

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 COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Public Service Delivery, Communities and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee (Crime and Disorder) meeting held on Monday, 11 February 2019 at 5.00 pm at the Council Chamber, The Pavilions, Cambrian Park, Clydach Park, Tonypany, CF40 2XX.

County Borough Councillors - Public Service Delivery, Communities and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee (Crime and Disorder) Members in attendance:-

Councillor S Bradwick (Chair)

Councillor T Williams	Councillor M Weaver
Councillor D Owen-Jones	Councillor M Fidler Jones
Councillor A Chapman	Councillor D Grehan
Councillor G Hughes	Councillor W Owen
Councillor A Fox	

Officers in attendance

Mr S Humphreys, Head of Legal Services, Planning & Environment
Mr G Black, Community Safety and Licensing Manager
Ms L Davies, Head of Public Protection
Mr P Mee, Director, Public Health, Protection & Community Services

18 Apologies

An apology for absence was received from County Borough Councillors E Stephens, G Stacey, S Pickering, E George and W Treeby.

19 Declaration of Interest

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, there were no declarations made pertaining to the agenda.

20 Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the 25th October 2018 as an accurate reflection of the meeting.

21 Matters Arising

The Chair congratulated Superintendent Phil Ashby on his promotion to Chief Superintendent who was in attendance at the meeting to update Committee on the Partners and Communities Together (PACT) consultation recently undertaken.

The Chair also advised that there would be a change in the order of the agenda and Committee would receive the Cwm Taf Community Safety Partnership Delivery Plan 2018-2021 (Agenda Item 4) in advance of the report outlining how Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) is managed in partnership.

Cwm Taf Community Safety Partnership Delivery Plan 2018-21

With the aid of Power point, the Community Safety and Licensing Manager updated Committee on the progress of the Cwm Taf Community Safety Partnership Delivery Plan 2018-21, up to Quarter three period of 2018-21.

Committee was reminded that it had been initially appraised of the findings of the Cwm Taf Community Safety Strategic Assessment at its meeting held on the 26th October 2017. The assessment had informed a strategy for the reduction of crime and disorder in the area, including anti-social behaviour and from that the Cwm Taf Community Safety Delivery Plan 2018-2021 was developed in March 2018.

The Delivery Plan is a three year Strategic Plan for the Partnership and includes six priorities as follows:-

- Reduce the impact of alcohol and drug misuse on our communities
- Divert offenders and reduce re-offending
- Tackle violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence
- Promote safe and confident communities
- Protect vulnerable groups from harm and victimisation
- Improve our environment by reducing environmental crime

The Community Safety and Licensing Manager explained that under each priority sit a number of sub actions which have been monitored against the following status, red is a target missed, amber is on target and green is complete. Members were informed of the areas where the actions are not on target as within Priority E 'Protect Vulnerable Groups from Harm and Victimisation' where there are two red actions. He assured Committee that careful monitoring of the Delivery Plan is undertaken by the Cwm Taf Community Safety Partnership Board who meet on a quarterly basis and that further updates on these missed targets would be provided on a regular basis to Committee.

A Member asked for further clarification in respect of the DRIVE service which was explained by the Director Public Health, Protection & Community Services as a project of two years which holds perpetrators to account for their actions and supports them to change their behaviour. He added that the second year evaluation report is currently being compiled, the outcome of which could be brought to this Committee in the future.

In response to concerns that areas outside the PSPO which are vulnerable to anti-social behaviour matters, the Community Safety and Licensing Manager reported that the PSPO allows the Council's enforcement officers to deal with alcohol related ASB in all areas of the County Borough. In addition, in the specific exclusion zones of Pontypridd and Aberdare, to confiscate alcohol without the need for anti-social behaviour having been committed. He assured Committee that monitoring of the exclusion zones in Pontypridd and Aberdare is ongoing as well as those areas that lie outside of the zones to ensure the ASB and alcohol problems are not being dissipated.

The Head of Public Protection outlined the interventions in place to deal with the increasing number of unscrupulous traders who carry out online crime, doorstep crime and telephone and mail scams. It was clarified that there had been a recent report to the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee relating to this topic and the measures in place to protect vulnerable citizens. It was reported that steps have been taken to identify those susceptible to this kind of crime so that they can be signposted to befriending and support services. Reference was also made to a service called 'Truecall' which offers those vulnerable residents a service which intercepts the calls and diverts them to friends or family for them to assess the validity of the calls. In addition, there are cold call exclusion zones within RCT and work ongoing with banks to identify any unusual behaviour such as large withdrawals. It was confirmed that further information would be circulated following the meeting by Trading Standards and this item included on the forward Work Programme for the Crime & Disorder Committee.

A query was raised in respect of off road vehicles and what action local Members can take when the activity increases over the summer months. The Community Safety and Licensing Manager advised that local intelligence is key to apprehending the culprits, confiscating the bikes at entry and exit points is preferable but this can prove difficult. He asked Members and residents to report all incidents of off road bike ASB to the non-emergency police number, 101, and where possible to advise him of any activity that needs to be addressed.

In response to a query relating to the Council's protocol for a 'lockdown' situation primarily in schools across the County Borough, the Community Safety and Licensing Manager described the procedure as similar to a fire drill which is a practiced procedure and one that responds to most anticipated incidents. It was suggested by the Chair that Elected Members are briefed on the procedures for 'lock down' at a future meeting

It was **RESOLVED** to:-

1. Acknowledge progress of the Cwm Taf Community Safety Delivery Plan up to Quarter 3 of 2018-19;
2. Receive further information as requested from Trading Standards in respect of scams and a report to a future meeting of the Crime & Disorder Committee in the next Municipal Year;
3. Receive a future briefing on the lockdown process practised in schools across the County Borough; and
4. Receive regular updates on those underperforming targets within the Delivery Plan so that Committee can monitor the progress.

23 Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) in Partnership

Together with a power point presentation the Community Safety and Licensing Manager reported on how anti-social behaviour is addressed through the Community Safety Partnership which is made up of the Local Authority, South Wales Police and many other agencies such as Housing Associations. There exists a specialist Anti-Social Behaviour team in RCT which is able to take a number of staged actions to address the issues of Anti-Social behaviour such as first and second stage warning letters, acceptable behaviour contract and finally a civil injunction.

In order to demonstrate what kinds of anti-social behaviour is tackled and how, a number of case studies were included in the presentation. The first in Gelligaled Park, which was prone to racist graffiti and problems associated with alcohol and drug misuse. Fencing around the park was stolen and there was littering within the Skate Park. As a result of meetings and interventions between RCT Community Safety team, South Wales Police, Youth Offending, Local Councillors and Local Youth Club staff, there has been a reported 66% decrease in the number of anti-social behaviour incidents after a number of measures were put in place. The fencing has been repaired, a youth PACT meeting has been established and the graffiti has been removed.

The second case study outlined the experiences of a victim of crime who was being affected by anti-social behaviour caused by a neighbour. The Community Safety and Licensing Manager explained the serious effects the ASB was having on the victim's day to day life and how through a network of support from multi agencies had impacted positively by means of regular contact from Housing Officers, Community Safety and Support Worker.

In conclusion the Community Safety and Licensing Manager outlined the tools and powers available to the Council when tackling anti-social behaviour such as civil injunctions (the old ASBO's), closure orders and Police dispersal powers which are often used to ban an individual from an area for a specified time.

Committee discussed the importance of the PCSO's engaging and working with their communities to enable them to identify individual perpetrators. Chief Superintendent Ashby assured Committee that good practice is shared and monthly problem solving groups have been established to consider the highest priorities. He added that although the PCSO's have limited powers their priority is to engage with the community. It was clarified that the PCSO's now report to the Community Safety Department which has given the role more accountability and steps are being taken to provide the PCSO's with laptops to initiate the culture change using the digital age to access relevant information. In respect of PACT meetings, Chief Superintendent Ashby confirmed that post April 2019 when the feedback from the PACT consultation will be analysed it is anticipated that communities will have a greater input into their meetings and align them with the social media and webcasts which will enable the communities to be more responsive to setting local priorities.

The Head of Public Protection Services stressed the importance of horizon scanning to identify those areas of greater priority in respect of ASB issues and the value of engaging with the Community Alcohol Partnerships and Youth Engagement teams so that the appropriate focus can be actioned. In response to a query the Head of Service confirmed that where closure orders are used, which can sometimes result in arrests or displacements, individuals are tracked and where necessary multi agency plans are put in place.

The Director Public Health, Protection & Community Services reiterated the importance of early intervention services and proactive profiling in order to identify support at an early stage and to be able to refer those vulnerable individuals and families to the appropriate community groups for support.

In conclusion, the Chair thanked Superintendent Ashby for his valuable input into this and former meetings and asked that any future information in respect of PACT should be reported to the Crime & Disorder Committee following its participation in the consultation. The Chair also suggested that in future it would

be useful for a representative from the Police & Crime Commissioner's Office (PCC) to be invited to a meeting of the Crime & Disorder Committee.

Following consideration of the report and accompanying power point presentation it was **RESOLVED** to:-

1. Acknowledge the current arrangements in place to deal with Anti-Social Behaviour under the Community Safety partnership;
2. Receive further information in respect of feedback from the PACT consultation to a future meeting; and
3. Invite a representative from the office of the PCC to a future meeting of the Crime & Disorder Committee

This meeting closed at 6.30 pm

**Cllr S Bradwick
Chairman**