



**RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITIES GROUP (RAG)**

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 21 June 2012**

**in the Corporate Meeting Room, at Michael Young Building,**

**Open University Walton, Milton Keynes @ 14.00hrs**

**PRESENT:**

Councillor Peter Geary (Chair)

**Representatives of Responsible Authorities with Voting Rights:**

Lynda Bull (on behalf of David Hill)	Milton Keynes Council
Richard Jones (Independent Member)	Thames Valley Police Authority
Supt. Barry Halliday	Thames Valley Police
Greg Smith	Bucks Fire and Rescue Service
Kilvinder Vigurs	Thames Valley Probation

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

Councillor H O'Neill	Safer and Stronger Communities
Councillor D Eastman	Safer and Stronger Communities
Parish Councillor David Livingstone	Representing Urban Parish Councils

**Officers:**

Richard Solly	Head of Community Safety
Lee Westlake	Youth Offending Team Manager
Chief Inspector Ed McLean	Thames Valley Police
Denise Butt	Thames Valley Probation
Neil Coolman	Thames Valley Police
Colin Wilderspin	SaferMK
Neil Dodds	MK Act
Dino Imbimbo (Committee Manager)	Milton Keynes Council

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Dr L Westmarland	Open University
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**APOLOGIES:**

David Hill	Milton Keynes Council
Mick Osborne	Bucks Fire and Rescue Service
Philip Ayles	Representing Urban Parish Councils
Will Spurgeon	Assistant Director Targeted Services
Jane Reed	Milton Keynes Council
Tina Milner	Committee Services

**RAG01 ELECTION OF CHAIR**

RESOLVED –

That Councillor P Geary be elected as Chair of the Responsible Authorities Group for the year 2012-2013.

**RAG02 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR**

RESOLVED –

That Supt. Barry Halliday be appointed as Vice Chair of the Responsible Authorities Group for the year 2012-2013.

**RAG03 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

RESOLVED –

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 15 March 2012 be approved. Members pointed out that following on from the Troubled Families presentation the previous Local Police Area Commander, Supt Ross had queried how criminal justice agencies were going to be engaged in the Health and Well Being Boards. There was a general discussion and it was agreed that it would be a future agenda item. This item will be raised at the next meeting.

**RAG04 MEMBERSHIP - TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Group heard that Milton Keynes Council had set up a Community Safety, Crime and Policing Select Committee to scrutinise the work of the Community Safety Partnership. This statutory function was previously conducted as part of the work of the Safer and Stronger Communities Committee.

The Group was asked to approve a minor change to the terms of reference to reflect the change of Chair and Vice Chair of that committee as non voting members of the Group.

The Group noted that there would be a requirement for a complete review of the Terms of Reference once the Police and Crime Commissioner was appointed.

Members asked that consideration be given to amending the reference to the automatic appointment of the Police LPA Commander as the Vice Chair to ensure that in the event of a change of personnel the best qualified individual was elected.

RESOLVED –

That the amendment be approved.

**RAG05 SaferMK PERFORMANCE REPORT**

The Group heard that figures for all crime had started the year positively with a 16% decrease month on month, and a year to date reduction of 26%. There were positive reductions in a number of areas including burglary dwelling, vehicle crime and overall serious acquisitive crime.

The Group heard that following a meeting of the performance group new targets had been set, these were challenging but realistic. The main challenge facing the group was improving on an already high standard of crime reduction.

It was also noted that a needs analysis had been requested by the domestic violence sub-group. There is insufficient data analysis capacity with member organisations at present to conduct this work, but the SaferMK Support Team is considering the matter in order to find a way forward.

It was noted that the latest figures available were for April 2012 and that early indications were that the performance was being maintained at a high level.

RESOLVED –

That the report be noted.

**RAG06 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 9A Annex A: Domestic Homicide Review – Overview Report

**RAG07 DOMESTIC HOMICIDE REVIEW**

The Group considered a report from Dr. L Westmarland in respect of a Domestic Homicide Review.

RESOLVED –

That the report be agreed and sent to the Home Office.

## **RAG08 DOMESTIC HOMICIDE REVIEW PROTOCOL**

The Group considered the revised protocol for commissioning and conducting a Domestic Homicide review.

RESOLVED –

That the protocol be agreed.

## **RAG09 SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR STRATEGY**

The Group considered a report and received a presentation in respect of the Social Behaviour Strategy which was anticipated to be launched in September 2012.

The Group heard that the strategy could be summarised in the terms of seeking to reduce anti-social behaviour by promoting social behaviour and set a number of objectives;

- promote social behaviour in schools and communities, publicly recognising outstanding initiatives that support and build up the community.
- develop “community champions”; volunteers who are willing to work with police and local councils in order to resolve community problems.
- develop localised community action plans to promote social behaviour and tackle anti-social behaviour in areas of need.
- promote and utilise community mediation in order to resolve tensions at an early stage, offer high quality support to victims and witnesses of anti-social behaviour.
- ensure that anti-social behaviour is resolved vigorously through community liaison, prevention and, where necessary, enforcement.

Members identified a number of requirements these included;

- The need for a strategic linkage with other policies and initiatives
- A need to consider how vulnerable persons would be engaged in the strategy, and,
- A need for a strategic link with initiatives to tackle Children and Young Families.

The Group also recognised that there was a need for engagement with Neighbourhood Action Groups, Religious Groups and the Voluntary sector and that the strategy should reflect this.

It was also noted that there was a need to define the difference between anti-social behaviour and crime, particularly where graffiti was concerned.

RESOLVED –

That the Strategy be amended to reflect the points identified and agreed.

**RAG10 OPERATION SHAKESPEARE**

The Group received a presentation on an exercise conducted by Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire Service in respect of tackling a major fire within the city centre shopping area.

RESOLVED –

That the presentation be noted.

**RAG11 POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONERS (PCC)**

The Group received an update on the process of electing a PCC for the Thames Valley Area. It was noted that at that time 6 candidates had been nominated but that closing of nominations was not until 19 October 2012.

The Group was asked to consider what action would be appropriate to seek to have an independent Member from Milton Keynes appointed to the Police and Crime Panel and it was agreed that any suitably qualified individual should be encouraged to put themselves forward.

The Group heard that it was anticipated that a communication policy would be forthcoming from the Home Office in advance of the election on 15 November but some regions had taken it upon themselves to initiate awareness amongst the general public. It was suggested that a communication plan for Milton Keynes should be a priority, this would be done in consultation with the Assistant Director democratic services.

RESOLVED –

1. That the report be noted, and
2. That a communication plan be drawn up.

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

**RAG12 SaferMK SOCIAL ENTERPRISE**

The Group considered an information report in respect of the SaferMK Social Enterprise.

RESOLVED –

That the report be noted.

**RAG14 HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD**

The Group heard that a shadow Health and Wellbeing Board had been established. This had been considering all aspects of the management of the full board once that was established. Work was being conducted to review commissioning processes and linkages with General Practitioners.

It was noted that the representative from Thames Valley Probation had been working with the Local Justice Board and could provide valuable data to assist in identifying needs within Mental Health and Drug and Alcohol related work.

RESOLVED –

That the update be noted.

**RAG15 THAMES VALLEY POLICE – INFORMATION BOOKLET**

The Group heard that Thames Valley Police had published a guide for the public setting out the standards that it sought to achieve in Policing the Thames Valley Area, this would be an informative guide for persons seeking to identify the expectations of a PCC.

RESOLVED –

That the report be noted.

**RAG16 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Supt. Halliday enquired if any consideration had been given to arrangements following the retirement of the head of Community Safety in November. Councillor Geary replied that this was in hand.

**RAG17 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was noted that the date of the next Responsible Authorities Group would be on Thursday 20 September 2012 at 2.00pm.

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 4:20 PM