

**Safer Communities Partnership Board**  
Minutes of meeting held on 15 January 2013  
Committee Room 2, Hendon Town Hall

**MINUTES**

**Board Members Present:**

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| Cllr David Longstaff | Cabinet Member for Safety and Resident Engagement (Chairman) |
| Simon Causer         | Chief Inspector, Met Police (for C/Supt Usher)               |
| Tim Harris           | North West London Magistrates                                |
| Douglas Charlton     | London Probation   |
| Denise Murphy        | Community Barnet   |
| Steve Leader         | London Fire Brigade Barnet Commander                         |

**Also present:**

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| Pam Wharfe                 | Interim Director for Environment, Planning & Regeneration, LBB |
| Michael Taylor             | Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime                          |
| Paul Hammond               | Barnet Borough Watch/Community Safety Engagement Group         |
| Julie Taylor               | Assistant Chief Executive, LBB                                 |
| Michael Kelly              | IoM Project Lead, LBB  |
| Steve Murrant              | Community Protection, LBB                                      |
| Richard Bell               | Community Protection, LBB                                      |
| Julie Pal                  | Chief Executive's Service, LBB                                 |
| Jay Mercer                 | Deputy Director Children's Services, LBB                       |
| Stuart Collins             | Barnet Children's Service, LBB                                 |
| Manju Lukhman              | Barnet Children's Service, LBB                                 |
| Ruth Murphy                | Commercial Services, LBB                                       |
| Dov Gerber                 | Chair, Community Safety Engagement Group                       |
| Andrew Nathan              | Strategic Policy Adviser, LBB                                  |
| Faye McGuinness (Observer) | Victim Support   |

**1 Welcome and introductions**

The Chairman welcomed the Board and officials present and Tim Harris introduced himself as the new Magistrates representative, replacing Jackie Alexander.

**2 Apologies for Absence**

Adrian Usher (Barnet Borough Police Commander), Rick Mason (Assistant Director Regulation and Community Safety, LBB) and Tim Beach (Chair, Barnet Children's Safeguarding Board).

**3 Minutes of 16 October 2012**

The minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2012 were agreed as a correct record.

**4 Matters arising**

None

**5 Safer Communities Strategy- Refresh and review of progress against objectives**

Andrew Nathan introduced this report, the purposes of which were two fold. It was intended to review current performance against strategy objectives, and the action plans for each objective, together with performance information on crime priorities had been circulated with the papers to ensure an informed discussion. He thanked Richard Bell for his assistance in preparing these.

He also advised the Board that a commitment had been made to refresh the Strategy annually in the light of current crime patterns and intelligence, and they were requested to agree whether any changes were needed as a result to see the Strategy through to 2014.

Each of the leads for the priorities identified in the strategy updated on current activity and performance.

### **5.1 Acquisitive crime with special focus on burglary**

CI Simon Causer reported that there had been a 5% overall reduction in all property crime on the corresponding period last year. However residential burglary had increased by 2% and although substantial progress had been made, the target of a 6% reduction was unlikely to be met.

He reported on an anti-burglary Operation, Achilles Heel and highlighted that offender management was key and in particular increasing the cohort of burglary offenders that went through the Integrated Offender Management programme.

### **5.2 Antisocial Behaviour (ASB)**

Steve Murrant reported a noticeable declining trend in incidents over the past three months, and that the Borough-wide Designated Public Place Order (DPPO) was now in force. He further reported that two hotspots had been identified in NW4 and N12, which would be subject to a multi-agency environment audit of relevant low level crime and Anti Social Behaviour.

### **5.3 Violent Crime with Special Focus on Domestic Violence (DV)**

Jay Mercer drew the Board's attention to the activities that had been included in the action plan circulated with the papers, which reflected the strategic commitment to tackle domestic violence. Improving data collection and analysis was the current area for improvement, while he also reported that the Independent DV Advocate (which would be part of the Specialist DV Court) had been appointed and was shortly to take up post.

### **5.4 Improving Integrated Offender Management (IOM)**

Douglas Charlton and Michael Kelly updated the Board on the co-located service and reported that Housing, Job Centre Plus and the Prison Link worker were fully integrated. Progress was being made on obtaining quicker convictions or referrals onto support programmes, and adult re-offending levels were now reducing. The next stage was to extend the cohort, including those who had been recalled to the end of their sentence.

Board members were recommended to visit the co-located premises to witness the service in action.

**ACTION: Michael Kelly/All Board members**

### **5.5 Broader, Cost Effective Early Intervention (Troubled Families Programme)**

Stuart Collins presented the update circulated with the agenda and reported that data on costs and savings for 70-80 families was being worked on. A submission for the Troubled Families Payment by Results Programme was being made in January, but not all families being supported were eligible for the PBR scheme, which also required evidence of improved outcomes over a six month period. The July submission would therefore encompass more families.

In response to a question from Julie Taylor, Stuart clarified the extent to which partners had been involved in jointly funding the programme through a community budget. It was agreed that the evidence base of savings and improved outcomes must be used to make the case for different agencies to invest their mainstream budgets in supporting the programme, especially after Department of Communities and Local Government funding expired two years hence.

## **5.6 Focus on places where offences take place**

CI Simon Causer reported in more detail on the hot spot areas identified at 5.2, including issues of students being street robbery victims in NW4. He reported on plans to work with key parties such as licensed premises and bookmakers, and to achieve specific successes. He would also ensure ward councillors were invited on the environmental walks.

CI Causer also outlined the proposals for the new model of local policing, in which Inspectors would be devolved more responsibilities but also given greater accountability.

In response to a question from Cllr Longstaff he confirmed that where properly located, CCTV cameras were useful to deal with street crime and robberies.

## **5.7 Tackle repeat victimisation**

CI Causer stressed the emphasis placed on reducing repeat victimisation across all crime types, specifically burglary and ensuring an instant response given the greater likelihood of a victim suffering a repeat incident within three weeks.

## **5.8 Building Reassurance and Confidence**

Chris Palmer tabled a proposed communications strategy as requested by the Board at their last meeting. His paper set out some proposals for campaigns and their subject matter and to outline the media that were available for such a strategy.

He stressed that the twin messages were to inform and reassure, and there was a focus on a 'new relationship with citizens' and how the public could be motivated to become involved, building on the principles of Pledgebank. Paul Hammond reported that the crime prevention guide issued by Neighbourhood Watch were designed to encourage this, and the Board identified Neighbourhood Justice Panels, Ward Panels, Neighbourhood Watches and the Community Crimefighter meetings instituted by the Borough Commander as all having a role to play.

There was a discussion over how communities could have a say over projects suitable for Community Payback, and it was agreed Barnet would be interested in participating in any pilot. Douglas Charlton agreed to raise this with Serco who delivered this service under contract.

### **ACTION; Douglas Charlton**

After discussion, the Board agreed that the priorities should remain as currently for the duration of the strategy.

## **6 Safer Communities project: Update**

Ruth Murphy presented an update report on the work streams of the Safer Communities 'Wave 2' project. She reported that an initial options appraisal for the future of CCTV was being completed and expected to go to the Council's Cabinet Resources Committee (CRC) in April 2013. In response to a question from Dov Gerber she confirmed this would include a technical assessment of the facility for Automatic Number Plate Recognition.

She highlighted a set of principles that would inform governance and management arrangements and support delivery of the Safer Communities Strategy, which would be brought back to the Board when finalised. The Board endorsed these as a set of principles.

An Outline Business case for strategy enhancements was included within the papers for discussion and was scheduled to be discussed by CRC on 25 February 2013. This represented a development of the ideas discussed previously and had been refined by further discussion with partners. It covered the following areas; housing policy; Neighbourhood Justice Panels; the Community Coaches scheme; Conditional Cautions; and enhanced Integrated Offender Management.

CI Causer reported that the Police were keen to explore the scope for conditional cautions and that Neighbourhood Justice Panels were key towards the Police increasing their measure of community confidence. Douglas Charlton was also supportive of the principles, which the Probation Service could sustain under their priority of restorative Justice.

On conditional cautions, Tim Harris was concerned that Domestic Violence offences might not be suitable for such an approach and should be uncoupled from alcohol-related crimes. CI Causer confirmed that this would not cover serious offences but was about early intervention at the first signs of such behaviour to prevent it escalating.

Stuart Collins reported that the Council's current tender for early intervention and prevention services encompassed the community coaches scheme. He also highlighted that conditional cautions could, where appropriate, include a referral onto the Work Programmes funded by European Social Fund that helped people to progress closer to job readiness.

Pam Wharfe would provide further comments on the section relating to housing and discuss with Julie Taylor and Ruth Murphy prior to submission to ensure the recommendations were consistent with the tenancy and allocations policies that had been agreed for Barnet's housing stock.

**ACTION: Pam Wharfe/Julie Taylor**

Subject to these comments, the Board endorsed the work done to date and this would be reported to the CRC.

**ACTION: Ruth Murphy.**

## **7 Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) Policing and Crime plan**

Michael Taylor reported that the MOPAC had developed a draft Policing and Crime Plan for 2013, setting out their strategic goals, and were in the middle of public consultation including a well attended meeting in Barnet the previous evening hosted by the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, and including senior MOPAC and Metropolitan Police officers and the Leader of the Council. The deadline for responding to an online questionnaire was 6<sup>th</sup> March.

He reported that no date had yet been established for the creation of Safer Neighbourhood Boards, which would consolidate existing Community Safety Engagement Groups,

Independent Custody Visitors and Police Advisory Groups and support restorative justice. Dov Gerber reported that this was causing uncertainty and clear guidance and implementation dates would be helpful.

**ACTION: Michael Taylor**

He also explained the rationale for the proposed front counter provision which would be at Colindale and Golders Green, with High Barnet and Whetstone front desks closed. Nevertheless this was the subject of ongoing discussion.

CI Causer confirmed that regardless of decisions on individual sites, the concept of the Police as a public access service would remain and there would be enhanced access at other sites as well as Police stations.

## **8 Other Business**

Tim Harris reported that the Magistrates Court had developed a Magistrates in the Community group who were keen to make presentations to schools community groups and other interested parties. The Board welcomed this and it was agreed it should be added to the Communications Plan.

**ACTION; Chris Palmer**

## **9 Date of Next Meeting**

*To be advised*

Andrew Nathan Chief Executive's Service, LBB      30 January 2013