

# STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL

## COMMUNITY SELECT COMMITTEE MINUTES

Date: Tuesday, 29 March 2022

Time: 6.00pm

Place: Council Chamber, Daneshill House, Danestrete

**Present:** Councillors: Sarah Mead (Chair), Margaret Notley (Vice-Chair), Myla Arceno, Matt Creasey, Alex Farquharson, Claire Parris and Simon Speller.

**Start / End Time:** Start Time: 6:00pm  
End Time: 6:55pm

### 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no apologies for absence.

There were no declarations of interest.

### 2 CRIME & DISORDER PRESENTATION

The Chair welcomed Councillor Jackie Hollywell, the Executive Portfolio Holder for Communities, Community Safety and Equalities. Councillor Jackie Hollywell along with the Community Safety Manager was invited to the meeting to update the Members about the work that the Community Safety Officers and partners, including the Police had been engaged in during the time of the Covid19 pandemic.

The Community Safety Manager provided a presentation in relation to the Crime and Disorder. She provided the following key updates:

- The No More Service programme was first established in 2012, and expanded through years. The Programme evolved, and also established No More Service Youth for 11-21 years old county-wide.
- Evolve which was an 8 week domestic abuse perpetrator programme county-wide, and funding was secured from the PCC and the Home Office.
- There were also a Drug and Alcohol and Officer Support Programme and High Risk Offender Support. Both programmes covered Stevenage area.
- Established closed working relationship with the probation and SBC Housing to aid individuals coming out of prison in to private rent deposit scheme with NMS support.
- The Team had recruited more staff during the Covid19 to fulfil the required support needed.
- The Team had been busy working throughout a pandemic and responding to the challenges that had come with it.
- The Team dealt with the 104 High Risk Offenders, 168 No More Service Adults and 129 No More Service Youth cases.

- On average each case cost £700 for 12 months work, which was quite low compare to the work done on each case.
- EVOLVE was a 1 to 1 programme for domestic abuse perpetrators for eight weeks across Hertfordshire, which run parallel to the NO More Service, and it was a voluntarily service. The Team was currently supporting 23 domestic abuse perpetrators across County.
- No More Service Youth had supported 129 clients from April 2021 to January 2022, with 72% of all service users were male and 28 were female.
- No More Service Youth provided training on anger management intervention, challenging thinking, behaviours and attitudes, voluntary drug/alcohol testing, Grooming Awareness, Health Relationship and other appropriate training.
- Suicide Prevention Work was funded by the PCC. A Member of the Team was a qualified Suicide First Aid Trainer, and had delivered training to SBC staff, as well as partner agencies such as Herts Police, North Herts District Council and Women's Aid.
- NMS Team partnered with Junction 7 Creatives to create weekly sessions for service users to create art in a safe environment and had a chance to socialise with other service users.
- Survivors Against Domestic Abuse (SADA) was funded by the Hertfordshire County Council. The service was busy during the pandemic and supported 1209 referrals from April 2021 to February 2022. The highest referrals were for Stevenage with 359 cases and the lowest were for St Albans with only 29 cases.
- The SADA had established a close working relationship with the Cambridgeshire County Council, and the SADA service was commissioned to collate and share feedback from young people and adults who experienced domestic abused within Cambridge and Peterborough.
- There was an increase in the complex needs client referrals from a total of 289 in 2020/21 to 402 clients in 2021/22.
- Safe Space provision supported 52 families from April 2021 to February 2022 compared to 33 families last year.
- Safe Space supported 65 children, and had a total of 23 Safe Space properties.
- Family Intervention Project established in 2011 with HCC funding, and was part of the Intensive Family Support Team.
- The Family Intervention Teams provided support in area, such as unemployment, Mental Health, Domestic Abuse, Teenage Pregnancy, Debt, Poor Health and Substance Misuse.
- The Team was working close with the Herts CCTV Partnership to prevent crimes.

In response to a question from a Member, The Community Safety Manager advised that there were challenges with the funding of these projects, but she had got supportive and dedicated Team who go above and beyond to complete their tasks. She explained all of the work done by the Team had some sort of partner involvement, and the Team encouraged partners to be involved in the process.

She explained that the funding for projects were usually for a year, and three years maximum, and the funding for this period would end in 2023, and that she was

looking to sustain that funding for 2024 and 2025. Suicide Prevention and Domestic Abuse training were sold to partners including the Police and the North Herts District Council.

Members noted the challenges faced by the Team during the pandemic, and praised the Team's hard work

The Executive Portfolio Holder highlighted the issue around the funding for these projects and explained that the projects should be recognised, and the Government needed to do a long term commitment on funding these projects. Members agreed that the core funding had been reduced in the last decade and was the reason that the Team constantly looking for funding these projects.

It was **RESOLVED** that the crimes and disorder update be noted.

3 **URGENT PART 1 BUSINESS**

None.

4 **EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

There were no exempt information.

5 **URGENT PART II BUSINESS**

None.

**CHAIR**