

Cambridge Community Safety Partnership

14th May 2009

10:00 – 12:35

Committee Room 1
The Guildhall, Cambridge

MINUTES

Board Members

Vicky Skeels (Chair)
Mike Davey
Michael Harding
Rick Hylton
Tom Jefford
Ruth McCallum
Inger O'Meara
Kevin Wilkins

Cambridgeshire Constabulary
Cambridgeshire County Council (from Item 5)
National Probation Service
Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service
Cambridgeshire County Council
Cambridge Council for Voluntary Services
NHS Cambridgeshire
Cambridgeshire Police Authority

In Attendance

Anita Goddard
Paul Griffin
Michael Hendy
Vicky Hornsby
Tina Le
Peter Lester
Jennifer Massie
Gaynor Mears
Brian Mitchell
Ian Nimmo-Smith
Alastair Roberts
Michael Soper
Tom Kingsley (Minutes)

South Cambridgeshire District Council
Cambridge City Council
Cambridgeshire Magistracy
Cambridge Business Against Crime (CAMBAC)
Drug and Alcohol Action Team
Cambridge University Hospitals
Cambridgeshire Constabulary
Cambridgeshire County Council
Drug and Alcohol Action Team
Leader of the Council
Cambridge City Council
Cambridgeshire County Council
Cambridge Community Safety Partnership

1. Welcome and Introductions.

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Liz Bisset, Paul Connelly, Steve Kerridge and Simon Megicks.
- 1.2 Vicky Skeels welcomed Inger O'Meara from NHS Cambridgeshire, who was replacing Tim Theaker, and Brian Mitchell from the Drug and Alcohol Action Team.
- 1.3 Vicky Skeels thanked Liz Bisset for her work during the past year as Chair. Mention was also made of a small group that had met recently to discuss the year ahead for the Partnership and the importance of robust and effective action plans being in place. There were obvious concerns about the high rate of burglary of homes and acquisitive crime; the relevant action plan would be strengthened.
- 1.4 Vicky Skeels announced that the paper for discussion under agenda item 10 was being withdrawn for further scoping.

2. Minutes of 10th March 2009 Partnership meeting: Agreement.

- 2.1 The Minutes were agreed and would go forward for publication.

3. Action points: Review

3.1 The nine action points from the March meeting were discussed, as follows:

- Action point 03/01: Closed – Information circulated to Partnership on 20th March.
- Action point 03/02: Closed – Paper circulated with meeting papers.
- Action point 03/03: Closed – Neighbourhood Action Groups were notified. Sgt. Gordon Morgenthaler and Paul Griffin now working on identifying work for the year ahead including Immobilise, SmartWater, improved signage at bike racks and links with the Cycling Demonstration Town Project.
- Action point 03/04: Closed – Paul Connelly was confirmed as Lead Officer.
- Action point 03/05: Closed – Personal robbery now included as a priority with the Office of Children and Young People's Services' Locality Manager leading. Cycle theft now included as a 'special project'.
- Action point 03/06: Closed – Revised Plan circulated to Partnership on 23rd March. All comments received were taken into account. Final Plan now produced and will be posted on the website.
- Action point 03/07: Closed – Confirmed the Domestic Violence Task Group is working well but there issue was an issue of lack of representation from mental health, which is something Anita Goddard and Simon Kerss are working to resolve. Inger O'Meara offered to assist here.

Action point 05/01

- Action point 03/08: Closed – Paper produced. Although it was included as an agenda item, the paper was withdrawn.
- Action point 03/09: Closed – Draft spending plan circulated for comments on 23rd April 2009 and produced as an agenda item.

4. Community resolution: Presentation

4.1 Simon Megicks was unable to attend to give his presentation. Vicky Skeels spoke to the meeting papers circulated previously and at the meeting. It had taken time for the police to implement this policy, but a pilot held had been positively received with victim satisfaction very high. A question was asked as to whether there was any link with the Community Mediation Service. Vicky Skeels would ask Simon Megicks to check.

Action point 05/02

The need (identified in paragraph 5.3 of the main meeting paper) to ensure that the public did not see this policy as a soft option was highlighted. Assurances were also sought that this policy would remain within the police force. A recent seminar had highlighted 'restorative justice' although there were no plans to promote or publicise this. Tom Kingsley was requested to invite Simon Megicks back to a future Partnership meeting.

Action point 05/03

5. Partnership performance report Q4 2008/09

5.1 Michael Soper spoke to the report circulated at the Partnership meeting. Again, burglary of homes showed another increase against the previous quarter, with this feeding through into an increase in acquisitive crime. The Partnership was, however, remaining on target with regards alcohol-related violent crime and anti-social behaviour. It was suggested that perhaps Cambridge residents had a complacent attitude towards personal safety although it was mentioned that there had been an increase in the incidents of violence in order to gain entry to properties (e.g. breaking windows). Students' residence remained high on list of properties burgled. It was questioned whether there was a national trend increase in burglary and it was shown that South Cambridgeshire had experienced a 30% increase in this type of crime. Mention was made of the role that the Safer City grant scheme could make in providing funding for security improvements in homes. The Research Group was tasked with producing an urgent profile paper for the Partnership for discussion.

Action point 05/04

The burglary of homes action plan was introduced and discussed. Jennifer Massie reported that despite the increase overall in quarter 4, there had been a slight decrease in

the number of burglaries in April and May. Police initiatives were in operation and SmartWater would be offered as a part of the “victims of burglary” pack. Victims had given positive feedback on the service provided by the police in supporting them following a burglary. Information was also being distributed to vulnerable people. Other activity captured within the Plan included the university liaison officer helping raise awareness of personal safety with students, especially those in multiple-occupancy residences. The fire service is currently working with the police, as it is targeting those students whom may be at risk of becoming victims of domestic fires. Another initiative involved visiting offenders, prior to release on licence. It was stressed that the Partnership be involved in the action plan, especially the Safer Communities Section and Drug and Alcohol Action Team. It was suggested that the County’s Homeshield initiative be included into the action plan. Jennifer Massie would ensure this was done.

Action point 05/05

Paul Griffin had recently ordered a “Secure Your Home” pack from the Home Office and also highlighted their “Safer Homes Fund”, information on which would be distributed. There would be a meeting on 18th May to further discuss SmartWater and it was suggested that any action group arising be opened up to the Partnership.

Action point 05/06

The Partnership was advised that a grant from the Safer City scheme had funded a “Bobby”, under the Bobby Scheme, for Cambridge. In response to a question regarding burglary hotspots, Jennifer Massie reported that burglaries were occurring across the city; this was confirmed as burglary was highlighted as an issue at each Area Committee. It was important that the Partnership work together to address this problem. Partnership members were, therefore, requested to feedback comments on the action plan to Tom Kingsley.

Action point 05/07

Jennifer Massie was requested to produce a briefing note on intelligence gathering and sharing for the Partnership, which would be promoted.

Action point 05/08

Action point 05/09

Paul Griffin was requested to circulate the Safer Homes Fund to Partnership members and to look at publicising the neighbourhood profiles on the City Council’ website.

Action point 05/10

Action point 05/11

6. Priority area Q4 2008/09 monitoring reports

6.1 Alcohol-related violent crime

Vicky Skeels spoke to the report before the Partnership and highlighted development of a calendar of events, the launch of Cambridge Street Pastors, formation of the County National Indicator 20 group and revised terms of reference for the Violent Crime Task Group. The taxi-marshalling pilot has been very successful and further funding was planned to support this initiative into 2009/10. There was strong support from taxi drivers, who submitted a 200-signature petition. The reduction in CCTV staffing levels and lack of health representation on the Task Group were highlighted as concerns. In addition, there had been a lot of preparatory work on this year’s Strawberry Fair.

6.2 Anti-social behaviour

Alastair Roberts spoke to the report before the Partnership, highlighting the continuing safer cycling campaign, the anti-social vehicle campaign (aimed at anti-social parking), an assessment of cycle and parking signage in the city and the successful ‘street surgery’ in Argyle Street in which over 40 residents participated. The resident-led campaign in East Chesterton to look at theft from (and of) vehicles had not been that successful: despite a drop of 500 leaflets, only 15 residents attended. However, a residents’ association had been set up as a consequence. Another concern raised was regarding the Cambridge Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP), which was experiencing problems with engagement

with the police on patrols and also with schools. Vicky Skeels will advise Alastair Roberts of details of the 52 specials that could be made available to assist the CAP.

Action point 05/12

6.3 Burglary of homes

Jennifer Massie spoke to the report before the Partnership in Steve Kerridge's absence, highlighting the successful rollout of SmartWater and that 50 suspects had been dealt with during this period by the new Serious Acquisitive Crime Team.

6.4 Domestic violence (DV)

Anita Goddard spoke to the report before the Partnership, highlighting the review of Sanctuary by Simon Kerss and the continuing Freedom programmes being run by Cambridge Women's Aid and Romsey Mill. The continued lack of mental health representation on the DV Task Group and lack of police DV statistics on reporting or repeat reporting were highlighted. Mike Davey was very concerned about the lack of statistics and said he would be attending the DV Strategy Group that day and would raise the issue. Vicky Skeels asked that it be made clear that the partnership shared his concerns.

Action point 05/13

Inger O'Meara picked up on the lack of NHS representation and offered to become the contact point so that any NHS meetings that may be of interest to the Partnership could be highlighted, in case any representation was felt appropriate.

Action point 05/14

6.4 Reducing re-offending

Jennifer Massie spoke to the report circulated to the Partnership, highlighting activities in the three strands (Catch and Convict, Prevent and Deter, and Rehabilitate and Resettle) on a number of offenders. The PPO scheme was undergoing a review. Concerns were expressed regarding the continued Supporting People funding for the scheme's Support and Resettlement Officer in relation to the generic contract. Jennifer Massie would check with Dick Moore.

Action point 05/15

Tom Kingsley queried that the report in its current form was police-focussed and failed to include Youth Offending Service and National Probation information; this was recognised and would be addressed outside the meeting.

Action point 05/16

In summing up the discussion, Vicky Skeels asked each lead officer to provide an overview of their action plans from last year.

Action point 05/17

7. Drug and Alcohol Action Team Q4 2008/09 report

7.1 Tina Le spoke to the report before the Partnership, highlighting the User Involvement Event held at the Junction in March and the performance data for Cambridge. Brian Mitchell was introduced as the new Alcohol Co-ordinator and gave a brief background of his career. He would be meeting with Trading Standards regarding the Cambridge Community Alcohol Project and "Challenge 21". The Partnership was invited to assist with promoting the National Tackling Drugs Week, which would occur on w/c 8th June.

8. Cycle theft: Update

8.1 Vicky Skeels spoke to the paper prepared following a request at the last Partnership meeting to pull a paper together following the adoption of cycle theft as a special project for the year as opposed to a priority. The paper focussed on the work that would be undertaken under Operation Cyclone: this had been mentioned in the Cambridge News. A question was asked whether any schools' projects or activities could link in with Operation Cyclone and it appeared to focus on the universities. Mike Davey would check this.

Action point 05/18

9. SSCF, Pooled Fund and BCU 2009/10: Sign off

- 9.1 Paul Griffin spoke to the paper before the Partnership, which detailed the projects requesting funding for 2009/10. There was a residual of £9,070 revenue, which the Fire and Rescue Service and Safer Communities Section had expressed an interest in bidding for. The County group dealing with serious acquisitive crime (National Indicator (NI) 16) have capital available to bid upon. The spending plan was agreed and that potential projects for the residual should be brought back to the Partnership in due course.
- 9.2 Mick Harding requested contributory funding for the Alcohol Treatment Requirements (ATRs), which are Court orders to attend compulsory treatment for alcohol dependency linked with criminal activity; this was appended to the funding paper discussed above. Concerns were expressed that ATRs were part of National Probation Service's core statutory activity and that should the Partnership agree to fund it, this would create precedence for funding work that should be funded by the agency concerned. It was explained that funding the ATRs would free up resources for other projects. If that was the case, then the bidding should be for those projects. Vicky Skeels called for a formal vote by Board Members on the proposal to provide contributory funding for ATRs: The proposal was defeated by 7 votes to 1.

10. Any other business

- 10.1 Vicky Skeels asked Mike Davey to briefly speak to the paper before the Partnership on the revised structure of the County Community Safety Strategic Board, which will have a Stronger Officer Group (led by Mike Davey) and a Safer Officer Group (led by Assistant Chief Constable Hopkins). Further details would be made know to the Partnership.
- 10.2 Vicky Skeels announced that it was Gaynor Mears's last meeting and thanked her for the work she had done for the Partnership.
- 10.3 Paul Griffin asked for the final signatures for the Information Sharing Agreement.
- 10.4 Gaynor Mears advised that the survey of domestic violence services, commissioned of the Cambridge Rape Crisis Centre launched today.
- 10.5 Mike Davey advised that Gaynor Mears's post would be replaced on a 12-month secondment.
- 10.6 There was no other business and the meeting closed at 12:35.