



CHESHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY

ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 21 AUGUST 2007 IN CONSTABULARY HEADQUARTERS, WINSFORD

Present:

M Chapman, Chairman	B Maher
S Proctor, Vice-Chairman	P Nurse
C Kirkpatrick	T Savage
E Lam	

Also in attendance: D Cargill and P Walker

<i>Authority Officers:</i>	<i>Constabulary Officers:</i>
M Sellwood, Chief Executive	G Shewan, Assistant Chief Constable
A Collins, Engagement Manager	J Roberts, Head of Safer & Stronger Communities Unit
M Eaton, Member Services Manager	B Cowling, Head of Corporate Communications

Apologies: M Darby and A Doran

16. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 15 May 2007 be confirmed as a correct record.

17. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION PARTNERSHIPS

The Chief Executive submitted an update report on the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRP) reform programme and the business considered at recent CDRP and related multi-agency partnership meetings. Members discussed the reports and the need for representatives to highlight implications for the Authority and best practice/learning in future reports.

The Committee were advised that issues relating to the operation of CDRPs and Members' roles would be discussed in detail at the Discussion Day on 22 October 2007 and the Partnership Training on 9 November 2007.

In considering the report, Members noted the proposed changes to the Cheshire Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership which would become a Children's Trust with effect from April 2008 and the request for members of the Trust to financially support its business processes.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted;

- (2) the allocation of £1,000 towards the management of the business of Cheshire Children's Trust, be approved and be met from the Authority's Community Safety Fund; and
- (3) the Chief Executive develop a template for Members to report on partnership activity.

18. COMMITMENT TO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

The Chief Executive provided an overview of the APA guidance relating to police authorities commitment to children and young people and outlined the Authority's current position and actions for improvement. The Committee was reminded that the Children Act 2004 made provision for the objectives within the Every Child Matters (ECM) agenda, and placed a duty on police authorities and partners to work together to ensure the well-being and protection of children and young people.

Members in considering the report, recognised the work the Authority was required to do to fully meet its statutory duty and considered the APA's template and recommendations for improvement, which included the establishment of a Children and Young Peoples' Strategic Group to oversee and deliver ECM agenda.

The Chairman referred to the Home Office report 'Cutting crime: A new partnership 2008/11' and the work required to develop safer schools partnerships and the response to the national Youth Crime Strategy. The Chairman also requested clarification of the leadership of children and young people issues in the Constabulary.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the APA guidance on the obligations of police authorities with regards to children and young people be received;
- (2) the assessment of the Authority's position in relation to Every Child Matters, as detailed in the Appendix to the Chief Executive's report, be accepted;
- (3) the recommendations for improvement as detailed in the Chief Executive's report, be approved for implementation, subject to the amendments outlined at the meeting and a progress report be submitted to the Committee on 12 February 2008;
- (4) M Chapman, D Cargill and P Walker be appointed as the Authority's representatives on the Children and Young Peoples' Strategic Group; and
- (5) a report be submitted to the Committee 13 November 2007 on the role and work of the School Liaison Officers and PCSOs in schools.

19. AUTHORITY RACE EQUALITY SCHEME: ANNUAL REPORT

The Chief Executive presented the annual report on the progress of the Authority's Race Equality Scheme (RES) action plan.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the annual report on the Race Equality Scheme action plan, as contained in the Appendix to the Chief Executive's report, be approved; and
- (2) the Chairman of the Independent Advisory Group be invited to attend a future meeting of the Authority to discuss the work of the Group; its relationship with the Authority; and any support or assistance the Authority could provide to the Group.

20. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

The Chief Executive presented the draft Equality Impact Assessments (EIA) of the Authority's primary policies for consideration. The EIAs assessed the impact of policies to ensure that there was no discrimination in how they were designed, developed and delivered and promoted equality where applicable.

The Chairman commented on the Authority's duty to oversee the Constabulary's responsibility for diversity and equality and the need for the Authority to scrutinise the Constabulary's EIAs.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Equality Impact Assessments, provided in the Appendix to the Chief Executive's report, be approved;
- (2) the approved Equality Impact Assessments be published on the Authority web site; and
- (3) the Chairman, with S Proctor and E Lam, meet with the head of the Diversity Advisory unit and review the Constabulary's Equality Impact Assessments.

21. SINGLE EQUALITY BILL

The Chief Executive gave an overview of the Single Equality Bill which aimed to simplify and improve existing legislation and discrimination law. The APA had invited the Authority to comment on a consultation paper which set out the Government's proposals on the Bill.

The Committee noted the response which had been formulated following consultation with the lead Members for diversity and the Chairman of the Authority and submitted to the APA, in accordance with the urgency procedures under Standing Order 11.1.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted

22. STOP AND SEARCH SCRUTINY GROUP

The Chief Executive submitted a report on the establishment of a scrutiny group

to consider the discharge of the Authority's duties in relation to stop and search. The report detailed the membership, aims of the group and the proposed timescale for presentation of findings and recommendations back to the Committee.

RESOLVED:

That the scope of work to be undertaken by the Scrutiny Group and the timescales as outlined in the Chief Executive's report, be approved.

23. CONSULTATION, COMMUNICATION & ENGAGEMENT: UPDATE

The Committee considered an update on the review of the Authority's consultation, communication and engagement strategies.

RESOLVED:

That the update on the review of the Authority's consultation, communication and engagement strategies, be received.

24. CITIZEN FOCUS: UPDATE

The Assistant Chief Constable reported on the progress in delivering citizen focused neighbourhood policing. The report detailed the progress to date; the development of key individual networks with stakeholders in the community; the progress towards improved use of community intelligence; the identified approaches to community engagement following the review of Community Action Meetings (CAMs) and the priorities voted for at CAMs; and the preliminary findings of the HMIC inspection of neighbourhood policing.

Members welcomed the work being undertaken to address the findings of HMIC and raised a number of issues relating to the development and operation of CAMs including attendance, frequency, locations and 'themes' to which the Assistant Chief Constable and Head of the Safer & Stronger Communities Unit responded.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the progress in developing and delivering citizen focused policing be noted;
- (2) quarterly update reports on the delivery of citizen focused policing and more generally, the work of the Safer & Stronger Communities Unit be submitted to the Committee; and
- (3) the preliminary findings of the HMIC inspection of neighbourhood policing be noted and the final inspection report and recommendations be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee, together with an appropriate action plan to address the recommendations.

25. RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

The Assistant Chief Constable presented an update on restorative justice (RJ)

which was a process involving the parties of a specific criminal offence to collectively resolve how to deal with the impact of the offence and its implications for the future.

The Committee considered the report which detailed the actions to be taken locally, which included the selection of 14 demonstration sites to evaluate the use of RJ; national developments; budget implications; and the development of a performance management framework to evaluate the results. Members supported the introduction of RJ and stressed the need for RJ outcomes to be classed as detections to ensure the performance against target was maintained and improved.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

26. CUSTOMER SATISFACTION SCRUTINY GROUP

The Chief Executive submitted a report on the findings of the Customer Satisfaction Scrutiny Group. The report detailed the aims, membership and issues considered; the initial findings of the Constabulary's Project Team identifying where the service was failing in performance and the action undertaken to improve performance; and the findings of the Scrutiny Group.

The Members of the Scrutiny Group were generally pleased that the actions implemented to date were having a positive impact in most areas.

The Chief Executive reported that Chairman's approval had been sought to allocate £83,000 of funding to progress the introduction of customer service desks and that a detailed report on the introduction of the customers service desks would be submitted to Service Improvement Panel on 11 September 2007.

RESOLVED:

That the findings of the Scrutiny Group be received.

27. POLICE FORUMS

The Chief Executive submitted a report on the review of Police Forums, which included suggestions made by forum attendees at a workshop to improve the operation of the meetings and raise public awareness; and the subsequent action that had been undertaken. The report also proposed the content of the October cycle of Forums to include a follow-up from the last cycle on investing in policing services; the Annual Report; 'Homewatch' displays; and a focus on the role and work of the units within the Operational Support Department.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the agenda for October cycle of Forums as outlined in the Chief Executive's report, be approved; and
- (2) the progress of the review of Forums, be noted.

28. PLAIN ENGLISH CAMPAIGN: REVIEW OF 2007/08 POLICING PLAN

The Engagement Manager reported that the Plain English Campaign had been asked to review the 2007/08 Policing Plan in order for the Authority to ascertain what changes would be required in order to achieve a “Crystal Mark” for future publications. The findings of the review had been circulated to Members.

RESOLVED:

That the proposal to seek a ‘Crystal Mark’ for the 2008/09 Policing Plan (Local Policing Summaries), be agreed.

29. e-POLICING

The Head of Corporate Communications reported on the development of public communication via e-policing within the Constabulary and nationally.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted

30. EXHIBITION VEHICLE: PROGRAMME OF USE

The Head of Corporate Communications reported on the progress, procurement, branding and deployment of 1the exhibition vehicle.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

Duration of Meeting: The meeting commenced at 9.30am and finished at 12.10pm.