

Mae'r cofnodion hyn yn amodol ar gymeradwyaeth yng nghyfarfod priodol nesaf y Pwyllgor.

These Minutes are subject to approval at the next appropriate meeting of the Committee,

**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, 26<sup>th</sup> October 2017, at 4.30 p.m.

**PRESENT**

County Borough Councillor S. A. Bradwick – in the Chair

County Borough Councillors

A. Chapman	W. Treeby
M. Fidler Jones	T. Williams
G. Jones	M. Weaver
W. Jones	

**OTHER MEMBERS:-**

R. W. Smith – County Borough Councillor  
R. Lewis – Deputy Cabinet Member for Prosperity & Wellbeing  
G. Thomas – Vice Chairman, Overview & Scrutiny

**OFFICERS:-**

Mr. P. Mee – Director Public Health, Protection and Community Services  
Mr. G. Black – Community Safety & Licensing Manager  
Mr S. Humphreys – Head of Legal, Planning & Environment  
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 J. James and G. Stacey

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**RESOLVED** to note that in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, the following personal declarations of personal interests were made, pertaining to the agenda:-

1. County Borough Councillor R. Lewis (Deputy Cabinet Member for Prosperity & Wellbeing) in respect of Agenda Item 3 – 'I am a member of the Police & Crime Panel';
2. County Borough Councillor R. W. Smith in respect of Agenda item 3 –'I am Chair of the Police & Crime Panel.'

**3. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** – to approve as an accurate record the minutes of the meeting of the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee held on the 16<sup>th</sup> January 2016.

**4. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman, County Borough Council S. A. Bradwick reminded Committee that a visit to Viridor, the Energy Recovery Facility would take place on Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> December 2017 and further details would be provided in due course. Members were also informed that the Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee scheduled for the 12<sup>th</sup> December 2017 would be held in the Lido Meeting Room, Pontypridd.

**5. STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT OF CRIME AND DISORDER IN RCT**

The Head of Environmental Health, Trading Standards & Community Safety explained that the Cwm Taf Community Safety Strategic Assessment had been undertaken to review existing service provision and delivery within Cwm Taf following the review of recorded crime data for the region, consideration of the characteristics of the population and communities of Cwm Taf and through consultation with local residents and victim perception.

Scrutiny was advised that previous reviews had concentrated on reducing and tackling crime but the introduction of the Well Being and Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 had highlighted the need for all services to deliver early intervention and prevention services through the PSB to focus the delivery of these services through improved partnership working.

The Head of Environmental Health, Trading Standards & Community Safety asked Scrutiny to examine and challenge the full copy of the draft Cwm Taf Community Safety Needs Assessment 2017 (Version 10) which was attached as Appendix 1.

The Community Safety & Licensing Manager presented a power point presentation which outlined the 6 Priorities of the draft assessment with attached recommendations as follows:-

Priority 1 – Reduce the impact of alcohol and drug misuse on our communities:-

Recommendations:-

- Take a more integrated approach to developing substance use services;
- Work in partnership with Mental Health Services to implement a delivery plan;
- Develop a Service User Involvement Plan;
- Develop a way forward to reduce 'needle litter';
- Awareness raising of substance use issues;
- Improve intelligence gathering.

Priority 2 - Divert offenders and reducing re-offending:-

Recommendations:-

- Review the WISDOM programme;
- Consider the outcomes of the PCC evaluation of the DIVERT 18-25 programme;
- To continue to deliver the Youth Offending Service Delivery Plan;
- To continue to work in partnership to facilitate early intervention.

Priority 3 – Tackle Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence:-

Recommendations:-

- To strengthen our preventative approach to tackling VAWDASV in order to address unmet need;
- Collaboration between services to meet the needs of the victim;
- Ensure the services are accessible to all groups within our communities;
- A stronger focus on protecting children from the impact of VAWDASV;
- An expansion and strengthening of services for victims of sexual violence;
- To increase the opportunities for service users to engage in the process of developing service provision;
- Improve the preparation of and decision making process associated with Criminal Prosecutions of Domestic Violence cases; and,
- Improve the information sharing between partners.

Priority 4 – Promote Safe and Confident Communities;

Recommendations:-

- Deliver identified actions within the 'Managing the Night Time Economy' Framework;
- Continue with partnership arrangements to effectively tackle Anti Social Behaviour;
- Review the findings of the Town Centre Research Project;
- Target positive community messages around the reduction in ASB and crime;
- Increased use of Mosaic data;
- Develop campaigns where ASB under reporting is known;
- Undertake a review into the requirements of PACT;
- Review the findings of the DPPO review in RCT;
- Promote partnership working with the Business Sector in Town Centres; and,
- Develop a strategy to tackle Acquisitive Crime

Priority 5 – Protect vulnerable groups from harm and victimisation;

Recommendations:-

- Work effectively through an integrated place based approach to building resilient families (i.e. Community Zones);
- Improve performance in relation to Homelessness Prevention;
- Actively contribute to the Counter Terrorism Agenda;
- Support delivery of the Syrian Resettlement Programme;
- Strengthen provision on mental health services in Cwm Taf for people in the Criminal Justice System;
- Encourage and facilitate volunteering opportunities for community members in their locality;
- Ensure intelligence in relation to CSE, Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery is shared to enable early identification and action to tackle OCG's; and,
- Work in partnership to identify and tackle rogue traders and protect the most vulnerable in our communities.

Priority 6 – Improve our environment by reducing environmental crime;

Recommendations:-

- Develop an effective strategy to tackle the issue of off road use;
- Work in partnership to deliver the Road Safety Priorities for Cwm Taf;
- Continuation of Grass Fire campaigns; and,
- Work in partnership to deliver effective enforcement against illegal waste offenders and raise awareness of environmental crimes and their consequences

Following the presentation Members of the Committee were asked to consider whether they agreed with the six strategic priorities and whether the suggested recommendations are suitable to form an Action Plan.

Members of the Committee pursued several themes in greater detail such as domestic abuse. It was explained that there has been a reduction in the number of women's refuges in RCT following the shift in commissioning arrangements, to keep people safe in their own homes although confirmed that there is a new facility in RCT as well as provision in Merthyr. There is also a greater emphasis on prevention by working with perpetrators and through education in schools with a whole school approach to healthy relationships. It was agreed that domestic abuse is not just about women and can affect males who can be both perpetrators and victims and it was agreed that the wording within the Action Plan could be clarified so as not to suggest it is gender specific.

Another member raised the issue of kennelling issues which could be a barrier to some people fleeing a scenario. The Deputy Cabinet Member for Prosperity & Wellbeing advised that he had recently visited the Hope Rescue Centre, a dog kennelling provision, which could warrant further discussion around demand for the service.

A Member expressed concern that some private Landlords are selecting unsuitable tenants who can have a detrimental effect on the local community. The Head of Environmental Health, Trading Standards & Community Safety confirmed that the landlord licensing scheme requires all landlords to register their properties and demonstrate that they are fit and proper to hold a licence and undertake training. She added that the information and intelligence drawn from the scheme can be used to identify those tenancies that are causing problems, although vulnerable groups and individuals can be known to the authority for other reasons. It was agreed that this could be built into the Action Plan.

Although a Member praised the presentation and acknowledged the consistent message to deliver early intervention and prevention services he raised concern that community services are not joined up in particular concerning those individuals with mental health issues. The Director Public Health, Protection and Community Services acknowledged that many problems do not present themselves in isolation and that a multi disciplinary response and community intervention involving PCSO's and the voluntary sector can have a huge impact on achieving a successful outcome. It was acknowledged that voluntary groups and signposting to their many services is underused despite the Community Coordinators preparing a list of over 800 community groups which are publicised on the Cwm Taf Portal (It was confirmed that an email with information regarding the portal would be sent to all Committee members).

Scrutiny discussed the PACT meetings and the varying levels of success that exist within each ward. Chief Inspector Sally Burke confirmed that she would be undertaking a review of PACT meetings amid reports of inconsistencies and to assess its suitability in its current form. Members were assured that they would be consulted as part of the review, to share their experiences of their own PACT meetings.

Following consideration of the report and the Power Point Presentation it was **RESOLVED:-**

1. To note the content and findings of the Draft Cwm Taf Community Safety Needs Assessment 2017;
2. To agree that the six Strategic Priorities are suitable to form the basis of the Action Plan;
3. That the views expressed by Scrutiny are fed into the Action Plan which will be presented to the next Crime & Disorder Scrutiny Committee(22<sup>nd</sup> February 2018); and,
4. That the Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee is consulted on the review of PACT meetings (to be undertaken by South Wales Police) to assess its suitability in its current form.

The meeting closed at 6.00pm

S. A. Bradwick  
Chairman