

TONBRIDGE AND MALLING COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

27 April 2009

Present:	CLr G Court (Chair)	Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council
	A Atkinson	KCA
	P Beddoes	Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council
	A Finch	Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council
	L Flory	KCC
	A Ford	KCC Youth Service
	S Gregg	Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council
	D Hughes	Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council
	B Johnson	West Kent PCT
	N Knibbs	Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council
	E Leatherbarrow	Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council
	P May	HMCS
	C Michel	Kent Partnership
	G Parkin	KCC Children, Families & Education
	D Pate	Kent Police
	M Raymond	Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council
	I Roberts-Cillia	Russet Homes
	G Rowe	KPA/KCC
	M Smith	KCC Community Warden
	N Silvester	Kent Fire & Rescue Service
	J Wilkinson	Russet Homes

Apologies were received from P Lowney, J Norman, A Painter and M Varshney.

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 20 October 2008

It was noted that the minutes in relation to Item 4, Strategic Assessment and agreement of priorities did not reflect what had been discussed. C Michel advised that her comments related to Kent Crime View had not been correctly recorded. It was agreed that the minutes would be amended accordingly. The rest of minutes were agreed as a correct record.

2. Matters Arising

Strategic Assessment and agreement of priorities

N Knibbs advised that she had circulated a copy of the 'Borough Profile' with the minutes.

C Michel and R Beesley had met after the meeting and discussed concerns raised regarding the Strategic Assessment.

N Knibbs advised that she had circulated a copy of the final Strategic Assessment with the minutes.

Publication of the CSP minutes

A Finch stated that the minutes of today's meeting would be published on the CSP website once finalised.

A Finch explained that an item had been added to the CSP agenda on Initiatives/projects and would be discussed under item 13.

Alcohol Campaign

A Finch advised that the 'Awear' campaign had now changed its name to 'House'. This was due to be held in Tonbridge during June and would run for approximately 2 weeks.

KCC Select Committee

G Rowe advised that the Select Committee reports had now been produced and would shortly go to Cabinet where young people were able to be involved and have their say.

3. Report from sub-group meetings

Strategy Group

A Finch stated that at the last Strategy Group meeting the group had discussed the outcomes from the Partnership Development Day, the draft action plan and draft expenditure plan 2009/10. These would be discussed under items 6, 8 and 9 on the agenda.

Anti-Social Behaviour Sub-Group

A Finch explained that following the review of the sub-groups it had been decided that each sub-group meeting would concentrate on particular topics. At the last ASB Sub-Group meeting the group discussed criminal damage to vehicles. The group looked at data that had been available showing hot spot areas for criminal damage to vehicles and had agreed to focus on Saltings Road, Snodland and East Malling.

A Finch explained that at the previous meeting the group had discussed neighbour disputes and had received presentations from KCC Supporting People and from Maidstone Mediation Service. This gave the group an insight as to what was available for residents that were having neighbour disputes and how these issues could be resolved using these services.

A Finch further stated that the next topic to be discussed at the ASB Sub-Group meeting would be Road Safety. Future topics would include off road motorbikes and young people gathering.

Perception of Crime Sub-Group

A Finch stated that the last Perception of Crime Sub-Group focused on potential marketing campaigns for 2009/10. The group were able to suggest a number of future campaigns/actions to tackle residents' perception of crime. The Group also receive updates from partners on good news stories and future activities. A Finch further stated that a press release had recently gone out giving the latest crime figures and reductions of crime throughout the borough.

Violent Crime & Abuse Sub-Group

A Finch stated that the last Violent Crime & Abuse Sub-Group focused on domestic violence. This included presentations from Kent Police on

MARACs, the Kent & Medway Domestic Violence co-ordinator and from the Women's Support Service. The Group looked at the data available relating to the number of incidents of domestic abuse and also looked at gaps in provision. She stated that the previous meeting had focused on underage drinking. The Group had looked at the statistics available in relation to underage drinking in the borough. D Moss, the new Young Persons Alcohol Outreach worker was introduced to the group and they were able to task his work focusing on hotspot areas within the borough. He would be focusing on Larkfield recreation ground, East Malling and Tonbridge Racecourse Sports Ground. Future topics would include night time economy, drugs and misuse and violent crime.

Tasking & Co-ordinating Sub-Group

A Finch explained that the Tasking & Co-ordinating Sub-Group meeting was still being held on a monthly basis and was well attended by a variety of agencies. Due to concerns that the monthly meetings were driven by statistics CI D Pate had agreed to focus on geographical hotspot locations. At the last meeting the group focussed on issues in Larkfield and suggested a number of actions to tackle these issues. The next monthly meeting would be focussing on Snodland.

4. Presentation on the Crack House Closure, East Malling

J Wilkinson and I Roberts-Cillia gave a presentation on the crack house closure in East Malling. I Roberts-Cillia explained that the occupants at Carnation Crescent had started to cause ASB issues in 2004. She stated that the family were spoken to regarding these issues and measures had been put in place to support the family by Russet Homes. The family co-operated and their behaviour had improved. Although low level ASB was reported the family continued to co-operate with Russet Homes. In June 2008 serious reports were received, the family continued with their bad behaviour and chose not to engage further with Russet Homes. As their behaviour continued Russet Homes began to put in various measures, such as liaising with other agencies and the Community Safety Partnership, collating evidence in order to take action against their tenancy and providing support to the local residents where possible. In relation to the collation of evidence both Russet Homes and Kent Police worked closely together and were able to successfully provide evidence to take the family to court. During this time further work had been undertaken to support residents and witnesses through out the process and were able to provide a swift response to lifeline alerts. An application was put into the Magistrate's Court in October 2008 for a closure order under section 2 of the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 and this had been successful. The family were removed from the property for 3 months and Russet Homes proceeded to seek possession of the property. The closure order was due to end by 17 January 2009 and the hearing date for the possession of property was 5 January 2009. On 5 January Russet Homes had been successful and had obtained an outright possession order.

D Pate stated that although the result had been a success he felt that earlier intervention and preventative work by the partnership could have stopped some of the problems. He hoped that there would not be a repeat occurrence.

5. Bid for Community Warden, Larkfield

A Finch stated that she had received a bid for a new Community Warden for the Larkfield area by the NHW Co-ordinator. A Finch explained that if the CSP agreed to this request a report would need to be produced explaining the reasons why a Community Warden was needed in that particular area. If the request was taken forward this would be placed on a waiting list.

G Rowe wondered whether a Community Warden was needed or whether it would be sufficient for an existing Warden to cover the Larkfield area. A Finch was unsure as to whether this would be appropriate however she would look into this and find out.

ACTION: A Finch to produce a proposal for a Warden for Larkfield, either as a separate warden or for an existing warden to extend their area.

6. Outcomes from Partnership Development Day

M Raymond explained that the Partnership Development Day had taken place on Friday 6 February and had been a successful day. He stated that the morning session looked at possible actions for the Action Plan and some of the outcomes from the discussions were now included in the action plan 2009/10. He stated that in the afternoon partners looked at three questions in relation to whether the CSP was currently 'fit for purpose', whether the structure of the CSP was correct and whether partners felt that the current operating procedures needed refining.

M Raymond stated that partners had agreed there was a need to continue to hold both the CSP and Strategy Group meetings, although they felt that the meetings needed to become more dynamic. This included presentations possibly from each sub-group meeting or external agencies. C Reilly stated that YOS were looking to conduct a presentation at the next meeting.

M Raymond stated that partners had agreed that the sub-groups were working although some felt that it would be appropriate to focus on one or two topics at a time. He stated that this had now been put in place and various partner agencies were being invited to attend these meetings in relation to their subject. Partners had suggested a young persons sub-group however after careful consideration it was agreed that each sub-group would dedicate one of their meetings to this sub-group. A Finch would circulate the dates of these meetings once these had been organised. It had also been decided to set up 12 month agenda's, these would be distributed to partners to ensure that the relevant people attended the meetings. M Raymond stated that partners looked at the monthly T&CSG (tasking & co-ordinating sub-group) meetings as there was a concern that the meetings were duplicating the work of the weekly meetings. It had been agreed that each monthly meeting be more geographically focused.

ACTION: YOS to give a presentation at the next meeting.

A Finch to circulate the agendas for all sub-group meetings with the minutes so that partners would be aware of when topics would be discussed.

7. Action Plan review 2008/09

A Finch stated that the action plan review had been circulated prior to the meeting. She explained that throughout the year she had received quarterly updates from each lead agency, although she was still waiting for some

returns. A Finch stated that partners had done well and a majority of the actions set were achieved. However five of the actions set had not yet been completed. She stated that once the additional quarter 4 returns were received she would amend the action plan accordingly.

8. Action Plan 2009/10

A Finch explained that the action plan 2009/10 was split into two sections. The first section was a report of what the partnership had achieved during 2008/09 and the second section was the actual action plan. A Finch stated that she was still waiting for some data and once this had been received the document would be finalised. She stated that some of the actions this year had come out of the development day and some of the actions from 2008/09 had also been added. A Finch further stated that if partners had any comments to let her know by 8 May.

9. CSP Expenditure Plan 2009/10

A Finch explained that the expenditure plan had gone to the Strategy Group for consultation and had been circulated prior to the meeting. She stated that the CSP would receive £97,500 revenue funding and £32,648 capital funding. The document showed a breakdown of how this money would be spent for the forthcoming year. A Finch also reported that other funding sources included the Local Partnership fund and the Choosing Health fund.

D Hughes explained that the CSP would be receiving a Performance Reward Grant. The Strategy Group would be discussing the allocation for this fund and would report back at the next meeting.

10. Performance monitoring update

A Finch explained that the performance monitoring document showed the latest Tonbridge & Malling statistics from April 08 until February 09. There had been an overall reduction in all crime categories by 13.4 per cent, however serious gun crime had shown a 100 per cent increase by 4 crimes. She stated that Tonbridge & Malling were number 1 in the county for reductions in burglary, serious knife crime and night time economy. A Finch further stated that at the end of December. Tonbridge & Malling had been top however the figures this year had fallen by 1 per cent, which meant that Tonbridge & Malling were now tenth. C Michel advised that there had been an error in the report and should show that Tonbridge & Malling were second. C Michel stated that she would amend the performance monitoring report and forward this to N Knibbs to circulate with the minutes.

The Group discussed the performance monitoring report and it was agreed that the overall crime figures had shown a good reduction. The group also discussed whether the questions in the KCVS survey had influenced the public's perceptions of crime and wondered what questions were asked. C Michel stated that the KCVS survey was made available to the CSP and that these would have been circulated prior to the survey going out to the public. A Finch stated that she was also looking at producing a survey/form that residents could fill in at the crime prevention events organised throughout the year. She stated that this was work in progress however she would keep the group updated.

ACTION: C Michel to amend the performance monitoring report and forward a copy to N Knibbs to circulate with the minutes.

A Finch to keep the group undated on progress made with a survey/form being produced for the crime prevention events.

11. SSCF Funding review 2010/11

C Michel explained that it had been requested that the formula utilized for CSP funding be reviewed. She stated that the current formula was based on a 20 per cent base rate, 30 per cent on population and 50 per cent on acquisitive crime. She stated that this change would give local CDRP's the opportunity to decide how the funding was split across the county.

M Raymond stated that he had thought about how the funding could be split fairly and suggested that the funding be split on population, crime levels and on performance reward. This would allow the CSP to be rewarded for the successes made through partnership working. M Raymond stated that he would forward his proposals to C Michel.

ACTION: M Raymond to forward the proposals on how to split the SSCF to C Michel.

12. Grimebuster update

A Finch explained that the Grimebuster machine had been purchased in 2002 by the Community Safety Partnerships of Tonbridge and Malling, Tunbridge Wells and Sevenoaks. All had contributed to the funding of the Grimebuster machine. The purpose of the Grimebuster machine was to use probation adult offenders to remove graffiti from each of the three areas. A Finch stated that she was recently made aware that the Grimebuster machine would need replacing shortly and that Tunbridge Wells would no longer provide funding for this scheme. A Finch stated that there was no funding allocated to Grimebuster at present within the CSP budget. She recommended that the CSP no longer fund this scheme although work would continue with the Probation Service. The Group discussed the option of no longer funding Grimebuster and it was agreed that before a decision was made a separate meeting would be arranged with Probation in order to discuss this in more detail. C Reilly further stated that she would email Sevenoaks and Tunbridge Wells asking for further funding and she would also suggest including young offenders in relation to removing the graffiti.

ACTION: A Finch to arrange a separate meeting with Probation to discuss funding for Grimebuster in more detail.

C Reilly to email Sevenoaks and Tunbridge Wells to request further funding for Grimebuster and to ask that young offenders were also included in removing graffiti.

13. Update of CSP initiatives/projects

A Finch gave a brief overview of the CSP initiatives/projects that have been arranged and undertaken since the last meeting in October 2008. She stated that three SNAP events had been held at the SOS Nightclub, Tonbridge since the last meeting. However due to the low number of young people attending the last SNAP event on 7 April SOS would no longer be able to continue organising and running the SNAP events at their venue. A Finch stated that the SNAP Steering Group had looked at other alternative venues in Larkfield

to run the SNAP events and a date had been now been confirmed for Friday 12 June at Larkfield Village Hall. She stated that the SNAP events in Larkfield would be aimed at 11 to 14 year olds and these events would be reviewed accordingly.

A Finch reported that on 5 February a CSP training event had been conducted for PCSO's, Wardens and PCs. This event was held at Tonbridge & Malling Council Offices and was aimed at giving officers some information about the background of the CSP and initiatives run by the Partnership. Additional information was also given from other service providers, such as the Kenward Trust, Mediation services and information on Street Scene issues. A Finch further stated that those who attended had found the event useful, therefore it had been agreed that another event would be organised later on in the year.

A Finch advised that MARACS (multi agency risk assessment conferences) had now been established in West Kent and would take place on a monthly basis on the first Wednesday of every month. She explained that MARACS had been set up to assist victims of domestic abuse. At each meeting information about the person would be shared between the various agencies and actions agreed in order to help/support the victim (and their children if appropriate). Referrals to the MARACS could be received from any agency (not just the police).

A Finch stated that a number of crime prevention events/community days had been held since October 2008. One of which was a 'Safer Number Plate' event that was held on 16 April where anti theft screws were fitted to vehicle number plates for free. Approximately 92 vehicles were fitted with these screws and crime prevention advice and leaflets were also offered to vehicle owners.

14. Chairs last meeting

G Court explained to the group that as he would no longer be the Community Safety Portfolio holder he would not be chairing these meetings. A new Community Safety Portfolio holder would be appointed at the next Council meeting and that they would chair the next meeting. G Court thanked the Group members for their work in the Partnership and wished them a successful future.

The Group thanked G Court for his contribution to the Partnership.

15. Date of the next meeting

The next Community Safety Partnership meeting will be held on Monday 19 October 2009 at 13.30pm at Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council offices, Kings Hill.