



***COMMUNITY SAFETY AND PUBLIC PROTECTION  
SCRUTINY SUB COMMITTEE***

***10.00 AM FRIDAY, 12 NOVEMBER 2021***

***VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS***

**All mobile telephones to be switched to silent for the duration of the meeting**

**PART 1**

1. Welcome and Roll Call
2. Chairs Announcements
3. Declarations of Interest
4. Minutes of Previous Meeting (*Pages 3 - 6*)
5. Officers Announcements
6. Community Safety Partnership - Update on Anti-Social Behaviour in NPT (*Pages 7 - 18*)
7. Forward Work Programme 2021/22 (*Pages 19 - 22*)
8. Urgent Items  
Any urgent items (whether public or exempt) at the discretion of the Chairperson pursuant to Section 100B (4) (b) of the Local Government Act 1972

**K.Jones**  
**Chief Executive**

**Civic Centre**  
**Port Talbot**

**Thursday, 4 November 2021**

**Committee Membership:**

**Chairperson: Councillor S.K.Hunt**

**Vice  
Chairperson: Councillor R.L.Taylor**

**Councillors: D.Cawsey, C.J.Jones, S.Purseley, S.Rahaman,  
N.T.Hunt, S.Bamsey and S.M.Penry**

**Notes:**

- (1) If Committee Members or non-Committee Members wish to have relevant items put on the agenda for future meetings, then please notify the Chief Executive/Chair eight days before the meeting.*
- (2) If non-Committee Members wish to attend for an item of interest, then prior notification needs to be given (by 12.00 noon on the day before the meeting). Non-Committee Members may speak but not vote, or move or second any motion.*
- (3) For pre scrutiny arrangements, the Chair will normally recommend forthcoming executive items for discussion/challenge. It is also open to Committee Members to request items to be raised - though Members are asked to be selective here in regard to important issues.*
- (4) The relevant Cabinet Board Members will also be invited to be present at the meeting for Scrutiny/Consultation purposes.*
- (5) Would the Scrutiny Committee Members please bring the Cabinet Board papers with them to the meeting.*

## Community Safety and Public Protection Scrutiny Sub Committee

(via MS Teams)

**Members Present:**

**1 October 2021**

**Chairperson:** Councillor S.K.Hunt

**Vice Chairperson:** Councillor R.L.Taylor

**Councillors:** D.Cawsey, C.J.Jones, S.Purseley, N.T.Hunt and S.M.Penry

**Officers In Attendance** C.Millis, C.Jones, C.Morris, M.Thomas, H.Jones and C.Davies

**Cabinet Invitees:** Councillor L.Jones

---

1. **Welcome and Roll Call**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. **Chairs Announcements**

The Chair briefly outlined the two items that would be scrutinised at this meeting.

3. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest received.

4. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 July 2021 were approved as a true and accurate record.

5. **Officers Announcements**

There were no announcements from officers.

## 6. **Impact of Covid on Food Hygiene Service and Inspections**

Officers provided Members with a detailed presentation. A copy of the presentation would be circulated to Members following the meeting.

The Food and Health Protection Team were the team that have been called upon to support the Test, Trace & Protect (TTP) Service. Officers went through the other functions of the team, which include food safety and communicable disease control. The effects of the COVID response on the teams work was outlined, including the suspension of proactive inspections.

Members were provided with information in relation to the outturn on food hygiene inspections for 2019-2020, before lockdown. Following lockdown the FSA devised new guidance to prioritise the COVID response and also serious Food Hygiene risks of public health significance. Most of the team were also involved with supporting care homes. In addition, the team also contributed to providing guidance to businesses in relation to the restrictions announced by Welsh Government.

New teams were required to be established following the initial response to assist with the TTP response. The regional team dealt with the more complex cases.

The Care Homes project was prioritised along with food hygiene advice to new businesses. Various complaints were received concerning the regulations and restrictions in place.

When the winter wave of cases arrived, responses were based on a triage principle. Members were advised of the Regional Response Team's 7 day service that was and is currently being provided on a good will basis by officers.

Following Christmas 2020 and the progress of the vaccination programme, the team began to consider recovery. The premises inspection for the year 2020/21 was 14%.

The latest recovery guidelines were issued by the FSA in June 2021. Officers also referred to the importance of the recovery of staff, with many now being encouraged to ensure they take their annual leave.

Officers set out the time frame for recovery, in terms of premises inspections. Most dates are set out by the FSA as soon as full resources permit. As well as proactive, there is also reactive work which needs to be undertaken.

Members were advised that Welsh Government continue to provide funding on a six month basis and as a consequence it is difficult to plan, recruit and deploy resources. This makes it difficult to achieve continuity across the service.

Members queried if the expectations set by the FSA are achievable. Officers advised that they are fairly confident they can be met however there are caveats to this, including the Welsh Government TTP response and the incoming winter season.

Members commended the staff of the team for their hard work during this difficult and stressful period.

## 7. **Community Safety and Public Protection Performance Report - Quarter 1 2021/2022**

A copy of the report from officers had been circulated with the agenda.

Members queried figures in relation to the under performance of the Community Drug and Alcohol Team. Members sought clarification on the scale of the waiting list and the timescale for the review due to be undertaken by the Health Board. Officers advised that traditionally there was no waiting list in Neath Port Talbot for this service. However, as a result of pressures on the service, including vacancies and sickness there had been an increase in the waiting list. The Health Board have confirmed that all the vacancies for the team are going to be advertised, and if filled should assist with reducing the waiting list. The impact of sickness absence on the service has also been flagged up.

With regards to the review due to be undertaken, this was scheduled to be done by the Health Board, with a timescale of completion by the

end of September. However NPT officers have no further information on this item and are awaiting the outcome from the review.

Members queried why the repeat victims significantly declined during the pandemic. Officers noted the large increase in new referrals but at a higher level of violence not previously seen before. Officers agreed that they needed to understand why repeat victims did not come to the service during the pandemic period and this would require some work. Further, why people feel the need to present again. What can be done differently or better to improve this? There could be practical elements around the lockdown which reduced the number of repeat victims. It was noted that a repeat victim is not always the victim of the same perpetrator.

8. **Forward Work Programme 2021/22**

Members agreed to note the forward work programme.

9. **Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items.

**CHAIRPERSON**



## COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

*UPDATE ON ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR IN NPT*  
November 2021

# Officers

## NPTCBC

- Chris Millis – Head of Education Development
- Claire Jones – Strategic Manager, Partnerships and Community Cohesion
- Elinor Wellington – Principal Officer, Community Safety
- Sarah Williams – Anti Social Behaviour Reduction Coordinator

Page 8

## South Wales Police

- Superintendent Mark Brier, Western BCU
- Chief Inspector Nia Hughes, Western BCU





# Background & Context



The Crime and Disorder Act (1998), as amended by the Police Reform Act (2002), places a statutory obligation on local authorities and the Police to form multi-agency partnerships in order to reduce crime and disorder across the local authority area.

Safer Neath Port Talbot Partnership operates a multi-agency partnership approach to community safety and crime and disorder issues.

Page 9  
As a partnership, we are committed to working together to achieve sustainable reductions in crime, fear of crime and anti social behaviour as well as providing practical crime prevention and community safety advice and reassurance.

Safer Neath Port Talbot is made up of the following statutory partners:

- Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
- South Wales Police
- Swansea Bay University Health Board
- Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service
- National Probation Service

# Background & Context

NPTCBC Community Safety Team coordinate the quarterly Safer NPT Partnership Board meetings.



The current priorities of the partnership are:-

- Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence
- Anti Social Behaviour
- Substance Misuse
- Cyber Crime and Scams
- County Lines

# Background & Context

- The CSP is jointly chaired by NPTCBC and SWP
- Over the past 18 months, the general picture around Community Safety has drastically changed.
- There have been increased demands in many service areas, directly attributed to the Covid-19 pandemic, lockdown & subsequent changing restrictions.
- Some issues in our town centres & communities have increased & become more visible.
- We have a strong CSP, which is well attended, and at which partners actively participate and we have a shared purpose
  - Everyone plays their part, but it is important to remember the role of the Council's team and that of the respective partners
  - The police are the lead agency for ASB, and other criminal matters
  - The Council's Community Safety Team have no enforcement responsibilities and limited resource, but bring partners together to find solutions



# Neath Town Centre



In July 2021, members were given a detailed presentation on the issues of Anti Social Behaviour in Neath Town Centre, and are summarised below

## SWP Operation Liliem continues

Page 12 Partnership meetings continue, whereby relevant agencies will attend and provide recent updates on their ongoing work. This includes; Licensing, CCTV, Business Crime Reduction Partnership, WCADA, Salvation Army, Housing Options and others.

There is a rolling action plan, to ensure work continues and is progressed. Regular reports are fed into the Safer NPT Partnership Board.

# Neath Town Centre



A series of actions have been agreed or are ongoing;

- Police Operation initiated and is ongoing
- Issuing of s35'S, Community Protection Warnings / Notices and Criminal Behaviour Orders to prolific offenders
- Communications Plan to keep residents updated on ongoing work, and to encourage reporting
- Community Safety Engagement Events (restrictions permitted) to speak with members of the public and answer their questions
- Promotion of the Business Crime Reduction Partnership to businesses, traders and licensed premises
- Licensing have visited all businesses to advise and remind about responsible sales of alcohol
- CCTV monitoring of 'hotspot' areas has changed
- Continued outreach support for those with complex needs
- Ongoing supported for residents of the Ambassador with rehousing, outreach, diversionary activities

# Port Talbot Town Centre



In recent months there have been growing concerns from traders and residents, regarding increased ASB in areas of the town centre.

Operation Sudbury has been implemented, which sees increased patrols in the town centre. Community Protection Warnings have been issued to prolific offenders.

Page 14

Current reports remain low, but there is an increased focus in encouraging people to report what they see, to ensure we have a true reflection of the issues.

In October a partnership meeting was called, including the Leader, Chief Executive, Stephen Kinnock MP and local ward Councillors. Also in attendance were and various internal and external partners. Number of actions noted and further meeting tba

These meetings will coincide with the Recovery Group, coordinated by the Town Centre Manager, and work of the Business Improvement District (Viva Port Talbot)

# Briton Ferry



During summer of 2020 partners met to discuss concerns from local residents about particular areas of Briton Ferry and an increase in Anti-Social Behaviour.

This differed to our town centre issues in that it could attributed to a small number of individual properties. We worked closely with the local Councillors, Housing Options and Environmental Health to alleviate some of those concerns.

Page 15

In recent months there have been additional concerns from residents, with South Wales Police hosting a very well attended PACT Meeting.

There is a need for further work with Environmental Health, Police, Youth Justice and other partners.

During summer of 2021 Community Safety have hosted engagement events with the public to promote various campaigns, share messages on crime prevention and to encourage reports through to the appropriate agencies.

## Neighbour Disputes

Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown, there has been an increase in the number of contacts to the Council and the Police over neighbour disputes. Residents now spend far more time at home, which has led to more disputes and complaints.



The ASB Coordinator works closely with the Police, Housing Providers and Environmental Health on these matters, offering mediation and in some cases Good Neighbour Agreements to try to alleviate some concerns.

Page 16

In some instances, these are civil matters and cannot be addressed by the partnership.

## Scarlett Avenue Car Park

A small number of complaints have been received by residents over the use of the open car park. Including; speeding cars and noise nuisance. Community Safety have visited residents to offer advice and encourage reporting. This is a council owned car park and Environment colleagues are exploring options to alleviate issues and concerns.



# Street Vulnerability MARAC's



Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown, the SV MARAC's have continued, despite changes to Homelessness legislation, meaning that all street homeless people must be accommodated by the local authority.

Usually homelessness does not come alone and is associated with a number of other factors like loss of employment, alcohol or substance addiction, poor mental health, fleeing domestic abuse.

Page 17

The SV MARAC is coordinated by NPT Community Safety and chaired by South Wales Police. Local individuals are discussed by a number of agencies and an action plan is agreed to ensure they are appropriately supported and to monitor their progress.

This area of work has significant links with the reduction of Anti-Social Behaviour in our communities, and has mobilised well during the pandemic.



**South Wales  
Police**

**SCRUTINY**  
**FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

**March 2021 – 2022**

**Community Safety and Public Protection Scrutiny Sub Committee (All starting 10am unless otherwise stated)**

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Contact Officer
<b>2021</b>		
9 <sup>th</sup> July	Neath Town Centre Anti-Social Behaviour	Elinor Wellington
1 <sup>st</sup> October Page 20	Environmental Health/Trading Standards – Food Hygiene Inspections (Performance and Impact of Covid 19)	Ceri Morris / Mark Thomas
	Performance Report - Quarter 1 2021/22	Shaun Davies
12 <sup>th</sup> November (Special)	Update on Anti-Social Behaviour in general (all town centres and wider)	Elinor Wellington
17 <sup>th</sup> December (2.00 pm)	CCTV – Position Statement and Update	Chris Owen / Chris Cole
	Performance Report - Quarter 2 2021/22	Shaun Davies
	Update on NPT Safe Spaces	Elinor Wellington
<b>2022</b>		
18 <sup>th</sup> March	Update on Substance Misuse from the APB/APB Regional Team around the transformation project, how services have responded during Covid 19, what else is being developed and harm reduction work	Claire Jones
	Update on the ADDER project and funding (Rep from PCC's Office to be invited)	Claire Jones
	Performance Report - Quarter 3 2021/22	Shaun Davies



This page is intentionally left blank