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## COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP WORKING PARTY

Minutes of the meeting held on 22 January 2015 at 7.00 pm in the Austen Room, Council Offices, Cecil Street, Margate, Kent.

**Present:** Councillor Peter Campbell (Chairman); Councillors K Gregory, King and D Saunders

### 69. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Cohen, Huxley, Scobie and Tomlinson.

### 70. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

### 71. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Councillor Gregory and AGREED that the minutes, with the addition of the presentation slides mentioned in the minutes, be signed as a true record.

### 72. ROAD SAFETY UPDATE

Nicholas Silvester, Kent Fire and Rescue, gave a presentation on the work of the Road Safety Partnership. He noted that highway engineering works had eradicated 90% of accidents black spots, and that there were a number of initiatives in place to increase road safety awareness, particularly working with school children.

In response to question and comments from Members, Mr Silvester stated:

- That studies were underway into the success of blanket speed limits, and that effective enforcement would be a key factor to the level of success.
- Highway Police use video in order to convict drivers who use mobile phones while driving. The risks of driving while using a mobile phone featured in the road safety/awareness initiatives.

### 73. RECENT CHANGES TO PROBATION

Andrea Whittall, Senior Probation Officer, Community Rehabilitation Centre, gave a presentation on changes to the probation system. She advised that there were two services, the National Probation Service (NPS) which focused on high risk cases, and the Community Rehabilitation Centre (CRC) which worked with low to medium risk cases for offenders who demonstrated a degree of co-operation.

Andrea Whittall noted that the Offender Rehabilitation Act would come into force in February, this would require anyone who spent time in custody to be supervised for a year. The intention was to reduce re-offending as research suggested that re-offending rates halved when individuals were supervised.

In response to questions and comments from Members, Mrs Whittall stated:

- That the increase in supervision would be a challenge to facilitate but that the new company given responsibility for running the CRC was in the planning stages to achieve this, and given that the staff were the same as in the old structure, the transition would be seamless. There had not been a pilot to test the system, it would be adopted simultaneously across the nation in February.

#### **74. UPDATE ON KENT INTEGRATED ADOLESCENT SUPPORT SERVICES**

Mark Powell, KIASS Casework Team Manager, gave a presentation updating Members on the work of the Kent Integrated Adolescent Support Service. He noted that the youth offending teams had been set up as part of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, and incorporated a multiagency approach that worked with the Community Safety Partnership to try to stop young people entering the criminal justice system.

In response to questions and comments from Members, Mr Powell stated:

- The KIASS normally worked with 15, 16 and 17 year olds.
- 95% of offenders were already known to Social Services and in care.
- Non-attendance of school was a known trigger, therefore the KIASS worked closely with schools to get excluded pupils back into full time education.
- A mixture of support and enforcement strategies was used. This included undertaking activities and restrictions such as curfew trackers.

Martyn Cassell, Community Safety Manager, agreed with Members that community safety issues could not be looked at in isolation, a strategic assessment was carried out each year which analysed a number of different data sets in order to identify areas of concern.

#### **75. UPDATE ON CRIME STATISTICS**

Chief Inspector Simon Thompson, Kent Police, advised that he was pleased with the statistics, and noted that traditionally Christmas and the New Year period would see an increase in criminal activity, however this had not been the case in Thanet this year.

Chief Inspector Simon Thompson advised that looking to the future:

- There would be a focus on domestic abuse, with an emphasis on greater engagement with victims.
- 'Safer Spring' would focus on tackling burglaries from sheds and garages.
- A live link would be available at Margate Police Station to allow victims to give evidence without the need to attend court.

##### **Burglary**

The number of Burglary incidents had seen an unprecedented reduction over the year.

##### **Criminal Damage**

It was hoped that incidents of criminal damage would reduce as a result of the reduction in antisocial behaviour, it was recognised that the two were often linked.

##### **Vehicle Crime**

Vehicle crime rates had seen a small spike, often vehicle crime rates were inversely linked to burglary crime rates. The majority of these incidents were theft from vehicles.

##### **Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)**

Rates were down 42% in December compared with August, and 29% less than in November. This could be due to the use of an ASB Car and dispersal orders. A recent change in legislation allowed the Police to issue 48 hour dispersal orders, these new

powers allow the Police to issue dispersal orders more quickly than was previously possible.

**76. COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN UPDATE**

Martyn Cassell, Community Safety Manager, provided an update on the community safety plan actions, in addition he noted that the next Community Safety Partnership Working Party meeting would consider the draft community safety plan for the following year, and the first meeting of next year would review this year's progress.

In response to questions and comments from Members, Mr Cassell advised that:

- There were domestic abuse perpetrator programmes available for those that were subject to offence conditions. However voluntary take up was very low because the sessions were not held in Thanet. Mr Cassell offered to look into the possibility of running a perpetrator session in Thanet as the current plan action had not been completed yet. He would report his findings to a future meeting.
- There would be a national campaign to belittle the use of legal highs, an update on the subject would be provided at the next meeting.
- Next year Mr Cassell intended to increase publicity around the work of the community safety partnership. This would include information on the dates of neighbourhood engagement meetings, domestic abuse, and who the partnership was.

Meeting concluded : 8.35 pm

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