

MINUTE of MEETING of the COMMUNITY SAFETY BOARD of WEST Lothian COUNCIL held within COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WEST Lothian Civic Centre, on 12 DECEMBER 2016.

Present – Councillors John McGinty (Chair), Anne McMillan and Cathy Muldoon; Graham Hope (Chief Executive, WLC), Graeme Struthers (depute Chief Executive, WLC), Alistair Shaw (Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services, WLC), Yvonne Beresford (Policy & Performance Manager, WLC), Tim Ward (Senior Manager, Health and Care Partnership, WLC), Alison Smith (Customer Service Manager, WLC), Gary Laing (Scottish Fire & Rescue Services), Chief Inspector Barry Blair (Police Scotland); Susan Lawson (Domestic & Sexual Assault Team Manager) and Lynne Withnell (Domestic & Sexual Assault Team)

Apologies – Fiona Young (Community Justice Authority)

Absent – Councillors Frank Anderson and Peter Johnston

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

2. MINUTES

- a) The Board approved the Minute of its meeting held on 19 September 2016; and
- b) The Board noted the Minute of the meeting of the Community Planning Steering Group held on 8 August 2016.

3. WEST Lothian DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL ASSAULT TEAM (DASAT) - PRESENTATION BY SUSAN LAWSON, MANAGER.

The Board were provided with an overview of two particular work streams of the Domestic and Sexual Assault Team and which related to the Safer Streets initiative and the School Work initiative.

The Board were advised that the Safer Streets initiative had been running since 2012 and had seen a year-on-year increase in cases. It was thought this was due to the team building a reputation in the community in helping vulnerable members of society. Partnership working with colleagues in the court service and within Police Scotland had also enabled the team to process cases going to court much quicker than before which was beneficial to all parties concerned.

The Board were also advised of the preventative measures that were being implemented by the team and included teaching pupils all about what constituted a healthy relationship and about teaching people to take responsibility for their actions. This programme of education to both pupils

and teachers had been successfully rolled out across all schools in West Lothian.

The presentation continued in that the success of the service had been as a result of partnership working between the council, Police Scotland, Voluntary Sector and the Court Service however work with the Welfare Courts could be improved.

The Chair thanked DASAT for the informative presentation and wished to record a note of thanks to all the team members for their invaluable service to West Lothian communities.

Decision

- 1) To note the contents of the report;
- 2) To record a note of thanks for the excellent work being done by the team; and
- 3) To suggest that officers investigate how working with the Welfare Courts could be improved.

4. SAFER COMMUNITIES - PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Board considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) providing information from Covalent (the council's performance monitoring system) showing Community Safety Performance indicators for the year to date.

Yvonne Beresford, Policy and Performance Manager for West Lothian Council provided an overview of the main performance measures contained within the report. The Board were advised that in relation to performance indicator cssp3ASBHC03 (antisocial behaviour cases opened per month), this had seen a significant increase for the month of October 2016 which was thought to be down to a number of factors including the merging of the SNT and Out of Hours teams, a more detailed manner in which cases were recorded and Police Scotland sending low level ASB cases to WLC for the SNT team to deal with.

The Chair then invited Gary Laing, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service to comment on those statistics pertaining to the Fire Service.

The Chair then invited Chief Inspector Barry Blair, Police Scotland to comment on those statistics pertaining to the Police Service.

Decision

- 1) To note the contents of the report; and
- 2) To record a note of thanks to all the partners for their continued contribution to making West Lothian community's safe places to live and work.

5. OPERATION HEATHYARD - POLICE SCOTLAND UPDATE

The Board were provided with a verbal update by Chief Inspector Barry Blair in relation to a recent Police Scotland operation which was known as Operation Heathyard.

The operation involved enforcement action to prevent human trafficking taking place in West Lothian communities of peoples from Latvia. The main day of action had taken place on 2 December 2016 and involved the arrest of a total of four people and who had since appeared in court.

Following the conclusion of the operation Police Scotland were continuing to monitor the impact of the incident on West Lothian communities and were content that there appeared to be no adverse impact on local communities.

Decision

To note the update in relation to Operation Heathyard

6. COMMUNITY JUSTICE REDESIGN - CURRENT PROGRESS IN WEST LOTHIAN

The Board considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Social Policy providing a progress on the national agenda for Community Justice.

Community Justice Redesign in Scotland was now seven months into its transitional year, during which CPPs were required to prepare to assume full powers over justice services in each local authority area. The legal framework under which these changes were implemented was fairly narrow and focused largely on response to the needs of offenders who were already generally managed by local services.

The report further advised that there were three main strands of development in relation to Community Justice – the National Strategy for Community Justice, Performance Framework and Guidance to CPPs.

Within West Lothian the detail of the process had largely been delegated to the Safer Community Strategic Planning Group with the lead responsibility for delivery of services carried out by the SCSPG's sub-committee structure.

Further information was also contained in the report with regards to the community engagement undertaken on the matter and the further development of policy including the completion of a West Lothian Community Needs Assessment which would attempt to put the issue of re-offending in West Lothian in a broader social context.

The Board were asked to note the contents of the report and also note that further updates would be provided to future meetings.

Decision

To note the contents of the report

7. PINPOINT UPDATE

The Board considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by Police Scotland which provided an update on Operation Pinpoint.

Chief Inspector Barry Blair advised the Board that Operation Pinpoint had been developed from an initiative following concerns raised in the Mayfield community, Armadale and the area known as the “pink flats” in Broxburn.

Since that time it had been agreed by community partners to continue to “pin point” further areas that required intensive action over a designated period of time to deal with any issues that were causing concern for communities.

The report then provided a narrative on a number of operations that had been conducted in the Broxburn area and which related to an increase in fire related anti-social behaviour, youth related incidents in Blackburn and more recently work in the Ladywell community. It was noted that buy-in from the local community was important to the success of these operations.

Chief Inspector Blair confirmed that these operations had been well received by the communities but they did require buy-in from the community to ensure that any action taken was positive and could be sustained in the long-term. Particular attention was also paid to the younger members of the community as the upkeep of communities would become theirs in years to come.

Decision

To note the content of the report

8. CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND SAFER COMMUNITIES STRATEGIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The Board considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Social Policy advising of the recommendation from the Safer Communities Strategic Steering Group that approval be provided to pursue a Strategic Needs Assessment in key areas of community justice and community safety that would support future strategic planning decision and future commissioning priorities.

Community Justice Redesign was now well underway and was preparing to assume full responsibility from Community Justice Authorities from

2017-18.

On 24 November the Scottish Government formally launched the new National Strategy for Community Justice with one of the strategy's core priorities being to improve strategic planning and partnership working and contribute to the development of a strategic approach to commissioning. This approach was being developed in other areas of community planning, particularly through the IJB and the Children and Families Strategic Planning Group.

An opportunity existed to undertake a similar exercise within the Safer Communities context through independently commissioning a needs assessment that would provide partners with support to take forward its planning in a number of areas :-

- To identify the priorities from 2018 onwards and inform the Reducing Reoffending Strategy;
- To allow for a stronger analysis of interventions in an early intervention youth justice context; and
- To allow the partnership to develop a stronger sense of the services it needed in order to meet demands in other areas of safer communities work.

The Safer Communities Strategic Planning Group had considered this proposal and were recommending that £12,500 could be made available from the fund for 2016-17. The Community Justice Authority had also agreed to contribute a further £5,000, making a total available of £17,500.

The exercise of commissioning the needs assessment would be led by Social Policy using the "Quick Quote" process.

It was recommended :-

1. That the Board support the development of a strategic needs assessment in relation to community justice;
2. That approval was given to utilise £12,500 from the 2016-17 Safer Communities Fund in addition to a sum provided by the Lothian and Borders Community Justice Authority; and
3. That the Reducing Reoffending Subcommittee and Social Policy were tasked with progressing this piece of work.

Decision

To approve the terms of the report

9. PROPOSED SAFER COMMUNITY MEETING DATES FOR 2017

The Board considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) advising of the proposed dates for meetings of the Community Safety

Board in 2017. Dates for the Community Safety Strategic Steering Group were also detailed in the report.

The proposed meeting dates for the Community Safety Board in 2017 were as follows :-

- Monday 20 March 2017
- Monday 26 June 2017
- Monday 18 September 2017
- Monday 11 December 2017

The following dates were also proposed for meetings of the Community Safety Strategic Steering Group in 2017 :-

- ❖ Tuesday 21 February 2017
- ❖ Tuesday 30 May 2017
- ❖ Tuesday 23 August 2017
- ❖ Tuesday 14 November 2017

It was recommended that the Community Safety Board approve the dates for its meetings in 2017 as outlined in the report.

Decision

To approve the terms of the report

10. CLOSING REMARKS

In closing the meeting the Chair wanted to record a note of thanks to all the partners for their continued efforts throughout 2016 for keeping West Lothian communities safe and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.