

Norfolk Countywide Community Safety Partnership Scrutiny Sub-Panel

Minutes of the meeting held at County Hall, Norwich on Friday 29 February 2024 at 10 am

Present:

Cllr Penny Carpenter (Chair)	Norfolk County Council
Cllr Martin Batey	North Norfolk District Council
Cllr Gary Blundell	South Norfolk District Council
Cllr Graham Carpenter	Norfolk County Council
Cllr Helen Crane	Breckland District Council
Cllr Natasha Harpley	Broadland District Council
Cllr Colin Rose	Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk

Also in Attendance:

Hollie Adams	Committee Officer, Norfolk County Council
Isabel Allison	Community Safety Officer, Community Safety and Violence Reduction Coordination Team, OPCCN
Liam Bannon	Acting Community Safety Manger, OPCCN
T/Supt Phil Gray	Norfolk Constabulary, Chair of the Serious Violence Duty Group
Jo Martin	Democratic Support and Scrutiny Manager, Norfolk County Council
Amanda Murr	Assistant Director Policy & Partnerships, OPCCN
Stephanie Stearman	Head of Commissioning, OPCCN
Mark Stokes	Chief Executive, OPCCN and Chair of the NCCSP Partnership

1. Apologies for Absence

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from the Sub-Panel's Chair Cllr Mark Kiddle-Morris, Cllr Tristan Ashby (Cllr Helen Crane substituting) and Cllr John Crofts.
- 1.2 Cllr Penny Carpenter took the Chair in the Chair's absence.

2. Minutes

- 2.1. The minutes of the meeting held on 8 June 2023 were agreed as an accurate record and signed by the Chair with the recognition that the recommendation for the partnership to "explain how effectively police powers to protect victims of stalking and harassment were being used to intervene and take action against perpetrators of domestic violence" was an action that should be directed to the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk.
- 2.2 The minutes of the meeting held on 7 December 2023 were agreed as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

3. Declaration of Interests

3.1 Cllr Carpenter declared an interest as the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, with Youth Justice included in her Cabinet portfolio.

4. Partnership Priority – Serious Violence (new Serious Violence Duty)

4.1 The Chair reminded the Sub Panel that its role was to scrutinise the Partnership Plan, the priorities and action being taken to tackle the biggest areas of concern for our communities. She noted that locally and very recently, tragic events had taken place which linked with the topics that were due to be discussed at the meeting, however this was outside of the Sub Panel's remit to discuss. As live investigations were ongoing, she would disallow any questions related to them.

4.2 The Sub Panel received the report setting out the Partnership's response to the new Serious Violence Duty.

4.3 The Head of Community Safety, OPCCN, introduced the report to the Sub Panel:

- The new Serious Violence Duty was brought in in January 2023. The report gave an overview of the duty in Norfolk, an overview of the management and governance arrangements as well as explaining the need for a strategic needs assessment to be undertaken.
- Partners in Norfolk had agreed that the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk would host the Community Safety Violence Reduction Team and play a lead role in coordinating the response to the new Serious Violence Duty.
- A definition of serious violence had been agreed in Norfolk which was set out in paragraph 1.10 of the report.
- The work gave an opportunity to maximise the whole system approach and reduce duplication by working with other partnership boards.
- The strategy had been delivered on the Norfolk Serious Violence Duty pages with an emphasis on a whole system approach and giving a focus on the vision and objectives.
- The four priority areas were: safety of young people, focus and prevention of domestic abuse, places and spaces most affected by serious violence, and focus on drugs and alcohol as a driver of serious violence.
- Work had been carried out with sub-groups such as the Norfolk Drug and Alcohol Partnership, Norfolk Safeguarding Children's Board, Norfolk Safeguarding Adults Board, Children and Young People's Strategic Alliance, the Criminal Justice Board, Youth Justice Board and Local Organised Crime Groups to build on the work of existing strategies.
- Key findings from the needs assessment had found that rates of serious violence in Norfolk were lower than rates nationally, with different individuals and groups disproportionately affected by different forms of violence, showing a need for tailored approaches.
- There was a link between deprivation in childhood, lower levels of attainment, antisocial behaviour and drug use. Substance misuse and mental health concerns also represented an area of need.
- Funding had been received from the Home Office for interventions:
 - Working with young people in youth engagement workshops to set up forums on young people's perceptions on safety and how to make positive change in Norfolk. 72 young people had attended the event. A report from this was being finalised by Norfolk County Council and the findings would be shared with senior leaders and elected representatives. The findings had been used to shape a Space Fund for young people to provide positive

- activities in Norfolk.
- An open event for community members for the community to hear about the strategy.
- An activity programme for children and young people aged 11-18 at risk of exploitation or serious violence was run in many venues in Norfolk with activities such as music development and outdoor activities which received positive feedback from the young people who attended.
- Work with health and the domestic abuse service to have dedicated domestic abuse services in hospitals to improve knowledge and pathways and bringing services together to support people to get help and embed good practice.
- A target outreach project would take place to help young people improve feelings of belonging and improve confidence around inappropriate behaviour.
- Training was being arranged for partner agencies on serious violence, gangs, county lines, grooming and exploitation of young people, adultification and safeguarding adults from violence.
- The Serious Violence Duty Communications Officer had met with 18 sectors to gain their views on serious violence and find out key themes. They were due to meet with the voluntary sector and communities and develop preventative knife crime training for children in the form of a video which would be piloted with one school to review its outcomes.
- The perpetrator service would work with perpetrators of violence on behaviour change as well as supporting victims.
- 1:1 advocacy work for young people turning 18 when moving from Children's Services to Adult Social Services would be developed.

4.4 The following points were discussed and noted:

- It was confirmed that all levels of sexual violence were included in the definition of serious violence.
- It was pointed out that women were disproportionately affected by all forms of serious violence and queried whether misogyny should be included in the definition. Liam Bannon gave information on the Bystander Programme which had been run in schools giving advice on sexual harassment and helped upskill teachers' knowledge around sexual violence and what constituted misogyny.
- A Sub Panel Member was pleased to note the delivery of adultification training; she noted this was an issue which disproportionately affected black children and was important to promote in education settings.
- The Engagement Officer had been looking at where to target engagement with communities such as community halls, libraries and community groups. The Head of Community Safety, OPCCN, **agreed** that a list of venues would be circulated to Members to share with residents.
- T/Supt Gray clarified that the Safer Schools team chose which school to pilot the knife crime prevention video in; this team worked with the highest risk schools for absconding and high-risk activity. A Sub Panel member suggested it could be piloted in more than one school to get wider feedback. T/Supt Gray **agreed** to feed this back to the partnership. The Youth Justice Board were aware of the video and had worked with the Partnership. A family affected by knife crime had provided real world experience to inform the video.
- The Chair thanked and congratulated officers for the work they had put into this piece of work.
- The Chair noted the importance of helping parents become aware of the signs of children's involvement in County Lines and other related issues. Officers confirmed there was an aim for information to be provided in public spaces and The Head of Community Safety, OPCCN, **agreed** to discuss with the board to see

if parent sessions would be helpful.

- The Chair noted that the council had written to Idris Elba about the work of Norfolk County Council on tackling knife crime and she planned to attend an upcoming conference on the issue.

4.5 Norfolk Countywide Community Safety Partnership Sub Panel **AGREED** to:

- a) Note the Partnership's response to the new Serious Violence Duty;
- b) Recommend that the Partnership look into training for parents on the signs of risk for children's involvement in County Lines and serious violence.
- c) Delegate to the Chair and Vice-Chair the task of reporting the outcome of its discussion to the Scrutiny Committee, through a written report to a future meeting.
- d) Formally commend the partnership for its work on the Serious Violence Duty

5 Partnership Priority – Serious Violence (Norfolk Domestic Homicide Reviews)

5.1 The Sub Panel received the report setting out a summary of the Partnership's thematic review of Norfolk Domestic Homicide Reviews.

5.2 Amanda Murr, Assistant Director Policy & Partnerships, OPCCN, introduced the report to the Sub Panel:

- The circumstance in which a Domestic Homicide Review should be carried out was set out in paragraph 1.2 on page 30 of the agenda, and their purpose was set out in paragraph 1.4. All reviews were quality assured by the Home Office. The Home Office were updating their statutory guidance and as part of this would change the name to Domestic Abuse Related Death Review.
- The Head of Community Safety, OPCCN, and Nicola Allum, Community Safety Officer, OPCCN, were thanked for their work in 2022 reviewing 11 published homicide reports from Norfolk. From this review of 11 reports, 100% of victims were found to be female, which was similar to the national average, and a similar age and ethnicity profile was seen to the national average. Perpetrators were found to be 100% male with an average age of 53. More data is shown in the report in section 2.
- The review took into account the recommendations in the 11 Domestic Homicide Reviews; detail on this was set out in paragraphs 3.2-3.7 of the report. The outcome of the recommendations was reviewed to identify lessons learned and these were set out in paragraph 4.1 of the report.
- Training standards for Domestic Abuse training had been developed.
- Awareness raising had taken place around domestic abuse internally and externally.
- The Community Safety Partnership had worked with the Domestic Abuse Commissioner's office and would take part in a pilot of national oversight on the domestic abuse overview recommendations, by liaising with the Domestic Abuse Commissioner's office to look at where recommendations were not being responded to as quickly as they could and where delivery could be improved.

5.3 The following points were discussed and noted:

- A Sub Panel Member noted the high likelihood of perpetrators being male and women being victims, noting that it was much less likely that men would be victims. Liam Bannon agreed that there was a need for acknowledgement that men may be victims however there was underlying misogyny as a driver of women mainly being victims. Work had been promoted on ending violence

against women and girls.

- It was queried whether there was a correlation between this data, availability of mental health support and less men coming forward for mental health support. Liam Bannon agreed that mental health was often identified in domestic homicide reviews as an impacting factor.
- The Chair asked how messages would be shared with communities, education and community spaces. Liam stated that awareness raising would be carried out after each domestic homicide review such as professional focussed webinars to reach the local community. The Head of Community Safety, OPCCN, added that community Safety Partnership had been working with Norfolk Safeguarding Children's Board on campaigns and adding information on partners' websites.
- The Chair asked how the Sub Panel and elected members could support the partnership. The Head of Community Safety, OPCCN, suggested that highlighting the NIDAS (Norfolk Integrated Domestic Abuse Service) website would be helpful; this website had lots of valuable information. A media organisation had been engaged to help widen awareness by providing information and through the work of NIDAS.

5.4 The NCCSP Scrutiny Sub Panel **AGREED** to:

- a) Note the detailed summary of the Partnership's thematic review of Norfolk Domestic Homicide Reviews;
- b) To delegate to the Chair and Vice-Chair the task of reporting the outcome of its discussion to the Scrutiny Committee, through a written report to a future meeting.

6. Partnership Priority – Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence

6.1 The Scrutiny Sub Panel received the report setting out an overview of the Domestic Violence Change Champions.

6.2 Stephanie Stearman, Head of Commissioning, OPCCN, introduced the report to the Scrutiny Sub Panel:

- The role of the Domestic Abuse Champion was a volunteer. They were a key contact for the organisation they worked in. There were 900 champions in Norfolk County Council and district and borough councils, 200 in education and 360 in health. There were also champions in the voluntary sector and housing providers.
- The champions shared information and raised awareness. They received in depth training and attended regular networking events. The champion network had won two awards.
- In 2022 the champion network was moved to NIDAS from Children's Services to give a joined-up service.
- Champions were trained to identify and assess risk and respond to people in a safe way and refer to NIDAS where needed.
- More champions were being recruited in health and education, and more sectors would be focussed on following this.

6.3 The following points were discussed and noted:

- Evidence on the impact of the champions was requested. The Head of Commissioning, OPCCN, replied that this was difficult to monitor as people could access champions for advice but were not always referred for a safeguarding concern. However, referrals had been increasing quarterly since the network had been set up showing correlative evidence that more awareness being driven from

the champion network.

- A Sub Panel Member asked how the Sub Panel and councillors could get involved in promoting this work. The Head of Commissioning, OPCCN, replied that it would be helpful to encourage District Councils to support the work by putting forward domestic abuse champions and promoting the network.
- The Head of Commissioning, OPCCN, confirmed that Health and Wellbeing Partnerships had been engaged with.
- It was confirmed that Breckland District Council had 9 champions, Broadland District Council had 16 champions, the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk had 2 champions and Great Yarmouth Borough Council had 8 champions.

- 6.4 The NCCSP Scrutiny Sub Panel **AGREED** to:
- a) Note the overview of Domestic Violence Change Champions;
 - b) Delegate to the Chair and Vice-Chair the task of reporting the outcome of its discussion to the Scrutiny Committee, through a written report to a future meeting.
 - c) Suggest that a report on this topic this be brought back in 12 months' time

7. Strategic Plans for Community Safety

- 7.1 The Scrutiny Sub Panel received the report setting out the strategic plans for the management of community safety in Norfolk for the Sub Panel's endorsement.

- 7.2 Liam Bannon, Community Safety Officer, OPCCN, introduced the report to the Sub Panel:

- It had been noted there was duplication across plans and that it would be helpful to have alignment across plans and priorities.
- 5 strategies and plans were currently being developed, which were shown in the report.
- To allow work to be progressed which was agreed at the Community Safety Partnership meeting in July 2023, the Safer Norfolk Plan had been extended to the end of March 2025.
- Since the paper was written the Community Safety Partnership had taken forward the new approach to develop the strategic plan, including a new needs assessment and draft priorities, identifying a wider strategic delivery landscape and other boards and strategies.
- The level of partnership input would be increased by carrying out workshops to get a rounded view of the impact of issues on partnership authorities.

- 7.3 The NCCSP Scrutiny Sub Panel **AGREED** to:
- a) Endorse the strategic plans for the management of community safety in Norfolk;
 - b) Note the progress being made with the Partnership's Strategic Assessment;
 - c) Delegate to the Chair and Vice-Chair the task of reporting the outcome of its discussion to the Scrutiny Committee, through a written report to a future meeting.

8 Future arrangements for scrutiny of the Norfolk Countywide Community Safety Partnership and Forward Work Programme

- 8.1 The Sub Panel received the report setting out the future arrangements for scrutiny of the Norfolk Countywide Community Safety Partnership and an outline Forward Work Programme for comment.

- 8.2 Cllr Harpley was disappointed with the future arrangements but understood the reasons that the decision had been taken to change the governance arrangements due to the previous issues related to inqoracy. She felt that having the same members as the Police and Crime Panel would reduce the quality of scrutiny due to members having already met in the morning, possibly not having availability for the whole day, and the loss of Members from the existing Sub Panel who had chosen to be a Member due to having particular expertise.
- 8.3 Cllr Blundell also queried the change of governance of the Sub Panel. At some district councils, a Cabinet Member was required to be a member on Police and Crime Panel, meaning that the Sub Panel would have this same Member. He felt that the Scrutiny Sub Panel should be kept non-political.
- 8.4 The Chair indicated that she sympathised with the comments that had been made.
- 8.5 Jo Martin **agreed** to take away the comments for further discussion. She suggested that the updated terms of reference could be trialled and tested and reviewed if needed at a later date.
- 8.6 The Sub Panel noted the future arrangements for scrutiny of the Norfolk Countywide Community Safety Partnership and the outline Forward Work Programme.
- 8.7 The Chair thanked all Members for attending and thanked officers from the Community Safety Partnership for their input into the meeting and reports. She had enjoyed taking part in the Sub Panel and commended the work of Community Safety Partnership officers.

The meeting finished at 11:50am

Chair



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