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AGENDA ITEM 2

THURROCK COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

**STRATEGIC BOARD GROUP
MINUTES**

**Meeting held on Thursday 25th September 2008
Committee Room 1, Civic Offices, Thurrock Council
10.00 - 1.00pm**

Present:

Graham Carey (Chair)	Neighbourhood & Partnership Superintendent	Essex Police
Alex Bamber	Assistant Chief Probation Officer	Essex Probation
Rosie Barker	Operations Manager	Capital Shopping Ltd
Alan Cotgrove	District Commander	Essex Police
Michelle Cunningham	TCSP Manager	Thurrock Community Safety Partnership
Janet Davison (part)	Chair of the Communications Group	Thurrock Council
Lizette Fox (part)	Interim LSP Director	Local Strategic Partnership
Steve Greener	Community Safety Manager	Essex Police
Ivor Harvey	Neighbourhood & Partnership Superintendent	Essex Police
Tim Hughes	Crime Reduction Officer	Go East
Cllr Sue MacPherson	Representative Essex Fire Authority	Thurrock Council
Lucy Magill	Head of Public Protection	Thurrock Council
Cllr Ben Maney	Portfolio Holder for Crime & Disorder	Thurrock Council
Jim Nicolson (part)	Joint Commissioning Manager DAAT	Thurrock Council
Mick Osborne (part)	Community Commander	Essex Fire & Rescue Service
Jacqui Payne	Representing NGO Group	Ngage
David Watts (part)	Local Safeguarding Children's Board	Thurrock Council
Lyn Snell (Minutes)	TCSP Support	Thurrock Community Safety Partnership
Apologies		
Cllr John Cowell	Representative Essex Police Authority	Thurrock Council
Roger Harris	Head of Strategic Commissioning & Resource	Thurrock Council
Kishor Padki	Associate Director of Public Health	South West Essex Primary Care Trust
Non Attendees		
Katherine Gronqvist	Director of Public Health	South West Essex Primary Care Trust
Cllr Ian Harrison	Representative Essex Fire Authority	Thurrock Council
Robert McCulloch-Graham	Corp Dir Children, Education & Families	Thurrock Council
Naya Naqvi	Director of CVS	Council Voluntary Services
Bill Newman	Corp Dir of Sustainable Communities	Thurrock Council

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1.0 Introductions & Apologies

2.0 Admin of Board

(GC) confirmed as from Dec 08 he would be stepping down as chair of the Board. It was timely that the Board reviewed the position of Chair, as it should do annually. He asked those present to consider whether the Board wished the Chair to remain with the police for the next year, pointing out that if it was so agreed, Supt Ivor Harvey, as his replacement, would be the Chair for the next year.

Recommendation

The position of chair to continue with the Police. Ivor Harvey to replace Graham Carey as chair.

AGREED

(GC) said' He wanted to take this opportunity to have noted a big thank-you to Mary Delaney, Operations Manger, Thurrock Council for all her work and support to the Partnership over the past 3 years'.

3.0 Items for AOB

1. Self Assessment
2. Social Cohesion
3. Crime-stoppers in schools

4.0 Minutes of 20th March 2008

The minutes of the meeting of 12th June 2008 were agreed as a true copy.

5.0 Outstanding Actions /Matters arising 12/6/08

For a full up-date on the previous outstanding actions please refer to Appendix A.

Action

To speak to Naya Naqvi (CVS) regarding voluntary organisations representation on this board and the offer from TRUST to take up this position.

Jacquie Payne

5.1 Information Sharing Protocol (ISP).

The Partnership's ISP had now been formally signed off at Cabinet and approved by the LSP. Signatories were currently in the process of signing.

GC thanked Janet Davison in particular for her work on the ISP and also Cllr Maney for his support. It was noted that Thurrock was the only Partnership in Essex to have progressed to signing off an ISP.

Action

To consider including business and commercial organisations such as Lakeside and the Retail Park within the ISP.

Janet Davison

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5.2 Special Constabulary presented by Graham Carey

Basic figures were the South West division had 113 officers in the Special Constabulary. 3 were senior managers and divisional staff and of the remaining 110 officers 43 were based within Thurrock District. 83% of those however were still within their probationary period which demonstrated the high turnover. 67 were based within Basildon District – of whom 90% were also within their probationary period. It has been the case for quite some time that Basildon District has been able to attract more special constables than Thurrock. GC explained that many SC use the opportunity presented to join Essex Police either as a PCSO or a regular constable within a year or so of joining and turnover is notoriously high. EP is trying particularly hard to recruit special constables at the moment and 41 new applications have been received in this Division since 1st April 2008.

The Special Constabulary perform a variety of roles, aimed mainly at releasing fully warranted police officers to concentrate on those duties deemed more appropriate. Nonetheless special constables in Thurrock arrested 17 prisoners between July and early September 2008. The Special Constabulary is particularly useful at providing relatively large numbers of staff to police pre-planned events across Essex and they regularly support patrolling officers within Thurrock.

6.0 Performance:

6.1 Recorded Crime Up-date (presented by Graham Carey)

Crime reduction year on year Quarter 1

	All crime	All crime	Reduction	
	Apr-Aug 08	Apr-Aug 07		
Thurrock District	5731	6338	607	9.6%
South Ockendon area	2166	2399	233	9.7%
Grays Central area	1886	2100	214	10.2%
Tilbury & Corringham area	1679	1839	160	8.7%
	Auto crime 08	Auto crime 07		
	Apr-Aug 08	Apr-Aug 07	Reduction	
Thurrock District	953	1140	187	16.4%
South Ockendon area	416	502	86	17.1%
Grays Central area	271	335	64	19.1%
Tilbury & Corringham area	266	303	37	12.2%

GC pointed out the reduction in recorded police crime. (JP) commented that this type of data would be very useful for Community Forum meetings and should be publicised in the Community Forum newsletters. (AC) responded by saying NSO's should feed this type of data down to PCSO's who in turn should share it with their relevant community forum. Significant reduction had also been seen ASB. This good news needs to be included in the website and forum newsletters.

Action

To improve the recorded crime up-date circulated to Community Forums.

Alan Cotgrove



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6.1.1 Quarter 1 PSA Performance report (paper circulated)
Presented by Michelle Cunningham

(MC) explained the TCSP is improving in all areas relative to its most similar group with the exception of Theft of Motor Vehicle, Domestic Burglary and Racially Aggravated Crime. (GC) said 'the aim of the Partnership is to get within the middle range of our most similar group for every category.

(TH) Noted that GO had questioned some deterioration on domestic burglary and GO will be paying particular interest in this. (AC) noted that Thurrock had the best detection rate in Essex for domestic burglary. (SMP) commented that the partnership will need to look at ways of how best to promote these good detection rates.

(IH) explained one of the challenges for this area (Thurrock) was that many offenders live outside of the Borough and are not known to local police.

Emerging Issues

- Theft of Cycles. Large increase in July up 67% on previous quarter will continue to monitor. Essex Police looking at investing in specialist equipment to catch cycle thieves.
- Shoplifting 37% increase Q1 compared to previous quarter.
- Sanctioned detections for sexual offences are low against target. Baseline 07/08 17%, target 08/09 37%, Actual Q1 14.3% (4 out of 23 offences).
- No Home Office data available on PPO's, however local measurement has seen an 8% reduction in their scores over 6 months since Dec 07
- Young People as victims has increased. Report to Executive Group in LSCB progress report.

6.2 LSP progress (paper circulated to all members for information)
Presented by Michelle Cunningham

Thurrock Community Safety Partnership progress up-date paper for Shaping Thurrock Executive Group September 2008.

Points Raised

1.b Reduce the proportion of victims experiencing repeat incidents of DA: A separate report has been submitted to the Exec explaining the current position on this indicator and the actions being taken. There is a problem in the data being supplied by Essex Police. Essex County Council requires different data from Southend and Thurrock and to date we have not received the proper data. This is being dealt with.

(GC) confirmed the Police Domestic Violence unit is looking to improve its resource with the addition of a new Incident worker. Funding has been secured by the partnership to increase research and potentially Outreach work.

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- 6.3 Delivery Group Performance up-date (paper circulated)
Presented by Michelle Cunningham

Points Raised

Business Forum

Emerging issue: The Chair has moved away from Thurrock – she was seconded away from lakeside.

Small business forum – event planned for February 2009

Domestic Abuse

Les Billingham (Supporting People) is the new Chair of the group.

Currently looking at the feasibility of the Group's merging with Sexual Crime Group.

Looking at setting up a separate multi-agency casestudy group to discuss repeat incidents of DA of which at least 1 case will relate to sexual violence, SERICC and TRUST would be invited to attend these meetings.

PPO

Currently good working practise in place, lots of good work being done.

Promote Tolerance

Samson De Alyn (Diversity) has stepped down as Chair and has been replaced by Mick Osborne from the Fire Service. GC thanked Mick for agreeing to Chair this important group.

- 6.4 Domestic Abuse exception report

Paper circulated to all members for noting.

(AB) reminded the Board that Thurrock is the only CDRP not to have funded Women's Safety Workers.

- 6.5 Delivery Group presentation – Communications Group (paper circulated)

Presented by Janet Davison

Successes

The Communications Group has had a number of successes :-

- EAT Community Engagement Days
- Links with and attendance at, Healthy Wealthy & Wise Road-shows
- EAT Enforcement Days
- Links and attendance at Housing Road-shows
- The purchase of 'giveaways' has pulled in a greater number of people at events and helped to both promote the Partnership and reassure the public
- Thurrock Council foyer exhibitions, including National Drug Awareness Week, and Child Safety Week
- Production of bi-annual Partnership newsletter – widely distributed and widely read – the public often say "yes I've seen that and had one of those"
- The Commissioning of the Essex Community Wheels Vehicle – a state of the art interactive, multi-media vehicle to promote road safety and safer driving – this has drawn greater numbers to the two events at which it has been present so far this

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year

- During National Drugs Awareness Week a lot of information given out on alcohol and cannabis – as alcohol is drug of choice in Thurrock this is particularly encouraging
- Use of Partnership marquee at engagement events – this has provided a high-impact visual message of the Partnership and who they are
- Identification of partially sighted residents for the provision of messages through an audio medium.

Priorities

The Communications Group is committed to its four key priorities:-

- Promotion of the Partnership – raising its profile.
- Listening to our Community – Engagement and public perceptions
- Developing Media Campaigns.
- Supporting Delivery Groups to address Fear of Crime and promoting Partnership work – Social cohesion.
-

The Way Forward

- Community TV
- Thurrock Gazette
- Community Forums
- Public Meetings

We will continue to seek new and innovative ways to engage with the public to promote the Partnership and address residents' perception of crime and the fear of crime.

(GC) thanked Janet for an informative and interesting presentation on the work of the Group. He noted that many on the Board probably had no idea just how much hard work and effort was going on in the various sub-groups and asked Janet to pass on the Board's thanks to those working alongside her.

GC noted that engagement was now more important than ever. The agenda was moving away from measuring crime towards measuring how people feel about the services they receive, how informed they feel and to what extent they believe they can influence or effect local decisions. He suggested members of the group look at how we can use the Communication group in the future and in particular how the Group might further "Engagement" across the Borough.

(JP) said 'feedback from members of the NGO group regarding Community TV was that it was an excellent idea and suggested libraries an ideal place to site the TV's'. She referred to the quote in the report that "*alcohol is drug of choice in Thurrock*" and noted that it did not seem to fit with people's perceptions. Local people's perception was that drug use was high and problematic, particularly in parks. She asked Janet how we might deal with this kind of perception?

(GC) agreed that perceptions don't always reflect reality and to some extent perceptions are formed and reinforced by things, events and media out of our control. Nonetheless if we thought perceptions were wrong and we had evidence to challenge them we should

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and he therefore suggested the CSP get back to (JP) with the data to support this. It would also be useful to make this available at engagement days.

Action

To make available to Jacquie Payne data to support the claim that *alcohol is drug of choice in Thurrock*.

Michelle Cunningham

(JN) referred to problems with young people and alcohol and said National research into alcohol has identified that it caused more social harm than drugs by factor 10.

6.6 Executive Group up-date (papers circulated to all members for noting)

Presented by Lucy Magill

Key Concerns

Poor attendance at delivery group meetings, members of the board are asked to look at their relevant agencies attendance at these meetings.

(GC) suggested that should this issue continue, letters to the agencies involved be sent out reminding them of their statutory requirement and the importance of attending these meetings.

Domestic Violence – a monthly report to be produced.

6.6.1 The Chair noted the Minutes of the Executive meeting of 4th September 2008.

6.6.2 Geographical multi-agency community partnership (paper circulated)

(LM) confirmed the Executive group is to take the lead on the Geo group

The purpose of this paper is to:

- Inform the executive of the objectives of a geographical multi agency partnership
- To request that the agencies of the TCSP agree to pilot this way of working
- To request that each agency highlights wards with greatest need by outcome and considers appropriate resource planning

Recommendations

The Thurrock Community Safety Partnership would request that the executive group agree:

- That a geo group will be trialled in one ward for a period of 3 months
- That each agency will commit resource
- That the exec on behalf of the TCSP and LSP take a lead on taking this forward and nominate a steering group
- That they will submit a progress report to the LSP exec in January and evaluation at the June LSP meeting
- That EAT days are subsumed within the geo group and that no more are held until after the evaluation

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(JP) on behalf of the NGO group stated this was an excellent idea but raised the following:-

1. What happens if resources are not there? Would they be taken from other areas
2. Is 3 months long enough
3. Is it sustainable

(SG) responded by saying 'he was intending to use the resources already available'. He said 'the 3 months period was sufficient time to identify issues and develop work'. This already been trialed and tested in Basildon. Sustainable through the use of local policing officers and NSO's

6.7 PPO Review progress up-date (paper circulated)
Presented by Alan Cotgrove

GO was invited to review the Thurrock PPO scheme at the end of 2007. One of their key recommendations was to implement a governance group.

The first meeting of the Offender Management Group (OMG) was held on 3rd September 08. The group is chaired by Alan Cotgrove, District Commander. There has been a positive start however the group is not yet in a position to report back on all the recommendations and the proposed actions. Buy-in to this group is still needed by prison service, CPS and Health.

Recommendations

- That the Board approve the remit of the Offender Management Group
- That they support the development of a PPO strategy which will be brought to the December board for sign off

AGREED

The Strategic Offender Management Group will:

Provide strategic policy and direction on the implementation of the PPO programme (3 strands: prevent and deter, catch and convict, rehabilitate and resettle) in Thurrock by:

- Formulating Policy and Actions for Thurrock in line with national advice and guidelines
- Ensuring clear and relevant strategic links between the PPO scheme, CDRP, and local support services i.e. housing / ETE / Education / Health / Drugs and Alcohol
- Reviewing the GO evaluation of the PPO scheme Feb 2008 and implementing those recommendations as deemed appropriate
- Seeking solutions to barriers to implementation of the PPO scheme
- Liaise with key stakeholders within the Criminal Justice Board and the Prison Service
- Promoting the principles and progress of the scheme

Priority is to review strategy. Required to be brought to December 08 meeting

Action

To review strategy and to be brought to next meeting December 08.

Alan Cotgrove

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Action

To set up mechanism to ensure that the Group identifies those persons and families who are repeatedly problematic within Thurrock but who do not necessarily enter into the criminal justice system on a regular enough basis to make them persistent or prolific offenders.

Alan Cotgrove

(AB) noted that in terms of dealing with POPO, lack of suitable accommodation and employment are the two biggest issues and there is a need to ensure links to ESTPPOG is made by Thurrock.

6.8 Risk Management (paper circulated)
For information only.

7.0 Finance Up-date
This item was deferred

8.0 DAAT Up-date (paper circulated)
Presented by Jim Nicolson

Thurrock DAAT Performance Up-date report April to June 2008
(Full report has been circulated)

This report outlines the performance of the Thurrock DAAT for the first three months of 2008/09. At the last meeting it was reported that there had been considerable success during the previous year against all targets, and, on the limited data available so far, it can be confirmed that this progress has been continued.

There are nevertheless still areas for improvement. These include improving retention rates and also increasing engagement by Problematic Drug Users (PDUs). This category includes all crack cocaine and heroin users and is critical to the future funding of all DAATs. There has, however, been some encouraging movement on both fronts

- Following a national press release from the NTA on the numbers of clients entering treatment through the DIP, we were one of very few DAATs to offer up service users for interview. As a result we had excellent coverage from both BBC Radio Essex and Essex FM, resulting in very positive feedback. Additionally, in order to continue with this positive story, BBC Radio Essex is currently monitoring the treatment journey of one service user. Interim feedback from the reporter on what she has recorded thus far on what she has seen has been glowing.
- Since the last meeting of the Leadership Group, the sponsored walk referred to at that meeting by service users from the drop-in at OASIS took place and raised nearly £400 for Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital and received very positive coverage in the local press.

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- The 2009 calendar, using the work from the art therapy group is currently being printed and will be available shortly, as will be the diaries for next year, too.
- On Friday, 12th September, members of the DAAT and DIP assisted in an evening drugs operation with local police, trading standards etc. The DAAT had part-funded the cost of this operation, which was seen to be very successful with six arrests for various drugs offences, including possession with intent to supply.

Emerging Issues

1. (JN) highlighted that there was currently a funding issue regarding Problematic Drug Users (PDUs) he said 'he will keep the Board informed of any outcomes'.
2. (JP) reported from NGO group there is an emerging drug use problem within the Ghurkha community.
3. Heroin/Crack use continues

Action

To link Jim Nicolson with Luz for more information and to provide Nepalese community with support and information

Jacquie Payne

9.0 Strategic Partnership Updates

9.1 LSP – LAA action planning and refresh (paper circulated)
Presented by Lizette Fox

The TCSP has the opportunity to consider whether the current economic climate will have a negative impact on safer and stronger indicators. If the Board think these indicators will be affected, then they can be reopened for discussions with Government Office about the targets set for 09/10 and 10/11.

However, should we wish to negotiate targets on this basis, we will need an evidence base to demonstrate some "cause and effect".

For details of the indicators identified to be refreshed please refer to circulated refresh paper.

From October block leads will be in contact with Government Office to agree target negotiation windows. All indicators must have targets agreed by February 2009.

Given the significant amount of targets subject to review for the safer and stronger block, managers are asked to be available to provide support to block leads throughout this process, particularly in January when the bulk of indicators are due to be finalised.

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9.2 Information Manager
Presented by Lizette Fox

(LF) informed the group that as from Monday 22nd September 2008, Christopher Ochulor has taken up the position of Information Manager. She explained that his main role will be to disaggregate data to inform LAA Action Planning.

9.3 Airwaves/CCTV
Presented by Lucy Magill

(LM) informed the group that work was underway to secure a licence for Airwaves. She went on to say that this type of technology will prove useful in the case of a major emergency.

9.4 Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) up-date
Presented by David Watts

Emerging Issues

The reporting of crimes against children and young people.

Action

To look at current trends for crimes against children and young people and to up-date the group with findings.

Michelle Cunningham

There were issues between the work being done between Children's Trust and the TCSP on the impact of domestic violence on children and young people. A meeting to discuss this is arranged for 29/9/08.

Points raised

Promoting safeguarding messages

Safety on the Internet via community TV

Crimestoppers posters in schools, Neil Brand Essex Police to distribute.

(GC) noted that a process will need to be in place to deal with anonymous calls to Crimestoppers. In particular agreement will be needed as to how police and schools and colleges are going to jointly deal with information which comes to the police about incidents or individuals in schools etc.

9.5 Youth Crime Action Plan (summary paper circulated)
For information only

9.6 Fire Service Up-date
Presented by Mick Osborne

9.6.1 Corringham Community Resource Centre
(MO) informed the group that the building work for the Corringham Community Resource Centre was currently underway and 3 groups have been set up to oversee the project.

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(1) Building Group
(2) Steering Group
(3) User Forum group their first meeting was held on 24/9/08 and it appears everything is on target (20th Dec 08). This group will eventually be subsumed within the TCSP. He said 'on the 14th Oct 08 there will be a photo shoot opportunity and the release of the publicity campaign'.

He said 'he would like to thank the TCSP and Thames Gateway for their support and said 'the centre should be up and running early in the new year 2009'. The launch of the centre is planned for June 09'.

9.6.2 Partnership Report (report circulated)

Recommendations

Partnership agreement between Essex County Fire & Rescue Service and the Thurrock Community Safety Partnership to be agreed and signed off.

AGREED

(GC) thanked Mick Osborne (Fire Service) for agreeing to take on the position of chair of the TCSP Promote Tolerance Delivery Group.

10.0 Delivering Safer Communities

10.1 Non Government Organisation (NGO) Group

Presented by Jackie Payne

(JP) explained that she has been in the process of setting up an NGO group. She said 'invitations to approx 200 people have been sent out and there has been a good response from the community, by way of tenants, disabilities groups, community forums who have all expressed an interest in joining the group.

Action

To provide (JP) hard copies of all Strategic Board agenda papers for discussion by the NGO group and to include her as part of the agenda setting meetings.

Michelle Cunningham

10.2 Focus Partnership (paper circulated)

Presented by Tim Hughes

(TH) explained that Thurrock was a focus partnership not because of poor performance but due to its high volume of serious acquisitive crime, mainly vehicle crime and while this brings additional scrutiny it also provides additional support. He said 'the Partnership should see more benefits than disincentives, such as the £102,000 of funding available. He explained that part of his role would be as a dedicated resource for Thurrock.

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- 10.3 Hallmarks (paper circulated)
For information only

Points raised

The CSP will be using a self assessment tool from the Audit Commission to undertake an assessment against the Hallmarks.

- 10.4 Equality Impact Assessment (paper circulated)
Presented Michelle Cunningham

(JP) said that this was noted and by the NGO group.

Points raised

Need to work through work programs from a gender, children and disability point of view. The role of Christopher Ochulor will be to look through data streams.

- 10.5 Casey Report - Engaging community in fighting crime (summary paper circulated)
Presented Graham Carey

(GC) said 'he recommend that members of the Board look at the Casey Report as this will is going to have a significant impact upon the roles of CDRP and in the delivering of policing through engagement.

(JP) asked the question "what family intervention programs (parents support groups) are there in Thurrock?"

Action

To look at what family intervention programs (parents support groups) there are in Thurrock and feedback to Jacquie Payne.

Michelle Cunningham

Social Cohesion

(GC) explained the Social Cohesion Task Force is chaired by Lorna Payne (Corp Dir Community Well-Being). He was keen to ensure that we were not duplicating the task force's work in the Promote Tolerance Group.

Lucy Magill noted that this was to be Graham Carey's last Strategic Board meeting due to his retirement and would like on behalf of the Partnership to thank Graham for all his hard work and especially his commitment to the Partnership and to wish him well for the future.

The date of the next meeting is 18th December 2008.