

STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SELECT COMMITTEE MINUTES

Date: Tuesday, 26 March 2019

Time: 6.00pm

Place: Shimkent Room - Daneshill House, Danestrete

Present: Councillors: Sarah Mead (Chair), Adam Mitchell CC (Vice-Chair), Sandra Barr, Jim Brown, Liz Harrington, John Mead and Sarah-Jane Potter.

Start / End Time: Start Time: 6.00pm
End Time: 7.40pm

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

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Tom Wren.

There were no declarations of interest.

2 **MINUTES - 12 FEBRUARY 2019**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting of the Community Select Committee held on 12 February 2019 are approved for signature by the Chair.

3 **THE SOSAFE COMMUNITY SAFETY ACTION PLAN 2018/19 AND EMERGING PRIORITIES FOR 2019/20**

The Community Safety Manager presented a report and gave a visual and oral presentation to the Committee setting out the agreed priority themes for 2018/19:

- Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)
- Safeguarding, Hate Crime and Domestic Abuse
- Modern Slavery and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)
- Alcohol and Drug Related Crime and Disorder
- Knife Crime
- Scams and Fraud

The Committee was informed that the Partnership had performed well and all actions had been completed, in some cases having exceeded expectations eg Modern Slavery.

The Committee was advised that the additional funding obtained by the Service totalled £279,108.00. This included funding for the successful partnership working undertaken with North Herts District Council.

The Community Safety Manager reported on a number of events held in 2018 including a quarterly PSPO event, Modern Slavery awareness conference, Online safety advice event, National Personal Safety Day and Silver Street Meets.

In response to a question about Silver Street Meets, officers agreed to provide upcoming dates to the Ward Councillor for St Nicholas.

Members sought clarification on the 2018/19 crime/ASB figures referred to in the report. Officers advised that as a result of the introduction of a new software system and a change in how data was reported there had been problems in receiving the information. Officers agreed to check the figures after the meeting and advise Members of any differences. They did advise, however, that the priorities were based on the priorities of the police, officers and members rather than the data received.

The Portfolio Holder for Communities, Community Safety and Equalities advised that she would raise the issue at the next police and Crime Panel meeting.

Officers advised the Committee that the Partnership consultation for the 2019/20 Action Plan, which would be ratified by the Responsible Authorities Group at its meeting on 15 April, commenced on 4 March 2019.

Officers informed Members of the efforts made by the Service to tackle anti-social behaviour and homelessness including the issue of using communal areas in tower blocks for rough sleeping and also the support and engagement with the known homeless people around the Town.

The Committee then watched a video showing aspects of the work of the Community Safety Team.

The Chair thanked the Community Safety Officer and her Team for their work and commitment in all aspects of the Service.

It was **RESOLVED**:

1. That the report is noted;
2. That the Community Safety Manager provides details about the crime statistics referred to in the report;
3. That the Community Safety Team be thanked for their hard work and congratulated on their achievements.

4 **URGENT PART 1 BUSINESS**

None.

5 **EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

Not required.

6 **URGENT PART II BUSINESS**

None.

CHAIR