

Minutes

Meeting name	Scrutiny Committee
Date	Tuesday, 2 March 2021
Start time	6.30 pm
Venue	By remote video conference

Present:

Chair Councillor P. Cumbers (Chair)

Councillors R. Bindloss (Vice-Chair) R. Browne
R. Child J. Douglas
C. Fisher E. Holmes
R. Smith J. Wilkinson

Officers Director for Housing and Communities
Housing and Neighbourhoods Manager
Inspector Audrey Danvers, NPA Commander Melton and Rutland
Democratic Services Manager
Democratic Services Officer (HA)

Minute No.	Minute
96	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</p> <p>There were no apologies received for this meeting.</p> <p>Cllr Cumbers advised that Cllr Evans had resigned from the Scrutiny committee and she would advise Members when the Group Leader for the Opposition had nominated someone to fill the seat.</p>
97	<p>MINUTES</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 11 February 2021 were approved and authorised to be signed by the Chair.</p> <p>Cllr Smith abstained from the vote as she was not present at the meeting.</p>
98	<p>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</p> <p>Cllr Browne declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda items 4 and 5 as his wife works for the Community Safety team.</p> <p>There were no other declarations of interest received at this meeting.</p>
99	<p>THE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP (CSP) STRATEGIC PLAN</p> <p>The Director for Housing and Communities, Mr Andrew Cotton and the Communities and Neighbourhoods Manager, Mr Albert Wilson, introduced the report the purpose of which was to set out the proposed Community Safety Strategy 2021-23. This would lead to an annual Community Safety Action Plan to be compiled and reviewed by the Partnership and would assess and act upon issues relating to crime and disorder across the borough for a three year timescale.</p> <p>Mr Cotton highlighted the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The report would be going to Council in March 2021 for formal approval. ➤ The Policy had a strong link to the corporate policies and excellent services and would allow the council to be connected to and led by the community. ➤ Working with partner agencies allowed the council to get a greater understanding of a wide range of issues within the community. ➤ Reintroducing the use of the community centres would help give focus on priority neighbourhoods and individuals within the community. ➤ The Strategy would take a holistic approach to case management to understand why people behave as they do and try to influence change. ➤ The Partnership meets on a quarterly basis to discuss and work around priorities.

During the discussion the following points were noted:

- Members thanked Mr Cotton and Mr Wilson for the report.
- The Fairmead housing estate is a known priority neighbourhood and the CSP scoped out the potential for using the community centre to deliver joined up services.
- The case management teams and the new Neighbourhood Support Officer would predominantly be working from the community centre, post lockdown.
- The new tenancy agreements would allow them to take more action from a council perspective on individuals who are causing issues.
- The police had been targeting key areas that are known for drug related crime over the last year.
- The partnership focussed on and addressed issues in regard to rural crime and the police were increasing patrols in rural areas where crimes had been committed. The partnership would look at addressing all issues in the rural areas as and when they arise.
- The council has begun working to provide a greater resilience on health and well-being and have delivered fitness programmes on Zoom.
- Through the networks that had been built up through the Community Hub and the knowledge gained regarding vulnerable people within the community there had been an improvement on how to better target and support individuals.
- The council had engaged with the NHS and local health leads across the county.
- The council had engaged with local community groups and Facebook groups to assist with low level mental health issues.
- The Partnership would look to improve engagement with the parish councils who as valid stakeholders could give targeted information and intelligence on their communities. The police already had regular discussions with the parish councils regarding such priorities.
- Post lockdown, a forum would be organised for all parish councils and a representative from the CSP would attend to give a presentation on how the CSP operates, the priorities going forward and how it would work in partnership with the parish councils.
- The CSP is in liaison with LCC and the Highways Team on how to reduce speeding motorbikes through rural villages.
- Consideration would be given to improving communication around safety implications for cyclists in rural areas following an increase in the number of cycles on the roads following lockdown.
- Work had been undertaken with the violence reduction network in schools and is also focussed on working with young people under the age of 25.
- The People Board, which is a partner of the CSP, engages with Age UK regularly regarding the recent increase in scams and fraud targeted the elderly and infirm. These issues were reported back to the CSP.

RESOLVED that

The Committee **NOTED** the content of the report and the ongoing contribution of the Community Safety Partnership to ASB issues across the Borough and the direction of travel for the Community Safety Partnership

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CRIME AND DISORDER/COMMUNITY SAFETY PRESENTATION

The Director for Housing and Communities, Mr Andrew Cotton, introduced the Presentation for Crime and Disorder and highlighted the following:

- Apologies were given by Cllr Alan Pearson, the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Communities who could not be present at the meeting to introduce the Presentation.
- The presentation showed the committee what the CSP had touched on in the last 12 months. Having been heavily impacted with the effects of covid-19 it complimented the work the Scrutiny Task and Finish groups had done with regard to anti-social behaviour and the impact made on communities.
- The CSP focussed on local issues but operated within a national context.
- The Partnership had entered into a Perpetrator Scheme which would be delivered in Melton at the homes of the families involved.
- Funding for the Perpetrator Scheme had been made available from the office for the Police and Crime Commissioner and from the Partnership.

The Communities and Neighbourhoods Manager, Mr Albert Wilson and Inspector Audrey Danvers, NPA Commander for Melton and Rutland provided a presentation which had also been issued with the agenda.

During the discussion, the following points were noted:

- The Partnership would allow engagement within the community, to understand concerns of the community.
- UAVA and Turning Point were engaged with the Partnership in regard to drug misuse and domestic violence.
- Covid was a key focus for the CSP due to the impact that lockdown has had on the community, crime and people's health and wellbeing.
- There had been an increase in the number of domestic abuse victims presenting as homeless and in search of housing.
- The council's new tenancy agreements would allow officers far greater power to be able to take stronger action its own tenants who were found to be using drugs within the property or committing drug related crimes.
- The police posted regularly on social media providing details of the visits they had been undertaking in rural areas regarding anti-social behaviour, burglary and rural crime. This had had a cumulative impact on reducing incidents.
- The Violence Reduction Network attends the CSP meetings and is undertaking work with the under 25s and those who had been found in possession of weapons or been involved in violent crime to understand the causes behind their actions.

- Both the Community Officers and the Violence Reduction Network had been going into schools to gain an understanding of the issues that schools were facing and to engage with students.
- The police were currently undergoing an environmental audit of the town centre focussing on the Bentley Street and Rutland Street areas to make an assessment of what work would benefit these areas with better lighting and CCTV monitoring.
- The council had recently issued a closure notice on a property which had significant number of Covid-19 Regulation related breaches and drug related activity.
- In response to a question regarding the increase in drug related issues, Mr Wilson advised that this was a reflection of the police being more responsive to the increased reports coming in from the community and being more proactive in relation to stop and searches.
- Mr Wilson highlighted that when housing officers were going into properties where it was suspected drug activity, from a tenancy management perspective they were immediately having discussions with the police and other agencies to investigate. This area had been under reported previously.
- Officers were recording public order offences more meticulously.
- Non-compliance with Covid Regulations were not recorded as public order offences.
- In response to a question regarding how the Partnership looks at not just the risks of drugs but inquisitive crime Mr Wilson advised that over the last 12 months they had been engaging with a high number of people who had been seen as repeat offenders and through joint working with the housing teams and case management teams there was a positive effect of change in behaviour.
- By taking a broader holistic look at people's circumstances and their families the Partnership can offer long term support through the various agencies of the partnership.
- In response to a question regarding the intervention from Probation, Mr Wilson advised that Probation are a key statutory partner and have liaised with the Partnership regarding the rehousing of individuals as they come out of prison. Probation have an understanding of the cohort of people who are causing issues.
- Inspector Danvers added that they have an Integrated Offender Management Team who work with a number of different agencies including Probation. The Offender Management Team feed into the monthly meetings of the local offender management structure.
- Inspector Danvers agreed that beat officers would attend and engage with local youth groups if they were invited.

Inspector Danvers highlighted the following:

- There had been an increase of 100 localised officers throughout Leicestershire

bringing knowledge of where the local hotspots were in terms of drug use and dealing.

- There are a number of officers working 10 different shifts and information and intelligence is shared amongst officers on the different shifts.
- There would be an additional 5 officers starting at Melton next month.
- Having more resources had reduced the response time dramatically in the last 12 months as officers would have previously had to travel from Leicester.
- There had been nearly 400 stop and searches in Melton during the last 12 months of which nearly a 1/3 were found to be carrying either a weapon or drugs.
- There was a local dedicated Neighbourhood Policing team and a dedicated Neighbourhood Intelligence officer.
- There had been a number of warrants undertaken at key addresses.
- Section 8 notices had been issued at some properties which advise people that if the police have to attend the property on subsequent occasions their tenancy could be in jeopardy.
- The police were far more aware of the signs of exploitation of youngsters and vulnerable people and could identify, through the Partnership, the level of support required for such individuals.
- Violent crime was seen mainly at the weekend at pub closing time pre covid. Due to the current lockdowns there isn't now a clearly defined pattern to violent crime though there has been a slight uplift at school finishing times. Extra resources had been put in place where there was seen to be a pattern.
- Crime investigators were managing investigations keeping victims up to date.
- Have introduced the Neighbourhood Link and are trying to encourage as many people as possible to sign up to it to enable the police to survey members of the community and what their concerns are. The top 3 concerns in four out of the five Melton beats was drugs.
- On one estate in Melton there had been targeted operations and over 20 stop and searches over one weekend in January 2021.
- The public feels more encouraged to report drug issues and other crime when there is an increase in police activity and resources around known drug/crime areas.

The Committed thanked Mr Wilson and Inspector Danvers for their presentation.

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URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business to be discussed at this meeting.

The meeting closed at: 8.30 pm

Chair