

SEFTON SAFER COMMUNITIES PARTNERSHIP

**MEETING HELD AT THE COMMITTEE ROOM - BOOTLE TOWN HALL,
TRINITY ROAD, BOOTLE, L20 7AE
ON THURSDAY 14TH MARCH, 2019**

PRESENT: Councillor Hardy (in the Chair)
Councillors Shaw, Jenny Currie, Neil Frackleton,
Martin Gay, Tony Harland, Superintendent Stephen
Rice and Ian Willman.

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor John Kelly, Helen Armitage, Martin Duffy,
Martin Chambers, Tracy Clare, Tracey Forshaw, Ian
Hutchinson, Governor Andy Laidlaw, Sarah
Shillcock, Michelle Stoops and Chris White.

34. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Carla Thomas, Sue Holden, Brendan Prescott and Andrea Watts.

35. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of any disclosable pecuniary interests or personal interests were received.

36. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 13 December 2018 be confirmed as a correct record.

37. MERSEYSIDE OFFENDER MENTORING PROJECT

The Partnership considered the report of Sue Holden, Sefton CVS, and received a video presentation by Governor Andy Laidlaw, HMP Liverpool and Sarah Shillcock, Sefton CVS, which showcased the success of the Merseyside Offender Mentoring Project.

The report highlighted that the Merseyside Offender Mentoring Project was originally launched as Sefton Council for Voluntary Service (Sefton CVS) Informal Mentoring Project in May 2011, as one of two pilots awarded by the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) in England, Merseyside. The report also highlighted that in that time the project had gone from strength to strength and was funded currently by a range of agencies and charitable sources including the Big Lottery Fund, the Steve Morgan foundation and the John Armitage Charitable Trust. The report

stated that the current Lottery Funding would cease at the end of June 2019.

The report detailed that the Merseyside Offender Mentoring project operated in the local authority areas of Liverpool, Sefton, Wirral and St Helens. With a base within HMP Liverpool, the project worked closely with Merseyside Police and Merseyside Probation Service and had recently extended its services into HMP Risley. The report also detailed that the principal aim of the project was to engage with offenders and ex-offenders to prevent reoffending by:

- Providing them with volunteer mentoring support to help them successfully resettle in the community;
- Diverting them away from crime and pursue new futures by developing positive relationships and by assisting them to identify and achieve individual goals and targets; and
- Assisting them with finding stable accommodation, accessing training, employment, substance and mental health services and improving family and personal relationships.

The report highlighted that, in 2015, Sefton CVS received the Queens Award for Voluntary Service for the Offender Mentoring Project and that the current co-ordinator had been personally shortlisted for the prestigious 'Butler Trust Award' for his work on reducing reoffending in the last eight years.

RESOLVED: That:

(1) the background report, the success of the project and the content of the video be noted;

(2) the video be promoted through the Partnerships established communications teams and social media; and

(3) the Partnership support Sefton CVS in seeking to secure additional funding beyond June 2019.

38. CHANGING LIVES

The Partnership received a presentation by Michelle Stoops, Service Manager, Changing Lives on the Red Umbrella Project.

Ms. Stoops detailed that the Red Umbrella Project was commissioned by the Merseyside Police and Crime Commissioner in 2017 to deliver a service to any individual within the sex industry; inclusive of people in survival sex work, sexual exploitation, street sex work, indoor sex work, camming, lap dancing, porn and escorts. Ms. Stoops highlighted that the focus of the project was to combat instances of violence and crimes committed against anyone within the sex industry and to bring to justice anyone perpetrating these crimes.

SEFTON SAFER COMMUNITIES PARTNERSHIP- THURSDAY 14TH MARCH, 2019

The presentation highlighted that Merseyside Police was the only police force in the world to treat violence against sex workers as a hate crime. Changing Lives worked in partnership with a dedicated, full-time police liaison officer to meet the needs of this group. Ms. Stoops stated that they aimed to reduce violence by providing education to highlight the particular nature of this hate crime. Changing Lives offered group or one-to-one support, outreach, drop-ins across Merseyside, inreach, netreach, casework, and specialist ISVA support.

Ms. Stoops detailed that the project helped people to:

- Report crimes via the team and/or National Ugly Mugs;
- Look at their health needs, physical, mental and sexual health;
- Educate themselves around safer working, health and safety, and harm reduction;
- If required, work towards exiting and, with local partners, look for alternatives;
- Referrals and support to drug and alcohol services, housing providers and safeguarding; and
- People can move on to: lives free from addiction, less harmful practices via harm reduction, empowerment through knowledge, family reunification, how to 'go legal' as in paying tax if working indoors, camming, lap dancing, escorting or involved in porn and reduce homelessness.

RESOLVED:

That Ms. Stoops be thanked for her informative presentation.

39. KNIFE CRIME VERBAL UPDATE

The Partnership received a verbal update from Chris White, Localities Team Manager – South, on Knife Crime in Merseyside. Mr. White highlighted that there had been a national rise in knife crime. Mr. White stated that a meeting would be held in the coming week to discuss the actions being taken in Sefton and across the Liverpool City Region to combat knife crime and more information would be reported back at the next meeting of the Partnership.

RESOLVED: That:

(1) Mr. White be thanked for his verbal update; and

(2) Mr. White be requested to submit a further update to the next meeting of the Partnership on the actions being taken in Sefton and across the Liverpool City Region to combat knife crime.

40. ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR VERBAL UPDATE

The Partnership received a presentation and a verbal update by Chris White, Localities Team Manager – South, on Antisocial Behaviour within Sefton.

Mr. White highlighted that in the last financial year Sefton Council's Environmental Health Service was required to deliver some quite challenging budget savings. This inevitably resulted in the loss of a number of staff and it was clear that the service would be unsustainable to continue as it was. The service delivery offers in relation to noise complaints was re-engineered accordingly as part of this process.

Mr. White detailed that when the service requests received by members of the public were analysed, it became clear that a number of the requests received were about issues that were transient in nature and others were reporting matters where it would be difficult to gather evidence to support enforcement action or indeed where enforcement action would be completely disproportionate to the issue reported. Mr. White highlighted that all of these cases required officer time and resource to assess and investigate, and that this was time and resource that Sefton no longer had.

In conjunction with the Contact Centre, a new approach was developed which went 'live' in March 2018. This new approach was underpinned by two main pillars:

- The development of self-help guides, which would appear on the internet which would assist the public in dealing with minor disputes with their neighbours before the situation escalated to something more serious; and
- The introduction of a 'threshold test' that the Contact Centre would apply. Enquires that were below the threshold would be directed to the self-help guides on the website and those above the threshold were passed to Pollution Control Officers as before.

At the same time, the facility to report matters online was suspended as online enquires were sent directly to the Pollution Control service. In its current form, the online approach would undermine the new approach by bypassing the threshold test. Mr. White stated that the new approach had allowed enforcement officers to focus their attention to higher risk activity that was having a major impact on the communities within Sefton.

Mr. White detailed that in 2016 – 2017 the number of General Antisocial Behaviour cases opened and logged on HUB by the Anti-social behaviour team was 122, similarly the number for 2017 – 2018 was 118 and the numbers for 2018 - 2019 were looking to be the same. Mr. White highlighted that the majority of noise complaints received by Sefton Council's Environmental Protection team was for 'barking dogs', followed by noise from Machinery.

Mr. White indicated that whilst the picture wasn't changing for 'Adult' antisocial behaviour, antisocial behaviour in teens and young people had changed.

RESOLVED:

That Mr. White be thanked for his informative update.

41. SERIOUS AND ORGANISED CRIME PROFILE

The Partnership received a video presentation by Merseyside Police on the Serious and Organised Crime Local Profile for South Sefton.

The video highlighted that the South Sefton area included: L20, L21 and L30 and that South Sefton represented 11% of the Sefton borough. However, 41% of all recorded crimes in Sefton occurred in South Sefton. The video also highlighted that 18% of South Sefton was in the most deprived 1% nationally.

The video detailed that serious and organised crime, from a policing perspective, had a national view which was around cybercrime, fraud, and exploitation. At a local level within Sefton, serious and organised crime included: drugs territory, the movement of cash and exploitation of young people and vulnerable adults. The video highlighted that within South Sefton the perspective was gun crime enabled, South Sefton equalled 24% of the discharges within Merseyside and 85% of the discharges were from a handgun. Merseyside Police along with their Partners were working with the community to identify where those firearms were.

RESOLVED: That:

(1) Merseyside Police be thanked for their informative video presentation; and

(2) the Partnership receive regular updates regarding serious and organised crime in Sefton.

42. CHILDREN'S COMMISSIONER REPORT FEBRUARY 2019

RESOLVED:

That the consideration of this item be deferred to the next meeting of the Sefton Safer Communities Partnership on 13 June 2019.

43. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Serious Case Review

Councillor Hardy, Cabinet Member – Communities and Housing and Chair of Sefton Safer Communities Partnership, asked for a Serious Case Review to be undertaken after the death of a homeless man in Southport,

SEFTON SAFER COMMUNITIES PARTNERSHIP- THURSDAY 14TH
MARCH, 2019

Sefton. Councillor Hardy stated that Ian Willman would liaise with the Adult Safeguarding Board and a decision upon who would lead the review would then be taken.

Domestic Abuse Update

Ian Willman, Localities Service Manager – South, indicated that a full Domestic Abuse report would be brought to the next meeting of the of the Sefton Safer Communities Partnership on 13 June 2019.

44. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the next meeting be held on Thursday, 13 June, 2019 at Town Hall, Bootle, commencing at 10:00 am.