

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

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 12  
November 2020 at 12.30 p.m.

**PRESENT:**

R Stacey – Chair  
Cllr Dr. Claire Daunton – Vice-Chair

Anna Bradnam	SCDC, Councillor
Lina Nieto	Cambs County Councillor
Alasdair Baker	Partnerships and Communities Officer, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
Linda Gallagher	Project Officer
Rachel Gourlay	Inspector Cambridgeshire Constabulary
Kathryn Hawkes	Programme Manager
Harriet Ludford	Research Analyst, Cambridgeshire Research Group
Lesley Beevers	Service Manager (People Protection and Planning)
Peter Campbell	Head of Housing
Clare Cook	County Lines Pathfinder Lead
Vickie Crompton	Manager, Cambs and Peterborough Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership
Emma Hilson	Sergeant, Cambridgeshire Constabulary
Charlotte Homent	SCAMS- Cambridgeshire County Council
Anita Howard	South Cambs Place Coordinator
Fiona Edward	Snr Probation Officer
Liz Hanlon	Author of DHR2

Apologies for absence were received from:  
Matt Johnson  
Craig Flavell  
Claire Gilbey

## **Action**

### **1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

### **2. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR**

Cllr Claire Daunton (SCDC) was nominated Vice Chair.

### **3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Amendments noted on page 2- Toolkits and page 1, Item 2.

### **4. RCAT UPDATE (RURAL COMMUNITY ACTION TEAM)**

Rural Crime is crime that is specific to rural areas and not a crime that can happen in any area e.g. haystack fires. Dedicated team with 1 Sergeant, 1 Detective and 1 PCSO. Investigative, responsive and engagement elements are covered too. Also 8 officers and voluntary special constables with strong links to countryside watch and NFU. Priorities are seasonal – from April to Sept they focus on enforcement and during Sept to April their focus is the hare-coursing season. Enforcement

work can impact crime figures because a big warrant can trigger other crimes and resolutions. (See attached statistics) They are not a 24/7 team as there are periods when there is no rural crime cover, but the demand drives the work. 26.7% fewer events this period compared to last year, partly due to Covid-19. Plant theft is down from last year but GPS tracking equipment theft is slightly up.

Cllr Daunton advised she felt that reporting is down, as local farmers resort to self-help due to fear of retribution. She felt countryside watch team alert farmers to a lot of unnecessary messages, so she believes farmers unsubscribe and set up their own Facebook pages to connect with each other. Cllr Daunton asked if Countryside watch could have a smaller area for the benefit of the farmers and Sgt Hilson outlined the benefits of having a wider area due to the fast-paced movement of criminal groups across the County, regardless of district boundaries. Reminder was given to use 999 when crimes are in progress. Alasdair Baker commented that this is actually a gold standard team, with good practice from St Neots being rolled into Gamlingay and other areas.

Cllr Nieto asked what the biggest challenges are and what can the Board do to help- Sgt Hilson advised encouraging reporting and to link in with Police to encourage engagement. Farmers are also encouraged to clear ditches to prevent access to fields and encourage use of plant / vehicle trackers.

Cllr Daunton - requested S Cambs figures rather than countywide, but EH explained they need to be force-wide figures given the nature of the crimes crossing boundaries.

## **5. PROBATION OVERVIEW**

In 2015 the Probation service was split into higher and lower risk cases and the latter were allocated to the company Sedexo. A decision has been made to reunify from 1 June 2021.

Probation gave the following summary of their role and responsibilities:

Probation's role is primarily rehabilitation to ensure no further offending occurs and to enhance the released individual's life using intervention techniques. There is a lot of work with local agencies like drug support to make positive changes, which will hopefully stop reoffending. Main challenges are employment and accommodation which is a vital need to stabilise the individual on release.

Community integration is essential, rather than isolate them which leads to increases in reoffending.

Probation involvement starts at the court, advising the court on length of sentences based on risk, history etc.

Suspended sentences are over 12/24 months and if they fail to complete the requirements set or offend again, they risk having the sentence activated.

Community orders are for 6-36 months, e.g. rehabilitation activity requirements as well as addressing drug and alcohol abuse. Sanctions are applied if people don't comply. Curfews and unpaid work are a punitive element.

A Community rehabilitation activity can be commissioned through

community rehab companies. e.g. St Giles trust who supports offenders with employment or accommodation.

Under 12-month sentences are served half in custody, half on licence and then 12 more months of post-sentence supervision. If these conditions are breached, then probation can take someone back into custody. This also includes non-contact conditions with victims, exclusion zones, tagging and therapy programmes.

Probation are also involved when people enter parole from longer sentences and their role is to determine whether someone is safe to be released. When released these people often go to half-way houses with strict monitoring and options to be recalled and returned to custody. Probation work very closely with the police and also on pre-release reports (from prison). Release from custody suites is a different activity and is carried out by police with medical and defence personnel.

## 6. DOMESTIC HOMICIDE REVIEW 2 - AUTHOR REPORT PRESENTATION

Liz Hanlon talked through the issues presenting themselves throughout the various panel meetings, including which agencies were required to produce Internal Management Reviews, GP actions, alcohol dependency as well as support available to, and accessed by, the victim. She also talked through the Care Act in relation to alcohol dependency in relation to 'safeguarding' as well as 'Learning from tragedies' - an analysis of alcohol-related Safeguarding Adult Reviews published in 2017 and re published 2019 and perceptions by agencies of alcohol dependency.

**Action:** Any feedback on the report to be sent to Linda Gallagher by 26<sup>th</sup> November to collate and forward to Liz Hanlon.

## 7. DEVELOPMENT WORK UPDATE & TRANSFORMATION TOPIC PROGRESS

**Data Report** – Harriet Ludford talked the Board through the data sets with added sets showing deliberate fires and benefits claimants. Milton flags on deliberate fires but Cambourne has gone down on deliberate fires. They will be looking soon at data around assault related ambulance callouts as well as sourcing social care and safeguarding data as an indicator of vulnerability.

Quarterly updates should not alter the priorities for the area too regularly, since work is being done that we don't want to interrupt. Professional concern is important as it shows up what might not be represented in the data. We also can't have too many area priorities.

Histon and Impington remains an 'emerging' area  
 Milton and Waterbeach became an 'emerging' area  
 Northstowe remains an 'preventing' area  
 Cambourne moves to a 'sustaining' area  
 Willingham comes off as has dropped out of all data flags.

Cllr Bradnam advised she is alarmed but not surprised to see Milton and Waterbeach in the above list and asked if the fires were in the country park. Sgt Hilson stated it was burnt out vehicles in Milton & Waterbeach and in Fen Ditton and & Fulbourn as well as slight hotspots around both Tesco sites. Some youth anti-social behaviour was the cause of fires. Harriet suggested that the edge of Cambridge City sections of those

wards are likely to bring the numbers up.

### **Problem Solving Group – Sgt Emma Hilson**

PSG has changed and will continue to evolve responding to feedback from professionals.

- Cambourne had 4 flags and a meeting was held with partners including schools discussing fire (youth ASB), deliberate fires and trespassing on school roofs. Some remaining concerns but the deliberate fire incident numbers have gone down.
- Orchard park- No need, to set up a local PSG because that already exists and appears to be functioning, albeit under a different name in a similar situation to Northstowe. But it is important to ensure that the local group still remains aware that they can come to us as required. If there is a problem that naturally falls into the police remit, we should be tackling it under our normal processes, however having direct links and feedback to the community is key, to gauge public perceptions on safety.
- Milton and Waterbeach are not flagging in police discussion in the same way as Cambourne is in relation to youth ASB
- Northstowe - needs a lot more focus and this is in hand through the Northstowe Support Partnership.

### **Transforming lives – Sgt Emma Hilson**

This project was carried out over 5 weeks in the summer, working with an identified cohort of youths from Cambourne, led by Chief Insp Paul Rogerson. Due to Covid-19 it was conducted virtually, which restricted the impact slightly but overall it was a success.

### **Strategic Assessment – Harriet Ludford**

Annual Strategic Assessment is being completed by the Research Group for presentation at the February board. An email will be sent to the board detailing a call for information to feed into the assessment, particularly in relation to COVID impacts. Example information – potential data sources, case studies, professional judgement/experiences.

Annually the Police circulate a survey, so this year, in an effort to understand how communities feel about issues in their area, as well as their perception of community safety, we added additional questions. The results were predominantly speeding, parking and car theft. PSCO's are to make contact with 100 residents who stated they might want to get involved in community resilience in some way. We will encourage Local Community Safety Groups to consider what issues their community may have.

OPCC micro grants – Kathryn Hawkes gave an overview of the OPCC microgrants that have been launched and are available through the SCDC website. These will be promoted more when the toolkits are ready to launch.

**Community Engagement – Linda Gallagher** presented a demonstration of the Community Safety Engagement Toolkit. This will be animated and built into the SCDC webpage in the same layout and

format as the displayed powerpoint.

**GRT Inclusion Toolkit – Sgt Emma Hilson** gave an overview of the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Inclusion Toolkit.

At this point in the meeting the consultation on Cambs Constabulary Staffing was raised.

No doubt the loss of PCSOs (and their knowledge and history in the area) will have an impact on South Cambs with currently 10 PCSOs and reducing (we cannot give an official figure at present as the consultation process is still underway. Nevertheless, based on the original proposed changes we anticipate a significant decrease in number). The Enquiry office is closing and moving to appointments only. There will be a great loss of individuals as well as continuity of local knowledge and this is a difficult time for Police losing long term colleagues. Please be reassured that nothing has changed for our communities since this news broke regarding the staffing changes. The following day the team did as they always do after a tough set of circumstances, they talked it through, brushed themselves off, put their hats back on got back out into their communities. They are still out there policing our area in the same way that they did last week, last month and last year, with the same level of commitment to the communities all as they have always had. There will be transition period in the future as we manage the staffing changes across the area. However in the meantime the focus for us is to prepare to fill that gap and so the community toolkits and the adoption of the Think Communities approach are really key now to ensuring we all maintain the perception of community safety in South Cambs.

As part of this restructure will be the loss of the Community Safety Team. The Community Safety Team are responsible for a variety of crime prevention measures including liaison with businesses, schools and conducting local visits and giving advice to some of our most vulnerable people and locations. They also work closely with charities and support services to offer and share guidance. They often ran (pre Covid) many local workshops within communities that have been significantly affected by specific criminal behaviour. Eg. Burglary workshops in a community that has recently suffered burglaries. The impact of losing this team is that we will now be seeking greater support from partners and the communities to assist us to share crime prevention and personal safety advice. Hopefully the Engagement Toolkit will assist in providing Communities with the tools to create this support.

## **8. OPERATIONAL ACTION PLAN 2020-21 - UPDATE**

Kathryn gave an overview of the action plan which is a month by month summary and log of our statutory duties and regular activities. It captures community engagement and events, DHR tracking, inter agency successes, partner information sharing such as SCAMS, Domestic violence, hate crime awareness etc, as well as improving links between partner agencies. The work within this action plan is unfunded and is about partners coming together to add value to their individual activities.

## **9. BUDGET 2020-21**

Historically in South Cambs DHRs have been funded from a South Cambs locally held pooled fund. The 4<sup>th</sup> DHR being run by the CSP takes the CSP beyond the level of funding available in that fund.

This is an issue common to all CSPs across the county and the solution of a countywide pooled fund has been proposed by Rob Hill, Assistant Director of Community Safety for Peterborough City & Cambs County Council. Rob is currently escalating the need for all statutory bodies to contribute to this pooled fund up through the required boards until full agreement is reached. South Cambs District Council will contribute to this countywide pooled fund from the Community Safety budget.

In the meantime, and until this countywide arrangement is in place, partners are being asked to contribute locally to the cost of the 4<sup>th</sup> DHR run by the South Cambs CSP.

**Action:** KH to draft a letter to all relevant parties (6 x statutory bodies on the CSP) explaining the need for a contribution towards the cost of this 4<sup>th</sup> DHR.

Police Crime Commissioner funding- At the Countywide Community Safety Strategic Board on 20 October 2020, OPCC Acting Chief Exec Jim Haylett, explained that no decision had yet been reached regarding funding for CSPs for the 2021-22 financial year.

## 10. DOMESTIC HOMICIDE REVIEW & COMMUNITY TRIGGER UPDATE

SCDC currently have 4 DHR reviews in progress:

DHR1 - With home office and LG chasing panel member updates on the Action Plan  
DHR2 – Final report received from Liz Hanlon and delivered at this Board- see item 6.

DHR3 – Barrington – Author contract awarded to Sancus Solutions and starting imminently.  
DHR4 – Cambourne- Out for Invitation to quote. Bidding closed 6 Nov

### **Community Trigger update- Kathryn Hawkes**

There have been no Community Triggers. Peter Campbell, Head of Housing, asked that we undertake a review of the Community Trigger Process, in particular how this local authority ensures the independence of each case review.

**Action:** Lesley Beevers will lead on this

## 11. NEXT STEPS

None

**Next meeting-** 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021 10am-1pm

---

**The meeting ended at 4.00 p.m.**

---