

## **SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE CRIME AND DISORDER PARTNERSHIP GROUP**

A meeting of the Group was held on  
26<sup>th</sup> January 2004 at 10.00 am

PRESENT: Linda Oliver (Cambridgeshire County Councillor) – Chairman  
Cheryl Arnold (Young Peoples Initiatives Officer, SCDC)  
John Ballantyne (Chief Executive, SCDC)  
Chris Brown (Assistant Director, Environment, CCC)  
Ian Burns (Primary Care Trust)  
Michael Campbell (Cambridgeshire Constabulary)  
Mark Chalmers (Community Safety Research Officer)  
Rex Collinson (South Cambs District Councillor)  
Tara Edwards (Community Safety Officer, SCDC)  
John McGhee (Probation Service)  
Fran Morris (Community Safety & Partnership Officer, Cambridgeshire  
Constabulary)  
Nicole Morton (Partnership Support Officer)  
Peter Niskin (Connexions)  
John Reynolds (Cambridgeshire Police Authority)  
Deborah Roberts (South Cambs District Councillor)  
Chris Smith (Cambridge Fire Service)  
Dave Warren (City Fire Services)  
Gemma Webb (Community Safety Officer, CCC)

### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Vickie Crompton (Information Officer), Tony Hibberd (Fire Service) & Pat Kilby (Fire Service).

### **2. MINUTES**

- 2.1 The Minutes of the meeting of the Group held on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2003 were confirmed as a correct record.

### **3. MATTERS ARISING**

#### Funding from Partnership Members (Minute 3.3)

- 3.1 Gemma Webb reported that Probation would not be making a financial contribution for the next municipal year. Fran Morris reported that the Police Force would not be increasing their contribution in line with the other Partners. The Health Service were thanked for their £4,500 contribution per year for 2004 and 2005.

#### Travellers Protocol (Minute 3.6)

- 3.2 John Ballantyne reported that the withdrawal of police support had made it impossible to make progress on a countywide consensus regarding travellers. Disappointment was expressed at this outcome as it was agreed that greater co-operation between public bodies was required on what was a growing national problem.

Arson Task Force (Minute 12)

- 3.3 It was understood that Chris Smith would be the lead officer of the Arson Task Group, in place of Kevin Smith.

Automatic Number Plate Recognition (Minute 6.2)

- 3.4 Michael Campbell gave an update on the Automatic Number Plate Recognition system. He stated that the introduction and running of the system was taking a considerable number of staff hours and difficulties had been experienced in making the system compatible with the Police National Computer. However, this system had been responsible for an average of 60 arrests a month and a total of 400 arrests for driving without road tax or insurance. It was noted that those responsible for more serious crimes often drove without road tax or insurance. Michael Campbell concluded that this was an excellent anti-crime tool and he asserted there was public support for the police to focus on these crimes. **MC**
- 3.5 In response to questioning, Michael Campbell stated that this system was funded from a number of different sources, although he did not have the specific figures. He explained that this system had been used in the Police's anti-drugs operations Ortolan and Eagle.
- 3.6 Michael Campbell agreed to bring a detailed report to the next meeting regarding the ANPR system's effectiveness against drugs crimes.

Preventative Strategy Strategic Group (Minute 10)

- 3.7 Gemma reported that there had been no comments from Group members regarding the Strategy which would be finalised on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2004.

**4. 2004 CRIME AND DISORDER AUDIT**

- 4.1 Mark Chalmers reported that the Crime and Disorder Audit was going well and efforts were being made to gain data from the hard to reach groups such as lesbian/ gay/ bisexual and travellers. Chris Brown reported that a total of £3,600 (£1,800 each) would be spent on gaining data from both these hard to reach groups. This complied with the Group's advice that the cost of this exercise be kept below £5,000. Rex Collinson stated that it was imperative that there was an accurate portrayal of the traveller issue; he stated that he was aware of 63 reports of anti-social behaviour in Cottenham since September 2003.
- 4.2 John Reynolds asserted that the outcomes of these audits needed to be evaluated. Tara Edwards replied that this audit was a government requirement. It was noted that it was a long-term strategy and was not reactive. It was agreed that monitoring was important but this audit was designed to provide an assessment of Crime and Disorder issues in South Cambridgeshire over a three year period and would be essential for informing the next Crime and Disorder Strategy.

**5. APRIL TO SEPTEMBER 2003 QUARTERLY CRIME REPORT**

- 5.1 Michael Campbell presented this report. He highlighted the main statistical findings, which were based on the total number of reported crimes this year, compared with the total number last year:

- Overall crime had decreased this quarter by 3.2%
- Burglary had decreased by 8.4%
- Domestic Burglary had decreased by 4.6%
- Violent Crime had decreased by 9.5%
- Street robbery had been virtually eliminated.

5.2 It was noted that the Cambridgeshire Constabulary's had implemented the NCRS to the satisfaction of the Home Office.

5.3 He explained that the Cambridgeshire Constabulary was meeting its target of a 25% clear up rate for all burglaries, which was an excellent achievement.

#### Percentage Changes in Low Crime Areas

5.4 He explained that percentage changes in low crime area hot spots were more difficult to explain as a small numerical increase could represent a large percentage change; he highlighted the fact that in one instance a burglar from Staffordshire had come into the area and committed 16 distraction burglaries. He attributed the number of vehicle crimes in the Milton area to the CRC car park.

#### Murders in Cottenham & Sawston

5.5 Disappointment was expressed that the recent murders in Cottenham and Sawston were not represented in the section, as these were very serious incidents. It was noted that the Sawston murder was not committed in this crime period and the Crime Report was not a public document but a tool for the partnership to obtain an overview of the Crime committed in the District. To focus on a small number of violent crimes, would misrepresent crime in the area.

5.6 It was agreed that these crimes should be recorded under the "Other Points to Note" section.

5.7 Concern was expressed that Community Beat Managers were being seconded from the South Cambridgeshire areas to work in the City. Michael Campbell replied that officers were moved from low crime areas to work in high crime areas but a minimal level of officer support in the low crime area was guaranteed.

## **6. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR REPORT**

6.1 Gemma Webb presented this report, on national developments in the anti-social behaviour policy. It was noted that all Partnership Groups would receive approximately £25,000 from the Home Office, in each of the next two years. In return the Home Office would expect the Partnership to:

- Take action on the worst anti-social behaviour cases.
- Have a named co-ordinator responsible for the running of this process.
- Ensure that all partners are aware of Section 17 of the Crime & Disorder Act.
- Provide regular information on action to tackle anti-social behaviour

6.2 Concern was expressed at the suggested programme for data collection that would lead to extra bureaucracy. It was noted that the Partnership already had an Anti-Social Behaviour Task Group and an Anti Social Behaviour Co-ordinator. Tara Edwards stated that approximately a quarter of her time was spent on anti-social behaviour but this was insufficient and led the tasks being concentrated within one

6.3

It was agreed that the aim should be to provide more officers at grass roots level, to work with communities affected by anti-social behaviour. The Young Peoples' Initiatives Officer was praised for her work. The Anti-social behaviour unit at Islington was highlighted as an excellent example of effective partnership working.

6.4

Concern was expressed at the funding of this proposal, especially as there was no guarantee of Home Office funding after 2005/06.

6.5

It was stated that the level of unaddressed anti-social behaviour in Cottenham was causing a loss of faith in local authorities in that village.

6.6

It was agreed that it was important to analyse the contributions made by all partners to tackling Anti-Social Behaviour, to ensure that there was no duplication of effort.

6.7

The Group **AGREED** that officers discuss the best way of implementing this Home Office scheme and a report be brought to the next meeting.

**ALL**

## **7. CONNEXIONS AT CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH**

7.1

Peter Niskin explained that Connexions existed for all 13-19 year olds. The service aims to provide integrated advice, guidance and access to personal development opportunities for teenagers and to help them make a smooth transition to adulthood and working life.

7.2

Connexions Partnerships and Youth Offending Teams work closely together to ensure that young people in the youth justice system obtain the support, advice and guidance according to their needs. Connexions Partnerships and Drug Action Teams need to work together, particularly in relation to young people's needs assessments, service provision, Personal Adviser training and setting local drugs targets.

7.3

Peter expressed his hope that by working in partnership, any duplication of work could be avoided. In response to questioning he suggested that not all career advice from teachers could hope to be as well informed and as impartial as the advice offered by Connexions. Concern was expressed at the high drop-out rate at University, which could be partly blamed on inappropriate career advice. It was suggested that more practical courses were required at University.

## **8. BUILDING SAFER COMMUNITIES FUNDING**

8.1

Chris Brown presented this report. He explained that all £84,400 had to be focused on tackling drug related crime, although this category was hard to define as most crimes could be said to be drug related. He recommended that a decision regarding the £15,700 for Linton Action for Youth be postponed, due to uncertainty over funding.

8.2

Tara Edwards warned that the Youth Participations Initiative Officer and the Partnership Support Officer were not included in the funding at this stage.

8.3

John Reynolds asserted that it was imperative that these bids stated measurable outcomes, especially if they were to be ongoing. It was noted that Go-East designed the format of the table.

8.4

The Group **AGREED** to give delegated approval for the allocation of Building Safer Communities Funding to the Chairman.

**9. 2004/05 FUNDING APPLICATIONS**

Targeted Policing

9.1 Michael Campbell stated that Targeted Policing would help in the fight against drugs crime. Concern was expressed that this resource could be outsourced to the City area. Michael replied that if successful this application would benefit South Cambridgeshire alone.

9.2 Concern was expressed that the precise terms of this bid were too vague and that to be fair to all bids, this bid should be considered by the relevant Task Group, before being decided by the Group.

9.3 The Group **DEFERRED** this issue to the next meeting.

Community Safety Vehicle (Fire Service)

9.4 David Wilson explained that this was a partnership bid with the City, with each Crime & Disorder Group paying £15,000 for a vehicle which would spend alternate days in South Cambridgeshire and the City, educating the public about fire hazards.

9.5 It was generally agreed that it was very difficult to secure private sector funding for these promotions.

9.6 It was suggested that to be fair to all bids, this bid should be considered by the relevant Task Group, before being decided by the Group.

9.7 The Group **DEFERRED** this issue to the next meeting.

Community Safety Unit Vehicle

9.8 After a brief discussion the Group **DEFERRED** this issue to the next meeting.

**10. BUDGET REPORT ON POOLED FUND AND BUILDING SAFER COMMUNITIES**

10.1 Tara Edwards explained that there had been a large number of bids from parish councils and she suggested the more funding was required for next year to meet the increased demand.

Pooled Fund

10.2 The Group **NOTED** that £6,579 remained in the pooled fund.

**11. BCU FUND 2003/04**

11.1 Fran Morris circulated a sheet depicting 03/04 BCU funding. She informed the Group that the recent changes were in italics.

11.2 John Reynolds stated that Colleges also had responsibilities in reducing Student

11.3 Concern was expressed regarding the effectiveness of placing adverts on buses. It was understood that it was difficult to assess the effectiveness of any advertising campaign and that these posters were in addition to other adverts, including announcements on local radio. It noted that the use of buses was far cheaper than billboards.

11.4 The Group **NOTED** the report

## **12. QUARTERLY TASK GROUP NEWSLETTER**

12.1 Nicole Morton presented the newsletter, which was commended by the Group.

## **13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Partnership Assessment Framework**

13.1 Gemma Webb informed the Group that under Home Office rules an improvement plan needed to be drawn up by the end of March 2004. It was agreed that it was important to send out a copy of the annual review to all partners.

### **Removal of Abandoned Vehicles**

13.2 It was understood that a process for reducing the time and cost in removing abandoned vehicles was being developed. It was noted that a similar programme had been carried out with success in Bedfordshire.

### **Update on Cottenham**

13.3 Superintendent John Raine reported that since the arrival of Irish travellers the police has been working with all residents to defuse community tensions and address misunderstandings. Three additional officers had been deployed in Cottenham to carry out this task and to enforce the law if necessary. He highlighted a problem with travellers fly-tipping furniture on Setchel Drove.

13.4 John Raine explained that a meeting, called the Gold Group, was planned between District Councillors, Community leaders and the police on 15<sup>th</sup> February, to discuss the situation.

13.5 The Group expressed the following concerns:

- The Gold Group was unnecessary as various Committees for discussing traveller issues already existed
- The police needed to inform the District Council of infringements of planning issues.
- The possible increase of the number of travellers to this country after the relaxing of border controls in the European Union
- It was suggested that as the Irish travellers already had permanent homes in Rathkeale, Ireland and so did not qualify for traveller status in Cottenham.

13.6 Rex Collinson thanked the police for their presence in Cottenham. He requested that any information regarding planning issues in Cottenham be passed to Gareth Jones, Deputy Planning Director of South Cambridgeshire District Council. He suggested

that contact should be made with the Irish Garda and the Irish government concerning the entitlements of the Irish travellers.

- 13.7 It was noted that many Irish travellers had gone back to Ireland for a funeral and the Christmas period. It was agreed that the enhanced police presence should continue until after their return.

#### **14. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS**

- 14.1 • Monday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2004 in Committee Room 1 at 10am.

On behalf of the Group, the Chairman thanked Tara Edwards for her support of the Partnership and wished her well during her maternity leave.

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Meeting ended at 1:10 pm

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