

Minutes of a meeting of the Leicestershire Safer Communities Strategy Board held at County Hall, Glenfield on Thursday, 13 March 2014.

Present

Mr Joe Orson JP Cc – in the Chair

Mr Bob Bearne	Leicestershire and Rutland Probation Service
Cllr. David Bill MBE	Community Safety Partnership Strategy Group Chair - Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council
Cllr. Stephen Corrall	Combined Fire Authority
Mr David Frank	Leicestershire Police
Cllr Bill Liquorish	Community Safety Partnership Strategy Group Chair - Harborough District Council
Cllr. Kevin J. Loydall	Community Safety Partnership Strategy Group Chair - Oadby and Wigston Borough Council
Julian Mallinson	Substance Misuse Board – Leicestershire County Council
Jane Moore	Head of Supporting Leicestershire Families and Safer Communities – Leicestershire County Council
Cllr. Trevor Pendleton	Community Safety Partnership Strategy Group Chair – N. W. Leicestershire District Council
Cllr. Sheila Scott	Community Safety Partnership Strategy Group Chair - Blaby District Council
Cllr. David Snartt	Community Safety Partnership Strategy Group Chair - Charnwood Borough Council

Officers

James Fox	Leicestershire County Council
Ann Marie Hawkins	Harborough District Council
Walter McCulloch	Assistant Director of Children and Young People's Service, Leicestershire County Council
Mr Trevor Peel	Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service
Gurjit Samra-Rai	Leicestershire County Council
John Richardson	N.W. Leicestershire District Council
Sharon Stacey	Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council
Jane Toman	Blaby District Council
Chris Traill	Charnwood Borough Council
Joanne Twomey	Leicestershire County Council

14. INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies for absence were reported on behalf of Cllr Malise Graham (Melton Borough Council), Cllr Colin Golding (Leicestershire and Rutland Probation Trust), Mike Sandys (Chair of the Substance Misuse Board), Ch. Supt. Sally Healy (BCU Commander), Mr Bill Cullen (Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council), Sir Clive Loader (the Police and Crime Commissioner) and Mr Paul Stock (Chief Executive of the Police and Crime Commissioners Office).

15. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 2 DECEMBER 2013.

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 December 2013 were taken as read and confirmed as a correct record.

16. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES.

Safer Communities Commissioning (minute 30)

Jane Moore confirmed that as requested at the last meeting she had liaised with senior officers and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) with a view to speeding up the commissioning process to allow for the early notification of funding allocations for commissioned projects. The Office of the PCC agreed to pull forward bids for those projects for which staff were employed and those bids had now been submitted and individual Districts should have been notified as to whether or not those bids were successful.

Community Safety Partnership Information Sharing (minute 33)

James Fox reported that discussions at Senior Officer Group regarding improvements to information sharing were ongoing. The Chairman requested that, as he was unable to attend today, Cllr Malise Graham be contacted and updated regarding progress.

17. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chairman invited members who wished to do so to declare any interests in respect of items on the agenda for the meeting.

No declarations were made.

18. CHANGE TO THE ORDER OF BUSINESS.

The Chairman sought and obtained the consent of the Board to vary the order of business from that set out on the agenda for the meeting.

19. ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR BILL - VERBAL UPDATE.

The Board received a verbal update from Gurjit Samra-Rai regarding the Anti Social Behaviour Bill which was expected to receive Royal Assent on 13 March.

The Board noted that the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Task and Finish Group had been considering the implementation plan and what changes in practice needed to be implemented as a result of the Bill becoming law.

Gurjit reported that a workshop had been held in Charnwood on 12 March and a number of professionals had attended along with a representative from the Home Office. Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland were seen nationally as leading on this area of work, particularly in relation to the range of partners involved and the level of work already undertaken.

The Board noted that a skeleton training plan had been produced. It was intended that this would be targeted to the specific needs of officers and that training would commence in late summer. The Board requested that officers at a local level be asked what they considered their training needs to be before the plan was finalised.

The Board noted that the Police would also be providing some multi-agency training in September and highlighted the need to ensure that this, and training provided through the Task and Finish Group, was co-ordinated.

Gurjit confirmed that it would be important that Sentinel continued to be used by partners. Jane Moore reported that, through the Anti Social Behaviour Group and the Strategic Partnership Group, the fundamental need for partners to use Sentinel would be reaffirmed.

The Chairman thanked Gurjit and her team for the work carried out.

RESOLVED:

That the progress made by the Anti Social Behaviour Bill Task and Finish Group to prepare for the implementation of the new Anti Social Behaviour legislation be noted.

20. SAFER COMMUNITIES PERFORMANCE 2013/14 - QUARTER 3.

The Board considered a report from James Fox, which detailed the 2013/14 quarter 3 Safer Communities Performance data. A copy of the report is filed with these minutes.

Arising from discussion, the following points arose:

- The long term trend showed that crime levels were decreasing; whilst there had been an increase this year and last year, overall, since 2007, crime levels had significantly fallen. Further analysis of the data was being undertaken to understand the reasons for the recent upturn, although this was not a local issue, but was a trend being seen nationally;
- Arrangements for the cross partnership workshop proposed at the last meeting were being made by the Senior Officer Group. The Board requested that information regarding local crime trends be made available so that areas of good practice across the County could be identified and shared. Mr Dave Frank reported that the Police Strategic Assessment would be published shortly and that this would include information on local crime trends and the reasons behind these. It was suggested that consideration of this document at the planned exercise might also be useful.

RSOLVED:

That the 2013/14 quarter 3 performance information be noted.

21. DOMESTIC HOMICIDE REVIEWS.

The Board considered a report from Jane Moore regarding Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) and the level of current spend for DHRs, proposed developments of the process for carrying out DHRs and plans for the dissemination of learning from current DHRs. A copy of the report is filed with these minutes.

Arising from discussion, the Board noted the following:

- The DHRs conducted in Leicestershire had been complex and involved a number of agencies. This had resulted in expenditure being higher than originally anticipated;
- By commissioning report writers, it would be important to ensure that the level of expertise currently utilised would not be reduced;
- Paragraph 10(v) of the report needed to be clarified. Local Community Safety Partnerships would have ownership and responsibility for any Action Plan arising from a DHR in accordance with legislation currently in force. However, in practice, the County Community Safety Team would provide support and monitor progress against this through the Domestic Abuse Strategy Board, particularly as there would usually be some cross over with other agencies and partnership bodies at a County level. The Domestic Abuse Strategy Board would have a significant role in delivering many of the multi-agency actions in the Action Plan;
- It would be necessary to follow guidance provided in respect of the legislation, but it was acknowledged that, in practice, this was more difficult in two tier authority areas;
- The two recent DHRs would be published, but the anonymity of victims would need to be maintained;
- Some suggested that if CSPs had ownership of DHR, they should also have ownership of the report when this was published. This would avoid confusion and provide clarity on who had responsibility for this. Others felt, however, that a county wide approach might be useful as it would ensure that key issues arising from a DHR could be addressed strategically, as well as locally.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the current levels of expenditure for DHRs be noted;
- (b) That the level of financial contribution for DHRs for 2014-15 as set out in paragraph 9 of the report be approved;
- (c) That the proposed changes to the DHR process set out in paragraph 10 of the report be agreed;
- (d) That a further update on the proposed approach to the publication of DHRs be brought back to the Board at its next meeting in June.

22. DOMESTIC ABUSE STRATEGY 2014-15 AND FUTURE PARTNERSHIP STRUCTURES

The Board considered a report from James Fox which set out a draft interim Multi-Agency Domestic Abuse Strategy 2014-15 for Leicestershire and outlined proposed changes regarding partnership structures for managing Domestic Abuse in the County. A copy of the report is filed with these minutes.

Arising from discussion, the following points arose:

- With reference to list of agencies listed on page 26 of the report, it was suggested that:
 - Although the Strategy did not cover Rutland, Rutland County Council would be represented on the Domestic Abuse Delivery Group and it therefore needed to be added;
 - The Leicestershire Safeguarding Children's Board should be included due to the impact that domestic abuse often had on children and young people;
 - Reference to the Leicestershire and Rutland Probation Trust should be replaced with the 'Provider of Probation Services in Leicestershire and Rutland';
- The governance, accountability and reporting arrangements for the new structure were not clear and the Board requested that a further report be presented to its next meeting setting out such details. It was suggested that a report also be taken to local Community Safety Partnerships to ensure they were clear on what changes would be introduced.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the changes to the role of what was the domestic Abuse Strategy Board as detailed in paragraphs 5, 6 and 7 be noted;
- (b) That Domestic Abuse be included as a regular agenda item for future Board meetings;
- (c) That the interim Multi-Agency Domestic Abuse Strategy for 2014/15 be agreed.

23. TRANSFORMING REHABILITATION - VERBAL UPDATE.

Mr. Bearne updated the Board on the Transforming Rehabilitation programme.

The Board noted that:

- High risk cases or those subject to a Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangement would fall within the 30-40% of cases to be managed by the new National Probation Service (NPS). The remaining cases (considered to be low or medium risk) would be handled through the local Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC).
- Where a case was escalated from a low/medium risk to a high risk level, these would be transferred to the NPS and, thereafter, whether or not they were reduced back to a medium or low risk level, such cases would continue to be managed through the NPS. There was some concern that over time this might result in capacity issues for the NPS.
- The Leicestershire and Rutland Probation Trust would be dissolved and the new National Probation service would take over on 31 May 2014. This had been put back from 1 April, although staff and workload would still be divided from this date. It was considered that this cross over period would be helpful and allow time for the new systems and processes to be tested;
- The on-going competition for the 21 CRC contracts would be known in October and it would take over its case load as from April 2015;

- Representation on statutory boards would fall within the remit of the NPS. Capacity to attend non statutory board meetings would be an issue. Representation at local Community Safety Partnership (CSP) meetings was an area of concern. Probation were a statutory partner of CSP, but it was not yet clear whether both the NPS and CRC would or should be represented and if not, how such representation should be divided;
- Many partners considered that attendance by probation at local JAG meetings would be a priority;
- An event had been held on Thursday, 27th February for CRC bidders. This had been aimed at providing a clear picture of the work being undertaken and how services operated in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland to enable and encourage bidders to structure their bids accordingly;

The Board requested that a further update be provided at its next meeting.

AGREED:

(a) That the update be noted;

(b) That a further update be provided to the Board at its meeting in June.

24. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

25. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

It was NOTED that the next meeting of the Board would be held on Thursday 12 June 2014 at 10.00am.

2.00 - 3.15 pm
13 March 2014

CHAIRMAN