

Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee

Meeting held 14 December 2017

**PRESENT:** Councillors Chris Peace (Chair), Sue Auckland, Penny Baker (Deputy Chair), Michelle Cook, Richard Crowther, Dawn Dale, Mark Jones, George Lindars-Hammond, Karen McGowan, Zahira Naz, Joe Otten and Zoe Sykes

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**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Keith Davis, Terry Fox and Magid Magid.

**2. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

2.1 No items were identified where resolutions may be moved to exclude the public and press.

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

3.1 Councillor Zoe Sykes declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 6 (Neighbourhood Policing in Sheffield), as she was a North West Area Co-ordinator.

**4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

4.1 The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2017, were approved as a correct record, subject to the deletion of paragraph 6.5(e)(ii) (Street Culture), to be replaced with the following paragraph as follows:- “the Drugs and Alcohol Co-ordination Team (DACT) to provide to **all** elected members, public contact details for services commissioned through DACT and the recovery groups across the city.”

4.2 Matters Arising

4.2.1 Members had visited the cabin situated within the Christmas Market aimed at promoting the website and partnership working for the “Help Us Help” campaign and the Committee requested that formal thanks be sent to Tracey Ford for organising it.

4.2.2 The Committee encouraged Members to take part in the rough sleepers count during December, 2017 and January, 2018.

**5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS**

5.1 In relation to two public questions received at the last meeting of the Committee held on 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2017, from Andy Shallice, the Chair (Councillor Chris

Peace) indicated that there was no answer at the present time, but the relevant Cabinet Member would respond.

## **6. NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING IN SHEFFIELD**

6.1 The Committee received a presentation which outlined the core principles and definition of Neighbourhood Policing in Sheffield.

6.2 In attendance for this item was Superintendent Paul McCurry and Inspector Richard Burgess, South Yorkshire Police and Maxine Stavrianakos (Head of Neighbourhood Intervention and Tenant Support).

6.3 In giving the presentation, Inspector Richard Burgess stated that due to reductions in workforce numbers, it had been necessary to reintroduce neighbourhood structures by creating neighbourhood teams to be fully integrated and collaborate with partner agencies, to share local buildings and be visible to the members of the public. He said that the aim was to protect the vulnerable and enhance community safety and that local people would be able to identify and know how to access their neighbourhood officers. Inspector Burgess then outlined the key roles the Neighbourhood Teams would deliver through crime prevention and targeting those who wished to cause harm by maximising visibility and accessibility. Inspector Burgess then showed where the 10 Teams would be located and the areas they covered.

6.4 Maxine Stavrianakos gave an example of a known prolific offender and how information passed between the Probation Service, the City Council and the Police had been combined to resolve the matter and she felt that, due to resources being reduced in the Police Force and the City Council, there was a need for a good working relationship to bring teams closer together.

6.5 Members made various comments and asked a number of questions, to which responses were provided as follows:-

- The Council has commissioned work on this project which was still in its very early stages, and initially the Teams were put together in Ward-based areas. The city centre was a good example of complex policing needs, due to the high demand for many reasons, the public were able to easily identify the Neighbourhood Officers working alongside the City Centre Ambassadors.
- Neighbourhood Policing was about Teams being able to respond to problems 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to reduce demand in areas that were more resilient and provide flexibility between areas where the need might be greater.
- In the past, the Police Force had a “we can sort it” attitude to problems but resources no longer allow for this, thereby the need was greater than ever to work with local partners and agencies.
- It was acknowledged that there had been a lack of communication between

the Police and local Ward Councillors, with many Councillors finding out what was happening in their Wards through the local media and they felt unable to help their constituents. However, it was reported that a significant amount of new staff had been employed in the Communications Room and whilst there were some frustrations with the current arrangements, every effort was being made to ensure that weekly updates would be communicated to Members.

- It was felt that community activists were key to pulling community groups together, acknowledging that the Police could no longer police areas alone.
- The reason for going back to Neighbourhood Policing was down to budget cuts and the need to try and provide a better service in areas and hopefully there would be no further reductions in officers.
- Emails had been sent out to Councillors informing them of “who’s who” in the Neighbourhood Teams in their Wards.
- It was reported that there was a significant amount of mental health issues in certain areas and it was hoped that a Mental Health Worker would work across all areas by March, 2018.
- There was to be regular Partnership Analysis to monitor the effectiveness of the Teams.

6.6 RESOLVED: That the Committee:-

- (a) thanks Superintendent Paul McCurry, Inspector Richard Burgess and Maxine Stavrianakos for their contribution to the presentation;
- (b) notes the contents of the presentation, comments made and responses to questions;
- (c) requests that arrangements be made for Members to visit the Neighbourhood Team based at Moorfoot;
- (d) requests that arrangements be made for Members to visit the police premises at Atlas Court on a date to be arranged during January/February, 2018, for a briefing on “smart” contact and a demonstration of the new service before it goes live;
- (e) receives better communication informing Members of the transition arrangements for South Yorkshire Police alerts; and
- (f) encourages South Yorkshire Police to work in partnership with community groups as part of the development of the Teams.

**7. UPDATE ON SOUTH YORKSHIRE POLICE 101 SERVICE**

7.1 The Committee received a report from Superintendent Paul McCurry which gave

an update on the South Yorkshire Police 101 Service. He reported that a new purpose built call centre had been established at Atlas Court, split into two sections, call handler in one and despatch in the other. Superintendent McCurry stated that the existing system was 24 years old and that a new system would be in place by March, 2018. He gave details of the average queue and waiting times and stated that, during the past eight weeks, there had been 1,568 calls per day, 50% of which were non-crime related. He stated that approximately 18 people are reported as missing every day and a huge amount of time and resources were deployed finding them.

7.2 Members made various comments and asked a number of questions, to which responses were provided as follows:-

- A record of calls received was kept for 13 months.
- The new smart contact system will give the caller a range of options and improve waiting times.
- A large amount of nuisance calls were received by the 999 service.
- Police work was not predictable, it changed each and every day, which was why it was only possible to work on averages.

7.3 RESOLVED: That the Committee:-

- (a) notes the information now reported; and
- (b) requests South Yorkshire Police to send an invitation to all Councillors to attend a briefing at Atlas Court on smart contact and a demonstration of the new 101 system before it goes live.

## **8. WORK PROGRAMME 2017/18**

8.1 The Committee received a report of the Policy and Improvement Officer, attaching the Committee's Work Programme for 2017/18 for Members' consideration.

8.2 RESOLVED: That the Committee approves the contents of the Work Programme 2017/18, and agrees to postpone consideration of the progress report of the Hate Crime Task Group from the meeting scheduled on 18<sup>th</sup> January, to the meeting scheduled on 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2018.

## **9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

9.1 It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2018, at 4.45 pm, in the Town Hall.