

Norfolk Countywide Community Safety Partnership Scrutiny Sub-Panel

Minutes of the meeting held at County Hall, Norwich on Thursday 9 June 2022
at 10 am

Present:

Cllr Penny Carpenter (in the Chair after having been elected Vice-Chair)	Norfolk County Council
Cllr Tim Adams	North Norfolk District Council
Cllr Alexandra Kemp	King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council
Cllr Nigel Shaw	Broadland District Council
Cllr Chrissie Rumsby	Norfolk County Council
Cllr Tony Holden	South Norfolk District Council
Cllr Alison Webb	Breckland District Council

Also in Attendance:

Mark Stokes	Chief Executive, OPCCN and Chair of the NCCSP Partnership
Gavin Thompson	Director – Policy and Commissioning, OPCCN
Amanda Murr	Head of Community Safety, OPCCN
Nicola Jepson	Community Safety Officer, OPCCN
Liam Bannon	Community Safety Officer, OPCCN
Supt Sonia Humphreys	Temporary Superintendent, Community Safety, Norfolk Constabulary and Chair of County Lines Strategic Group
Insp Matthew Wakefield	Acting Inspector, Community Safety, Norfolk Constabulary
Jo Martin	Democratic Support and Scrutiny Manager, Norfolk County Council (NCC)
Tim Shaw	Committee Officer

1. Apologies for Absence

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from named members: Cllr Graham Carpenter, Cllr Emma Corlett, Cllr James Easter and Cllr Mark Kiddle-Morris.
- 1.2 Apologies were also received from substitute members: Cllr Julian Kirk and Cllr Ian Stutely and from Craig Chalmers, Director of Community Social Work/Caldicott Guardian, NCC.

2 Election of Chair

2.1 RESOLVED

That Cllr Mark Kiddle-Morris be elected Chair of the Scrutiny Sub Panel for 2022-23

3 Election of Vice-Chair

3.1 RESOLVED

That Cllr Penny Carpenter be elected Vice-Chair of the Scrutiny Sub Panel for 2022-23.

(In the absence of the Chair, Cllr Mark Kiddle-Morris, who had given his apologies for the meeting, Cllr Penny Carpenter took the Chair).

4 Minutes

- 4.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 24 February 2022 were agreed as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

5. Declaration of Interests

- 5.1 There were no declarations of interest.

6 Urgent Business

- 6.1 There were no items of urgent business.

7 Terms of Reference

- 7.1 The Scrutiny Sub Panel received a report that asked Members to review the terms of reference.

The Scrutiny Sub Panel ENDORSED the Terms of Reference.

8 Partnership Priorities - Criminal Exploitation and Serious Violence

- 8.1 The Scrutiny Sub Panel received a report from the Executive Director of Community and Environmental Services, setting out the progress being made by the Partnership towards delivering agreed outcomes for the Criminal Exploitation and Serious Violence priorities, focusing on actions to target county lines.

- 8.2 During the discussion that ensued the following key points were made:

- Supt Sonia Humphreys said that in the last two years the Constabulary and partners had achieved immense success in delivering the agreed outcomes for the criminal exploitation and serious violence priorities. Evidence of this success could be seen in the numbers and different types of custodial outcomes that were achieved. The Constabulary's enforcement activity remained focused on the Norwich and Great Yarmouth areas, whilst recognising that county lines also impacted on other areas of the county and in particular King's Lynn.
- Because of its success, there were plans to extend project ADDER to other areas of the county.
- It was noted that in the last year there had been a noticeable decrease in county lines activity.
- The changes in the way in which county lines supply was coming into the county had impacted on levels of youth violence in the city centre. The Partnership was committed to tackling youth on youth violence which remained at the forefront of efforts to reduce serious violence.
- Members spoke about anti-social behavioural challenges in their areas that were linked to drug related crime and congratulated the Constabulary on the work they

were doing to keep county lines activity out of Norfolk.

- Cllr Rumsby said that she had a good working relationship with the Constabulary and appreciated the hard work that they put into reducing the level of criminal exploitation and serious violence in the Mile cross area of Norwich.
- In reply to questions, Supt Sonia Humphreys said that when they became aware of suggestions of children in care being exploited, the Constabulary worked with the multi-agency safeguarding hubs to use the most appropriate screening tools for their protection. This work involved providing support to family members, siblings and those friendship groups that had contact with these children.
- Cllr Kemp suggested that dedicated youth workers were needed to help reduce crime levels amongst disadvantaged young people, particularly those living in urban areas. In reply, Supt Sonia Humphreys said that while she was a supporter of all that could be done to put in place sustainable relationships for emotionally disturbed children, the provision of dedicated youth workers was not an issue for the Constabulary to address. Detached youth work was one of many types of activity that could be used to tackle county lines activity.
- Police Officers were making themselves more aware of the contextual issues around the taking of drugs and what this meant for young people.
- Amanda Muir said that the Partnership had adopted a multi-agency approach to the gathering of evidence on criminal activity. The partners recognised that to get a comprehensive view on issues of joint concern there needed to be a combined and consistent approach to the collection and overlay of data on issues of joint concern. The Vulnerable Adolescent Training Group was undertaking scoping work to ensure consistency across all partners dealing with the exploitation agenda.
- The Chair asked where families with a vulnerable adult living away from the family home might turn for help and support. In reply, it was noted that (as part of Project ADDER) the Constabulary were a member of the County Lines Strategic Group of the Vulnerable Adult Risk Assessment Conference (VARAC). VARAC recognised the need for more robust provision for vulnerable adults and their families exploited by county lines networks. In the last month VARAC had dealt with 17 referrals of those vulnerable adults deemed to be at risk from activity linked to Class A drug use.
- It was pointed out that VARAC included working with Housing Associations and recognised the importance of taking steps to make the homes of vulnerable adults as safe as possible.
- The Constabulary also worked with licencing committees as part of the annual licencing renewal process to make taxi companies fully aware of their responsibilities with regard to safeguarding practices and what was expected of them. The Constabulary had recently made a series of presentations to District Councils licencing committees about how taxi companies were sometimes used by criminal gangs as facilitators in the distribution of drugs. Information available to the Constabulary showed that there were several taxi companies that were being used to transport young people vulnerable to this kind of activity.
- The Panel recognised that there needed to be more options available for children and young people who wanted to exit the activities of criminal gangs. Officers said that support for those exiting such activities often needed to be tailored to their bespoke needs. This support could take many different forms, including offers of assistance from children's services youth offending teams, as well as from specialist health and social workers and from housing associations. Amanda Muir added that vulnerable individuals and their families could also access safeguarding community safety partnership websites and make use of the information put out by the Norfolk Safeguarding Adults Board about "Tricky Friends" that was explained in the report to today's meeting.

- 1) **NOTED** the information provided and commended the Partnership, and specifically the Constabulary, for the exemplary work being undertaken.
- 2) **AGREED** 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 the next scheduled meeting (23 June 2022) if the agenda allowed.

9 Partnership Priority - Neighbourhood Crime

9.1 The Scrutiny Sub Panel received a report from the Executive Director of Community and Environmental Services that set out the progress being made by the Partnership towards delivering agreed outcomes for the Neighbourhood Crime priority, with a focus on Project ADDER (Addiction, Diversion, Disruption, Enforcement and Recovery), the Government's pathfinder programme combatting drugs misuse, and the Community Trigger Process.

9.2 During discussion the following key points were made:

- Supt Sonia Humphreys explained the contribution that Project ADDER made to the Partnership's County Lines agenda, which also contributed to the neighbourhood crime priorities.
- It was noted that Police enforcement activity concentrated on the high level of harm caused by drugs and not on getting people into custody just because they used drugs. However, where individuals came into custody after committing a particular Trigger Offence they were subject to drug testing on arrest.
- The Police Investigation Centre at Wymondham used the out of court disposal option for low level offending. This gave such people a second chance by diverting them into drug treatment and recovery services.
- The Panel were informed that the Hub on Prince of Wales Road in Norwich was funded through Project ADDER and had been running for more than 12 months. This resource included a health assistant and was a great opportunity for partner agencies and outreach workers to work together to support those with health issues associated with drug misuse. The Norfolk and Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust had secured funding to recruit a Clinical Psychologist to provide specialist trauma support.
- Police Officers operating as part of Project ADDER were now trained and equipped to use Naloxone. In May 2022 there was a successful use of naloxone by a Police Officer to an individual believed to be having a medical emergency due to opioid overdose. This had resulted in a young man being taken to hospital and a referral to the drug and alcohol service offered.
- Supt Sonia Humphreys highlighted the work carried out by two youth workers who were based at Wymondham who provided an early point of contact as children came into custody. These members of staff saw some 98% of children who came into custody and were able to help put in place safeguarding arrangements and take steps to expedite treatment for young people within the criminal justice system.
- Cllr Rumsby said that she would be happy to do all that she could to support the work of the Hub that operated in the Mile Cross area of Norwich.
- Cllr Kemp said that as part of a multi-agency response to crime there needed to be greater opportunities for young people living in vulnerable communities to take part in youth and community activities because participation in these kinds of activities helped reduce their exposure to crime.

- Councillors noted that the Partnership reported to the Home Office on the achievement of performance measures for Project ADDER on a quarterly basis. The Youth Justice Board were provided with details about numbers of interventions, arrests, time in custody and the housing status of individuals.
- The work of Housing Associations was included within Project ADDER. They were represented at delivery group meetings and were part of the implementation of the project. The NCCSP Partnership were also working with the Housing Associations on issues connected to modern day slavery.

9.3 The Scrutiny Sub Panel:

- 1) **COMMENDED** the Partnership on the clarity and quality of its reports to today's meeting.
- 2) **NOTED** the information provided and **AGREED** that it was content with the progress being made in both areas.
- 3) **AGREED** 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 the next scheduled meeting (23 June 2022) if the agenda allowed.

10 Forward Work Programme

10.1 The Scrutiny Sub Panel received a report from the Executive Director of Community and Environmental Services that set out a proposed Forward Work Programme for the Scrutiny Sub Panel that could be used to shape future meeting agendas and items for consideration.

10.2 In reply to questions it was noted that the Partnership was working with District Councils, together with a national external agency, on the training required for the development of a communication strategy for the Community Trigger Process. This training was expected to take place between September 2022 and December 2022 and the Community Trigger Process to be in place early in 2023. Councillors considered it important for the Partnership to be seen to be raising public understanding and awareness of what was meant by a Community Trigger Process and to involve Parish and Town Councils in that process.

10.3 The Scrutiny Sub Panel **AGREED** the forward work programme and the items identified for consideration at future meetings as set out in Appendix A to the report with the following additions:

28 September 2022:

- Partnership Priority: Neighbourhood Crime – an update on the development of a communication strategy for the Community Trigger Process
- Resourcing of the Community Safety Partnership – an update following the completion of an internal review.

8 December 2022:

- An update on action being taken to tackle modern slavery.

The meeting finished at 11.15 am

Chair



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