

CABINET MEMBER UPDATE REPORT
Overview & Scrutiny Committee (Performance & Corporate Services)
10th September 2013

Councillor	Portfolio	Period of Report
Cllr Hardy	Communities & Environment	July - September 2013

CORPORATE COMMISSIONING AND NEIGHBOURHOOD CO-ORDINATION

Strategic Partnerships

• **Operations Board**

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

- Considered impacts of Welfare Reform that have been implemented since April 2013. Under consideration was information on who was accessing foodbanks; impact on agencies such as CAB who are seeing increased demand and reducing volunteer hours due to pressure; increase in void properties and rent arrears for Housing Associations. Pieces of work arising from this session are to look at the possibility of identifying a Sefton Living Wage and how this could work; Council and Housing Associations working together around decision making
- The group shared successes around gun and gang crime in terms of the progress of MARGG and community reassurance activities
- Overarching Council priorities were shared with partners for comment and consideration about areas of shared priority
- The main focus for the Ops Board at its meeting in June was to consider community resilience and what this means for partners in Sefton. Further work to be undertaken on how to identify vulnerabilities within communities and what creates them in order to determine where resilience may need to be developed most
- Ops Board have engaged in the Health and Wellbeing Board peer challenge review and will undertake some joint action planning in August

• **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. 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. Looking at how the youth bus can be used in the area to benefit the young people.
	Health and well being with a focus on the ageing population and issues around social isolation and support via VCF organisations in the area. 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 has been brought together with a view to overseeing a masterplan for Crosby village.
	Food and fuel poverty. Updates on the Crosby foodbank, looking at how the partnership can help in its development.

Southport	Private Sector housing stock Jobs and Prosperity - looking at the retail and tourism industry as one. Health and Well being – reducing alcohol related admissions; reducing childhood obesity; and staying well in winter.
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**

- Focus of the last meeting was on Sefton’s provision with regards support for victims, looking at the approaches in relation to victims of ASB, Hate Crime and Domestic Violence. Issue of uncertainty of future resources for this type of work was raised as a key issue for the partnership and one to be raised with the PCC, as arrangements for commissioning (MoJ funding) local victims services on Merseyside will transfer to the Police and Crime Commissioner from 1st October 2014.
- MARGG has continued to meet and has demonstrated positive partnership working in responding to individuals involved or on the periphery of gun and gang crime
- Work is in progress on SIA, Partnership Plan and Domestic Violence strategy
- Continue to meet with colleagues across Merseyside and via Merseyside Community Safety Partnership

Neighbourhood Co-ordination

Anti-Social Behaviour Unit (ASBU)

The table below highlights performance figures of the Sefton Anti-Social Behaviour Unit as at June 2013.

ASB Incidents reported on HUB (Police, RSL’s, Elected Members etc)	29
ASB Incidents reported through Sefton Contact Centre (Victim self referrals)	42
Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (Not obtained now due to cost implications)	0
Criminal Anti-Social Behaviour Orders	8
Anti-Social Behaviour Injunctions	1
Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (A.B.C.’s)	9
Parental Control Agreements (P.C.A.’s)	4
Vulnerable Victims (Numbers per Vulnerable Victim, not case loads)	24

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

- An event to celebrate Netherton’s Jubilee took place on 25 July at Marian Square, Marian Gardens and the Feelgood Factory. Activities included face painting, horse

riding, go-karts and the event was well attended. The event provided an opportunity to consult with residents about their priorities for the area from the L30's million.

- Community reassurance event undertaken with Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service, following a double fatality house fire in Southport. A neighbourhood risk assessment carried out in the area identified fly-tipping, obstructed rear alley gates and overloaded skips that have been actioned and formed part of a joint MFRS and Sefton Council action plan for the area. MFRS also carried out home fire safety checks.
- In Southport, four separate Street Games programmes arranged through Southport Operational Group and financed through Area Committee ward budgets. Sessions will run throughout the summer holidays at various parks across Southport.

Town Centres

Southport BID have appointed a Manager from the Private sector and a Council officer to support and work towards the "YES" vote.

£300k has been identified from the Capital Priorities Fund to be used for community resilience within Town and Village centres. Mapping of all shopping areas in the borough has taken place and now proposals are being drafted to support the areas in most need.

Already agreed are:-

- Support to Marian Square in Netherton with Lighting and security updates (£30k)
- Wi-Fi in Formby Town Centre (£15k)

Bootle held its second Market on 26 July. It was well attended and the traders commented that it was busier than the previous Christmas Market. Plans are now being made for an Autumn Market in October and another Christmas Market in December.

Crosby Town Team has started to access their Portas and HIF allocation. Contact has been made with Waterloo and Maghull Town Teams to discuss future plans.

- Waterloo TT is hoping to develop plans to encourage "Another Place" visitors into the shopping and leisure areas of the Town
- Maghull TT are opening a start up incubation space in a vacant shop in Central Square and are looking at developing an idea for a community Radio/TV station to promote businesses
- Crosby TT are working towards a master plan for the Village Centre and are holding events for businesses to share ideas and expertise.

Halloween and Bonfire Night Planning

Further meetings have taken place and will continue up to and including the bonfire period. MFRS have been given the target to reduce incidents by a further 10% this year. The following have been secured:- skips in hotspot areas using last year's data; a minimum of 16 skips provided during the four weeks before Bonfire Night; Street Cage Soccer arranged and funded for Marian Square, Litherland and Ford; Probation Service is providing a vehicle and team for a six week period to assist with removal of detritus - this will be in addition to the core cleansing service providing a team for 3 weeks.

Community Resilience

A series of key projects have been identified under the umbrella of community resilience to consider how we work with specific communities to develop resilience for example through promotion of what activities may be available locally, encouraging independence in travel and social engagement, and addressing potential issues of social isolation.

Third sector partners are keen to work with the Council around delivering against key needs and priorities and work is to be undertaken to identify the best way to do this.

VCF Thematic Option

A draft framework has been developed to guide how the Council does business with the VCF sector. A piece of work is currently being undertaken to pull together all relevant information on what is being delivered by the VCF sector to better understand the full range of the Council's engagement with the sector and to begin to move forward in working with the sector to deliver against Sefton's priorities. The VCF sector are keen to work with the Council around some of the areas where services are changing and work is currently being done to identify the best ways of taking this forward and achieving it.

Domestic Violence (Vulnerable Victims Advocacy team)

MARAC Referrals

	Number of Referrals	Number of Repeats
April 2013	34	5
May 2013	67	11
June 2013	44	9

The current MARAC repeat rate is 31%

VVA Team Open Cases

As of **30.6.2013**, VVAT currently have 51 open cases.

VVA Team Tracking Cases

As of **30.6.2013**, VVAT currently have 76 tracking cases.

Sanctuary security assessments

Between April and June 2013, 6 Sanctuaries have been installed on behalf of the MARAC.

Equalities

Further to recent training, work is now underway to review the Equality Objectives and refresh them to reflect current circumstance. These will be consulted upon with both the Corporate Equalities Group and Sefton Equalities Partnership to ensure that they are fit for purpose. A simple equalities guide is to be produced to support departments to embed equalities within service plans and delivery and to ensure equality assessments are carried out and documented as required.

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 has commenced with two sessions delivered so far and more being booked for the autumn. There is a lot of demand from officers in the Council and other partner agencies for the training and it has been well received so far.

Merseyside Police 'Summer of Action' on hate crime reporting has commenced and this is being promoted with partners. 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.

Welfare reform – food banks and illegal money lending

Welfare Reform

The Council has created an internal officer group to look at how we mitigate the impacts of Welfare Reform. The officer group first met in June and has held a subsequent meeting in August. It was agreed that a sub-group of this group meet regularly to be a driver of the agreed action plan with the wider group meeting quarterly.

The benefit cap was introduced in Sefton in July. A group of officers and partners from Citizens Advice Sefton and Avarto have been examining ways of how to support those residents affected and how to support them going forward in terms of money management, debt and finding employment. It is expected that between 60 & 70 households will be affected by the benefit cap in Sefton, however, this will fluctuate with on-flow and off-flow claims.

The Council has recently agreed to support Citizens Advice Sefton further to improve capacity for Gateway assessments and to train more volunteers. Citizens Advice Sefton have recently advertised for these positions and are hopeful of recruiting speedily.

A further Welfare Reform Partner workshop will be held on Friday 27 September at Linacre Methodist Mission with a focus upon Digital Exclusion.

Foodbanks

- South Sefton Foodbank opened on Friday 10 May 2013 407 people have been fed. (273 Adults and 134 Children)
- Southport Foodbank opened on Friday 10 May 2013 180 people have been fed. (102 Adults and 78 Children)
- Crosby Area Foodbank opened on the 21 June 2013 18 people have been fed. (14 Adults and 4 Children)

Sefton East Foodbank is planned to open in September.

The National Tesco Foodbank collection took place on 5 and 6 July. All three Foodbanks collected in their local stores and nearly five and a half tonnes of food was collected. Tesco will add 30% to the total.

Illegal Money Lending

Meetings held with the England Illegal Money Lending Team (IMLT) have identified both victims and perpetrators of illegal money lending. Based on this information, co-ordinated awareness raising within the Birkdale area is planned with targeted leafleting and delivery of beer-mats advertising the IMLT's services to local public houses. A day of 'awareness raising' is to take place in August at Farnborough Road Children's Centre. A further Community Day is also planned for the October half term period.

Fulfilling lives: Ageing Better – Big Lottery Fund Bid

The Council submitted its Expression of Interest (EOI) by the deadline of 17 May. The Big Lottery have assessed all EOI's received and the Council was informed on 23 July that our Bid had been unsuccessful. Whereas our EOI had been assessed as being suitable for shortlisting, the Panel, who then considered all shortlisted EOI's, preferred others and as a result our Bid will not progress. The final 32 areas progressing to the next stage included some which had strong partnerships in place already and others where BLF wanted to encourage new learning.

YOUTH OFFENDING TEAM UPDATE

Inspection Improvement Plan (Presentation of an update of the plan on the day of the meeting)

Review of progress against the improvement plan August/September 2013

Leadership & Governance – inspection recommendation 1

Review of Management Board: role, vision, membership and terms of reference revised.

Two year strategic plan to support improvement; Board provides sufficient governance to meet post inspection improvement priorities (1st year).

Evidence:

- New chair
- New membership to reflect appropriate senior staff who are proactive in effectively supporting, and holding the YOT to account
- New terms of reference
- Establishment of strategic sub-groups to steer improvements in YOT delivery, accountability and provide an outcome focus across Education, Training & Employment; Safeguarding & Health
- Induction for new members completed

There is a strategic response to the problems with the database – recommendation 2

Evidence

- Improvement plan in place to resolve problems with database
- Progress against timescales delayed

Data on appropriate local outcome measures, including health, education, training & employment and safeguarding, are received, scrutinised by the Management Board and used to improve services – recommendation 3

Evidence

- Management Board sub-groups to support recommendation 3
- Board members inducted (July) on YOT local & national performance measures
- Standard agenda item on Board to receive and scrutinise local performance against measures. SSCP to receive regular reports on practice and performance issues

Improvements are made to strategic and operational safeguarding practice to ensure to work with children & young people – recommendation 4

Evidence

- Revised terms of reference, safeguarding standard agenda item on YOT Board agenda's
- Safeguarding sub-group to provide strategic and operational support and challenge to YOT safeguarding practice
- Comprehensive training plan for YOT managers and front-line staff
- New operational 'working agreement' with Children's Social Care requires operationalising

Practice Assurance – recommendations 5-8

Evidence

- Training and coaching support re practice improvement managers and staff(1st quarter of 2013/14)

- New quality assurance lead
- Cabinet report to support rationale for service re-structure allied to inspection improvement (recommendation 7, all those involved with a case work together in a way that makes sense to the young person parents/carers)
- Improvements in quality of assessments and plans linked to safeguarding & risk management
- Incremental improvement in management oversight based on 2nd quarter quality assurance findings

Partnership Commitment/Resources:

2013/14 Partner contributions confirmed.

External reductions; -£84k reduction in YJB grant (£52k of this reduction is contribution from Sefton CSP for 1 year, in real terms only a -£34k reduction for 2013/14)

10% reduction in LA contribution to YOT, Police have withdrawn £12k cash contribution, however have agreed to back-fill YOT police officer vacancy, Probation & Health have sustained 2012/13 funding and staffing levels.