

Review Committee – 12 March 2019

Minutes of the meeting of the **Review Committee** held on **12 March 2019** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr J C Burton
Vice-Chairman: Cllr D J Sperring

Cllr Mrs J R Gooding
Cllr J D Griffin
Cllr B T Hazlewood
Cllr N J Hookway
Cllr M Hoy
Cllr M J Lucas-Gill
Cllr Mrs C M Mason

Cllr J R F Mason
Cllr Mrs J E McPherson
Cllr Mrs C A Pavelin
Cllr Mrs L Shaw
Cllr P J Shaw
Cllr C M Stanley

VISITING MEMBERS

Cllrs Mrs D Hoy and M J Webb

ALSO PRESENT

Inspector Cathy Calder, Castle Point & Rochford Community Policing Team

OFFICERS PRESENT

L Moss - Assistant Director, Community and Housing Services
P Gowers - Overview and Scrutiny Officer
M Power - Democratic Services Officer

47 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 5 February 2019 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

48 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Mrs J E McPherson declared a non-pecuniary interest by virtue of her role as a volunteer for Restorative Justice.

49 COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

The Committee considered the report of the Assistant Director, Community and Housing Services, which provided an update on the delivery of the joint Castle Point and Rochford District Community Safety Partnership priorities and actions.

The Assistant Director, Community and Housing Services, provided the following update: a joint strategic assessment is currently underway which would set the priorities for 2019/20, but information to date implies there is unlikely to be any change from the priorities set in 2018/19. The 2019/20 assessment and priorities would be subject to approval by the Community

Safety Partnership steering group in May and final sign off by the Local Strategic Partnership in June. The Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (OPFCC) had confirmed that the Partnership would receive a grant of £12,337 in 2019/20, which was the same as for the current year. Rochford District Council's new Community Safety Officer was now in post and would focus on building relationships with partners.

Inspector Calder of the Castle Point & Rochford Community Policing Team advised Members that from 1 April 2019, as a direct result of the increase in the Police precept, there would be an increase of 215 officers across Essex, 78% of whom would be allocated to local policing. From 1 April there would be four additional officers allocated to the community policing team for the Rochford and Castle Point Policing District. Operation 'Nimble' had focussed on police officers having a visible presence in the District. Ongoing areas of concern were Domestic Abuse, serious violence, gangs and organised crime and road safety. The Police were aware of a trend in the past two weeks of vehicles, mopeds in particular, being stolen; following the arrest of one person, the number of incidents had reduced significantly.

In response to questions, the following was noted:-

- A calculation was made, at a force level, that determined the number of policing staff allocated to an area; this took account of the number of people living in an area. The calculation was reviewed regularly and, as such, would take account of an increase in the population due to, for example, any housing development taking place.
- The new Police officers would be Regular Police; there would be four additional officers, and these were allocated as a result of the precept increase from last year. The precept increase for 2019/20 would result in a further increase on these numbers.
- Hullbridge Parish Council had funded a Special Constable for 16 hours per month to work solely in Hullbridge. It was noted that the training for Special Constables was often lengthy.
- An update would be provided outside the meeting on two Special Constables that had been funded by Rochford Parish Council.
- There had been no increase in the grant from the OPFCC in the past three years. The CSP had no influence on setting the budget; the OPFCC received regular updates on the activity of the CSP.
- Operation Falcon had been introduced at the beginning of 2018 to combat the issues around gangs and drugs. Under this Operation there had been 85 arrests, 24 warrants issued for drugs offences and 80 stop-searches. Police officers relied on intelligence received from residents and it was important that residents reported incidents of crime to the Police.

- Although there was no evidence of the Rochford area having a large problem with the issue of drugs moving across County Lines, officers would liaise with Southend Police in respect of drugs being transported to Rochford along the railway line.
- If all instances of drug dealing locally were reported a pattern would emerge, which would enable the Police to target their limited resources where most needed.
- It was recognised that intelligence reports from residents inform a lot of the work the police do, so it was vital that residents were able easily to report crime. The Police recommended online reporting, so long as there was no immediate risk of harm. but reporting by phone on the 101 number was also an option.
- New policing measures to be put in place would assist in rural policing.
- The CSP set priorities based on local crime statistics/trends; as there were no significant changes over the past year, priorities were anticipated to stay the same. Prevention work was difficult to measure as an outcome and priorities remained broad to capture the whole breadth of prevention work. ASB was reducing as a trend but it was important to keep the level down on an ongoing basis.
- The CSP worked with the Youth Strategy Group on preventative work and outreach work with Essex County Youth Service and with Sanctuary Housing. The Rochford Youth Strategy group had a small pot of funding.
- The OPFCC innovation fund encouraged bids from voluntary groups and community organisations.
- Following an arrest by the Police, the case would be passed to other policing teams to continue with the investigation before charges and convictions could be made. Evidence gathering would often be a lengthy process.
- To combat a public perception that there was no point in reporting low level crimes of theft and ASB, the Police would continue to provide feedback and updates on local success stories where arrests had been made and incidents of crime reduced. Feedback would be by posts on the Police website and on social media.
- Ten new locations in the District had signed up to the J9 initiative, although there were still very few referrals made from J9. A Quarter 4 CSP report would be published after sign-off by partners later in May, to show outcomes and the long-term benefit of the initiative. The suggestion could be taken forward that Rochford District Council's business breakfasts could

be used to show how business could get involved in initiatives, including J9.

- The Police had designated levels of possession of cannabis that determined whether they would be considered as dealing or for personal use. All cases of possession of other drugs would be dealt with and investigated.

Resolved

That the progress made against the 2018/19 Rochford District Community Partnership action plan be noted.

50 KEY DECISIONS DOCUMENT

The Committee considered the Key Decisions Document and noted its contents.

51 WORK PLAN

The Committee considered and approved its Work Plan.

The meeting closed at 8.32 pm.

Chairman

Date

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