

DACORUM COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP



MINUTES

**7.30 pm Monday 28 April 2014
Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Hemel Hempstead**

Present:

Jo Hudson	HMP The Mount
Jonathan Smith	PCC
Rebecca Rose	Neighbourhood Watch
P Rowland	Resident
Tony Coley	Former Chair, HHCPP
Jack Daw	Herts Fire and Rescue Service
George Holland	Hertfordshire Police
Warren Belcher	Think Safe Project
Cllr C Wyatt-Lowe	DBC
Cllr Griffiths	DBC
Cllr Marshall	DBC
Cllr Terry Douris	DBC
Cllr Neil Harden (Chairman)	DBC
Ross Hill	DBC
Ian Markwell	Herts Fire and Rescue Service
Trudy Sealy	Crime Induction Initiative
Dave Moore	DBC – Community Safety Coordinator
Michelle Anderson	Minutes

1. Introductions and Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from: Catherine Appleby, Julie Still, Councillor Guest, Councillor Tiley and Councillor Tindall.

2. Minutes of previous meeting 23 October 2013 (previously circulated)

The minutes of the meeting on 23 October 2013 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

3. Performance Update

• Community Safety Partnership

D Moore gave a presentation to the group highlighting the following points:

- Overall, crime was down 4% in Dacorum
- Dacorum were 6th in the County, and had the biggest diverse population
- ASB was down 34% but was not included in the crime figures

- There has been an increase in work with young people and were they encouraging peer mentors within secondary schools
- Training was given on alcohol and drug misuse to young people, which they then train their peers on
- The citizens academy would link to the work with young people
- The CSP received £32k funding from the Home Office in 2013/14 and this was used to support 30 community safety initiatives
- BIDs are submitted for funding and these are considered by the board.
- There was £29k funding for 2014/15

Questions and Answers

Councillor Douris asked if the County position could be shown year on year in order to see any improvements. He also asked if the ASB figures could be disguising people moving out of the area or being sent to prison and therefore would be returning.

D Moore was unaware of ASB related people moving out of the borough. He felt that there was more awareness of this type of behaviour and people would not tolerate it. People's attitudes towards ASB had changed.

Action – D Moore to circulate the HCC tables showing the year on year positions, with the minutes.

Councillor C Wyatt-Lowe felt that burglary of dwelling figures were previously questioned, however they seemed to reflect the level of insurance claims and backed up the methodology used. These were very useful figures to highlight to the public.

D Moore gave assurance that the standards were always adhered to.

J Smith added that the HMRC document on crime statistics should be published around June 2014, which would give a breakdown of police force figures to give a clearer picture.

P Rowland noted that there not many activities for 16 year olds to do in Hemel Hempstead. Many young people had to hang around the streets.

Councillor Harden suggested making use of the XC which Youth Connexions operated from.

R Rose agreed that the XC offered many activities for young people and they kept their costs low.

Councillor Douris suggested utilising the Youth Council meetings to ask them what activities young people wanted.

D Moore would report this suggestion back.

- **POLICE**

G Holland gave an update to the group, highlighting the following points:

- Last year Dacorum was the busiest area in Herts to police, with 6433 crimes
- Rural areas set geographical challenges for the police
- Lots of criminal damage offences were to cars. It was very difficult to detect the criminals as the crimes were very rarely witnessed
- Burglary – Markyate, Apsley and Corner Hall have been targeted by police resources and some Prolific and Priority Offenders had been caught
- Dacorum's population is ever increasing which brings challenges
- A big concern recently related to fuel drilling. There had been an increase in incidents and the offenders had not yet been caught
- There had been a few incidents recently of heating oil theft from rural areas
- The crime figures showed a good picture for Dacorum. The partnership had made a massive influence on the reduction

Questions and Answers

R Rose asked what type of cars were targeted for fuel tank drilling and when did it happen?

G Holland explained that it was any car at any time. A lot of incidents were during the night. The crime would only take a few seconds and therefore very hard to witness. This only seemed to be a problem in Dacorum and nowhere else in the county.

Councillor Harden noted that the theft of catalytic converters were easier to report as people could witness someone under the car; however fuel tank drilling was too quick.

G Holland noted that Crimestoppers had offered a reward for anyone with information leading to a conviction, however this had been unsuccessful. He would re-issue notice of these incidents via the OWL messaging.

R Rose explained that there had been an increase in theft of high performance cars in her area. She asked if this was an increasing problem.

G Holland confirmed that organised gangs were targeting Audi and Mercedes. Some of the gangs had been caught, but the police were investigating.

- **FIRE SERVICE**

I Markwell reported that they had seen an 18% reduction in deliberate fires; however Hertfordshire had risen by 1%. Last year Dacorum saw a 25% reduction, therefore Dacorum had the best performance in the county for 2 years in a row. There had not been any deaths due to fire in Dacorum over the past 12 months and there had been a reduction in fire related injuries, which had fallen from 11 to 6. He was concerned that these low figures may be difficult to maintain.

He felt that the partnership was working very well. Lots of work was being done with young people. The Life programme, Duke of Edinburgh and safety courses were successful, as was the drive safely course.

Questions and Answers

D Moore asked for the current figures for road traffic collisions.

I Markwell said they were the same as last year of 46 incidents in the year. There had been a huge reduction last year and therefore have levelled now.

R Rose asked if the fire service worked with all schools in the borough.

I Markwell confirmed they worked with all secondary schools and were increasing their work with primary schools. J Daw added that the drive safely course was run annually.

Councillor Griffiths asked if any work was done with Watford college as there were students there from Dacorum. I Markwell confirmed they work with Watford college.

T Coley asked if response times had changed at all.

I Markwell reported that there had been no change since last year; they had not lost any stations or any staff. The Kings Langley retained station had improved and was running at 99%.

Councillor Douris noted that the Learn to Live programme was being rolled out across the county, with hard hitting messages. He asked if this was similar to the drive safely programme.

J Daw said they were very different; Learn to Live was held in one venue and received many presentations. D Moore and I Markwell were due to visit the Learn to live programme in June.

4. THINK SAFE PROJECT

J Daw noted that the Think Safe project was a great initiative, working with adults with learning difficulties and vulnerable people in our society.

W Belcher gave a presentation to the group, highlighting the following points:

- The course was developed in 2013
- Its aim was to safeguard vulnerable people in partnership with the Police and Fire Service
- Key message being given – ‘Thinking safe is all our responsibility’
- Think Safe project is a four week programme
- Week 1 – Introduction Session
- Week 2 – Role Play Scenarios
- Week 3 – Practical Safety in the Community & in the home
- Conclusions

Questions and Answers

Councillor C Wyatt-Lowe said this was a fantastic scheme and was pleased to see the increase in work on this over the years, which she felt had been sparked by the Fiona Pilkington case. She asked how many people they had helped so far.

W Belcher said there had been around 30 people involved. Leverstock Green was next to be involved, and they hoped to adapt the course for young people too.

J Daw added that the course was now being extended to St Albans in August and would be rolling the programme out over the foreseeable future.

Councillor Harden asked how clients were chosen.

W Belcher said that most clients were already known to the organisation through supported housing, home care or rest bite.

Councillor Harden thanked W Belcher for the great presentation and congratulated him on the success so far.

5. DRUG & ALCOHOL TREATMENT IN DACORUM

T Sealy gave a presentation to the group, highlighting the following points:

- The charity began in April 2012 and had 9 hubs in the county, one of which was in Hemel Hempstead and they hoped to have one in Berkhamsted
- They offered many services, such as: needle exchanges to minimise the spread of HIV and Hepatitis C, talking therapies, medical assisted recovery, assessment and goal setting, guidance and support for users, families and carers, counselling, rehabilitation, complementary therapies and peer mentor support from those who had been in recovery for 3 months
- They offered links to colleges, employers, training, education and employment schemes
- The drug rehabilitation programme had a great completion rate of 82%

Questions and Answers

Councillor Marshall asked for the name of the organisation and if they had any links with Druglink.

T Sealy noted that the organisation was called Crime Induction Initiatives (CII), which was a charity commissioned by Hertfordshire County Council. The local group was

called 'Spectrum'. They worked closely with Druglink in that Druglink brought clients in.

Councillor Harden asked if they worked with DENS.

T Sealy confirmed they did. They saw an increase of users who were homeless. DENS often referred people to them and vice versa.

Councillor Griffiths asked who they received referrals from and how they advertised their services.

T Sealy said that 49% were self referrals, but they could receive them from GP's and Probation. They advertised in GP surgeries and on the internet.

Councillor Harden asked what pro-active work was carried out.

T Sealy explained that they worked with GP's and hospitals. There was an audit tool which could be used which could trigger the need for help. Information packs were given out and there were hospital liaison staff in the area.

R Rose asked for confirmation that the completion rate for the Drug rehabilitation programmes was as high as 82%.

T Sealy confirmed this high completion was very successful.

Councillor Douris asked if the organisation worked with Turning Point.

T Sealy noted that CII had taken over the contract from Turning Point.

D Moore added that the partnership should spread the word of the organisations work and its success.

T Sealy explained the 'Changing Lanes' project which helped prolific and priority offenders with training and employment. Taster sessions for various trades had been set up which would help them to find employment they have an interest in.

6. POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

J Smith updated the group on the four current main areas of PCC work:

➤ Blue light collaboration

There had, in the past been criticism of the 3 services working together. JESSUP was helping to work in a more cohesive response, for example improving communications between the three services.

The spending review would re-appraise the partnership to look at joint procurement and training.

There would need to be legislative changes in order to implement some of the improvements. It had been recognised that the amalgamation was a complicated situation.

➤ Transforming and Rehabilitation

Probation had been split into two, the National Probation looked after high risk prisoners and then the Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRC) looked after the lower risk to public prisoners.

The Ministry of Justice had divided the counties into groups and Herts were in BENCH which helped to deliver locally.

➤ Anti Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Bill

The first aspect to consider was the community trigger.

D Moore added that the County group were looking to have the same trigger across the county in order to be consistent.

The second aspect was the community remedy document covered low level ASB. It would offer a variety of punishment options which had been nationally agreed. This would go to public consultation.

➤ Victims Commissioning Service
From April 2015 this would be the responsibility of the PCC

Questions and Answers

Councillor Harden asked what the government improvements were to victim commissioning.

J Smith said that they needed to widen the services available and have more options for victims to use.

Councillor Douris asked if the plans could be changed after the government elections in 2015.

J Smith recognised that this was always a risk but he suspected the plan would not change.

7. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 22nd October 2014.

The chairman thanked everyone for attending. He said it was great to see the reduction in crime and thanked the partnership for all of their hard work.

The meeting ended at 9.22 pm.

Issued by Michelle Anderson
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