

**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 Start Time: 06:00 pm

Time: End Time: 06:57 pm

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 and the Chair of the Responsible Authority Group (RAG), Chief Executive Matt Partridge. Councillor Jackie Hollywell and Community Safety Manager were invited to the meeting to update Members about the work that the Community Safety Officers had been engaged in during the time of the Covid19 pandemic.

The Community Safety Manager provided a presentation in relation to Crime and Disorder including detailed information on the work of the No More Service (NMS) and the Survivors Against Domestic Abuse (SADA). She provided the following key updates:

- The No More Service programme was first established in 2012, and had expanded through the years. The Programme evolved, and also established a No More Service Youth for 11-21 years old, which was a county-wide.
- The Team had established a close working relationship with the probation service and SBC Housing to aid individuals coming out of prison into private rent accommodation via a 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 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 low

compared to the national average (£1500 to £2000) per case. EVOLVE was a 1 to 1 programme for domestic abuse perpetrators which run for eight weeks across Hertfordshire, and run parallel to the No More Service, and was a voluntarily service on the part of the perpetrators who are not compelled to attend. The Team was currently supporting 23 domestic abuse perpetrators across the County. The project was funded by PCC and the Home Office.

- No More Service Youth had supported 129 clients from April 2021 to January 2022. 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.
- No More Service 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 from Stevenage with 359 cases and the lowest were from St Albans with only 29 cases.
- The SADA had established a close working relationship with the Cambridgeshire County Council. 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 had recently taken on the responsibility for 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 a supportive and dedicated Team, who would go above and beyond to support clients. 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.

The Community Safety Manager explained that the funding for projects were usually

for a year, and three years maximum. The funding for this period would end in 2023. She was currently working towards finding funding to sustain the service for 2024 and 2025. Suicide Prevention and Domestic Abuse training were sold to partners including the Police and the North Herts District Council.

In response to a question, the Community Safety Manager advised Members that the Community Safety Team was open to receive referrals from other schemes including Ask for ANI.

The Executive Portfolio Holder highlighted the issue around the funding for these projects and suggested that they should be recognised, and resourced by the Government. Members recognised that the core funding had been reduced in the last decade and was the reason that the Team was constantly looking to fund these projects. The Portfolio Holder said the success of the service was largely down to the dedication of the team that has been built up over the years.

The Chief Executive, Chair of the Responsible Authority Group, stated that the reason for the funding position was that core spending power of the Council had been reduced by £12.5m over the past decade and is the reason why the Council had to search for pots of money to bid for to run these services. The Government were beginning to recognise that this was not a good way to operate and not good use of resources, making authorities compete with one another for the same funds. As an authority we have chosen to extend services that were non-statutory because of the need. The Chief Executive joined Members in congratulating Sarah Pateman and the whole team as an exemplar.

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

It was **RESOLVED** that the presentation 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