

Review Committee – 6 March 2012

Minutes of the meeting of the **Review Committee** held on **6 March 2012** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr Mrs J R Lumley
Vice-Chairman: Mrs H L A Glynn

Cllr Mrs A V Hale
Cllr J R F Mason

Cllr R D Pointer
Cllr I H Ward

VISITING MEMBERS

Cllrs T G Cutmore, Mrs J E McPherson

ALSO PRESENT

C I Ian Cummings - Essex Police

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mrs P Aves.

OFFICERS PRESENT

J Bourne	- Head of Community Services
N Khan	- Principal Solicitor
P Gowers	- Overview and Scrutiny Officer
C Milton-White	- Community and Local Strategic Partnership Officer
M Yolland	- Community Safety Co-ordinator
M Power	- Committee Administrator

41 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 10 January 2012 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

42 ROCHFORD DISTRICT COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Community Services, which provided Members with an update of the achievements of the Rochford District Community Safety Partnership (CSP).

During discussion, the following points were noted:-

- An application to the Home Office to merge the Rochford and Castle Point CSPs would, if granted, take effect from 2012/13. The merged CSP would have a joint steering group, which would agree strategic priorities for both areas and draw up a partnership plan and action plan. Each CSP, however, would retain its own local Reference Group, meeting every 3 months, including representatives from community and voluntary

groups, Essex Police, Rochford District Council, Parish/Town Councils and Neighbourhood Watch. In this way, local issues from each of the two areas will continue to be fed back to the joint steering group.

- It is believed that having a single steering group will save both time and money, which will help to mitigate the potential effect on services as a result of cuts in funding.
- The Rochford CSP currently has three sub-groups set up to deliver on the Panel's strategic priorities: the Hate Crime Panel, the Domestic Abuse Panel and the Rochford Referral Group. The strategic priorities were identified by the Rochford CSP, following community engagement consultations, etc as well as using previous available intelligence.
- It was noted that Police and Crime Panels, made up of a representative from each local authority area in Essex, are being established to scrutinise the Police and Crime Commissioner, who will be elected in November 2012. The landscape of Policing from 2012/13 will change drastically, moving from geographical policing divisions to a functional model of policing.
- Domestic Homicide Reviews are a new statutory responsibility of CSPs. There have been three Domestic Homicide Reviews in Essex to date, which were now in the process of being finalised. Findings from the individual reviews will be shared with other CSPs across Essex.
- The report from the Citizens Panel focus group is now available and will be circulated to Review Committee Members.
- The Dispersal Orders in Rochford and Hockley have now ended; Hockley Dispersal Order was not renewed after the initial 6 month order. There was a possibility that the orders could be reinstated in the summer, a time of year when there is often a rise in anti-social behaviour. If this is the case, the areas covered by the Orders may not remain the same. Diversionary strategies for young people in Rochford include the St Mark's Centre, which operates a job club to help with CV writing, applications, etc and can help young people to engage with other services. A street pastor scheme may be established and activities for young people are organised to run through the holidays.
- The Police view dispersal orders as a valuable tool to be employed in partnership with the local authority. An order will give the Police a temporary additional range of powers to target areas shown to have had problems.
- In response to concern that the very low crime and ASB figures in the Rochford District may result in a reduction of future funding, Cl Cummings advised that Essex Police deploys resources where they are most needed but will not redeploy resources from a 'safe' area to another area perceived as less safe. In partnership with Rochford District Council,

Essex Police would apply for as many funding streams as possible in order to minimise cuts to services. Although the number of police officers would be reduced, many existing local officers would be retained in the District, thus ensuring retention of local knowledge. Although Rochford Police Station would close and officers would be based in Rayleigh, officers would continue to patrol in their designated areas. Strategic priorities are to retain local community policing and to focus on serious crime detection.

- The CSP Hate Crime Panel had been retained in the District due to the concern around the low level of reporting hate crimes. The Panel will continue to develop its awareness campaign in schools and engagement and communication with victims. Hate crimes can be reported to the Police or Crimestoppers. An on-line reporting form will be available shortly and literature around the issue of hate crime would be distributed to residents.

It was requested that in future Minutes from the Rochford CSP reference group be circulated to all Parish/Town Councils, all of whom are invited to send a representative to the meeting.

In respect of the CSP Action Plan, which details performance against priorities, an update on progress was requested on those items showing as 'Amber' in the Outcomes and Outputs. This information would be sent to Review Committee Members after the meeting.

Resolved

That the contents of the report be noted.

43 THE LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Executive, which provided Members with an update of the work of the Joint Castle Point and Rochford Local Strategic Partnership (LSP).

During discussion, the following was noted:-

- The aim of the joint LSP is to use the existing resources to deliver more of the identified priorities as well as working towards making future savings.
- Essex is one of the four areas in the country selected to take part in a pilot scheme to integrate budgets and resources. It was requested that a document about community budgets, 'A Whole Essex Community Budget' be distributed to all Review Committee Members.
- Essex County Council has identified Rochford District Council as part of a 'quadrant' group, with Castle Point, Brentwood and Basildon Councils. This group makes up the South Essex group and will focus on families

with complex needs. The Primary Care Trust will cease to exist in its current form by April 2013.

There was discussion regarding the possibility of having joint Rochford District Council and Castle Point Borough Council scrutiny arrangements in respect of the joint Castle Point and Rochford Health and Wellbeing Board.

Resolved

That the contents of the report be noted.

44 REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT 2000 (RIPA)

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Legal, Estates and Member Services, which updated Members on the use of RIPA over the previous year and allowed for the review of the Council's RIPA policy.

It was noted that training in RIPA would be organised for Review Committee Members and key officers during January 2013.

It was confirmed that test purchasing of alcohol, cigarettes, etc is undertaken by Trading Standards and the Police.

Resolved

(1) That the Council's annual usage of RIPA powers be noted.

(2) That, having reviewed the policy, no changes be required.

45 FORWARD PLAN

05/12 Pet Memorial Garden, 06/12 Open Spaces Programme, 07/12 Play Spaces Programme, 08/12 Grove Woods Capital Works

Members requested that the Portfolio Holder for the Environment and Head of Environmental Services be invited to attend a Review Committee meeting on 3 April 2012 to advise on the consultation process used in respect of the above key decisions. It was requested that in future greater detail of who is consulted on these types of decision should be included in the Forward Plan.

Resolved

That the Portfolio Holder for the Environment and Head of Environmental Services be invited to attend a Review Committee meeting on 3 April 2012 to advise on the consultation process used in respect of key decisions: 05/12, 06/12, 07/12 and 08/12.

The meeting closed at 21:44.

Chairman

Date

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