult social care;
- Our journey to healthy, independent living in the future.

It was also brought to the attention of the Panel that a 48% increase had been seen in people reporting safeguarding concerns, due to better awareness and people felt more comfortable to report.

There was a 'live' consultation around the vision for social care at present and the officer would welcome any feedback on this.

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31. SOCIAL CARE (PEOPLE BEING ABLE TO STAY IN THEIR OWN HOMES) (31) (CONTINUED)

Members had the opportunity to ask questions and make comments. To summarise, the following points and questions were raised:-

- That the increase in people in crisis was due to the reduction in the level of services available;
- What impact the proposal to withdraw wardens from sheltered accommodation schemes operated by Sanctuary Housing would have on social care;
- Concern regarding the reduction of non acute beds in community hospitals;
- Level of GP involvement and if this would help to reduce the number of people admitted to hospital.

Helen Trousdale responded and advised that there had not been a significant increase in the number of people who had presented with a need for adult social care but there had been an increase in the number of people in hospital. The Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) was doing a piece of work which looked at the top 5% of people at risk and likely to be admitted to hospital and how partners could work better to support and manage people with General Practitioners.

The officer confirmed that she had not had any contact with Sanctuary Housing in relation to their proposal to remove wardens. She explained that warden services were not taken into account when a care package was put together but understood the concerns of families.

A full impact assessment would be carried out in relation to the closure of non-acute beds and assurance was given that the County Council, Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Partnership NHS Trust (SSOTP) and the CCG worked very closely together.

Mandy Donald explained that the SSOTP worked with Nursing Homes and that the priority was for people to feel safe and supported so they did not need to telephone the emergency services.

On a daily basis the SSOTP telephoned the top 36 nursing homes so nursing teams could discuss any concerns. This has resulted in a 25% reduction in people presenting at A&E. This good example of local supportive work would be extended to more care homes in the future.

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31. SOCIAL CARE (PEOPLE BEING ABLE TO STAY IN THEIR OWN HOMES) (31) (CONTINUED)

Mandy Donald Chief Operating Officer, North Division and Community Hospitals, Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Partnership NHS Trust

Prior to the meeting, Members had sent queries relating to social care to the Trust and a presentation had been distributed which provided responses to these questions. The areas covered were as follows:-

- Integrated Local Care Teams;
- Referrals;
- Assessment and Support Planning;
- Integrated Working;
- Staffing Establishment;
- Reorganisation with the Service;
- Community Hospitals;
- Local Services;
- Management of High Dependency Clients;
- Direct Payments.

Discussion took place around the cost of care, which was on average £14.50 an hour, dependent on the length of time and individual needs. Everyone received a financial assessment, cost for care varied across the country and a lot of time was spent to keep people in their own homes. The officer wished to make it clear that people were assessed according to their needs and not to a budget. A Panel member felt that there was no consistency of staff, time spent providing care was very limited, a lot of paperwork was completed and people still had to rely on their family. Mandy Donald requested for any individual concerns to be raised in the appropriate way after the meeting.

Another Councillor remarked how pleased he was regarding the care that was provided for patients with Parkinson's Disease at Cheadle hospital and for the staff retention rates.

The length of time for direct payments to be received, the impact this had on day centres and how the appropriate fee was determined for such centres was discussed. In the majority of cases individual assessments were completed quickly and payment was received within 6 weeks. The County Council was developing a common resource application system to achieve consistency in the value amounts for levels of need.

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31. SOCIAL CARE (PEOPLE BEING ABLE TO STAY IN THEIR OWN HOMES) (31) (CONTINUED)

The officers were thanked for attending the meeting.

DECIDED: That the presentations be noted.

32. GRANT FUNDING FOR VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

Tim Davies provided Members with an overview of VAST, a charity which provided services and support to Voluntary Organisations, Community Groups, Charities and Social Enterprises in Staffordshire.

VAST also offered accounting and marketing support to enable groups to be more sustainable. An officer called Suzanne Clark was the main point of contact for this area.

Funds that were easier to access were explained to Members and the list that had been circulated to the Panel prior to the meeting was referred to. The importance of applying for funds in a timely manner was stressed as realistically applications for funding could take at least 6 months. Advice could be provided on what to include in bids and training on how to complete applications for funding in the future.

The Panel also received an overview of the services that Staffordshire Council of Voluntary Youth Services provided from Claire John, Development Worker. This included assistance for new and existing youth groups, free training, DBS checks, volunteering and recruitment.

A member of the Panel was of the opinion that the available funding was mainly for capital funding and the problem that most organisations faced was revenue costs. The Coalfields Regeneration Trust was referred to and the possibility of endowment funding for sustainability.

Both officers were thanked for the help and assistance they had provided to people in the community. Information packs for both organisations were available in the Member Services Office.

DECIDED: That the update be noted.

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33. **WORK PROGRAMME**

(33)

The Panel considered its work programme and agreed the items listed. The following items were suggested for future meetings:-

- Transport buses(Invite the bus co-ordinator from Biddulph);
- Procurement of CAB Services

DECIDED: That the Panel's Work Programme for 2015/16 be agreed.

The meeting closed at 16.30p.m.

_____ Chair _____ Date