

STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL

COMMUNITY OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL MEETING

Minutes

MONDAY, 29 JANUARY 2018

PRESENT: Councillor A Banks (Chair)

Councillors C J S Atkins, B A Hughes, K J Jackson, L D Lea,
M M Lovatt, L A Malyon, T McNicol, C Pearce, T Riley and P Wood.

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor M Bowen – Portfolio Holder for Communities, Leisure,
Sport, Parks, Countryside & Housing
Councillor D Ogden – Cabinet Support Member
Councillor B Johnson
Councillor I Lawson

APOLOGIES: Councillors A Forrester, D Grocott and P Wilkinson.

77 **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING.**

DECIDED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Panel held on the 20th
November 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed by the
Chair.

78 **REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL.**

DECIDED: That the report of the Chairman of the Police and Crime Panel dated
1st November 2017 be noted.

79 **NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS, IF ANY.**

There were none.

80 **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:**

Agenda No.	Member Declaring Interest	Nature of Interest
Agenda Item 8 - Leek High School and Westwood College Update.	Cllr P. Wood	Other – A Governor at Westwood School.

81 **QUESTIONS TO PORTFOLIO HOLDERS, IF ANY.**

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There were none.

82 POLICE FORCE OPERATIONAL ANNUAL UPDATE - MARK THORLEY, LOCAL POLICING TEAM COMMANDER.

Inspector Mark Thorley provided members with a briefing note containing statistical information for the Moorlands area.

Force figures showed that crime overall had increased by 9% however, in the Moorlands the figure had reduced by 2%. The Inspector explained that last year there had been an increase of around 130% in reports of rape. This year the figures indicated a 49% reduction which equated to 29 fewer crimes which was a significant reduction.

Theft from motor vehicles had reduced by 21% which equated to 35 fewer offences and a 9% reduction had been seen in last 12 months of thefts of motor vehicles - 6 fewer offences. The category of Vehicle Interference had also seen a reduction of 42% which was 19 fewer offences.

There had been an increase of 69 residential burglaries (which now included sheds and out buildings) – up 43%. This crime category was changed in April 2017 so there wasn't comparative previous year's figures to compare against, this crime though had reduced since September and was now well below the average.

Inspector Thorley updated the Panel on a series of burglaries that had taken place in the summer of 2017 and the outcomes.

Visibility of the Force was down by 0.89% at 62% and in the Moorlands up by 0.2% at 71.5%.

In relation to Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) the statistics for the Moorlands indicated an increase of 13%. Since November this had reduced significantly and was running at an average number of incidents again. It was explained that there was a problem in Leek town centre in the summer due to youth related ASB. Use of dispersal notices, Community Protection notices and Ofsted quickly removed this issue completely.

The Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) in place at the Smithfield Centre had caused some displacement initially but was now effective and working well.

More recently groups of youths had caused a steep increase in ASB in Werrington and Cheadle. The issues in Werrington were now resolved and Cheadle heading the same way, due to good use of dispersal notices, dedicated resources and civil orders.

Instances of ASB in Biddulph had been a constant issue but wasn't currently with a PSPO in place along with the civil remedies.

To conclude, satisfaction in the Moorlands was at 90% compared to the Force at 86% and there hadn't been any significant reductions in officer or staff numbers since the previous update.

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Members were pleased with the recent figures around violence in Leek town centre being put into context and felt reassured that the Police dealt with matters quickly and effectively.

Discussion took place around late night opening of licenced premises, a spate of graffiti in Leek, homelessness and seating outside public houses. The officer gave assurance that any issues with late night premises would be reported immediately to the Council's Licencing Team and conditions could be placed on licences. The Leek graffiti artist had been identified and was in the process of being dealt with. Further details would be circulated to members after the meeting. The Local Policing Team had referred the known homeless people in Leek to partners to provide assistance and it was explained that seating outside public houses was a planning matter.

A recent incident which had involved a vigilante group in Biddulph was also discussed along with the good work of the Youth Club in the area which had sadly been affected by a small group of individuals.

Concerns were raised in relation to people carrying guns but were not actually part of an organised hunt. The advice given was to contact the Police (999) as soon as possible if people were in possession of a gun on unauthorised land.

Compliments were passed on to the PCSOs in Checkley and Forsbrook.

The Chair requested clarification of the statistical information that had recently been on the news which contradicted the figures supplied to the Panel. He was also interested in data relating to successful prosecutions. Inspector Thorley agreed to look into this and would report back after the meeting.

DECIDED: That the update be noted.

83 **LEEK HIGH SCHOOL & WESTWOOD COLLEGE UPDATE - ANDREW SHAW, EXECUTIVE HEAD, THE LEEK FEDERATION.**

Andrew Shaw, Executive Head, Leek Federation provided the Panel with an update on Leek High School and Westwood College.

It was explained that the Student Support Hub (Room 21) at Leek High School still operated in an affordable way, as grants which had previously been used to supply some of the services were no longer available and school budgets for social support had reduced. Children were experiencing social issues at a younger age and the number of exclusions had increased nationally. The Hub relied on the good will of staff and their commitment to the children. The Federation had piloted an Early Intervention Team which provided targeted support for troubled families which had proven to be a success.

It was hoped that the provision of a school nurse could be re-instated as it was felt that some clinical support was required across the schools.

The Executive Head was very concerned about the considerable gap in funding for the schools in Staffordshire compared to other areas and highlighted the need for baseline funding.

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Despite the need for funding, the performance of the schools was generally good and the schools had fantastic head teachers and staff which worked extremely hard. The Leek Education Partnership met regularly and for consistency followed an assessment system for 23 schools in the area. Members commented on the excessive testing of pupils and the affect this had on pupils and teachers.

Detailed discussion took place around funding and costs for schools. Members also shared their views and experiences of schools in the Moorlands.

DECIDED: That a letter be sent to the Secretary of State in relation to the funding of schools in Staffordshire.

84 **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Panel considered its Work Programme and agreed the items listed, subject to the following items being added:

- Location of the Job Centre Plus, following the roll-out of Universal Credit for the Moorlands in September 2018. (Nearest offices Glossop, Buxton or the Potteries)
- Fly-tipping

DECIDED: That the Panel's Work Programme for 2017/18 be agreed, subject to the above items being included.

The meeting closed at 4.10 pm

_____ Chairman _____ Date