

<b>CABINET MEMBER UPDATE REPORT</b>		
<b>Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee (Performance &amp; Corporate Services)</b>		
<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Portfolio</b>	<b>Period of Report</b>
Cllr Hardy	Communities & Environment	May 2013

## **CORPORATE COMMISSIONING AND NEIGHBOURHOOD CO-ORDINATION**

### **Strategic Partnerships**

- **Operations Board**

The Operations Board has maintained its focus upon the key priorities:

- Welfare Reform
  - At a recent City Region Event, Sefton was praised for its well developed approaches in relation to Welfare Reform
  - Significant progress has been against the workstreams in the action plan
  - The Ops Board were keen to support the promotion of a balanced statement, picking up the facts on what Sefton's collective response has been to responding to Welfare Reform
- Gun and Gang Crime
  - Updated on establishment and progress of DISARM strategy group and MARGG;
  - Committed to attendance of relevant individuals at the Gun and Gang Stakeholder Event on 15 April
  - Updated on partnership responses to recent incidents
- Considered outcomes and actions of the Health and Well Being Strategy and the links with the Health and Well Being Board
- Community Resilience
  - Relatively new consideration for the Ops Board, which builds on some work done previously. Partners were asked to consider where they may be able to play a role in supporting communities to become more resilient, particularly as resources available to the Council and partners reduces in relation to service provision
  - The next meeting of the Ops Board will be a workshop format focused upon Community Resilience.

- **Area Partnerships**

Area Partnership priorities have been identified as follows:-

Sefton East	Health focusing upon access to services and issues of obesity. The 'grow your own' priority is progressing in conjunction with the CCG.
	Anti Social Behaviour focusing on youth behaviour and youth disorder building in links across the border with Knowsley. An area wide mapping exercise of youth provision has been discussed with the intention of providing better links between providers.
Formby	Safety primarily low level ASB and looking at what is available for young people to engage them, also Beachsafe which is an ongoing initiative. An area wide mapping exercise of youth provision in the area has been agreed.
	Health and well being with a focus on the ageing population and issues around social isolation and support via VCF organisations in the area. Also problems around binge drinking and further exploration of this. It is possible that work ongoing in Church ward in respect of Older People may be used as a framework in Formby.
Crosby	Regeneration of local businesses. The Partnership has been updated on the position with

	regard to local businesses. A town team is being brought together with a view to overseeing a masterplan for Crosby village.
	Food and fuel poverty. Updates on the Crosby foodbank, which opens this month, and fuel poverty including the Affordable Warmth Strategy have been made to the Partnership.
Southport	Private Sector housing stock Jobs and Prosperity - looking at the retail and tourism industry as one. Health and Well being
South Sefton	Welfare reform - the Partnership will be looking at the roll out of foodbanks in the area, identifying issues or problems that need to be considered. Gang and gun crime (including community safety ASB) – working to develop local approaches to tackling the issues, looking at prevention and exit.

- **Safer Communities Partnership**

- The SSCP has been given an indicative allocation of Community Safety Grant of £393,000 for 2013/14, which represents a 12% reduction in the 2012/13 allocation. This 12% reduction has been applied equally to all elements of the overall grant. The PCC has decided to continue to support in 2013/14 those organisations that were supported in 2012/13.
- At its meeting in March the SSCP agreed the investment priorities for the 2013/14 allocation:

<b>Domestic Violence &amp; Sexual Violence</b>
Training and perpetrator programmes
DHRs
<b>Drugs, Alcohol and Substance Misuse</b>
Drug Interventions Programme
Youth Crime and Substance Misuse Prevention Activities
<b>Anti Social Behaviour</b>
Positive Futures
<b>Hate Crime</b>
Promotion of reporting
<b>Local Emerging Issues</b>
Project development against emerging issues: gun and gang crime, sexual violence (particularly that involving young girls in gangs)

- The SSCP considered the progress of its approach to Gun and Gang Crime, highlighting the speed at which Sefton was able to respond in terms of establishing the DISARM strategy group and MARGG (Multi Agency Response to Guns and Gangs). The SSCP were updated on the latest incidents and partner responses to these.
- There have been a number of MARGG meetings held to consider plans and strategies for key gang and gun nominals
- A Gun and Gang Stakeholder event was held on 15 April to develop the strategy and action plan. The event was very well attended by partners and the outcomes from the workshop sessions are being used to inform the development of the action plan and strategy, which will be considered by the Strategy Group at their next meeting
- The SSCP have been informed of the outcomes of the recent YOT inspection; as part of the strategic governance of YOT the SSCP will be regularly updated on progress made against the action plan. The important role partners play in the delivery of YOT, at both strategic and operational level, was reaffirmed and partners were asked to make a full commitment to engage

- Domestic and Sexual Violence Strategy is in the process of being drafted
- Key pieces of work to commence are production of Strategic Intelligence Assessment and Partnership Plan, which will be used to highlight the areas of priority but also areas where there is positive news we can share with our communities
- Partnership links in with Merseyside Community Safety Partnership discussing issues impacting across Merseyside with PCC.

## Neighbourhood Co-ordination

### Anti-Social Behaviour Unit (ASBU)

The table below highlights cumulative performance figures of the Sefton Anti-Social Behaviour Unit for April 2013.

<b>ASB Incidents reported on HUB</b> (Police, RSL's, Elected Members etc)	<b>7</b>
<b>ASB Incidents reported through Sefton Contact Centre</b> (Victim self referrals)	<b>16</b>
<b>Anti-Social Behaviour Orders</b> (Not obtained now due to cost implications)	<b>0</b>
<b>Criminal Anti-Social Behaviour Orders</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Anti-Social Behaviour Injunctions</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Acceptable Behaviour Contracts</b> (A.B.C.'s)	<b>6</b>
<b>Parental Control Agreements</b> (P.C.A.'s)	<b>4</b>
<b>Vulnerable Victims</b> (Numbers per Vulnerable Victim, not case loads)	<b>30</b>

A section 30 dispersal order is in operation from 21/12/2012 to 20/6/2013 in the Hornby flats and Violet Road area.

Neighbourhood Co-ordination activities have continued in the areas with recent involvement including:

- The Linacre Welfare Reform Mitigation Group held a consultation day in Bootle Strand Shopping Centre on 24 April 2013 to give advice around the impact of Welfare Reform. Partner agencies were also available to give further help.
- In respect of the Big Local programme, over 500 people attended the Big Eggstravaganza at Killen Green Park on 1 April 2013. A session took place with older people in the community at the Feelgood Factory on 24 April 2013 "looking at the past to design the future" and a further meeting is planned during May.
- In Southport a proposal is being progressed to change the pedestrian designation of Chapel Street into a mixed use designation to include cycling. This is to support a safer cycling attitude in Southport. Also, from a suggestion at a previous operational group, it is planned that a team from the Atkinson Centre will audition buskers and then issue permits for them to perform on Lord Street and Chapel Street.
- The alleygate maintenance programme is now complete - all gates (approx.1,450) have been checked and greased.

## **Town Centres**

All four Town Teams (Crosby, Maghull, Southport and Waterloo) are progressing with their plans, each Town has been allocated £10k from Central Government. In addition to this, Sefton was awarded £100k from the High Street Innovation Fund. (This has been allocated Crosby £17k, Maghull £17k, Southport £49k and Waterloo £17k).

Southport is advancing the Business Improvement District with the private sector taking the lead. Maghull are progressing with their ideas contained in their original Portas application. The Waterloo Town Team is facilitated by Crosby Housing Association and is progressing with a branding plan to connect South Road and the Coast. The decision by Sainsbury's not to expand its site in Crosby village is a major issue for the area and a Town Team consisting of traders and land owners is currently being formed to address this.

## **Halloween and Bonfire Night Planning**

The first planning meeting of the 2013 Bonfire and Halloween period has taken place and further meetings are arranged throughout the year.

## **Community Resilience**

Work has commenced to identify a framework for Community Resilience, which is looking at formulating a set of principles plus practical ways forward. Initial thoughts are around looking to areas where we are anticipating big impacts upon our community both from external factors and as a result of internal change. This will help us to identify potential vulnerabilities within communities (communities being identified either as locality, interest or broader dependent upon the issue). The intention is to empower communities who can support themselves to do so through reasonable freedoms and reducing blockages, but also to identify those communities that require some level of short term intervention to enable them to become more resilient and act accordingly.

A further focus is to reduce dependency within communities for Council and partner services and ideas being explored around reducing bureaucracy for communities who want to do things for themselves; consideration given before services are being developed as to whether they will increase dependency within the community; and work is being done with VCF sector to identify how we can support communities to become more resilient through strengthening neighbourhood based organisations and services.

## **VCF Thematic Option**

The VCF Thematic Review Steering Group has been established and has met to define the objectives of the project and action plan for its delivery working towards creating a one Council view to commissioning the VCF sector.

One of the objectives of the Thematic Option is to allow the Council to fund the sector to deliver on its agreed priorities. In order to progress this, a workshop was held for VCF organisations, that are currently funded through the Council, to consult with them on the priorities. Organisations represented at the workshop were asked to comment on the priorities, highlight any gaps and consider where the sector can contribute to the delivery of the priorities. A further session is planned for the unfunded part of the sector to ensure the views of the whole sector are taken into account as we move forward.

The steering group will be asked to consider the outcomes of these sessions and to refine the scope of the Thematic Option to ensure it is deliverable and appropriate.

## **Domestic Violence (Vulnerable Victims Advocacy team)**

### **MARAC Referrals**

	<b>Number of Referrals</b>	<b>Number of Repeats</b>
April 2013	34	5

The current MARAC repeat rate is 34%

### **VVA Team Open Cases**

As of **30.4.2013**, VVAT currently have 60 open cases.

### **VVA Team Tracking Cases**

As of **30.4.2013**, VVAT currently have 62 tracking cases.

### **Sanctuary security assessments**

During April 2013, 2 Sanctuaries have been installed on behalf of the MARAC.

### **Domestic Homicide Review**

The first domestic homicide review has been quality assured and recommendations agreed by the Home Office.

### **Equalities**

The Hate Crime MARAC continues to meet on a regular basis to discuss and agree actions relating to incidents of hate crime. Hate Crime awareness training developed by officers from the agencies attending the MARAC will be rolled out in late May and June. There has been much interest from officers in the Council and other partner agencies about attending the training. The MARAC Coordinator has met with other local authority representatives and the new PCC regarding 3<sup>rd</sup> party reporting issues and funding. Meetings are taking place with other LA representatives and Merseyside Police regarding a Merseyside-wide summer campaign to encourage the reporting of hate crime. Also, the MARAC Coordinator is working with Sefton VCF groups regarding hate crime reporting, attending meetings of groups who are at risk of hate crime and advising about reporting and the role of MARAC.

The Corporate Equality Group is looking at ways to embed equality and diversity issues in the corporate planning and performance management processes.

### **Welfare reform – food banks and illegal money lending**

#### **Welfare Reform**

In order to maximise awareness of the impact of the Welfare Act 2012, the Council engaged the services of Sefton CAB to coordinate the training and information available to Council Members and officers, agencies and community groups. Training sessions took place in the period January to March 2013, prior to the introduction of the welfare reform changes in April 2013.

A further Welfare Reform Workshop took place in early March for Members, Council officers and community organisations where there was a session on how to spot a loan shark followed by a session on achievements to date in areas such as Financial Inclusion and the Social Fund, Foodbanks and Furniture recycling/white goods.

### Foodbanks

The Sefton Foodbank Network has four main foodbanks, each led by a faith based organisation, located in South Sefton, Crosby, Sefton East and Southport and all registered with the Trussell Trust. It is anticipated that all of the foodbanks, with the exception of Sefton East, will be operational in May 2013. The Sefton East foodbank is being developed by Sefton CVS in conjunction with churches in the area and it is hoped that the foodbank will be open in September.

### Illegal Money Lending

The event held at Springwell Children's Centre on 18/19 February was well attended with nearly 500 visitors over the two days. Visitors were asked to complete a questionnaire on illegal money lending and this provided a useful means of raising awareness of the Illegal Money Lending Team (IMLT), a national body, where loan sharks can be reported. As a result of this event, the IMLT are now working with their first two cases from Sefton. Further events are planned during 2013/14.

### **Fulfilling lives: Ageing Better – Big Lottery Fund Bid**

Sefton has been invited, as one of 100 local authority areas, to express an interest in the above funding. The Fund, totalling £70m, is intended to tackle social isolation in older people, improve older people's ability to deal with change and give them greater power to make choices. Expressions of interest (EOI) must be submitted by 17 May and the Council is working with Older People's organisations to develop its EOI. By late July, the Council will be informed if it can progress to the next stage, where we will be required to formally develop a partnership and identify a lead VCS organisation to develop a vision and strategy document. Following submission of this document, up to 20 areas will ultimately be successful with projects awarded between £2 and £6m lasting between three to six years.

## **YOUTH OFFENDING TEAM**

### **YOT Inspection**

The joint inspection of youth offending work in Sefton is one of a small number of full joint inspections undertaken by HM Inspectorate of Probation with inspectors from the criminal justice, social care, education and health inspectorates. Inspectors focus on five key areas: reducing the likelihood of reoffending, protecting the public, protecting children and young people, ensuring the sentence is served and governance arrangements.

The inspection team chose to inspect Sefton primarily because its performance had been declining on the national Youth Justice Outcome Measure for custody, and to establish if action taken after significant improvements identified in a Core Case re-inspection 2010 had resulted in sustained improvements in performance.

## **Full Joint Inspection Findings**

### **YOT inspected across 4 domains**

1. Reducing the Likelihood of Re-offending – 59% of the work was sufficient, *Unsatisfactory*
  2. Protect the Public – 45% of the work was sufficient, *Poor*
  3. Protect the Child – 52% of the work was sufficient, *Unsatisfactory*
  4. Ensuring the sentence is served – 78% of the work was sufficient, *Good*
- Governance – Management & Leadership across the partnership, *Unsatisfactory*

**Descriptor is linked to case assessment scoring: 50% or below – Poor; 50-64% - Unsatisfactory; 65-79% Good; 80%+ - Very Good.**

Although some significant improvements had been made, particularly in relation to the delivery of interventions and engagement with children, further work was required in a number of critical areas. The YOT Managers and the YOT Management Board had prior to the inspection investigated the reasons for the increased use of custody and put measures in place to address the issues behind it.

Senior managers had recognised that the effectiveness of the YOT Management Board had declined and work was already in hand to reverse this. Whilst inspectors identified improved strategic partnership working, operationally the assessment and planning processes, particularly of vulnerability and risk of harm to others, required further attention. This was recognised by the management team.

### **Findings Based on...**

- Poor practice identified across *assessment & planning*
- Poor management oversight
- Difficulties associated with e-case management system
- Good engagement with users, positive feedback from users re YOT interventions
- Governance & Leadership, particular focus on improving safeguarding from a strategic and operational context.

### **Next Steps...**

#### **Improvement Plan setting out priorities based on inspection recommendations:**

1. Partners agencies are represented on YOT Management Board by appropriately senior staff who are proactive in effectively supporting the YOT, and holding it to account (Chair of the Board)
  - Governance arrangements under review – Director of Children’s Services chairs the YOT Board, new terms of reference agreed to support inspection improvement
2. There is a strategic response to the problems with the database (Chair of the Board)
  - Director of Children’s Services leads on database improvement plan with key partners
3. Data on appropriate local outcome measures, including health, education, training and employment and safeguarding, are received, scrutinised by the Management Board and used to improve services (Chair of the Board)
  - Revised YOT Board membership and terms of reference provides ownership re YOT and partner performance

4. Improvements are made to strategic and operational safeguarding practice to ensure it is central to work with children & young people (Chair of the Board)
  - Revised YOT Board membership reflects senior leaders from Children's Services
  - YOT Manager member of LSCB Performance Management Group to provide challenge and support for YOT safeguarding duties and practice
5. Initial assessments and their reviews are completed to a sufficient quality with particular reference to risk of harm to others and vulnerability (YOT Manager)
6. Plans are meaningful to children & young people and their parents/carers and drive the delivery of appropriate interventions (YOT Manager)
  - Revised quality assurance process with sector led support from Youth Justice Board supporting practice improvements
7. All those involved with a case, work together throughout the sentence, in a way that makes sense to the child or young person and their parents/carers (YOT Manager)
  - Service re-structure based on inspection improvement priorities supporting front-line practitioner changes
8. Quality assurance arrangements, including management oversight, ensure that assessments and plans, and their reviews, are adequate and inform the delivery of interventions (YOT Manager)

Whilst the YOT Management Board will be responsible for the improvement journey of the service the YOT has robust accountability in place within Safer Stronger Communities Partnership Board, LSCB and Children's Trust.

The post inspection improvement plan will be monitored and finally reviewed by the Youth Justice Board over the financial year 2013/14.