



Doncaster Council

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Councillor Jane Kidd
Chair
Communities & Environment
Overview & Scrutiny Panel
Floor 2
Civic Office

Councillor Chris McGuinness
**Cabinet Member for Communities, Voluntary
Sector and the Environment**

Date: 14th May 2018

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Dear Jane

Thank you for providing me with your Panel's findings into the recent Anti-Social Behaviour to Serious Crime Pathway Review and including the recommendations made by the Panel.

My response to the recommendations is attached to this letter as an Appendix.

I trust the above is helpful, and thank you once again for providing me with your Panel's findings and recommendations.

Yours sincerely

Chris McGuinness

Enc

Copy to: Mayor Ros Jones

Community and Environment Overview and Scrutiny - Anti-Social Behaviour to Serious Crime Pathway Review 2018 – Response to the Recommendations

- 1. Continue to support that, neighbourhood policing be gradually re-introduced and give consideration, with partners, to a physical base being provided, where required;**

Reason: It was acknowledged that in some areas when Neighbourhood Policing had been removed, anti-social and criminal behaviour had increased. Members were pleased to note and support that in some areas it was being reintroduced gradually, where there is an evidence base for the requirement. It was the Panel's opinion that a physical building and personnel presence was a deterrent to anti-social behaviour and provided a face for the Community to approach at any time. Members also wished to emphasise the importance of working in partnership with communities and other agencies at a local level to ensure good evidence and information sharing.

Response: SYP have now fully re-introduced Neighbourhood Policing which started in the areas of Mexborough and Edlington and was fully completed across the Borough in January this year. We welcome the recommendation that a physical building, footprint and personal presence is a deterrent to anti-social behaviour and we will work closely with the District Commander to ensure this principal is followed as far as practicable.

- 2. Lobby the Police and Crime Commissioner as to how proceeds from crime could be used locally to address ASB and serious crime.**

Reason: Members asked if discussions could be held with the Police and Crime Commissioner as to how proceeds from crime could be used towards addressing local issues across South Yorkshire, for example for local CCTV schemes or towards projects such as the off-road motorcycle project run by South Yorkshire Police.

Response: We welcome member support on this issue and in discussions that have taken place with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, we have been made aware that the proceeds of crime act funds are made available as part of the general budget and are therefore not available to spend on specific projects such as off road motorcycles or CCTV schemes. The OPCC does make available funding for this purpose in the form of local community safety grants, although it is acknowledged these are not significant amounts.

- 3. Lobby the Chief Constable to look at how resources can be used to continue the South Yorkshire Police Off-road Motor Cycle Unit.**

Reason: Members learnt that the off-road motor cycle unit was a temporary unit that would be reassessed at the end of March. Members acknowledged how hard the officers work to make a positive impact across Doncaster borough and South Yorkshire and hoped that the resources for this service could continue and possibly be more permanently resourced.

Response: During a recent visit of the Chief Constable to Doncaster to update on the progress of Neighbourhood Policing, the opportunity was taken to highlight the excellent work of the Off Road motorcycle team in Doncaster. The Chief Constable was specifically asked to look at future resourcing of the team to ensure continued successful deployments could be maintained.

4. Support funding for the continuation/roll out of Youth Programmes for example, the EPIC Youth Crime Prevention currently running in Conisbrough.

Reason: The Panel was made aware by a local ward Member that the EPIC Youth Crime Prevention programme in Conisbrough, was providing excellent services and highlighting the difference it was making to young people's lives.

It was stressed that there were a lot of great children and young people across the borough but a small few could easily turn to behaving in an anti-social manner without positive activities. Members were aware of current local authority resources but expressed their wish for supporting the continuation/roll out of such schemes where possible with support from the local Alliance to provide this service and assist with funding bids. Page 20.

The Panel also expressed general concern that in some areas there were not enough volunteers, or it was always the same people in communities supporting projects of this nature and suggested that all Members and officers working in communities encourage people to undertake volunteer work, where appropriate

Response: The Safer Stronger Doncaster Partnership (SSDP) has acknowledged the excellent work that has taken place using the EPIC model of engagement with young people. The Partnership has awarded £15k of funding to develop the model using it to divert young people away from serious crime. This funding will be used to roll out the 'Think Forward' Programme in areas most affected by this threat.

We also welcome the idea of increasing the numbers of volunteers, supporting projects involving young people to divert them away from crime and anti-social behaviour. The Expect Youth programme is being deployed in communities across Doncaster and one of the aims will be to support volunteers and increase the numbers of local groups working with young people.

At the present time 29 groups across the Borough have successfully completed the quality standard to become an associate member of Expect Youth. A further 52 groups are working with the programme with a view to becoming associate members. A youth programme run by new volunteers has commenced work operating from Conisbrough library and they will continue to work closely with Expect Youth. Tickhill has also started a new successful youth club with new volunteers and opens two nights per week. Additionally 36 volunteers across the Borough have completed first aid training and 6 groups have completed a 'train the trainer' safeguarding course.

5. Support the continued use of Enforcement Mechanisms as a tool to combat crime and disorder.

Reason: The Panel acknowledged that sometimes simple enforcement steps could be taken to assist with reducing wider criminal acts and wished to see this continue and speedily within legal timeframes. There was an example that wooden shutters were provided on empty properties and if damaged having to be replaced with metal shutters. It was hoped that selective licencing schemes introduced would address this with landlords and that properties be secured quickly.

Response: This recommendation is accepted and since the publication of this report the selective licensing scheme has commenced in an area of Edlington with a high

concentration of rented properties and suffering from higher than average levels of crime and anti-social behaviour.

A Multi Agency Group was re-launched on 10th May 2018. As part of this group, the possibility of using metal sheets (sitex) will be discussed as a first response to emergency situations with insecure properties in a risk area. This would reduce the risk of fires and the likelihood of further access/damage to the property.

6. At every opportunity encourage people to report crime through raising awareness and considering alternative ways for them to do so in confidence and without fear.

Reason: The Panel noted that there had been difficulties with communities being apathetic towards reporting crime, as it was the opinion that no action was being taken. It was felt that opportunities needed to be found for people to report crime without fear. It was stressed that communities needed to be made aware of information collation and that this must be encouraged, no matter how small the piece of information was. It was added that relationships with Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) and Neighbourhood Response Team (NRT) should be built upon, as knowledge and understanding was key, rather than just relying on intelligence gathered through mechanical systems. Members were informed that improvements had been made to the South Yorkshire Police 101 number and the average waiting time was now 2 to 3 minutes. Members expressed a wish to be kept up-to-date about key issues around this area.

Response: The recommendation is welcomed as any initiative to improve the confidence of the public in reporting crime without fear and to be kept updated about the progress of the investigation is a priority for the local Police and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. The accurate reporting and recording of crime is seen as an essential feature of early intervention and prevention and enables the Police and Partners to target resources where they are most needed. The Police commander would welcome the opportunity of keeping OSMC members updated with their progress in improving the 101 (non-emergency) service.

7. Support that there should be clearer and stronger engagement with local community groups and key community representatives in respect of local community safety issues. This could be reflected in current Council policies and plans such as the developing Community Engagement Framework and Community Safety Strategy.

Reason: From the case study used, it was shared that community representatives felt that they were not being listened too and not treated as professionals when they had valuable knowledge, a strong position within the community and often experts themselves in essential frontline services. Opinion was that there was not enough support from the Local Authority to help them support their own communities.

Response: There is an acknowledged gap in the engagement of local communities in respect of local community safety issues. The roll out of neighbourhood Policing will help to address this and the SSDP is considering improved methods of community engagement based upon consultation mechanisms that exist in other parts of the county. The new Police Commander is keen to consider these mechanisms in Doncaster, which will enhance the weekly updates now being supplied to elected members by Neighbourhood Inspectors.

There is also a strong local campaign to increase the uptake of the new Police Alert system, which will improve community engagement with local groups and key community representatives.

8. To ensure performance figures are reported accurately between partners and collated effectively across all reporting mechanisms.

Reason: Community representatives felt that there was a lack of shared intelligence resulting in blockages. That there were perceptions that data protection was sometimes used as a way of preventing information being shared effectively when all groups and partners were trying to work to the same goal. Concern was also expressed that reports of crime to the 736000 and 101 numbers were still not being brought together as one set of statistics, therefore not providing the true picture in terms of evidence.

Response: The SSDP do have an information sharing agreement in place to share information between partners working jointly under the crime and disorder agenda. As new partners and new and emerging issues have arisen these have been added to the agreement to improve inter-agency working and partnership working. The agreement is being reviewed currently to ensure it complies with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) requirements and whilst this may place greater restrictions on how data is shared, the Partnership acknowledge the strong desire of Scrutiny to facilitate improved information sharing and the removal of blockages.

On a positive note a new Partnership analyst started in Doncaster at the end of April and they will have access to DMBC data to improve the statistics that we gather in relation to anti-social behaviour reported through to DMBC and recorded on the LAGAN system and M3 Environmental Enforcement database. Members will now start to see improved information and analysis gathered through this wider access to data.

9. Ensure that key groups within the communities and partners, are clear and understand how CCTV can be used in an effective way and in line with relevant legislation and the Council's CCTV strategy.

Reason: Members wished to ensure that the Local Authority has a CCTV strategy that meets best practice, supports community requirements and that supporting systems are up to date, whether actions be reported whilst officers are out on patrol or back in the office.

Response: This recommendation is welcomed and we have now published the draft CCTV protocol which outlines how communities and partners working together have a clear understanding of roles and how CCTV evidence can be used in line with relevant RIPA legislation. The CCTV protocol has been shared with the Chair of the overview and scrutiny panel for further circulation.

General Issues

10. Partnership Working – To share and learn from best practice from neighbouring and national authorities.

Reason: It was recognised that partnership working was essential with crime prevention and therefore needed to work effectively in all areas. It was suggested that

Doncaster could share and learn from best practice from national and neighbouring authorities such as Barnsley MBC (neighbourhood model) and Birmingham CC (crime expertise). Members were particularly interested in different crime groups and also what they learnt from looking at the Barnsley model where Police and Neighbourhood Teams all worked alongside each other out of its own hub.

Response: The SSDP and Community Safety Service are keen to learn from and absorb best practice from other areas. The neighbourhood hub introduced in Barnsley is being replicated within Doncaster and will be successfully used in tackling the complex dependencies agenda. Police officers and Partners now work together from the civic office, each being able to share information and knowledge on an operational level.

Organised Crime Groups are being successfully tackled in Doncaster using the very latest models of best practice and disruption. We fully accept this recommendation and we will continue to remain up to date with best practice used elsewhere.

Monitoring - Reviewing Recommendations

11. That the Panel reviews progress on recommendations and issues raised as part of the 2017/18 workplan.

Reason: The Panel would like a progress report to be within the next 12 months on each of the above recommendations including what impact has been made as a result

Response: We will liaise with Democratic Services to ensure that the progress report is timetabled by the Safer Stronger Doncaster Partnership and received by the Panel as requested.