

## **Minutes of the meeting of the Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 28 February 2006.**

### Present:

Councillor	John Haynes (Chair)
"	John Wells (Vice Chair)
"	John Appleton
"	David Booth
"	Michael Doody
"	Barry Longden
"	Mike Perry
"	Anita Macaulay
"	Dave Shilton
"	Heather Timms

Also Present: Richard Hobbs, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety.

### Officers:

Trevor Brice, Deputy County Fire Officer, Community Protection Directorate  
Jean Hardwick, Principal Committee Administrator, Performance and Development Directorate  
Andrew Lawrence, Head of Community Support, Community Protection Directorate  
Jeremy Lee, Manager, Emergency Planning Unit, Community Protection Directorate  
Adrian Levett, Head of Trading Standards, Adult, Health and Community Services  
Sonia Mayo, Domestic Violence Manager, Community Protection Directorate  
Jane Pollard, Assistant County Solicitor, Performance and Development Directorate  
Julie Sullivan, Community Safety Manager, Community Protection Directorate  
Gereint Stoneman, Corporate Review Team, Performance and Development Directorate

## **1. General**

### Departures – Adrian Levett and Andrew Lawrence

The Chair announced that this was the last meeting of the Committee that Adrian Levett and Andrew Lawrence would attend before their departure from the County Council on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2006. He commended Adrian Levett on raising the profile nationally of Trading Standards work in Warwickshire and Andrew Lawrence on his hard work and dedication to the County Council. He thanked them both for their work for the Committee, said that they would be missed and wished them well in the future.

### **(1) Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bernard Kirton and Bryan Levy

**(2) Members' Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests**

Members declared personal interests as follows –

(1) 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 Michael Doody and Dave Shilton

Rugby Borough Council – Councillor Heather Timms

(2) Councillor David Booth declared a personal interest in agenda item 4, The Civil Contingencies Act 2004, because he was employed by the Ministry of Defence.

**(3) (a) Minutes of the Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meetings held on 10 January and 8 February 2006.**

Resolved –

That the minutes of the Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Committee's meetings held on 10 January and 8 February 2006 be approved and signed as a correct record subject to, in respect of the minutes of the 8 February 2006 meeting, the following amendments –

- (1) a correction to the spelling of Councillor Longden's name in the Appendix to the minutes.
- (2) it being noted that Councillor David Booth did not declare a personal interest, as he was not a district councillor.

**(b) Matters Arising**

None

**2. Public Question Time**

Question from Mr. Paul Reader, a resident of Arley, as follows -

“ 1. Could the Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Committee find out why at target reduction of only 4% in Anti-social behaviour incidents in the North Warwickshire Crime and Disorder and Drugs Misuse Strategy 05-08 has been set when other crime target reductions are around 16.75%, this is when Anti-social behaviour is so prevalent in our communities and a problem for many residents.?”

2. Could the Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Committee find out why when totalling up all the crimes aimed to be prevented within the North Warwickshire Crime and Disorder and Drugs Misuse Strategy 05-08 (1084) and dividing this up over the strategy period 05-08, it equates to only a reduction on average of 3 less crimes per day in the North Warwickshire Area at the end of the strategy or 1 crime less per day per year of the strategy, surely this is such a low reduction in the overall amount of crime being committed ?”

The Chair asked that the Head of Community Safety prepare a response to this question, which would be sent to Mr. Reader, and to all Members of the Committee after the meeting.

### **3. Domestic Violence – A Strategy for Warwickshire**

Sonya Mayo presented the joint report of the Strategic Director of Performance and Development and the Strategic Director of Community Protection outlining that the Domestic Violence Strategic Board, a partnership group supported by a number of agencies, had developed a 3-year strategy for Warwickshire to tackle domestic abuse. The Strategy, supported by a 12-month action plan, included specific outcomes. The Strategy had already been endorsed by the five Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnerships in Warwickshire, as well as all the agencies involved in developing the Strategy. Members were asked to endorse the Strategy to enable its publication as a public document to demonstrate the work that was being undertaken in Warwickshire.

In reply to questions Sonya Mayo said that –

- Funding had been made available to a charitable organisation that undertook counselling for repeat victims (to prevent them entering into another abusive situation).
- Under-reporting was a big issue and the long-term strategy was to focus on all hard to reach groups.
- The action plan had been operating for 12 months and was summarised under the heading “Operational Objectives” in the Appendix to the report.
- The Domestic Abuse and Multi-Agency Team (DAMAT) worked very closely with the Police (on a day-to-day basis) and all domestic abuse calls were logged on a database.

- Abuse perpetrated by other family members e.g. siblings was not covered within the Strategy and if it were, would have resource implications. Support for children the subject of an abusive situation was dealt with by Social Services.
- There were 17 refuge places located around the county and 4 drop-in centres located in Stratford, Leamington, Rugby, Nuneaton. A local telephone help-line was available each day from 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m. and the National help-line provided a 24-hour service. The Service was publicised and marketed widely and by different methods.
- DAMAT was well trained in dealing with all types and aspects of domestic abuse.

During discussion, whilst welcoming the Strategy, Members –

- Expressed concern about being asked to endorse the Action Plan without having seen it.
- Expressed concern about the inconsistency of Member representation on CDRPs.
- Asked for regular reports on how the Strategy was being developed and performance against the action plan.

Councillor Richard Hobbs said that the Government was currently reviewing CDRPs and explained that each CDRP delivered according to the priority of each area. He referred to the partner Summit meeting he had attended that morning to launch the Local Area Agreement and highlighted the future importance that would be placed on accountability of partnership agencies working for the people of Warwickshire. He commended the work done by DAMAT which he considered had been well publicised.

Following further discussion it was resolved that –

(1) Cabinet be asked –

- (i) To endorse the Domestic Violence Strategy;
- (ii) To refer a copy of the agreed action plan to this Committee for consideration;

(2) This Committee receive 6 monthly reports on the action plan progress.

#### **4. The Civil Contingencies Act 2004 – Update on implementation in Warwickshire.**

Jeremy Lee presented the joint report of the Strategic Director of Community Protection and County Fire Officer, and the Strategic Director of Performance and Development which presented a summary of the progress towards implementation of the requirements of the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 (the Act) and the new structures and processes now place across Warwickshire.

Jeremy Lee responded to a wide range of questions that included the following replies –

- The Local Resilience Forum (LRF) had been involved in the consultation on the Government's proposed changes to the Police, Fire and Health Services.
- Under the Act the LRFs were based on Police Areas. The setting up of LRFs was a requirement under the Act. The Water Authorities and other utilities were included in the list of category 2 responders.
- 187 Parish emergency plans had been completed out of a total of 202. One element of Parish Plans included the identification of a helicopter landing pads.
- The Community Risk Register was completed in accordance with guidance and in accordance prescribed criteria.
- Warwickshire was looking to forge links with Coventry and a Memorandum of Understanding was being prepared to enable this to take place.

Resolved that the Committee endorse the report on the implementation of the requirements of the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 and the structures and processes put into place.

## **5. Single Issue Meeting on Anti-Social Behaviour in Warwickshire – Final Report.**

The Chair presented his report summarising the approach taken by the Committee to scrutinise the multi-agency approach taken to address Anti-Social Behaviour in Warwickshire. He proposed that the issue be reviewed again in the Autumn.

Discussion followed during which Members –

- Commented on the success of the meeting.
- Supported the proposal to review the issue again in the autumn following receipt of the report from Kate Nash on the impact of the Crime and Disorder Act, The Respect Agenda and Local Area Agreement on the role and remit of the Committee.
- Supported the proposal to review the issue again in the autumn.
- Considered how the issues raised in the meeting should be progressed.

In reply to concerns –

- Councillor Richard Hobbs said that the Government had recently announced its intention of re-organising CDRPs. With the exception of Rugby each CDRP had County Council representatives appointed by the Area Committees.
- Relating to the need to shorten the time taken to process ASBO, Jane Pollard advised that the legal work on ASBOs was funded by the Police.
- Andrew Lawrence said that, following the County Council's meeting on 7 February 2006, additional funding had been allocated to Community Safety

and the issues highlighted in paragraph 4.2 (f) – (i) could help to shape future priorities for the service.

Following further discussion it was –

Resolved that –

- (1) The Committee endorse the outcomes of the scrutiny event and the next steps as set out in section 4.0 of the report;
- (2) Review this issue again in 6 months time;
- (3) Cabinet be asked to support the use of the extra resources allocated to the Community Safety budget to raise the priority of the issues raised in paragraph 4.2 , sub-paragraphs (f) – (i) of the report;
- (4) Diane Johnson be asked to circulate to Members details of the number of ASBOs issued in each area of the county;

## **6. Provisional Items for Future Meetings and Forward Plan Items Relevant to this Committee**

### **(a) Provisional Items for Future Meetings**

Members noted the table setting out provisional items for future meetings. During discussion it was agreed that the following items be added to the work programme –

- (1) Update on the Police Merger – to be timetabled;
- (2) Update on Civil Contingencies – to be timetabled;
- (3) CDRPs – Councillor Richard Hobbs suggested that the Government's proposal to revise CDRPs should be dealt with at full Council and this was agreed.
- (4) The Safety of Older People who wished to live independently in the community – to be scheduled for the September meeting.

### **(b) Forward Plan – Items Relevant to this Committee**

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

**Cabinet – 6 April 2006**

Community Protection Directorate Revenue Estimates – 2006/07 (Fire & Rescue)  
Annual Efficiency Statement Plan for 2006/07 (Fire & Rescue)  
Revenue Estimates/Annual Efficiency Statement Plan for 2006/07  
(Social Services)

**Cabinet – 25 May 2006**

Annual Efficiency Statement – Gains achieved in 2005/06 (Fire & Rescue)

**7. Urgent Business - Letter from Chief Executive to CDRPs**

(The Chair agreed to the discussion of this item as urgent business.)

The Chair circulated to Members a letter from the Chief Executive, as Chair of the Youth Justice Board to the Chairs of the CDRPs, a copy of which had been sent to him as Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and invited comment.

Discussion followed during which Members expressed concern, and the need for clarification, about the issues highlighted in the letter. It was proposed that the Chief Executive should be invited to address Members at the next meeting to explain more fully his views. This course of action was agreed.

.....  
Chair of the Committee

The Committee rose at 4:40 p.m.