



Minutes

Name of meeting	FIRE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY SCRUTINY PANEL
Date and time	WEDNESDAY, 20 JANUARY 2010 COMMENCING AT 6.00 PM
Venue	COMMITTEE ROOM ONE, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT
Present	Cllrs David Williams (Chairman), Paul Fuller, Julie Jones-Evans, Jerry White
Officers Present	Mark Howell, Jan Jasicki, Marian Jones, Karen Kerley, Stuart Love, Zoryna O'Donnell, Paul Street, Simon Wiggins
Other members	Cllrs Barry Abraham, George Cameron, David Pugh

13. **Minutes**

RESOLVED:

THAT the Minutes of the meeting held on [18 November 2009](#) be confirmed.

14. **Declarations of Interest**

Cllr David Williams declared a personal interest in Minute 15, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Crimestoppers, as he was a member of the Hampshire's Police Authority and Crimestoppers.

Cllr Paul Fuller declared a personal interest in Minute 15, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Crimestoppers, as he was a justice of the peace.

Cllr David Williams declared a personal interest in Minute 16, After-school bullying, as he was a member of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership.

Cllr David Williams declared a personal interest in Minute 17, Fire and Rescue Service modernisation, as he was a member of the Fire Modernisation Panel.

15. **Hampshire and Isle of Wight Crimestoppers Annual Report 2008/2009**

The Chairman of the Isle of Wight Crimestoppers Board, Dr Peter Grimaldi gave the members an overview of the work that was performed by Crimestoppers and how that work impacted on crime and disorder within the local community. Members were told that there were a number of misunderstandings and misconceptions about the

organisation, which was a national charity, receiving financial support from Isle of Wight Council, Police, Isle of Wight Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) and corporate sponsors including Wightlink and Sightguard.

Members noted that the charity had been established over twenty two years ago and enabled members of the public to report crime via a dedicated national call centre, which was manned twenty four hours a day. Reporting crime via Crimestoppers offered a way of reporting crime without having to approach the Police and all reports were confidential and maintained the anonymity of the caller. Any information that may assist with the identification of the person that had rang to report anything was sanitised. Information could also be submitted via email, which would be encrypted.

It was reported that the call centre nationally received over 200 calls per day, which lead to 19 arrests, of which 6 were within the Hampshire and Isle of Wight area. It was explained that whilst Crimestoppers was not linked to Crimewatch or Crimebeat, information was fed into these programmes to assist with investigations. It was stated that over half of the high profile cases which were televised, were a direct result of information which had been submitted to Crimestoppers.

A number of national campaigns had been launched locally to raise the awareness of particular criminal activities including tackling knife crime, drink driving, graffiti and domestic abuse. Locally efforts were being made to embrace the prison fraternity, making use of the vast amount of criminal knowledge they possessed. It was noted that this was being facilitated through the establishment of prisoner boards and that it gave prisoners an opportunity to put something back into the community.

Members were told that the number of Islanders contacting Crimestoppers was very healthy when compared against other areas in Hampshire and that this could be put down to Islanders embracing Crimestoppers and caring about the community. Dr Grimaldi stated that the Island operation was supported by a dedicated team, which included a full time project manager and that Island crime patterns were different to the mainland, with low levels of violent crime.

RESOLVED :

THAT the work of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Crimestoppers be supported.

16. After-school bullying

The Head of Community Safety Services provided members with an overview on links between bullying and violence, which put the subject into context, stating that it was a priority of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) over the next three years. It was noted that not all bullying was confined between children and could be found within all walks of life but if issues of bullying were not dealt with in early life, they could manifest as violence over the years.

Members noted that the full extent of bullying on the Island was unknown although it had been estimated that of the 3365 incidents of violent crime reported to the Police between April 2008 and March 2009, 75% of violent incidents were likely to be linked to bullying. Only a minority of these incidents could be attributed to school related/after school bullying. It was also noted that the Home Office classification of crimes does

not include bullying, therefore it is very difficult to extract data on bullying from the police records. This made gauging the size of the issue problematic.

Analysis had been performed based on the information that was available including the location, day and time parameters and the age of the victim and perpetrator. 155 of the incidents had proven links to school-related/after school bullying. 60% of the victims were found to be male, with 36 of the offenders being between the ages 12-16, 66% of which had been male. It was found that 68% of the incidents took place between acquaintances.

It was accepted that the 155 incidents was probably not the definitive figure and that this was only based on police records. Many of the police records had some of the information missing which did not allow establishment of a link with bullying, It was further stated that bullying quite often went unreported at schools and they did not report incidents to the police on every occasion. Gauging the actual figure was further complicated as there was no consistent reporting mechanism for recording incidents of bullying across different organisations including Doctors, Youth Services and Social Services. Members were told that these issues were highlighted in the last strategic assessment of community safety undertaken by CDRP.

The Commissioner for Family and Parent Support (Children's Services) updated the members on the work that had been performed reviewing the Anti-bullying Strategy for Children.

The strategy was the work of a multi-agency working party and information had been gathered from agencies including Health, Police and Schools, although it was reported that to date there was no legal requirement for schools to report bullying. This is due to change later in 2010. It was noted that the strategy had been adopted by Cabinet in January 2009 and had been launched as a multi-agency owned strategy at the Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning Conference in October 2009.

The Island Strategic Partnership and the CDRP had identified anti-bullying as a priority for 2010 and the 2008 Tell Us survey had returned high numbers of children experiencing bullying, which was a further worry. Members were told that whilst the results of the 2009 survey had not been released, a number of initiatives had been underway since January 2009. These included:

- The Launch of Travel Safe, which allowed for safer travel on public transport, with all transport providers agreeing not to accept bullying on their services and additional cameras being put in place at transport network hubs.
- Having a Police Community Support Officer in the vicinity of schools at the end of the day where it had been identified children lacked confidence.
- At the Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning Conference/Launch of the Anti-bullying Strategy in October 2009, 30 schools took details and passwords to enable them to use the Sentinel system to record incidents of bullying.
- Schools taking part in Anti-bullying week, which using a theatre drama group to educate on the outcomes of bullying including cyber bullying.

Members noted that it had been reported that not all Island schools were using the Sentinel reporting system and that this owed to a lack of a legal framework requiring schools to report incidents to the local authority. Many of the schools that had been

offered the service were keen to combat bullying and had confirmed that they already had reporting systems in place and that these dealt with the problem adequately. Members acknowledged that all schools had policies for dealing with bullying but were of the view that if all schools were using the same reporting system, this would harmonise the different information gathering techniques currently used and provide more consistent and accurate data.

Several schools had received training sessions on cyberbullying and safety. The Red Tie Theatre group presented a drama presentation at the Anti-bullying launch to a multi agency audience highlighting the impact bullying could have and ways young people could develop coping skills.. A clear message had been communicated that any forms of harassment using these media was unacceptable.

The review of the strategy had highlighted a number of recommendations including schools and agencies participating in an annual audit, introduction of a text/help line manned by full time professional volunteers and an anonymous reporting mechanism. It had further highlighted the requirement of an Anti-bullying Co-ordinator, which was hoped could be funded through a bid for Local Public Service Agreement (LPSA) reward money and joint funding initiatives.

It was noted that the Youth Council had formed part of the consultation on the strategy through attending the council's big day out event and the main feedback had been in regard to removing reference to bullying, which was felt did not adequately cover the many forms harassment could take. It was further noted that the revised strategy would be introduced within months although it would require constant review to ensure that it maintained relevance to new technologies.

RESOLVED:

THAT the progress of the review of the Anti-bullying strategy was noted and committee agreed to assist in the continued development of the strategy.

17. **Fire and Rescue Service modernisation**

The Chief Fire Officer, Paul Street updated members on the progress of the Fire and Rescue Service Modernisation Project, which would see a migration of retained fire fighters over to full time permanent contracts, ensuring that the service had the right resources in the correct locations. The project would consist of construction of new stations and infrastructure, making the service more efficient and effective, improving education facilities and the ability to conduct fire prevention initiatives through improved assessment of the data available.

Work already underway included:

- The transfer of whole time fire fighters in Newport and Ryde stations on 11 January and 1 February 2010 respectively, which was the migration of 20 fire-fighters, with the further migration of 14 to follow.
- Procurement options had been developed for the three projects in Phase One.
- The project board assessing the different options.

- The outline designs for the stations were at an advanced stage, whilst ensuring they were fit for purpose including availability for use by the community and the development of education centres.

It was confirmed that it had been accepted that modernisation of the service was the right thing to do and that it was supported by the trade union, who had been part of the many sub working groups who had had input into the project. Members noted that those fire fighters migrating to whole time were undergoing competency gap analysis, which would identify training needs which could be provided internally rather than attending a full residential course.

In regard to finance, it was noted that the revenue costs for phase one of the project, covering the first three years was on target, the capital forecast for phase one had been completed, and sites for phase one projects had been identified subject to legal and planning issues. Members were told that outline internal charges had been established with planning, highways and property services and it was planned to use as much internal expertise as possible to maintain lower cost implications.

Members were informed of identified risks to the project including the ability to identify a site in Ventnor. Risks also identified were the Pan development which could impact on the timing and cost, depending on when building work commenced and the land designation at the proposed Newport site. The Newport Site was identified for non commercial use, although it was not thought that a fire station was an industrial development. Depending on the implications of the Pan development, the Newport station cost would be £5.6m.

Whilst Phase 2 had been agreed in principle only, work had commenced on the development of a Cabinet paper involving potential costs, which included investigations into various sites in the Bay and West Wight areas and research into the potential for co-location of resources and working in partnership with other agencies, parishes and communities.

It was noted that it would not provide value for money to design all of the stations with a community use aspect but stations in Newport, Ryde, the Bay and Ventnor areas were being considered for inclusion. It was envisaged that communities could use the stations for large gatherings, blood donors and community events. Provision of a further education facility at Newport would allow the service to provide different types of training at different sites, Ryde would continue to provide the core training and Newport would have more classroom capacity.

The Chief Fire Officer reported that the service had been nominated by Chief Fire Officers for the Improvement and Efficiency South East Fire Service of the Year award, with the winning service receiving the accolade in March 2010.

RESOLVED:

THAT the progress of the project be noted.

18. Performance Management

Members reviewed the Local Area Agreement (LAA) performance management report for Quarter 2, which had previously been submitted to the Island Strategic Partnership Board on 24 November 2009.

Members raised concern with the level of anti-social behaviour incidents and whilst they noted the various initiatives that had been undertaken in the summer months, they highlighted that people were taking advantage of the low supermarket prices on alcohol and “tanking up” at home before going out in the evening. The Head of Community Safety Services stated that a number of towns on the Island ran a Pubwatch scheme which, whilst not being designed to manage alcohol sales from outlets, did allow outlets to promote responsible drinking. Furthermore, it allowed these outlets to share information on people, where it was clear that anti-social behaviour and violence was a possibility, if they were supplied with more alcohol. Members of the Pubwatch scheme can ban such individuals from their pubs.

Members noted that the action plan highlighted that the lack of a domestic abuse coordinator was impacting on the levels of domestic crime arrests and were told by the Acting Director of Community Services, that the authority were working hard to fill the position, which had twice been unsuccessfully filled, as a suitable candidate had not been identified. Members were told that the Domestic Abuse Forum had raised similar concerns and that the securing of further funding through LPSA reward money was being researched and if further money could be secured, this may provide a further financial incentive for suitable candidates.

RESOLVED:

THAT the report be noted.

CHAIRMAN