

Safe Newcastle Board

10 September 2009

(9.30 am - 12.15 pm)

Present:

A Lower (Chair)

O Batchelor, J Carter, Jo Farrell, Kevin Gardner, G Kelly, Jeff McCall, Alan McVey, Malathi Natarajan, Cooper and L McLarence

IN ATTENDANCE:

M Gollan, NCVS, Regeneration Forum

C Knox, Safe Newcastle

G Tullock, Safe Newcastle

S Peel, GONE

R Thomas, Community Safety Manager, Newcastle City Council

S Darroch, Democratic Services, Newcastle City Council

12 WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from H Rutherford, R Stapley, J Cavanagh, C Willis, C Darroch, R Baillie, R Bailey and G Smith. The Chair also welcomed Cllr Gareth Cooper who was joining the board as the Northumbria Police Authority representative.

13 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR OF SAFE NEWCASTLE

RESOLVED – That Chief Superintendent Graham Smith of Northumbria Police be elected as Vice Chair of the Safe Newcastle Board.

14 CONTEST UPDATE

Submitted: Contest Strategy – Governance Proposals (previously circulated and copy attached to Official Minutes).

G Kelly provided an update on progress on the Contest Strategy and outlined proposals for Governance arrangements. The Board was reminded of the four key elements underpinning the Strategy and an update was provided of work ongoing to support each key strand.

- **Prevent** – the first Counter Terrorism Local Profile (CTLP) for Newcastle had been received under restricted access. Comments had been forwarded from

the Chief Executive. The Local Profile update was expected by Christmas. Newcastle's Prevent Action Plan had been submitted in January 2009 to the Office of Security and Counter Terrorism (OSCT). A Prevent Co-ordination Group chaired by Supt Frank Gallop had been created to oversee implementation of the plan. A refreshed Action Plan was required by 31 October 2009

- **Protect** – Guidance had now been received on “crowded places” and “safe places”. The implications for planning and development were being considered. The Community Safety Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) was being updated to reflect this guidance and would be agreed by November 2009 GONE had allocated a small amount of funding to take forward work on the Protect agenda and discussion were taking place with GONE on possible uses for this funding.
- **Prepare** – work was being led by the Resilience team and systems were being developed to ensure that the city was prepared to deal with terrorist events. Newcastle had also been identified as one of eighteen sites in the UK to require a plan for chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear attack (CBRN) attack.
- **Pursue** - this element was dealt with through Special Branch and of necessity was highly confidential

The “Contest 2” agenda was gathering pace. Chief Supt Sue Hall of Northumbria Police had been appointed GONE lead with support from Alan Devon (Protect) and Peter Davies. (Prevent0

G Kelly outlined proposals to establish a Contest Co-ordination Group together with proposed membership, terms of reference and governance /reporting arrangements. It was proposed that all Responsible Authorities (RAs) should be represented and that sectoral representation may also be appropriate. G Kelly welcomed views.

A number of issues were raised in discussion as follows:-

- (i) S Peel, (GONE), confirmed that refresh of the Prevent Action Plan was officially required by 31 October 2009 rather than end of December. G Kelly undertook to confirm the position but noted that Safe Newcastle would be able to meet the October deadline.
- (ii) It was agreed that in the Terms of Reference, CLG should be added to “Other Key Links External to Safe Newcastle”.
- (iii) J McCall, asked that the Universities and College be given an opportunity to be more involved in the work of the Prevent Co-ordination Group. R Thomas noted a similar request had also been received at a recent presentation by Insp Steve Baker to the Newcastle Partnership Board and undertook to follow this up. J Farrell noted that Prevent police officers were located in the universities. G Kelly suggested it would be helpful if a representative was nominated on behalf of the three institutions. G Kelly also suggested it would be useful to receive Steve Baker's presentation at Safe Newcastle Board,

- (v) The Chair sought views on whether proposals for membership and chairing of the Contest Delivery Group were acceptable. G Kelly explained the membership was proposed as a de-minimis with other constituent groups able to request involvement. M Gollan suggested it would be useful to circulate Delivery Group minutes to members of Safe Newcastle Board not directly represented on the group.

The Chair asked that the Terms of Reference be circulated to all Board members to enable them to confirm whether they wished to be involved. The Chair also stressed the need to ensure an effective mechanism for disseminating information. It was proposed that the Safe Newcastle website should be used to circulate information rather than in hard copy. The Chair acknowledged this but noted it was very important that groups were not precluded from being involved in this process, if they wished to do so.

RESOLVED – That the report be received and the following recommendations agreed subject to comments made:-

- (a) that Safe Newcastle be agreed as the Lead Partnership for Contest and the proposed Governance structure, as set out in the report, be adopted; and
- (b) that Safe Newcastle Board receive regular updates on the Contest Strategy as necessary.

15 **SAFE NEIGHBOURHOODS, NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGEMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING**

Presentation by R Thomas, Community Safety Manager (copy attached to official minutes).

R Thomas updated on the work of the Safe Neighbourhoods initiative. The following key issues were highlighted for the Board's information:-

- The Safe Neighbourhoods programme operated in each ward to tackle problems or concerns about crime, community safety and anti-social behaviour in local neighbourhoods. It represented the interface between Safe Newcastle, Neighbourhood Policing and Neighbourhood Management. To support this, the SNAPs groups (Safe Neighbourhood Action and Problem Solving) operated citywide.
- The expanding activity of the Safe Neighbourhood programme meant it now comprised a number of workstreams, beyond SNAPs groups. It therefore now dealt with citywide problem solving, linking into operational practices across 26 wards. The Community Payback initiative was a successful example of the work being carried out, where in conjunction with the Probation Service; 3000 hours of community payback had been allocated to each ward through SNAPs.

- An overview was provided of the wide ranging links of the Safe Neighbourhoods Board, including businesses, community safety forums, transport providers etc.
- In terms of sectoral involvement, it was confirmed that the “Safety First” event would be repeated this financial year. A representative from Victim Support had now also been drafted onto the Safe Neighbourhoods Board which was very useful. A recent example was also noted of successful joint problem solving in Westgate Hill area. This had enabled the small business community and voluntary sector to work together to tackle issues. In terms of further work. The Safe Neighbourhoods Engagement Action Plan also required updating.
- Safe Neighbourhoods was working closely with partners on development of Neighbourhood Charters. Each ward was setting up its own Neighbourhood Charter, which would be operational from April 2010 and annually reviewed. The Charters would have implications for Safe Neighbourhoods and it was important that consideration was given to how to engage with and support this process.
- R Thomas highlighted key activities required over the coming months. The Community Safety Residents Survey would be conducted in November. Funding was also being sought to produce a Safe Neighbourhoods newsletter. Consultation activities in wards needed further development and an annual community safety event for each ward was planned. Other areas of required work included development of the performance management framework and progressing citywide issues e.g. “darker nights” campaign etc. It was also hoped to look at repeat victimisation issues at the end of the 2009/10 financial year and to tackle issues of perception and confidence from April to September 2010, in advance of the GONE seminar in September on the Place survey.
- An overview was provided of the forthcoming “Not in My Neighbourhood Week”, from 2 to 6 November 2009. This would focus on five wards, (one ward per day for a week) selected on the basis of crime and IMG indicators. In addition, the unique position of Westgate as the city centre ward had been recognised and it was therefore proposed to have a trial one day event based in that ward on 3 October.
- Some of the challenges facing the Safe Neighbourhoods programme were outlined. In particular, there was a significant amount of work to be completed. This may require a review of capacity in Safe Newcastle to assess future commitments and assess whether a commissioning cycle may be required. In addition, the importance of continued mainstreaming of this work by all partners was essential, but would be a challenge given current pressures on public resources.

Board members then raised the following issues in discussion:-

- It was confirmed that references to drugs in the community included alcohol misuse.

- G Kelly noted there was a significant body of work required and support from GONE was welcomed.
- Maintaining the visibility of the Safe Neighbourhoods programme would be vital. Achievements to date, such as the Community Payback programme, were already successful.
- M Natarajan suggested community comment boxes as a useful tool to encourage residents to participate in the process. These would enable issues to be raised on a confidential basis.
- O Batchelor welcomed the opportunity for engaging with local communities, provided by the Safe Neighbourhoods initiative. R Thomas noted links with Neighbourhood Watch and Community Crime Fighters Networks as very good examples of local engagement.
- D Tinsley, Head of Neighbourhood Management at NCC provided a brief overview of the development of Neighbourhood Charters in each ward. The charters would identify priorities for a range of community issues including community safety. Work in this area would build on and develop strong synergies with Safe Newcastle and the priorities of Northumbria Police under its' Policing Pledge.

RESOLVED – That the presentation be received.

16 **LDF CORE STRATEGY AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES STRATEGY UPDATE**

Presentation by Phil Hunter.

Phil Hunter, Corporate Planning and Policy Manager, NCC, updated the Board on work to revise the City Council's Local Development Framework (LDF) Core Strategy and the implications for the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS). The following key points were noted for the Board's information:-

- (i) The Strategic Board of Newcastle Partnership had agreed to work in conjunction with Gateshead Council to create a joint LDF core strategy. The Council's SCS would require updating to support this process. In particular, changes arising from the economic downturn and changes in areas of strategy and policy issues would need to be incorporated.
- (ii) Work to prepare a revised first draft of the SCS had been undertaken with valuable input from the Safe Newcastle team. The first draft, submitted to the Newcastle Partnership Strategic Board meeting on 8 September, had been agreed for consultation. Consultation would now take place up to December, with sign off in January 2010. As part of this process P Hunter undertook to bring a draft update to a future Safe Newcastle Board.
- (iii) P Hunter stressed the importance of the LDF review process to Safe Newcastle, as it would determine the basis for land use in the city in the

medium to long term. As such, it was essential that the core strategy linked with the SCS. To support alignment of the SCS and revised LDF core strategy, the SCS timeline would be extended to 2030. In due course, it would also be necessary to bring Newcastle and Gateshead's SCS strategies together in a bridging document.

- (iv) Safe Newcastle Board would be required to participate in the SCS update process. In particular, there would be a requirement for a clear view of infrastructure issues facing the city from an emergency services perspective. Partners were therefore encouraged to input to the process to ensure their views were understood.
- (v) A joint visioning event was to be held on the 13 October 2009. This would provide a first opportunity for partners to discuss relevant issues. The planning team were also developing an engagement strategy for the LDF core strategy review process.

P Hunter reiterated that the importance of the process for Safe Newcastle and encouraged partners to actively participate in both SCS update and LDF core strategy development. G Kelly stressed the importance of designing a city for community safety and noted that an understanding of how the LDF core strategy would operate across a two authority framework would be essential to future working.

RESOLVED – That the presentation be received.

17 **SAFE NEWCASTLE STRATEGY 2010 - 2013**

Submitted: Report by Community Safety Manager (tabled and copy attached to Official Minutes).

From 1 April 2008 the Partnership had been required to prepare an annual Strategic Assessment (SA) and annual rolling three year plan. The current strategy and SA was effective from 1 April 2009 but a refresh of both documents was now required to ensure that the statutory review deadline of 1 April 2010 was met. To inform this year's process, feedback on Safe Newcastle's second SA had been received from Spencer Chainey of the Jill Dando Institute. This was being used to inform and develop the next SA. The following key points arising from the feedback were noted:-

- The SA was considered a very comprehensive document making good use of partner data. There was good analysis on specific issues and progress in key activities. The SA was considered to contain good information on public perceptions about crime and safety issues and it was felt good progress had been made in this area.
- In terms of areas recommended for development in this years SA review cycle, there was a need to be clearer in identifying priorities which could then be used to inform development of the strategy document. In particular, the treatment of cross over issues such as drug and alcohol abuse needed to be sharper.

- It was identified that the key to understanding the Strategic Assessment document was to conduct assessment rather than analysis of issues. On this basis, in the SA document, issues should be identified and analysis commissioned if necessary, as a separate exercise.
- It was proposed that data should continue to be used effectively and a more problem orientated approach given to spatial and perceptual issues (e.g. fear of crime). In terms of strategic priorities it was considered that these had been too general and would benefit from fuller description.

R Thomas confirmed the recommendations would be incorporated into this year's process. In addition, effort would be made to try to align with Northumbria Police's planning cycle and the Drug Treatment, planning and commissioning cycle. Consultation work would also continue. This would use the Safe Neighbourhoods and SNAPs framework to consider and identify geographic issues as well as continuing consultation on thematic work. The commitment to engaging with hard to reach communities would also continue. To manage the process the Safe Newcastle Programme Board would be reconvened. The emphasis would be on delivering a document focused on outcomes and delivery rather than strategic issues.

Key milestones leading up to the statutory deadline of 1 April 2010 were noted. It was confirmed that Northumbria Police were providing analyst support for the SA. It was proposed that emerging headline priorities under the SA should be brought to the Safe Newcastle AGM in December for approval, with full sign off of the strategy and Strategic Assessment in February/March 2010.

RESOLVED – That:

- (i) the process for review of the SA and strategy 2010-13 be agreed as set out in the report; and
- (ii) headline priorities for the SA and three year strategy be brought for agreement to the Safe Newcastle Board AGM in December 2009, with final approval of the revised SA and strategy in February/March 2010.

18 **PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT**

Submitted: Performance Management Summary April to July 2009 (previously circulated and copy attached to Official Minutes).

C Knox presented Performance Management data for April to July 2009 setting out current position against key national targets. She noted that this was a new style report containing data for the same period in 2008 to enable comparison. The report also now included data showing the overall direction of travel against each indicator and Newcastle's performance against core cities and similar CDRP cities. In terms of comparative performance, the following key points were then highlighted:-

- Newcastle was top performing core city for NI16 (serious acquisitive crime) and NI21 (perceptions and dealing with crime). Newcastle was second best

performer for NI15 (serious violent disorder) and positioned fourth in relation to NI20 (assault with injury).

- In terms of similar cities within the CDRP, Newcastle was positioned sixth for NI15; ninth for NI20; and fifth for NI16.

In terms of specific performance, the following points were then noted:-

- **NI15 (serious violent crime)** - There had been a 31% increase against a 3.5% target for reduction. However, this related to a relatively small total number of incidents which resulted in a disproportionately large increase in percentage terms. In reality, the increase equated to two extra incidents per weekend. This could partly be attributable to increased police presence and better detection rates. The level of increase had slowed recently but would continue to be closely monitored, although the upward trend mirrored activity levels nationally. A number of initiatives were being employed to tackle this, including marshalling of taxi ranks, the introduction of the Night Time Economy (NTE) strategy, the “best bar none” initiative and close work with student communities.
- **NI20 (assault with injury)** – continued to improve with a 12% reduction against a target reduction of 4%. This would continue to be monitored closely.
- **NI16 (serious acquisitive crime)** - performance at 30 July 2009 showed a 14% reduction against a target of 5% reduction. This was relatively static compared to the same period in the previous year. Reductions in both domestic burglaries and theft from motor vehicles had contributed to low levels of crime in this category. However, theft of motor vehicles had begun to increase this financial year and would be carefully monitored.
- **NI38 (drug related class A offending)** – recorded Class A drug offences this financial year were at a similar rate to the previous year. The target of 14.5% below baseline across the 2009/10 cohort would be difficult to achieve as many offenders were outside drug treatment programmes. The local estimate for Q1 2009/10 was 38% above baseline. A number of initiatives were being introduced in this area. The need for support from GONE on tackling this issue was also noted. G Kelly noted that important work being carried out in relation to integrated offender management treatment. To support this, £35,000 had been secured from the Chief Executive’s ABG pool and further funding was being sought via the Police grant pool.
- **NI40 – (Ex-drug users in effective treatment)** – to date there had been an increase of 13% against a target increase of 9%. Significant work was underway to ensure Newcastle’s drug treatment system had robust contracts and SLA. It was noted that consideration was being given to creating a dedicated drugs court in the city, although this was at a very early stage.
- **NI21 (perceptions – dealing with anti social behaviour and crime)** – this target would not be measured until late 2010. The Newcastle Residents Survey would be used as a proxy indicator for 2009 performance.

Performance on “other measures” set out in Section 2 of the report, was generally good. Burglary dwellings and criminal damage had decreased by 18% and 5% respectively. However, thefts of motor vehicles had increased by 22% on the same period last year. With regard to target performance for arson incidents, (NI33), there had been issues with data collection, but it was anticipated that the target would be achieved. However, it was uncertain whether the target relating to total number of non-fatal fire casualties could be met. Changes in categorisation and criteria for reporting meant that this may be difficult to achieve.

Referring to NI15, a Board member queried general plans to tackle the upward trend in serious violent crime. R Thomas referred to initiatives being introduced under the Night Time Economy Plan. She also noted that a number of incidents related to sexual assaults where there had recently been targeted policing. This had led to positive feedback on how incidents were being handled but had also led to an increase in the number of incidents logged. The City Council and Police also continued to work closely with licensees to tackle issues promptly. It was agreed that it would be useful to receive an update on the Alcohol Strategy at the next meeting.

RESOLVED – That the report be received, comments noted and an update on the alcohol strategy brought to the next Safe Newcastle board meeting.

19 **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT REPORT**

Submitted: Financial Management Report (previously circulated and copy attached to Official Minutes).

C Knox introduced the report which summarised the annual allocation and expenditure to 31 July 2009. The following points were highlighted:-

- £50,000 Activity Based Grant (ABG) underspend for 2008/09 was able to be carried forward to 2009/10.
- 2009/10 ABG expenditure to date had benefited from savings made on the vacant research/analyst post and secondment of the Partnership Drugs Co-ordinator. All other spend in 2009/10 was in line with the allocation plan.
- Additional ABG allocation proposals for 2009/10 were noted in Section 2.4. An additional £5000-£7000 would be allocated to the “hard to hear” consultation.
- To support continuity of service provision, the Responsible Authorities had proposed that Safe Newcastle recommend to Newcastle City Council the allocations for 2010/11 as set out in Appendix 2.
- Expenditure to date against the Drug Intervention Programme (DIP) main grant, was relatively low, but the full allocation was expected to be used by year end.
- A brief overview was provided of funding arrangements for external grants,

- The Board was referred to a number of Funding Bids which were pending, as set out in Section 10 of the report.

It was suggested that some additional funding may be available to support “Prevent” (Contest) work. G Kelly noted that while he was not aware of this, it may be via the Area Based Grants fund. He undertook to look into this further.

RESOLVED – That:

- (i) the report be received and the allocations for 2009/10 and proposed allocations for 2010/11 be supported; and
- (iii) the Board agree to receive future financial management updates on a quarterly basis.

20 **UPDATE REPORTS**

(a) **Safe Newcastle Open Day 3 October**

Submitted: Report by Community Safety Manager (previously circulated and copy attached to Official Minutes).

G Tullock provided an overview of proposed arrangements for the Safe Newcastle Open Day to be held on Saturday 3 October at Brunswick Methodist Church, Northumberland Street.

Publicity about the event had been carried in Citylife and a further article was to be included in the Chronicle Extra. It was confirmed that a range of partner organisations had already committed to participate in the event and there would also be supplementary events taking place on Northumberland Street and around Grey’s Monument between 9.30 am and 5.30 pm.

The Chair thanked those partners who had undertaken to participate but it was noted that there was little representation from the Voluntary and Community Sector. There was general agreement that organisations from this sector should be contacted to see if they could be encouraged to participate.

RESOLVED – That the report be received.

(b) **NCC Transformation**

The Board was informed that the City Council was undergoing a Corporate Transformation process which had provided an opportunity to review the delivery and structure of community safety and drug support provision across the council. A number of changes were therefore proposed including movement of some posts currently located in Adult Services to co-locate in the re-titled Safe Newcastle unit.

Consultation with staff and unions had taken place and broad support had been obtained. Some issues remained to be settled, but the overall direction of travel was positive and it was hoped changes would be introduced soon. The proposed

structure was noted. It was confirmed that this was currently work in progress and should not at this stage be publicly shared. The final structure would be provided to the Board, when available.

In response to a query, it was confirmed that references to “drugs” also included alcohol related work. Certain issues remained around alcohol commissioning and it had therefore been agreed that this activity would remain within Adult Services.

RESOLVED – that the report be received.

(c) Partnership Review - Tender Process

G Tullock confirmed that the tender process was underway. Sixteen applications had been received. There had been an initial sift and some very good submissions had been received. These had been forwarded to Procurement for review.

It was hoped Board members would be available to support the Partnership Review process. The Chair acknowledged that success of the review would depend on the willingness of partners to participate. However, she also asked it be recognised that Board members would require adequate notice of meetings and some flexibility, to enable them to fully contribute.

RESOLVED – that the verbal update be received

21 **FEEDBACK**

(a) Issues from NCVS Reference Group

M Gollan provided an update to the Board on NCVS related issues.

- There was concern about the loss of jobs and associated experience from the Council as a result of the Transformation process. This was amplified by the current pressure on public sector budgets.
- It was suggested it may be useful for the Safe Newcastle communications manager to attend the next NCVS Reference Group meeting to provide a briefing on recent developments.
- The importance of the Reference Group was highlighted, particularly in terms of informing and including smaller grass roots organisations. It was suggested it would be useful to focus some resource on engaging with smaller community and voluntary groups, particularly in relation to Contest and anti-social behaviour initiatives. It was also suggested it would be helpful to provide an update on progress with the Alcohol strategy.
- O Batchelor noted that the recent Reference Group meeting had been very positive. The process was still at an early stage, but it was proving useful to have representation from Safe Newcastle at the meeting to help build up links. G Kelly suggested it may be helpful to put a specific item relating to the Reference Group on future Safe Newcastle Board meetings.

(b) CAA Update

The Board was referred to the Newcastle Partnership CAA August 2009 update. An overview was provided of the green/red “tag” and “flag” method of prioritisation of issues. In terms of Safe Newcastle, the following points were highlighted:-

- Domestic violence had received a green tag, indicating very good performance.
- A red tag had been allocated to performance relating to the Number of Drug Users Accessing Treatment. A range of actions were being taken to address this issue but these would take a while to filter through. Additional information and data had also been provided to the Audit Commission and a recent meeting had been held with the Audit Commission, the Drug Support Unit and Neil Denton of ARCH to help clarify the position. This had been very useful.
- The Audit Commission had clearly indicated that the CAA report would have the general public as its target audience. As such, the emphasis would be on clear delivery of key messages. The final deadline for submission of data was 18 September 2009. There would then be a 2-3 month lead time prior to publication. Safe Newcastle expected to have an opportunity to comment on a draft, but changes would be unlikely to be accommodated unless facts were incorrect. R Thomas thanked all those who had taken time to provide data in support of this process.

RESOLVED – That the report be received.

22 **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 14 MAY 2009**

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting of the Safe Newcastle Board held on 14 May 2009 be agreed as a correct record.

Matters Arising:-**(a) Business Improvement District** (minute no. 3 refers)

R Thomas explained that as a result of staff changes it had not been possible to bring this item, (deferred from the last meeting), to September Board. The issue would however be included on the forward work plan.

(b) Safe Newcastle Strategy 2009/11 (minute no.6 refers)

It was confirmed that the wrap-around in the Evening Chronicle Extra would appear on 23 September.

(c) Any Other Business (Minute No. 10 refers).

G Kelly confirmed that he had written to Chief Superintendent Paul Weir to thank him for his work on behalf of the Safe Newcastle Board.

23 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**(i) CLG/GONE issues**

A revised policy and framework update on Hate Crime was expected from CLG in the next few weeks. A Hate Crime seminar was being held by GONE on 6 November 2009. Attention was also drawn to Alcohol Awareness Week running 9 to 15 October 2009.

(ii) AGM

It was agreed that the Annual General Meeting of Safe Newcastle Board be postponed until December 2009. This would be more timely in relation to work to be carried out on the Strategic Assessment. The Chair asked that a new date be agreed as soon as possible.

24 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Safe Newcastle Board would be held on Thursday 12 November 2009 at 9.30 am.