

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

**PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY, COMMUNITIES & PROSPERITY SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE SITTING AS THE COUNCIL'S DESIGNATED CRIME & DISORDER
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

(Under Sections 19 & 20 of the Police and Justice Act 2006)

Minutes of the meeting held at Aberdare Community School, Ynys Road, The Ynys,
Aberdare on Monday, 16th January 2017, at 4.30 p.m.

PRESENT

County Borough Councillor G.R.Davies – in the Chair

County Borough Councillors

J. Bonetto	P Howe
S. A. Bradwick	(Mrs) S Pickering
S. Carter	M. Weaver
(Mrs) A Davies	T. Williams
J. Elliott	

OFFICERS:-

Mr. P. Mee – Service Director Public Health & Protection
Mr. G. Black – Community Safety & Licensing Manager
Mr A Wilkins – Head of Legal, Corporate & Democratic Services
Ms L Davies – Head of Environmental Health, Trading Standards &
Community Safety

Also in attendance:-

Chief Superintendent Sally Burke, South Wales Police & Divisional
Commander for RCT & Merthyr Tydfil
Mr. L. Jones – Assistant Police & Crime Commissioner

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology of absence was received from County Borough Councillors (Mrs) L. De. Vet, G. Holmes, L. Langford, R. Yeo and County Borough Councillor (Mrs) J. Rosser – Cabinet Member for Prosperity, Wellbeing & Communities.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RESOLVED to note that in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, there were no personal declarations made, pertaining to the agenda.

(A declaration was made later in the meeting by County Borough Councillor G. R. Davies to which Agenda Item 4 refers).

3. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

The Chairman thanked the Vice Chair, County Borough Councillor S. A. Bradwick for organising the tour of the Aberdare Community School for the members of the Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee which had taken place prior to the Crime & Disorder Committee.

4. CWM TAF COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP UPDATE ON STRATEGIC PROJECTS & PRIORITIES

In conjunction with the joint report of the Service Director, Public Health & Protection, the Community Safety & Licensing Manager, the Head of Environmental Health, Trading Standards & Community Safety, Chief Superintendent & Divisional Commander, South Wales Police and the Assistant Police & Crime Commissioner who, with the aid of PowerPoint slides provided Members with an update of the strategic projects and priorities of the Community Safety Partnership (CPS) in Cwm Taf.

The Service Director, Public Health & Protection outlined the process for delivering the update to Committee and confirmed to Members that the presentation would serve to highlight the developments and priorities over the past year.

Chief Superintendent Sally Burke reminded Committee that the key message to have arisen from the presentation to the Crime & Disorder Committee in 2016 was the need to strengthen the governance arrangements of the safety partnership landscape so as to avoid duplication of work and have significantly more streamlined services in place to improve reporting mechanisms. It was stressed that previously the partnership had not addressed the cross cutting issues such as Housing and Licensing issues as well as failing to identify earlier interventions. It was reported that since the review of the Community Safety Partnership landscape and since May 2016 when the Public Services Board held its inaugural meeting a number of areas have improved. The areas of governance and accountability have improved, there is better decision making and more robust discussions are taking place resulting in more effective outcomes.

A power point slide depicting the current Cwm Taf Partnership arrangement confirmed the more streamlined structure in place.

The Assistant Crime & Police Commissioner outlined the six priorities for South Wales which are set through the Police & Crime Commissioner's Crime & Disorder Reduction Plan in partnership with the Chief Constable and also takes account of the Wellbeing and Future Generations Act. A brief explanation was provided against each of the six priorities for the benefit of Committee as follows:-

Priority 1 – Reduce & Prevent Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

- Work around Domestic Violence, Substance Misuse and Victim Support which are all coordinated through the Police & Crime Commissioner's Office.
- Partnership work is key to addressing these issues for example working with Social Landlords whilst addressing ASB issues

Priority 2 – Improve the way we connect with, involve and inform our community

- Engaging with and responding to communities' needs,
- Work is focussed around supporting victims
- Monitoring the performance of the Police Force
- Working in partnership with Public Health Wales around the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).
- White Ribbon Campaign – Men working to end male violence against women

Priority 3 – Protecting the needs of the most vulnerable in our communities

- The main focus is on early intervention and prompt action such as developing a pilot scheme with schools in Bridgend to identify vulnerable children
- SWP Youth Trust – to protect vulnerable children

Priority 4 – Spend money wisely to protect policing in your community

- Focus on how money is allocated whilst monitoring the number of cuts to the police workforce.
- To manage grants such as Welsh Government specific grants.
- Funding from Police & Crime Commissioner for Youth Offending
- Engaging with a huge number of volunteers (over 1,000)

Priority 5 – Effective Local Criminal Justice System

- Supporting victims by strengthening partnerships.
- Joining together under the Public Service Board (PSB)

Priority 6 – Contribution to the Strategic Policing Requirement and successfully police major events

- To police major events such as the forthcoming UEFA League Final to be held in Cardiff in 2017.
- To assess the impact of major events through negotiations with Welsh and Central Government

In conclusion the Assistant Police Crime Commissioner provided details of the team in place to support the delivery of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Plan such as a number of staff with specialist skills and those linking in with other key organisations such as Public Health Wales. Committee was advised that the re launch of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Plan will take place in February 2017.

(Note: At this point in the proceedings County Borough Councillor G. R. Davies declared a personal interest stating “Provider of substance misuse services”).

The Community Safety and Licensing Manager provided background to the next part of the presentation under the heading Anti Social Behaviour. He stated that the Chair of the Public Service Board (PSB) also co-ordinates the work in this area which reinforces the joined up approach that is currently being undertaken. Committee was informed that in 2016 the ASB team received 2,392 referrals of varying degrees however, with the reform of the anti-social behaviour powers now including Japanese Knotweed and other invasive and non native plants; it has increased the pressure on the team. With that said, the Community Safety and Licensing Manager confirmed that over 87% of people are feeling safer as a result of interventions from the team which demonstrates excellent results. He added that work with perpetrators is also producing more positive results with over 70% no longer committing ASB within 6 months of receiving an intervention from the team.

The Community Safety and Licensing Manager outlined the work of the Community Alcohol Partnership which has been established in Porth as a result of bringing together a number of agencies working to reduce alcohol related harm to young people and associated anti social behaviour as well as involving local alcohol retailers. The associated funding has been linked into the local schools so that the students can decide where to allocate the funds. It was stated that this initiative can be rolled out to other parts of the County Borough.

Committee was informed that the CCTV system in Pontypridd has been upgraded through the ‘Invest to Save’ scheme which not only provides an excellent service for the safety of the general public but is now a wireless system enabling cameras to be monitored remotely. The service has also been involved in over 100 missing people’s search.

The Service Director, Public Health & Protection continued with the presentation in respect of the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence (Wales) Act. Committee was informed that the Act will be delivered under the National Strategy within twelve months commencing from May 2017 with intensive training for all employees across public services to be rolled out as part of the National Training Framework. In order for this mostly hidden problem to be addressed a number of educational programmes across schools will be delivered to support the ‘healthy relationship’ message. The Service Director referred to the Social Services & Wellbeing (Wales) Act which is the new law for improving the well-being of people who need care and support and carers who need support and the requirement for all Local Authorities to carry out a population/wellbeing needs assessment which will assess the needs of the population’s care and support needs. In conclusion Members were advised to note that in the future services will need to be more proactive and implement preventative measures.

The Service Director, Public Health & Protection referred to the Public Service Board as having clearer governance arrangements in place and more consistent standards of service than the former Cwm Taf Substance Misuse Area Planning Board. The review of secondary care services is underway with a draft report being prepared by March 2017. The Service Director advised that of concern is the increase in trends across Wales regarding drug related deaths which will be addressed by considering preceding medical histories and treatments of those affected.

The Community Safety and Licensing Manager presented issues under the heading Community Cohesion and outlined the agenda for the UK's strategy for Countering Terrorism. Further to the National strategy he outlined the Local Authority's Prevent agenda which includes the Cwm Taf Chanel Panel.

Committee received an update in respect of the Refugee Resettlement Programmes which concerned the Syrian Resettlement Programme, the Vulnerable Resettlement Programme and the Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children Transfer Scheme.

The key objectives were set out under the heading Hate Crime with effective risk management plans in place to support and improve public and staff confidence to report hate crime which has been encouraged via community training and awareness campaigns. Committee noted the DIVERT 18-25 project, funded by the office of the PCC and launched in April 2016 aimed at those residents of RCT and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council who have committed low level crime with a positive uptake by young offenders who show remorse for their crimes. Another project called WISDOM deals with the most serious and dangerous offenders. There is also the Women's pathfinder project aimed at females who have entered the Criminal Justice System.

Following the presentation a series of questions were asked by members of the Committee including commissioning services in the community to support vulnerable people and how this has been made easier through open and proactive discussions facilitated by the formation of the Public Service Board. The Chief Superintendent confirmed that focussing on the early intervention agenda will help deter people from criminality. Further to a query in respect of the numbers of people suffering with mental health issues and substance misuse issues that are being treated out of county it was reported that the move to a single commissioning framework has meant more improved accountability. It was agreed that the figures relating to this specific query would be provided following the meeting. Committee was advised that early identification of the individuals and family's needs would prevent the intervention of the statutory services.

A number of other queries were raised which were duly noted and responded to by the Officers present and in conclusion the Chairman thanked the Chief Superintendent, Assistant Police & Crime Commissioner and Officers for their very comprehensive update report and presentation in respect of the Cwm Taf Community Safety Partnership.

It was **RESOLVED**:-

1. To note the information; and
2. That the Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee, sitting in its role as the designated Crime & Disorder Committee (Under Sections 19 & 20 of the Police & Justice Act 2006) will meet on a more frequent basis (to be agreed) to consider specific agenda items under the remit of the Committee as appropriate.

The meeting closed at 7.00pm

G. R. Davies
Chairman