

## minutes

Meeting COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Date Tuesday, 5 November 2013 at 2.00pm

### **membership**

Persons absent are marked with 'A'

### **COUNCILLORS**

Glynn Gilfoyle (Chairman)  
Alice Grice (Vice-Chairman)

Chris Barnfather  
Nicki Brooks  
Ian Campbell  
Bruce Laughton

Keith Longdon  
Stuart Wallace  
John Wilmott

### **OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Rob Fisher	- Adult Social Care, Health & Public Protection
Keith Ford	- Policy, Planning & Corporate Services
Paul McKay	- Adult Social Care, Health and Public Protection
Chris Walker	- Policy, Planning & Corporate Services
Mark Walker	- Adult Social Care, Health & Public Protection
Michelle Welsh	- Policy, Planning & Corporate Services

### **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 24 September 2013 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None.

The following change of membership was reported to the meeting:-

#### Temporary Membership Change

- Councillor Nicki Brooks had replaced Cllr John Clarke (for this meeting only).

## **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS**

None.

## **TRANSFORMING REHABILITATION SERVICES – PRESENTATION BY NOTTINGHAMSHIRE PROBATION SERVICE AND RESPONSE TO PETITION SUBMITTED TO FULL COUNCIL**

Mark Taylor, the Director of Offender Management for Nottinghamshire Probation Trust, gave a presentation outlining the context and aims of the reforms; the retention of the budget of £800m for 2013/14; the steps in the process and current position; the implications for staff and working practices and the vision for the future delivery of offender management.

During discussions, Members expressed a range of opinions about the relative advantages and disadvantages of the reforms and the following specific issues were raised:-

- Members welcomed the proposal to deal with offenders serving sentences of less than twelve months as such offenders had never been supported previously, were responsible for a significant proportion of crime and were liable to reoffend. Some Members felt that the reforms added to Probation's role, through the supervision of this group of offenders, rather than diminishing it, with many of the previous Probation staff still involved in the processes, including supervision. However, other Members, whilst welcoming the ring-fencing of the budget, raised concerns that by keeping the existing budget levels there would be insufficient resources to deal with a greatly expanded group of offenders and therefore greater investment was needed to properly address that issue;
- with regard to the Committee report's recommendations to refer the issue to the Safer Nottinghamshire Board and the Ministry of Justice, some Members warned the Committee against making a knee-jerk reaction to what was being seen as a privatisation of the Probation service, in terms of the commissioning of services by the Community Rehabilitation Company from private, community and voluntary sector organisations. The Chairman clarified that the usual process of referring petitions which had been submitted to Full Council to the relevant Committee had been followed and that other petitions did not usually concern a matter relating to the Ministry of Justice;
- Members queried how the new approach would differentiate between high risk and low risk offenders in circumstances, for example, where a person with a violent history was serving a sentence for a relatively minor offence. Mr Taylor explained that a new risk actuarial tool was being developed but highlighted that the risk levels of approximately 25% of offenders changed in the course of being supervised by Probation. Some Members felt that as low risk offenders

were not currently being supervised then their risk levels were not being monitored and therefore the new approach offered additional benefits in that respect, whilst the higher risk offenders would continue to be managed in the same way. Mr Taylor stated that despite such offenders not currently being under supervision, they would be monitored in terms of past history (although it was not possible to undertake proactive work with them). He added that the Integrated Offender Management scheme could also deal with such offenders who were not on license;

- with regard to the concerns expressed in the petition about the fragmentation of the service leaving the public at increased risk of harm, Mr Taylor acknowledged that there were some concerns within Probation that the fragmentation could lead to a less holistic overview of offenders being taken. He highlighted that developments in areas such as Social Care had recognised the benefits of integrating systems. In response to Members' queries, Mr Taylor recognised that there were potential risks around information-sharing but hoped that appropriate protocols would be established in line with existing ones with partner agencies. Members highlighted historical problems around information-sharing between the Police and Probation around lower level crimes. Mr Taylor underlined that Probation had helped to drive the improvements in information-sharing over recent years, including through joint working such as the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub, the Integrated Offender Management team and co-location of Probation and Police Officers in Mansfield Police Station. Some Members felt that the mutual trust required to share information with new providers would build up over time;
- some Members raised concerns about the benefits of changing a service that had been recognised for its ability to achieve professional and successful outcomes in the vast majority of cases, including positive partnership working through input into the Community Safety Partnerships. In comparison, they felt that there was a risk involved in using providers who did not have that proven ability. Other Members felt that the reforms were being obstructed by some people due to an overriding reluctance for any change and that Probation officers needed to make the new system work. Mr Taylor highlighted the commitment amongst the Probation service to make the new system work, and underlined the service's ability to change and develop through its long and successful history. He added that there were 35 Probation Trusts all of which had been assessed as outstanding or good and he underlined the hard-working and influential nature of those people who worked for the service.

Members agreed that the summary of the Committee discussions and the draft letter to the Ministry of Justice should be shared in advance with the main Opposition Spokesperson.

## **RESOLVED 2013/051**

- 1) That, after sharing the summary of the Committee discussions with the main Opposition Spokesperson, the Chairman of the Committee present that

summary to the Safer Nottinghamshire Board in December 2013 for further consideration and to seek the views of the partners represented there.

- 2) That a letter based on the Committee discussions be sent to the Ministry of Justice.

### **ORDER OF AGENDA**

The Chairman agreed to alter the order of agenda to enable the officer attending for agenda item 8 – Update on Key Trading Standards Matters to leave the meeting earlier to deal with other business.

### **UPDATE ON KEY TRADING STANDARDS MATTERS**

Mark Walker, Group Manager, Trading Standards, introduced the report which provided the Committee with an update on areas of activity within Trading Standards. Mr Walker reported that there had been no serious issues raised about this year's Bonfire Night celebrations as yet.

During discussions, Members commended the work of the Trading Standards team, particularly around the awareness-raising information about potential scams.

In response to Members' queries regarding the legal action update, Mr Walker agreed to clarify the arrangements for reviewing the licences of those licence holders who had been prosecuted for selling counterfeit tobacco and alcohol and how offenders' future financial assets were monitored in order to trigger confiscations in line with Proceeds of Crime hearings.

Members requested an update on the Lorry Watch camera system to the January 2014 meeting (possibly with input from the system developers). Interested Members would also be able to observe the cameras being tested once in place.

### **RESOLVED 2013/052**

That the updates from the previous meeting and the various developments in the areas of Trading Standards work contained within the Committee report be noted.

### **DEVELOPING A PREVENTATIVE APPROACH TO REDUCE CRIME, DISORDER AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE**

Chris Walker introduced the report which sought funding towards the development of a new approach to refocus services and resources in order to prevent crime.

### **RESOLVED 2013/053**

That approval be given to the allocation of £50,000 from the 2013/14 Community Safety Budget to the development and implementation of a preventative strategy for crime and anti-social behaviour in Nottinghamshire.

## **YOUNG WITNESS SERVICE**

Chris Walker introduced the report which sought funding for Victim Support's Young Witness Service which offered free and confidential support to children and young victims who were victims and/or witnesses of crime.

### **RESOLVED 2013/054**

That the Young Witness Service receive £15,000 from the 2013/14 Community Safety Budget and £7,500 from the 2014/15 Community Safety Budget.

## **HOLOCAUST CENTRE PROJECT 'IN OUR HANDS'**

### **RESOLVED 2013/055**

That funding of £15,000 be allocated from the 2013/14 Community Safety Budget to extend the successful 'In Our Hands' project approach to Eastwood South.

## **OVERVIEW PRESENTATION ON THE WORK OF EMERGENCY PLANNING AND REGISTRATION SERVICES**

Rob Fisher gave a presentation highlighting the main areas of responsibility of these services, including the registration of births and deaths (utilising the national 'Tell us once' database); celebratory ceremonies; emergency planning; business continuity and safety at events and sports grounds.

Members welcomed Mr Fisher's suggestion of holding a future meeting of the Committee at the new Registration Services offices in the Gilstrap Centre in Newark. Members were also encouraged to contact Mr Fisher to organise individual visits to the Centre.

### **RESOLVED 2013/056**

That the contents of the presentation be noted.

## **UPDATE ON EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND REGISTRATION SERVICES**

Rob Fisher, Group Manager, Emergency Management and Registration, introduced the report which updated Members on recent key activities and events in the work of the Emergency Planning Team and Registration and Celebratory Services.

### **RESOLVED 2013/057**

- 1) That the work that has been done by the Emergency Planning Team and the Registration Service be noted.
- 2) That the introduction of a pilot Ceremony Rehearsals service and the fee of £25 per appointment be endorsed and the plan to include data in relation to the fee in the next annual registration fees report to Committee be noted.

## **EMERGENCY PLANNING FOR SEVERE WINTER WEATHER**

Rob Fisher, Group Manager, Emergency Management and Registration, introduced the report which gave an overview of the emergency plans and other arrangements that were in place.

During discussions, Members raised concerns about previous problems faced by ambulances in accessing, in severe weather, a cul-de-sac in Retford which housed a number of vulnerable residents requiring urgent medical care. Further details were requested so that this could be discussed with Bassetlaw District Council and thereby logged as a priority area for snow clearance in future.

### **RESOLVED 2013/058**

1. That the emergency plans in place and other arrangements that had been made for responding to the impact of severe winter weather in Nottinghamshire during the coming winter be noted.
2. That, in the event of severe winter weather during the coming winter, a further report be submitted to the Committee in Spring 2014 to review the operation of the Emergency Plans and any lessons learned.

## **APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL CEREMONIES**

Rob Fisher, Group Manager, Emergency Management and Registration, introduced the report and added that the Registry Office service based at The Hall in West Bridgford was being temporarily relocated to the nearby Welbeck Banqueting Suite. This was for a period of approximately two years, whilst The Hall was being refurbished.

### **RESOLVED 2013/059**

1. That the role of the Council in licensing premises for the solemnisation of marriages and the formation of civil partnerships be noted.
2. That further update reports be submitted on an annual basis to the Planning and Licensing and Community Safety Committees.

## **WORK PROGRAMME**

During discussions, Members referred to the Baby P case and other recent child death cases and requested a report and presentation to a future meeting to give assurances to Members that arrangements were in place to prevent similar cases occurring in Nottinghamshire. Members felt that this item could be widened to cover the overall work of the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub, in terms of community safety, and that other County Councillors could be invited to attend for that item in terms of their corporate parent roles.

### **RESOLVED 2013/060**

That the work programme be noted and updated as discussed.

The meeting closed at 4.04 pm.

CHAIRMAN

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