

Minutes of the meeting of the Community Protection Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 16 January 2007.

Present:

Councillor	John Appleton
"	David Booth
"	Richard Chattaway (Chair)
"	Gordon Collett
"	Josie Compton
"	John Haynes
"	Barry Longden
"	Mike Perry
"	Dave Shilton
"	Heather Timms
"	John Wells (Vice Chair)

Also present: Councillor Richard Hobbs (Portfolio Holder for Community Protection) and Councillor Bob Hicks.

Officers:

Caroline Blackburn, Domestic Violence Manager, Community Protection Directorate.
William Brown, Strategic Director of Community Protection and County Fire Officer, Community Protection Directorate.

Vicky Cooke, Group Assistant, Performance and Development Directorate.

Jean Hardwick, Principal Committee Administrator, Performance and Development Directorate.

Nigel Jones, Detective Superintendent, Warwickshire Police.

Jeremy Lee, Manager, Emergency Planning Unit, Community Protection Directorate.

Michelle McHugh, Scrutiny Officer, Performance and Development Directorate.

Kate Nash, Head of Community Safety, Community Protection Directorate.

Glen Ranger, Assistant County Fire Officer, Community Protection Directorate.

Julie Sullivan, Corporate Community Safety Manager, Community Protection Directorate.

1. General

(1) Apologies for absence

Assistant Chief Constable Bill Holland.

(2) Members' Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

Members declared interests as follows –

- (a) The following Members declared personal interests arising by virtue of them serving as district/borough councillors as listed below:

Stratford-on Avon District Council – Councillor John Appleton

Warwick District Council – Councillors Josie Compton and Dave Shilton

Rugby Borough Council – Councillor Heather Timms

(b) Councillors David Shilton and Heather Timms declared personal interests in Item 5, Corporate Business Plan Target Reviews, respectively, as Members of Warwick and Rugby CDRPs.

(c) Councillor Hobbs declared an interest as a Member of Stratford District Council and the Police Authority.

(d) Councillor David Booth declared a personal interest in agenda item 6 Civil Contingencies Act 2004 as an employee of the Ministry of Defence at Kineton.

(3) Minutes of the Community Protection Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 6 November 2006.

The minutes of the meeting of the Community Protection Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 6 November 2006 were agreed as a correct record subject to an apology for absence being recorded in respect of Councillor Richard Hobbs.

2. Public Questions

None

3. Domestic Violence (DV): Action Plan Progress

Caroline Blackburn presented the report of the Strategic Director of Community Protection and County Fire Officer, which outlined the first progress report of the Domestic Violence Strategy action plan. She highlighted that –

1. DV was a key issue throughout all communities within the county.
2. Levels of reporting had increased and it was essential that this should continue.
3. Increased service provision was required if DV was to be effectively tackled.

During discussion the following comments were noted –

- That the statistics for the areas recording the highest levels of reported domestic abuse would be more meaningful if they included the population numbers for each area, for comparison purposes.
- It was also considered that the statistics might present a worse situation than actually existed and a breakdown of the type of reported incidents might reveal a different picture. Concern was raised regarding establishing the number of repeat incidents.

- That more data would be welcomed on the perpetrator profile.
- That the work to provide assistance to victim's children and the bid to increase funding was welcomed.
- That the recording the outcome of police/court action would be welcomed.
- That good progress was being made on the Action Plan

In reply to questions Caroline Blackburn, William Brown and Julie Sullivan said that –

- (i) It was estimated that approximately 12,000 children were affected by DV. There was a need, however, to work closer with Children, Young People and Families to know the extent of counselling that was required;
- (ii) The figures related to the number of reported incidents and did not represent the total number of incidents. It was not known whether these were first reported incidents or repeat incidents. On average it took 7 years of abuse before a victim reported an incident. Regardless of what the figures represented DV was a significant problem.
- (iii) 35% of the problems were triggered by alcohol.
- (iv) Government funding was being made available for a pilot "Sanctuary Scheme" and this would be offered initially to the worst cases, where the victim wanted to stay in the property, and then widened out.
- (v) Data on perpetrator profiles was improving
- (vi) The delivery and development of the DV Strategy involved close working with the district and borough councils and with all partner agencies.
- (vii) All staff included in this work was given training specific to the need of DV victims and perpetrators.
- (viii) That a directory of services was currently being prepared.
- (viii) That the Local Area Agreement Safer Block (LAA) included additional performance indicators for DV.

Nigel Jones added that any type of domestic abuse would be recorded by the Police as DV and regarded as an offence having taken place.

Councillor Richard Hobbs stressed the importance of identifying and recording problems and, more appropriately, improving the ability to report incidents and making access to help easier. With regard to encouraging partner organisations to work together he reported that he would be meeting with the leaders of all the district and borough to discuss this issue. Additionally, Councillor Izzi Seccombe was meeting with the Police to raise the profile of DV.

The Committee -

- (1) supported the findings of the needs analysis and the future activities that had been identified to reduce the areas of unmet need.

- (2) noted and supported progress against the Strategy and Action Plan.
- (3) asked that responses be prepared to the list of questions prepared for the meeting and circulated to Members.
- (4) asked for a further progress report in 6 months time and for the direction of the report to be prepared in line with the Committee spokespersons' directions.

4. Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRP) Performance Report

Julie Sullivan presented the report of the Strategic Director of Community Protection and County Fire Officer, which summarised the Crime and Reduction Partnerships' performance against targets.

During discussion the following comments were noted –

- (1) Concern was expressed about the significant increase in crime across the county, in particular, in the Rugby area.
- (2) That all CDRPs were developing plans to tackle the increase.
- (3) That the CDRPs had only recently been formed and should be commended and given support. Where there was evidence of good practice this should be shared between all CDRPs.
- (3) That information on detection rates would be welcomed.
- (4) That consideration should be given to ensuring that CDRP targets

In reply to questions –

- William Brown confirmed that the LAA targets were similar to the CRDP targets but broader and were prioritised.
- Kate Nash said that detection figures were available and could be provided in future reports.
- Julie Sullivan reported that detection rates for this year were 26% as compared to 23% the previous year.

The Committee -

- (1) Noted the crime reduction performance across the county and the targets set for 2007/8.
- (2) Noted the benchmarking against most similar force areas for the last three months.
- (3) Asked that the Committee receive CDRP quarterly progress reports.

- (4) Asked Councillor Barry Longden to bring to the Area Chairs' meeting the need to work with the Police and to provide funding to advertise and address the increase in theft of satellite navigation equipment from vehicles.

5. Performance Reporting

The Committee deferred the report of the Strategic Director of Adult, Health and Community Services, which provided commentary on a number of key performance indicators within the arrangements for reporting performance for the Adult, Health and Community Services Directorate, to the 5th February 2007 meeting because of the absence of an officer to present the report.

6. The Civil Contingencies Act 2004 – Update on Implementation in Warwickshire

Glen Ranger presented the report of the Strategic Director of Community Protection and County Fire Officer, which summarised the implementation of the requirements of the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 and provided an update on the progress of the new structures and processes now in place across Warwickshire.

In reply to Members questions Jeremy Lee –

- (1) said that relocating the Emergency Planning Unit to the Community Protection Directorate had worked well.
- (2) confirmed that the Member training and awareness sessions would be of a practical nature and would include a tabletop exercise.
- (3) explained that the utility companies formed a critical infrastructure group and had met for the first time in September 2006 and were designated Category 2 responder. The Local Resilience Forum was designated category 1 responder.
- (4) William Brown highlighted the benefits of the Local Resilience Forum in terms of sharing information and planning. He explained that work was currently being undertaken on handling a flu pandemic.

Councillor Richard Hobbs reported that there would be a display of the work being undertaken by the Emergency Planning Unit in the Council Anti-Chamber and to advertise the Member seminar date at a future Council meeting.

The Committee -

- (1) noted the report on the implementation of the requirements of the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 and supported the structures, plan and processes put into place.

- (2) Supported the proposals regarding additional training and exercising including raising awareness for elected Members.

7. Provisional Items for Future Meetings and Forward Plan Items Relevant to this Committee

(a) Provisional Items for Future Meetings

Members considered the provisional items for future meetings and the Chair suggested that the Committee hold a workshop to consider future items for discussion/scrutiny.

Following further discussion it was agreed that –

- (1) a workshop for Members be arranged at a date in April to consider items for future meetings.
- (2) the meeting to be held on Monday 22 January 2007 at Trading Standards be cancelled because the majority of Members being unavoidably unable to attend.

(b) Forward Plan – Items Relevant to this Committee

The Forward Plan items relevant to the work of this Committee were noted as follows -

Cabinet 8 March 2007

Draft Integrated Risk Management Plan 2007 -2010

Council 20 March 2007

Draft Integrated Risk Management Plan 2007 -2010

8. Any Other Items

None

9. Complaints Report – Half Year 2006/07

The Committee noted the report of the Strategic Director of Community Protection and County Fire Officer detailing all complaints and compliments for the Directorate in the first half of 2006/07.

10. Community Protection Directorate contribution to Supporting People in Warwickshire.

The Committee noted the report of the Strategic Director of Community Protection and County Fire Officer, which outlined progress against the Supporting People improvement plan and how the Community Protection Directorate contributes to this work.

.....

Chair of the Committee

The Committee rose at 4:30 p.m.