

**STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**COMMUNITY SELECT COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES**

**Date: Tuesday 4 November 2014**

**Time: 18.00 hrs.**

**Place: Shimkent Room, Daneshill House, Danestrete, Stevenage**

**Present:** Councillors: S Mead (Chair), M Notley (Vice-Chair), L Bell, R Broom, J Mead and P Stuart.

**Also Present** Councillor R Henry CC, Portfolio Holder Safer Communities, Older People & Health and Shae Field, Youth Mayor

**Start/End Time:** Start Time: 18.00 hrs.  
End Time: 19:00 hrs.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors E Connolly, M Gardner, L Harrington and A McGuinness.

There were no declarations of interests.

**2. MINUTES – 10 SEPTEMBER 2014**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 10 September 2014 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**3. 2014/2015 COMMUNITY SAFETY ACTION PLAN**

The meeting received a presentation on the Community Safety Action Plan by Councillor R Henry CC, the Executive Portfolio Holder for Safer Communities, Older People and Health.

Councillor Henry updated Members on the progress of the agreed priorities and the various initiatives employed. The priorities discussed included domestic abuse, violent crimes, alcohol and drug abuse, anti-social behaviour, criminal damage, deliberate fires, acquisitive crime, hate crime and reassurance.

Councillor R Henry CC advised Members that the short term objectives in the action plan had been completed, most of the long term objectives were on target to be completed by the end of the year.

With regards to the recent increase in the reporting of the domestic abuse incidents

by victims and members of the public, Councillor Henry CC attributed this to the high profile given by both the Council and its partners. He also highlighted the various roles and activities of organisations and initiatives such as NSPCC DART Programme, Evolve, Stefanou Foundation and Operation Acorn in addressing this issue.

On the issue of acquisitive crime, Councillor Henry welcomed the various roles played by Shop Watch; Street meets; Neighbourhood Watch; Operation Scorpion; Operation Scrod and the use of CCTV in ensuring that incidents of burglary had fallen in the town.

With regards to the increase in violent crimes, alcohol and drug abuse especially among young people, Councillor Henry informed the meeting of the various initiatives to address this issue such as the use of taxi marshals to manage the crowd outside pubs in the high street, the participation of licensees with the pub watch scheme and mapping hot spot areas.

Members were advised that although hate crimes were relatively low in Stevenage, the partnership was monitoring community tensions especially around issues of race, ethnicity and religion.

Members raised the issue of the Police or a relevant Community Safety Officer visiting the schools to provide a short presentation to students on community safety issues for young people as this would be valuable in getting positive safety messages out to this audience.

In response to questions around parental responsibility, anti-social behaviour and the cycle of troubled families, Officers advised that these issues were likely to be addressed by the Police using measures in Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

Members were informed that SBC Officers had again put forward a number of proposals to Hertfordshire County Council regarding providing a wider youth outreach in the town in known problem areas beyond the provision at Bowes Lyon House which was not accessible to many.

The Senior Corporate Policy Officer (Community Safety & Strategic Partnerships) informed the meeting that she would be circulating the RAG Performance Report for Quarter 2 to Members of the Committee.

The Chair thanked Councillor R Henry CC for his presentation and commented that the Committee were satisfied that most of the actions in the Community Safety Action Plan had been delivered or were on track.

It was **RESOLVED** that the presentation be noted.

#### **4. URGENT PART I BUSINESS**

None.

**5. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Not required.

**PART II**

**6. URGENT PART II BUSINESS**

None.

**Chair**