

Minutes of the meeting of the COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP held on MONDAY 10 JULY 2006 at 10.00 AM

- Present:**
- N Atwal - Milton Keynes Race Equality Council
Chief Superintendent
 - S Blake - Thames Valley Police
 - Councillor A Dransfield - Milton Keynes Council
 - R Flowers - Milton Keynes Primary Care Trust
 - Councillor I Fraser - Milton Keynes Council
 - Councillor I Henderson - Milton Keynes Council
 - S Hopkins - Midsummer Housing Association
 - P Jones - Bucks Fire and Rescue Service
 - C Vallance - Milton Keynes Drug Action Team
 - L Westlake - Milton Keynes Council
- Officers:**
- N Atkinson - Milton Keynes Council
 - C Godfrey - Milton Keynes Council
 - S Heap - Milton Keynes Council
 - J Keating-Wilkes - Milton Keynes Council
 - S Monks - Milton Keynes Council
 - B Sandom - Milton Keynes Council
 - R Solly - Milton Keynes Council
- Apologies:**
- J Best - Milton Keynes Council
 - Inspector I Bridge - Thames Valley Police
 - D Butt - Thames Valley National Probation Service
 - Councillor S Crooks - Thames Valley Police Authority
 - A Farr - Milton Keynes Council
 - Chief Superintendent
 - J Liversidge - Thames Valley Police
- Also Present:**
- Councillor B Carstens - Milton Keynes Council
 - Councillor T Fraser - Campbell Park Parish Council
 - J Holman - Milton Keynes Council
 - J Jones - Milton Keynes Council
 - H O'Neill - Milton Keynes Race Equality Council

1.0 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 May 2006 were received.

It was noted that Mr R Fitzpatrick, who attended the meeting had represented the Revolving Door Project and also that Ms S Hopkins of Midsummer Housing Association had been in attendance.

2.0 ATTENDANCE

The members of the Partnership present expressed their concern at the poor attendance and requested that in future members make every effort to attend.

3.0 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(a) Safer Neighbourhoods Delivery Group – Minute 4.0

It was asked whether the Safer Neighbourhoods Delivery Group would be considering the recent report published on the effectiveness of Community Police Officers, with particular reference to the relevance of the findings to Milton Keynes.

It was suggested that it might be appropriate for the Partnership to also consider the report.

It was noted that the appointment of Community Police Officers in Milton Keynes was only in the very early stages, however a copy of the report would be circulated and considered by the Partnership at a future meeting.

(b) 'Keeping Our Eyes Open' Delivery Group – Minute 5.0

The Partnership noted the first meeting of the 'Keeping Our Eyes Open' Delivery Group had been scheduled and a report of the meeting would be made to the next meeting of the Partnership.

4.0 REDUCING VIOLENCE DELIVERY GROUP

The Partnership received a report on the work of the Group from its Chair.

The Chair drew attention to the appointment of Neil Atkinson as the Project Manager.

Other issues referred to by the Chair included:

- (a) work with parish councils on developing monitoring arrangements for domestic violence;
- (b) work with the Accident and Emergency Department at Milton Keynes Hospital with a view to finding ways of improving the reporting of incidents of domestic violence;
- (c) the need to identify funding for alcohol treatment and an alcohol strategy; and
- (d) funding for the Lighthouse Domestic Violence Team which ended in March 2007.

It was noted that with the exception of the development of an alcohol strategy, the Group was achieving against its targets. As a result it was suggested that the challenge for the Group was to sustain its

success and also to do further work on identifying particular social groups where domestic violence was more prevalent.

It was noted that the Police and Government were encouraging the reporting of incidents domestic violence and magistrates were taking a firm line in cases involving incidents of domestic violence. The potential conflict with the Group's target of reducing incidents was recognised. It was suggested, that the message that domestic violence was being taken seriously needed to be communicated to the community.

The importance of an alcohol strategy was recognised, together with the need to progress the development of a strategy as soon as possible. It was suggested that where people were aware of the inappropriate selling of alcohol that this should be brought to the attention of the Council's Licensing Officers.

RESOLVED –

1. That the format of future reports from the Group include 'Key Actions' to be progressed and a target date for completion.
2. That the Communications Group be requested to publicise the approach being taken by both the Police and Magistrates to incidents of domestic violence.
3. That a further report be presented at the next meeting on 11 September 2006.

5.0 DEALING WITH PERSISTENT OFFENDERS DELIVERY GROUP

The Partnership received a report from one of the Vice-Chairs of the Delivery Group.

The Vice-Chair drew particular attention to what the Group had identified as barriers to its progress, specifically:

- (a) the resignation of the Tracker, and the time to make a re-appointment;
- (b) the poor attendance at meetings of the Group;
- (c) difficulty in joining up the 'prevent and deter' strand with the other strands;
- (d) the availability of finance to allow prolific offenders to access drug treatment centres; and
- (e) the onerous reporting requirements of the Government Office for the South East (GOSE).

A number of members of the Partnership echoed the concerns raised at the onerous reporting requirements of GOSE, particularly as any feedback on the information submitted was rare.

Concern was expressed by the Partnership that the Group appeared to have made little progress in the last year. It was, however,

suggested that the 'prevent and deter' strand was working well and had benefited from experience elsewhere gathered by the Group.

It was suggested that there was a possible conflict in the approached favoured by the Drugs Action Team and that required by the Courts and Probation Service with regard to offenders with drug problems. The Partnership expressed its concern that there were no representatives from either the Magistrates Court, or the Probation Service, to allow a fuller discussion of the issue.

With regard to reducing the number of persistent offenders, it was reported that the numbers were reducing.

RESOLVED –

1. That a report be made to a future meeting of the Partnership on current reporting requirements to GOSE across the work of the Partnership.
2. That the Delivery Group report to the next meeting of the Partnership with detailed information on the current state of progress of each of its work strands.
3. That representatives of the Drugs Action Team, the Magistrates Court and the Probation Service be invited to meet prior to the next meeting of the Partnership with a view to the representatives understanding the positions of all parties concerned.

6.0 COMMUNICATING WITH THE PUBLIC DELIVERY GROUP

The Partnership noted that James Keating-Wilkes had been appointed to support the work of the Group. It was asked that he be kept informed of any publicity needs arising from the individual work strands.

It was reported that a Communications programme was now in place which included publicising what each of the Partnership's Delivery Group's had achieved. It was noted that each Delivery Group was represented on the Delivery Group.

It was suggested that a 'quick win' pro-forma could be developed to help inform the Communications Team of particular issues worthy of communicating.

It was also suggested that the Delivery Group should be taking a proactive approach and identifying issues arising, which should be publicised.

With regard to the Community Safety Forum, it was reported that the possibility of a 'Roadshow', rather than a formal meeting was being considered.

It was also reported that a report on the Annual Crime Survey would be submitted to the next meeting of the Partnership.

RESOLVED –

That the report be noted.

7.0 SAFER COMMUNITIES UNIT - QUARTERLY REPORT

The Partnership received a report on the work of the Safer Communities Unit.

It was reported that the post of Temporary Manager had been re-advertised, also that a sub-group was looking at the overall operation of the Unit.

It was also reported that the CCTV monitoring and enforcement was working well.

It was noted that the deployment of the Community Wardens was being reviewed, and as a result this was affecting the morale of the Wardens. It was hoped to report on the deployment of the Wardens in November.

It was also noted that a further report on the work of the Unit would be made to the next meeting of the Partnership.

RESOLVED –

That the report be noted.

8.0 LOCAL AREA AGREEMENTS - PROGRESS REPORT

The Partnership received a presentation on progress in finalising a Local Area Agreement between Milton Keynes Council and Government, which would run for a three year term commencing in April 2007.

It was reported that one of the blocks which made up the Agreement related to Community Safety. It was hoped that as the Agreement would bring together various Plans and resources it would allow improved delivery of services.

The Partnership expressed some concern at the potential for conflict between the various elements of the agreement and recognised the need for careful co-ordination. It was stated that the Local Strategic Partnership would sign off the Community Safety Strategy, so would be in a position to ensure that the various Strategies did not conflict.

Concern was also expressed as to the possible detrimental affect on the Community Safety Budget, if it was pooled with other services.

RESOLVED –

That the report be noted.

9.0 DRUG ACTION TEAM – FLETCHER HOUSE VIDEO

The Partnership viewed a video which demonstrated the services available at Fletcher House.

It was noted that the Government Office for the South East had commended the video as demonstrating good practice.

10.0 LIGHTHOUSE

The Partnership deferred consideration of this item until its November meeting.

11.0 CRIME AND SAFETY PROJECT

The Partnership received a progress report on the Crime and Community Safety Project, being managed by Age Concern.

It was noted that the project was aimed at reducing crime and the fear of crime amongst vulnerable adults.

It was reported that the first stage of the project, to develop a computer database, had been completed, and was now ready to be piloted.

The second stage would be to pilot the project at Newport Pagnell, an area selected because of the a fairly high proportion of vulnerable adults.

It was noted that the project had been delayed by the resignation of the member of staff managing the project, but that once the pilot had been up and running for three months a further progress report would be submitted to the Partnership.

RESOLVED –

That the report be noted.

12.0 ANTI RACIAL HARASSMENT GROUP – GOVERNMENT OFFICE FOR THE SOUTH EAST BID

It was reported that Milton Keynes Racial Equality Council had submitted an Expression of Interest in January 2006 to the Home Office under its Improving Communities, Strengthening Society Programme. The Expression of Interest and the subsequent full application were successful and the Anti Racial Harassment Group would receive a grant of £171,290 over the next three years to enable it to employ three workers to support the work of the Group.

The Partnership received a presentation from the Director of the Milton Keynes Race Equality Council on the work programme and the contribution the workers would make to the work of the Anti Racial Harassment Group.

In answer to a question the Director of the Milton Keynes Race Equality Council indicated that when the funding ceased, if the workers had made a positive contribution to the work of the Group, the Racial Equality Council would consider mainstreaming the posts.

13.0

JOINT AGENCY TASKING AND CO-ORDINATING GROUP – TERMS OF REFERENCE

It was reported that it was understood that the creation of a joint tasking process led by community safety partnerships, would become mandatory once the review of the Crime and Disorder Act was complete. As a result the Partnership Management Group had agreed to form the Joint Agency Tasking and Co-ordinating Group.

It was noted that the Group had held its first meeting and developed draft Terms of Reference for consideration by the Partnership.

It was also reported that it was the intention for the Group to become the mechanism by which multi-agency resources were directed in support of the Community Safety Strategy targets.

It was also noted that Milton Keynes had been chosen as a pilot area for review by 'Encams' of how criminal damage and Anti Social Behaviour was tackled. It had been agreed that Encams would also review the development of the Joint Agency Tasking and Co-ordinating Group.

It was noted that the Terms of Reference had been modified since the agenda was prepared and officers undertook to circulate the revised version to the Partnership.

RESOLVED -

That the Partnership approve the Terms of Reference, subject to there being no adverse comments on the revised draft to be circulated by officers.

14.0

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(a) Milton Keynes Safer Neighbourhoods Awards

The Partnership considered a suggested Milton Keynes Safer Neighbourhoods Awards scheme which it was hoped would:

- (i) encourage parish councils not currently engaged in the Safer Neighbourhoods process to develop local initiatives to tackle community safety;
- (ii) recognise and reward the achievements of local areas in meeting the targets within the Community Safety Strategy; and
- (iii) encourage the sharing of good practice across Milton Keynes.

The Partnership did not support the use of financial rewards to encourage the involvement in community safety and suggested that officers consider other ways of encouraging involvement.

RESOLVED –

That officers be requested to consider alternative methods of encouraging community involvement in community safety.

(b) Officer Workload

Concern was expressed by a member of the Partnership at the heavy workload of the officers supporting the Community Safety Partnership and suggested that this should be reviewed by the Partnership Executive.

The Council's Corporate Director Environment reported that workloads were currently under review.

15.0 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The Partnership noted the following scheduled dates for future meetings:

- 11 September 2006 - Room 2 (Civic Offices)
- 13 November 2006 - Room 2 (Civic Offices)

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 12.50 PM