

SUMMARY OF DECISIONS

MEETING: Community Select Committee
Monday 2 November 2015. Shimkent Room, Daneshill House, Stevenage, SG1 1HN

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillors: S Mead (Chair), M Notley (Vice Chair), L Bell, E Connolly, L Harrington, J Mead, P Stuart and Councillor S Batson MBE DL CC, Portfolio Holder Safer Communities and Equalities.

ALSO PRESENT: Scott Crudgington, Chair of Responsible Authorities Group (RAG) and Police Inspector Simon Tabert, Stevenage Safer Neighbourhood Team.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
Apologies of absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors C Saunders and G Snell. There were no declarations of interest.	O Adeoye Ext 2809
2. MINUTES – 6 OCTOBER 2015	
It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of 6 October 2015 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.	O Adeoye Ext 2809
3. 2015/16 COMMUNITY SAFETY ACTION PLAN	
In introducing the above item, Councillor S Batson CC, the Portfolio Holder, Safer Communities & Equalities	D Barker Ext 2835

informed the meeting that the current Sosafe Strategy published earlier in the year had been produced after consultation with partners and after considering the annual strategic assessment, various county strategies, local profiles, local opinion and a Members survey.

The Committee received a presentation from Scott Crudginton, the Chair of Responsible Authorities Group (RAG) highlighting the aims and objectives of the strategy and Members were updated on the progress of the agreed priorities and the various initiatives employed. He noted that the priorities were set around a number of themes such as Domestic abuse, Reassurance/Public engagement, Health/Mental health and Children and Young People.

With regards to the effectiveness of some of the initiatives directed at addressing domestic abuse such as Operation Acorn and Herts Change, the Senior Corporate Policy Officer (Community Safety & Strategic Partnerships) informed Members that although this was presently being evaluated, there was no evidence of perpetrator drop out from the schemes considering it's voluntary nature. Members were informed that due to its success, the scheme having won a national award was to be rolled out to other districts within Hertfordshire as part of the Police and Crime Commissioner's joined up approach on addressing domestic abuse.

On the issue of public engagement, Members welcomed initiatives such as street meets, shop watch and pub watch which were appreciated by residents but enquired whether the use of neighbourhood watch stickers/flyers on windows would serve as a further deterrent. Members were advised that following new legislation for dangerous dogs, the Police had devised LEAD (Local Environmental Awareness of Dogs), an awareness campaign for members of the public who owned dogs on their responsibilities.

With regards to mental health issues, Scott Crudginton advised that a long term strategy was required especially in addressing issues identified in the plan. He acknowledged that although a number of actions had been completed one of the breakthroughs had been the recent involvement of the Chair of the Clinical Commissioning Group to the partnership meeting as they have an important role to play.

Members expressed the view that the proposed diversionary activities at No 15 The Hyde was unlikely to address the prevailing anti-social behaviour in the area among young people as it was unlikely to incorporate

<p>things of interest to them such as creative art (eg music and photography). A suggestion that Councillor J Mead be invited to a RAG meeting to further discuss this issue was noted by the Chair of RAG.</p> <p>The Chair of RAG informed Members that with regards to the 2016/17 Action plan the Senior Corporate Policy Officer (Community Safety & Strategic Partnerships) was in the process of preparing it in conjunction with partners. He acknowledged that importantly for the themed priorities, all actions had to be properly analysed to ensure that it was not only realistic but achievable. He also noted the support the partnership had received from the Police Crime Commissioner especially in terms of attracting funds for some of the initiatives.</p> <p>A suggestion by the Portfolio Holder Safer Communities & Equalities for the partnership to promote the “Beacon” Hertfordshire Victim Care Centre, which provides practical and emotional support for victims of crime was noted.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED that the Action plan be noted.</p>	
<p>4. PROGRESS ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE REVIEW INTO STEVENAGE’S NIGHT TIME ECONOMY</p>	
<p>The Senior Corporate Policy Officer (Community Safety & Strategic Partnerships) informed the meeting that the night time economy in Stevenage had changed in the last three years as there were fewer night clubs in the Leisure park.</p> <p>The Officer also acknowledged the work of the Police and Council staff especially in developing good relationships with licensees and security staff through regular licensing visits. The Officer noted that since the introduction of the pub watch online, there had been an increase in the take up by licensees of the scheme as they had recognised its benefit as a tool of effective policing trouble makers and anti social behaviour.</p> <p>Inspector Tabert welcomed the presence of the Taxi marshals especially in ensuring people got home safely.</p>	<p>S Weaver Ext 2332</p>

It was RESOLVED that the update be noted.	
5. URGENT PART I BUSINESS	
Not Required	O Adeoye Ext 2809
6. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC	
Not Required	
PART II	
7. URGENT PART II BUSINESS	
None.	