

Minute of Community Safety Partnership Meeting

3 DECEMBER 2004

Present:

Councillor M Greig	Aberdeen City Council (Chair)
Chief Superintendent Iain Paterson	Grampian Police (Vice Chair)
Sgt Mark Cochrane	Local Authority Liaison Officer, Grampian Police
Ally Birkett	Grampian Fire & Rescue Service
John Sangster	as above
Gordon Moir	as above
Dave MacFarlane	Neighbourhood Watch Association
Colin Munro	British Transport Police
David Henderson	Civic Forum
Jennie Biggs	JADAT
John Cruickshank	Civic Forum
Karen Fitzgerald	Aberdeen City Council, Environment Community Services, Aberdeen City Council
Leslie Brown	
Alex Hidalgo	Aberdeen City Council, Neighbourhood Services North
Rab Hepburn	Community Services, Aberdeen City Council
George Bell	Criminal Justice Social Work Manager, Aberdeen City Council
Alison Chandler	Crimestoppers
Jennie Biggs	JADAT
Marjory Skinner	Community Councils Forum
Doug Duthie	Aberdeen Safer Community Trust
Marlene Westland	Shadow Community Health Partnership
Wendy Lennox	Procurator Fiscal's Office

In Attendance

Pamela Tosh	Community Development, ACC
-------------	----------------------------

Apologies:

Superintendent Bert Donald	Grampian Police
Brian Woodcock	Neighbourhood Services (North), Aberdeen City Council
Malcolm Campbell	City Development, Aberdeen City Council
Wendy Sharp	Victim Support, Aberdeen
Councillor Craig	Aberdeen City Council
Councillor Gowers	Aberdeen City Council
Alan Pilkington	Aberdeen City Council, Neighbourhood Services Central
Iain Wolstenholme	Aberdeen City Council, Environment and Infrastructure

1. Minute of Meeting of 18 October 2004

The minute of the executive meeting of 18 October was agreed subject to noting that Marjory Skinner was present and that the reference to Dave McDonald on Page 8 should read Dave Macfarlane.

There were no matters arising.

2. Oral Updates from Community Safety related Strategic Groups

(a) Youth Justice Strategy Group

Leslie Brown reported that the Youth Justice Strategy Group is organising a seminar in February/March 2005 and invitations will be issued to Partnership representatives.

She also advised that the Youth Justice Annual Report was being finalised.

In response to a question from David Henderson about information to victims of youth crime, Leslie indicated that the Youth Justice Communications Strategy included provision of information both to victims and to the wider community as one of its aims. Ian Paterson highlighted the Restorative Justice work bringing victims (if they are willing to participate) and offenders together.

(b) Domestic Abuse Partnership

Cllr Greig indicated that the new Domestic Abuse Strategy was launched on 23 September 2004. The next meeting was scheduled for 16 December 2004 and would focus on Action Planning and Training of Support Workers.

(c) Aberdeen Racist Incidents Partnership

Ian Paterson indicated that ARIP was due to meet on the afternoon of 3 December 2004. He advised that the last meeting was a joint meeting with Aberdeenshire and Moray and that it had been agreed that alternate meetings would be held jointly with Aberdeenshire, to allow for sharing of experience.

He further indicated that an ASBO had recently been granted for a racist incident at Tillydrone and that ARIP were looking at issues around the clear-up rate measure where there was a target of 71% clear up which was likely not to be met this year. Ian advised that there was a 53% clearance rate overall, with the more serious incidents cleared, however incidents relating to vandalism and graffiti were difficult to clear up due to difficulties in identifying perpetrators.

At this point Ian Paterson raised an approach made to the Chief Constable for funding of the International Centre and a similar issue regarding the future

funding of Grampian Racial Equality Council, which ARIP had agreed to coordinate.

He asked that these projects be considered in relation to any underspend in the Community Safety Partnership's budget for 2004/05. It was agreed that Leslie Brown would call a meeting of the funding sub-group in January 2005 to consider these and any other outstanding funding matters. Leslie Brown raised concerns as to whether these groups would meet the current funding criteria.

Doug Duthie advised the meeting that ACVO had been contracted by the Council to carry out crisis intervention for the International Centre.

(d) Joint Alcohol and Drug Action Team (JADAT)

Jennie Biggs advised that

- Significant work was going on to bring the Drugs and Alcohol Plans together
- Ian Paterson was Chair of the JADAT Criminal Justice/Community Safety sub-group
- A summary of the key elements of the JADAT alcohol and drug strategy was available and circulated to the meeting. The 4 Key Areas were:
 - Adult and Communities
 - Children and Young People
 - Treatment and Support
 - Criminal Justice and Community Safety
- Over the Xmas period, materials on the effects of binge-drinking were being widely circulated, and that locally the JADAT were being selective in what national materials they were using to ensure that messages were appropriate
- First Bus had provided local beermats with details of the improved nightbus service
- An alcohol profile for the city was available. Leslie Brown to email to partners
- Licensing/Alcohol Issues – seminar being held for frontline workers on 24 January 2005. Partnership members were asked to pass details on within their organisations. There are 100 places available and applications will be moderated to ensure a spread across services. There is also space for stands available between 9am and 2pm.
- The JADAT is looking at the demands coming from the Community Safety Partnership on prioritising offenders for treatment. There has now been an agreement that this will be re-examined.
- Hidden Harm publication available from Jennie Biggs or Scottish Executive website
- Licensing Bill analysis of consultation responses available – awaiting legislation.

Following a question by David Henderson there was a discussion about work being done to provide alternative alcohol free venues.

Ian Paterson advised that as part of the work of the Aberdeen Solutions group, Tom Moore the City Centre Manager had produced proposals, however costs of suitable premises was a major difficulty and it would need an organisation such as the Council to share the risk and cost.

There were significant legal requirements and restrictions affecting the likelihood of a voluntary run club pursuing this, together with difficulties in recruiting volunteers.

Local initiatives such as the Torry Youth Café were mentioned.

(e) Updates on Strategic Issues from other Community Safety groups

- Leslie Brown advised that the Mediation Service Advisory Group was involved in reviewing the service's strategy.
- The Home Safety Partnership was planning a Child Safety Workshop in May 2005
- Doug Duthie presented and clarified his report on the wide range of Small Grants awarded through the Trust, and asked that the Trust be considered for a more focussed role in relation to the development of plans for the next 3 years CSP funding.
- Karen Fitzgerald advised work had commenced on the September 2005 edition of the SafeTeam magazine, and asked for ideas on issues to be covered to be passed to her as soon as possible.

3. Strategic Planning/Funding

(a) Community Safety Partnership Award Funding 2005/08

Mark Cochrane presented the main points of the Scottish Executive Future Direction of Community Safety Partnerships and funding announced in November 2004 including:

- Aberdeen is seen as one of strongest partnerships in relation to links with Community Planning
- The need to move from partnership building to solving problems
- Reduced performance reporting requirements extended over longer period
- New consolidated Community Safety Partnership Award made for up to 3 years, subject to approval of problem-solving plans and performance and delivery
- The need for Partnerships to evidence up to 3 local community safety problems and produce problem solving plans for submission to the Scottish Executive by 31 January 2005.
- Aberdeen's indicative allocation is £184,000pa.
- New Seized Assets Community Fund for innovative initiatives to visibly strengthen and repair those communities hardest hit by drug misuse, dealing and offending, to operate through Community Safety Partnerships – guidance and bidding process being prepared.

- National support for Community Safety Partnerships including a new learning resource, national Community Safety Coordinator, annual community safety conference aimed at practitioners.

The meeting welcomed the new Seized Assets fund, which would target damaged communities. The existing work on drugs and community issues by the Great Northern Partnership was highlighted as work, which could be built on.

The meeting considered the draft guidance circulated with the Agenda paper and a report by Leslie Brown which was tabled at the meeting. The report provided information on the latest phase of the Scottish Executive Community Safety Partnership Award Programme 2005-2008. The indicative allocation for Aberdeen is £183,936.33 to be released in April 2005 subject to Partnership proposals being approved by the Scottish Executive. Proposals require to be submitted by 31 January 2005.

The report recommended that the partnership:

- (a) Agree up to 3 local community safety priorities in keeping with the Scottish Executive funding criteria
- (b) Set up a small group (or groups) to prepare the required Problem Solving Plans for submission to the Scottish Executive by 31 January 2005, including who will participate in the process and arrangements for the Partnership to approve these plans prior to that date
- (c) Request City Council approval of the plans for allocating the funding against the agreed priorities.

The meeting considered the relevant information available from partner organisations.

Ian Paterson advised the meeting of Grampian Police commitment to using the National Intelligence Model, which had led to a 40% reduction in housebreaking over the last 2 years. He highlighted that police calls about vandalism were very high and that he was aware this was a significant issue for the Council.

The following points were highlighted in the discussion:

- It was proposed that one of the problems should be a plan around Safer Streets, tackling violence and fear of violence in the streets, taking in the city centre and other relevant areas across Aberdeen. Concerns around younger people and older people should be addressed in this plan.
- Safer Homes was proposed as one of the problems, to include home accident prevention, home fire safety and home crime prevention. Over 50% of admissions to A&E were due to home accidents and while the community may not see it as a priority there was clear evidence that it was a significant community safety issue, with disadvantaged communities, young children and older people at particular risk. In response to a query from David Henderson about whether communities would welcome such

interventions, Ally Birkett from the Fire and Rescue Service advised that his officers were always welcomed at any homes they visited to provide fire safety awareness information.

- Vandalism was proposed as the 3rd community safety problem, given the high Police calls and the costs to the Council, other partners and organisations such as First Bus. This would tie in to work nearing completion in the Council on producing an anti-vandalism strategy. Leslie Brown would report back to the Council vandalism sub-group and involve them as appropriate.
- The meeting agreed that the above 3 problems be agreed as the 3 local community safety priorities, and that substance abuse be considered as a causal factor in each of the 3 problems. Youth Provision/diversion could be considered where appropriate, but should be part of wider mainstream provision to ensure sustainability and effectiveness.

It was agreed that one group would meet to produce the 3 required problem-solving plans including Leslie Brown, Grampian Police, Grampian Fire & Rescue Service, Marlene Westland, Karen Fitzgerald, Doug Duthie, David Henderson and Alison Chandler.

The relevant Council Committee would be asked to approve the plans as required by the Scottish Executive.

(b) Regeneration Outcome Agreement (ROA) Section 3

The meeting considered and noted Section 3 of the Regeneration Outcome Agreement on Community Safety prepared on their behalf by Leslie Brown. Leslie advised the meeting that the Partnership would be tasked with delivering the commitment in the ROA.

(d) Strategic Planning

Leslie Brown advised the meeting that she had been unable to recruit a Development Officer as planned to take forward the production of the new Strategic Plan. She was considering other ways of resourcing this work.

4. Task Group Updates

(a) Anti Social Behaviour

A Briefing on latest developments will be circulated and made available on the Community Planning Website.

The Recruitment of the 10 new Wardens is under way with interviews in early January. The Publicity sub group has met –and is looking to produce some ‘good news’ early stories, and is developing a longer term approach starting with consultation on the Draft Strategy –in January/February 2005. The draft strategy is almost complete except for Police information and baseline figures. The ASBO Forum is currently reviewing local policy on the use of ASBOs to reflect the new powers for ASBOs for 12-15yr olds, and reviewing existing ASBOs. Leslie advised that in relation to issuing information on people with

ASBOs, those that need to know (victims, neighbours, police etc) are told about an ASBO and provided with contact telephone numbers to use if an ASBO is breached.

A very successful visit by the Scottish Executive took place 2 weeks ago to check progress of Wardens which included visits to Middlefield and Northfield and including good feedback from communities including the Northfield Area Forum and the local Senior Citizens home.

A preferred provider has now been identified for the Families Project, which will allow the service to begin in May 2005 on an outreach basis.

Additional Scottish Executive funding of £415,000 has been confirmed for a new Noise Management team to commence in Spring 2005.

The draft Vandalism Strategy is nearing completion and will be a sub strategy of the Antisocial Behaviour Strategy. It will be a city-wide strategy, and one of the action points will be to widen out the scope of plan and bring on board other partners, including First Bus. This will clearly tie in to the earlier decision that Vandalism should be a funding priority.

(b) Wilful Fireraising

Ally Birkett reported that 5000 posters on deliberate fireraising have been distributed including free display on buses for a month through First Bus.

The Bonfire campaign which ran from 1 October to 7 November has been very successful with a reduction in calls to the fire service of 26% (192 calls in 2003, 142 calls in 2004).

Grampian Police report 38% fewer calls associated with fireworks and bonfires. 11 people were reported to the Procurator Fiscal. There were no reports of fireworks being sold to under 18s and no apparent problems with the protocol for removal of bonfires.

Overall since 1 April 2004, Grampian Fire & Rescue Service have dealt with 820 wilful fires compared with 1255 in the same period in 2003, a reduction of 35%.

Ally advised that in May 2005 the Fire service would participate in Kincorth Academy's activities week to raise awareness of the issues of wilful fires in and around the Gramps.

Ally emphasised that this progress was the product of effective joint working between the fire service, police and council services.

(c) Safer City Centres

Cllr Greig informed the meeting that he was chairing this Task Group in the absence of Alan Pilkington. The focus at present is on the night-time

economy – safety transport home and the next steps on minimum pricing following the recent court decision against the Licensing Board.

The next phase would look at the daytime economy.

Jennie Biggs updated the meeting on proposed plans to trial taxi marshals in the city centre over the Christmas period, subject to availability of suitable personnel. She also advised that First Bus had improved the night-time bus service and were actively promoting the new timetable, and had reported increasing business.

Cllr Greig agreed to make arrangements to include Alison Chandler in the membership of the Safer City Centre Task Group.

(d) Sex Industry Forum

Leslie Brown reported that the Sex Industry Forum is awaiting the outcomes of the national expert group before moving forward on policy development. Work continues on issues connected with the management zone and drop in centre.

5. Other Business

(a) Neighbourhood Watch Development

Dave MacFarlane presented his report on Neighbourhood Watch in Aberdeen. He highlighted that:

- There are 347 schemes in Aberdeen scattered throughout the 37 neighbourhoods, and 3 formally established associations with constitutions and office bearers, in Springfield, Bridge of Don and Cults, Bieldside and Milltimber. There are 5 informal and/or inactive associations.
- Rejuvenation of NW associations is an ongoing activity for Neighbourhood Watch Aberdeen with Bridge of Don as a recent success.
- There is scope to develop more local neighbourhood watch schemes including in regeneration areas but there is limited capacity to develop these new schemes, and continuing difficulty in recruiting and replacing local co-ordinators.
- Dave MacFarlane has recently been made aware of possible interest in developing Neighbourhood Watch in an area of Torry where the Victorian Tenements Project has been working and he will be following this up.

Dave MacFarlane will provide progress updates as appropriate.

(b) JADAT Frontline Seminar

Details of the JADAT Alcohol & Drugs Frontline Seminar on 24 January 2005 at Aberdeen Exhibition and Conference Centre were circulated to the meeting.

(c) Crimestoppers Highland/Grampian Campaign 2005/06 Proposal

The meeting considered the paper in relation on the proposals for the Crimestoppers Campaign for 2005/06 and the further information tabled at the meeting by Alison Chandler.

The proposals are for a targeted campaign aiming to increase levels of actionable intelligence on local crime priorities around vandalism, reset and road safety (subject to confirmation). The links to the 3 local community safety problems identified earlier in the meeting in relation to the Community Safety Award Programme funding were noted. It was agreed that the group working on producing the Problem Solving Plans would build in as appropriate the Crimestoppers proposals and appropriate funding.

6 Publicity

It was agreed that this item would be considered more fully at a future meeting.

7 2005 Meeting Dates

The schedule of dates for the main partnership meetings for 2005 was agreed as 11 March, 10 June, 9 September and 9 December, all to commence at 10:00am.

8 Any Other Business

Ian Paterson indicated that changes to his role and responsibilities within Grampian Police meant that Superintendent Bert Donald would replace him as the Police representative on the Community Safety Partnership. Cllr Greig on behalf of the Partnership thanked Ian for his substantial contribution to the Community Safety Partnership and to community safety in the city.

It was noted that a new Vice Chair would need to be appointed.