



RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITIES GROUP (RAG)

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 15 March 2012
in Room 2, at Milton Keynes Council Civic Offices @ 14.00hrs

PRESENT:

Cllr Peter Geary (Chair)

Representatives of Responsible Authorities with Voting Rights:

Jane Reed (on behalf of David Hill)	Milton Keynes Council
Councillor Sam Crooks	Thames Valley Police Authority
Supt. Nikki Ross	Thames Valley Police
Mick Osborne	Bucks Fire and Rescue Service
Kilvinder Vigurs	Thames Valley Probation

Co-opted members to the Responsible Authorities Group without Voting Rights:

Councillor Steve Coventry	Safer and Stronger Communities
Councillor Philip Ayles	Representing Rural Parish Councils

Officers:

Richard Solly	Head of Community Safety
Will Spurgeon	Assistant Director Targeted Services
Chief Inspector Ed McLean	Thames Valley Police
Denise Butt	Thames Valley Probation
Neil Coolman	Thames Valley Police
Colin Wilderspin	SaferMK
Kelly Allen	SaferMK
Neil Dodds	MK Act
Tina Milner (Committee Manager)	Milton Keynes Council

OTHERS PRESENT:

Louise Westmarland	The Open University
Auzra Flynn	Milton Keynes Council
Councillor Hannah O'Neil	MK Equality Council
Richard North	Thames Valley Police

APOLOGIES:

David Hill	Milton Keynes Council
Councillor David Livingstone	Representing Urban Parish Councils

RAG37 CHAIRS WELCOME

The Chair welcomed everyone to Milton Keynes Council and noted that Jane Reed was representing David Hill, Milton Keynes Council's Chief Executive.

RAG38 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED -

That the public and press representatives be excluded by virtue of Paragraph 7 (Information relating to any action to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime) of Part II of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, in order that the Group may consider the following matter:

Item 4: Domestic Homicide Review

RAG39 DOMESTIC HOMICIDE REVIEW

The Group considered a report on Domestic Homicide Review by Dr L Westmarland of The Open University.

RESOLVED –

- 1) That the report be noted.
- 2) That difficulty experienced in extracting data from GP's regarding patient's information be noted.
- 3) That due to the highly confidential nature of the data required the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board should also be consulted in future with regard to its provision.
- 4) That the involvement of the Head of Community Safety in future investigations by the Domestic Violence Delivery Group be noted and agreed.

5) That Thames Valley Probation sought to be involved on the Board in future.

6) That once the overview report is made public, Dr L Westmarland be invited back to the Group to review the process.

RAG40 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED -

That the public and press representatives be readmitted to the meeting.

RAG41 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED –

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Responsible Authorities Group (RAG) held on 15 December 2011 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

RAG42 PERFORMANCE GROUP REPORT

The Group heard from the Police representatives that there had been a slight monthly increase on all crime for January 2012, however, the overall level was 5% lower than the previous year.

It was reported that although there was a 10% increase in serious acquisitive crime month-on-month, levels were still lower than the previous year. However, there was an increase in vehicle crime as displacement from targeted work on burglary dwelling offences had occurred.

The Group heard from the Probation Service that there had been a 50% reduction in the re-offending rate of the more serious offenders. This was not represented on the SaferMK Performance Report. 22% of re-offending was identified as being due to accommodation issues.

The Group heard that Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) incidents reported to both the Police and Council had decreased year-to-date and that HMIC was to make a visit to review recording of ASB in Thames Valley Police (TVP). Officers had been trained to recognise ASB.

The Group heard there had been a year-to-date decrease in Hate Crime. It was recognised that this was largely due to a project conducted by Hannah O'Neill of the Milton Keynes Equalities Council.

The Police Authority representative asked that in future the Performance Group report was presented in a manner more in keeping with the changing size and structure of Milton Keynes, with figures given per 1,000 population.

RESOLVED –

1. That the report be noted.
2. That the future Performance Group Report be presented with figures per 1,000 population.

RAG43

OUTLINE SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR STRATEGY

The Group received a presentation from the Head of Neighbourhood Management on the Outline Social Behaviour Strategy. The outline strategy emphasised and supported the use of positive (pro-social) behaviours in the community while ensuring that anti-social behaviour was dealt with robustly by partnership agencies. The thrust of the strategy was to promote social behaviour.

Supt Ross confirmed that the concept of the Social Behaviour Strategy had the full support of Thames Valley Police. She felt that the strategy required more attention before it become a public document, and pointed out that the emphasis in the text was on anti-social behaviour although it was clearly labelled as promoting social behaviour.

The Group heard that the Council's Children's Services Team was very keen to work with the Partnership in ensuring that the social behaviour strategy became a reality and endorsed the point that it appeared primarily to focus on anti-social behaviour.

Councillor Coventry welcomed the outline strategy was concerned that some of his case referrals of ASB had not been resolved. He agreed to submit details of any cases of this nature to chief officers of the respective organisations.

It was noted that consultation on the outline strategy commenced 15 March 2012 and was due to be completed on 27 April 2012 and that the final strategy in draft was to be approved by RAG by mid-May 2012.

RESOLVED –

1. That the report and presentation be noted.
2. That the outline Strategy be agreed and the Group's comments taken into consideration in the final draft.
3. That a clear action plan be appended to the Strategy.
4. That when Members report ASB, officers be encouraged to proactively resolve any issues identified.

RAG44

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

The Group considered a report and presentation by SaferMK in respect of the transition of the SaferMK support team into a Social Enterprise organisation.

RESOLVED –

1. That the report and presentation be noted.
2. That the business case be represented at the next RAG meeting.

RAG45

REPORT ON TROUBLED FAMILIES

The Group received a report and presentation in respect of Troubled Families from the Assistant Director Targeted Services and heard that on 16 December 2011 the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) announced the troubled Families Initiative. The initiative was to take place over three years and would be managed by the Troubled Families Unit in DCLG.

It was noted that the initiative emerged out of advice given to the Government from a number of recently commissioned reports, particularly the Allen Report that demonstrated that there was a limited number of families in each demographic area that took up a high proportion of local funding and that 425 similar families had been identified in Milton Keynes.

It was reported that over the years attempts had been made to work with troubled families but success had been limited. This initiative sought early intervention with these families. A grant of £100k had been assigned to each Local Authority for each of the next three years to appoint a Troubled Families Coordinator. In addition, there was an offer to reimburse 40% of the cost of the interventions to turn around the lives of the troubled families.

The targets of the initiative was to reduce the crime and ASB committed by these families, to get the children back into full time education and to get adults back into work.

RESOLVED -

1. That the report be noted.
2. That progress reports be presented to the Group, to include:
 - a) Information on the intervention process and working with correct agencies to ensure there was no duplication of visits; and
 - b) The identity of agencies engaged with this initiative once the families were identified.

RAG46

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONERS

The Group considered a report in respect of the Police and Crime Commissioners.

RESOLVED –

1. That the information report be noted.
2. That the Deputy Community Safety Manager be asked to prepare a briefing paper for the next RAG meeting.

RAG47

REPORT ON PARISH COMMUNITY SAFETY FUND

The Group noted a report in respect of the Parish Community Safety Fund.

RESOLVED –

That the report be noted.

RAG48

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the date of the next Responsible Authorities Group would be on Thursday 21 June 2012 at 2.00pm.

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 4.24 PM