

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND PUBLIC PROTECTION SUB COMMITTEE

(Committee Room 1/2 - Port Talbot Civic Centre)

Members Present:

30 October 2018

Chairperson: Councillor S.K.Hunt

Vice Chairperson: Councillor L.Jones

Councillors: C.J.Jones, N.T.Hunt, R.L.Taylor, R.W.Wood,
S.Rahaman and S.Pursesey

Officers In Attendance K.Jones, D.Cahill and J.Davies

Cabinet Invitees: Councillors A.Wingrave, D.W.Davies

1. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Committee noted the Minutes.

2. **RESOLVED TO ACT AS THE CRIME AND DISORDER SCRUTINY COMMITTEE IN LINE WITH SECTION 19 OF THE POLICE AND JUSTICE ACT 2006**

Members resolved to act as the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee.

3. **ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**

The committee received a verbal update from Chief Inspector Cahill of South Wales Police in relation to anti-social behaviour.

Chief Inspector Declan Cahill summarised the reasons for the conception of Operation Grey Denver. Chief Inspector Declan Cahill continued by informing the committee that there had been a loss of trust and confidence following issues in Neath Town Centre around anti-behaviour and substance misuse. Chief Inspector Cahill stated that Inspector Roy Portlock had devised an effective Patrol Strategy for Neath Town Centre to address the issues raised. Chief Inspector

Cahill commented that a media strategy had been set up jointly between South Wales Police and Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council which informed the public via social media of the good work being done to resolve the problems being encountered. Chief Inspector Cahill stated that a Street Vulnerable Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) had been set up with partner agencies to deal with any issues immediately. Chief Inspector Cahill reported that 17 third sector partners had attended the previous meeting. Chief Inspector Cahill informed the committee that 27 referrals had been received to date and fifty percent had accepted some form of assistance from partner agencies.

Chief Inspector Cahill reported that three Criminal Behaviour Orders (CBOs) were ongoing while the Police were gathering evidence. Chief Inspector Cahill commented that the order stipulated that an individual had to work closely with partners to address any issues with addictions to substances. Chief Inspector Cahill informed the committee that one individual who had gone through the process was now a reformed character and was now employed and wanted to apologise to the retailers where he had caused disruption. Chief Inspector Cahill reported that sharing resources amongst partners and working together was producing good results, and this was a good example.

Chief Inspector Declan Cahill updated the committee on the diverted giving scheme that had been implemented in Neath Town Centre, and informed Members that citizens were now being encouraged not to give donations directly to homeless individuals, but to place their contribution into a box where the money would be distributed according to need. Chief Inspector Declan Cahill stated that on the 8th December 2017 that staff from South Wales Police were permitted to collect money on behalf of homeless people at an Ospreys game. Chief Inspector Cahill added that partnership work was growing in strength but there was still more to do.

Members acknowledged the good work being carried out by South Wales Police and partners. Members added that they were aware that Santander would match contributions made by citizens as part of the diverted giving scheme. Members raised fears and concerns that

a new gang were now congregating outside the Neath train station that they had not seen before.

Members queried whether action was being taken to prevent under age people from purchasing alcohol in licensed establishments. Chief Inspector Declan Cahill reported that South Wales Police had inspected licensed premises and each one visited had passed.

Members queried what was being done to address substance misuse and anti-social behaviour issues in the Aberavon and Port Talbot wards. Chief Inspector Cahill reported that he had made contact with Inspector Donna Llewelyn who was dealing with these issues. Chief Inspector Cahill stated that there were issues with private rented accommodation, and that partners had met to discuss as part of the Partners Action Group.

Chief Inspector Cahill informed the committee that Operation Hazel had previously been carried out with British Transport Police to prevent new gangs coming on the train to Neath and dealing drugs. Chief Inspector Declan Cahill reported that Operation Hazel Two was launched and had been arranged on the 27th July to prevent county lines issues. Chief Inspector Cahill mentioned that inspectors had met with Environmental Health to deal with problematic properties and private landlords.

Members questioned whether the Police had received many reports of disturbances from multi occupancy properties. Chief Inspector Cahill stated that he did not have that information to hand. Members mentioned that the Environmental Health and Planning Department were able to do historical searches on the types of properties and that this information could be useful to the Police. Chief Inspector Cahill stated that the Police already linked in with these departments when necessary.

Members referred to Operation Hazel one and two, and questioned what the cost was to the Police with regard to police sniffer dog operations, and whether this would compromise any similar future activities. Chief Inspector Cahill informed the committee that this was the Police's own resource and therefore there was no additional cost associated with this. Chief Inspector Cahill added that the team were based in the Bridgend headquarters.

Members queried whether there were plans to source more CCTV cameras in the area in question. Chief Inspector Cahill commented that this was not a cost that the Police were accountable for. Chief Inspector Cahill added that additional CCTV cameras were not always cost effective. Officers stated that suggestions for additional cameras were often raised and people received conflicting advice. Officers informed the committee that when the Council introduced new CCTV cameras it had to consider whether it infringed citizens' human rights, particularly in residential areas. Officers stated that CCTV cameras were one of many techniques needed to address anti-social behavior, and it was important to have the right balance. Officers added that a review was currently being undertaken to look at the Authority's CCTV cameras and how to sustain them for the future. Members stated that they would like to receive the consultant's report that determined the location of the current CCTV cameras and informed the decisions to remove cameras from some areas and to install additional cameras in other areas. Officers stated they would share the report with the committee on the understanding that the report was private, as it contained commercially sensitive information.

Members commented that they were keen to understand the logic and the history for the current location of cameras before receiving a report on the progress of the review at the meeting on the 8th January. Members questioned whether the Police would be involved in the process for determining the future locations of CCTV cameras based on the data that they have at their disposal, and the potential gaps that they could identify. Officers explained that the Police were not providing an input into the new review, and that the focus was on finding ways to make the service sustainable. Officers reported that Briton Ferry Town Council had communicated with the Authority regarding the possibility of installing additional cameras in their area. Officers added that options had been explored to amalgamate the service with other services to sustain it, but these had proven unsuccessful. Members requested for a list of the CCTV cameras currently in operation and their locations to be included in the report due to come before the committee. Members requested further information to be included in the report such as when the cameras were installed, the reason why and whether the surveillance

tests was passed. Officers advised that information would be contained in the consultant's report which would be circulated on a 'confidential' basis.

Members commented that the "hot spots" may have changed since the last review on the CCTV cameras was carried out with the consultant. Chief Inspector Cahill stated that CCTV cameras would not always prevent groups from congregating in one area. Chief Inspector Cahill informed the committee that the Police used mobile CCTV cameras in Swansea city centre called "owl boxes." Chief Inspector Cahill added that these would be deployed to address hot spot areas for a limited amount of time, and required adequate signage to make members of the public aware of their presence so that their human rights were not infringed.

Following scrutiny, the committee noted the update from Chief Inspector Cahill.

4. **CYBER CRIME**

The committee received a verbal update from Chief Inspector Cahill of South Wales Police in relation to cyber-crime.

Chief Inspector Cahill informed the committee that cyber crime was a difficult area to address currently. Chief Inspector Cahill reported that 188 cyber related crimes had taken place in Neath Port Talbot between August 2017 and July 2018, and that 316 incidents had been reported to Trading Standards. Chief Inspector Cahill stated that an officer had been especially appointed to educate parents on the dangers of cyber crime and to raise awareness. Chief Inspector Cahill stated that the officer was responsible for meeting with victims and following up within three to six months to ensure that they had put the advice received into practice and were being vigilant while online. Chief Inspector Cahill explained that the Police were trying to raise awareness of the risks by targeting parents and students. Chief Inspector Cahill informed members that an awareness campaign was planned for Black Friday utilising social media platforms such as Twitter and Facebook. Inspector Cahill stated that two officers were currently covering Neath Port Talbot and Swansea and dealing with cyber crime by going to care homes and supported housing to educate elderly citizens. Chief Inspector Cahill informed the

committee that a lot of work was taking place to address the issue of cyber crime.

Members commented that it was important that the Authority worked with the Police to push their messages to a wider audience via the Council's own communication channels. Chief Inspector Cahill explained that Operation Signature was working in partnership with all responsible authorities to circulate and distribute these messages as far possible.

Members queried whether fraud was the main issue in relation to cyber crime. Chief Inspector Cahill explained that bullying and online grooming were also key issues as well as fraud. Officers explained that cyber crime was going to be one of the Community Safety Partnership's main priorities for the coming year. Officers added that the focus was on putting preventative measures in place, because once the crime had been committed it was difficult to track down the perpetrators as many operated from different countries from around the world.

Members questioned whether there had been any successful enforcements following online fraud. Chief Inspector Cahill explained that it was difficult to tell as online fraud was dealt with by banks and Action Fraud. Chief Inspector Cahill added that the Police did have officers that investigated online paedophile rings, but it could take years to build up robust cases for these crimes and to identify individual perpetrators.

Members commented that the nature of the different types of cyber crimes being committed cross cut many areas of public services. Members queried how joined up were the services in responding to cyber crime. Chief Inspector Cahill explained that work was in progress to ensure that there was a more joined up approach from partners to cyber crime. Chief Inspector Cahill stated that the Police were working with the banks and were working with schools and the Education Directorate in the Council,

Members questioned whether the Police were engaging locally with administrators of social media sites regarding racially motivated comments on their forums. Chief Inspector Cahill explained that the Police monitor Facebook and Twitter sites but did not have the power

to remove content; however the Police would make contact with any individual who committed a hate crime and possibly take action where necessary. Members queried whether closed groups were monitored. Chief Inspector confirmed that the Police did monitor closed groups.

Members commented that they would be prepared to assist the Police by placing any messages on cyber crime in the newsletters to the electorate and by re-tweeting or forwarding any messages from the Police on cyber crime on their individual accounts.

Members queried whether the Police could trace perpetrators IP addresses. Chief Inspector Cahill stated that this was within the Police's ability.

Following scrutiny, the committee noted the update from Chief Inspector Cahill.

5. **SUBSTANCE MISUSE**

The Committee received information in relation to Substance Misuse as contained within the circulated report.

Officers informed the committee that following serious concerns regarding risks, threats and harm associated with substance misuse, including a rise in violence and preventable deaths that the Public Service Board had created a Critical Incident Group (CIG) made of members from partner organisations. Officers stated that the group were looking at issues across the local authority areas of Neath Port Talbot and Swansea. Officers explained that an action plan had been developed by the group and that the main priorities included freeing up Police capacity to deal with issues in relation to county lines by releasing police officers from hospitals sooner, and by minimising the amount of time spent on dealing with issues regarding Looked After Children. Officers stated that a dedicated officer from Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board (ABMU) was now sitting in the South Wales Police call centre to provide advice on drug related issues and how to assist addicts. Officers explained that a lot of work was ongoing over the next few months, and that communication over the radio, digital and traditional means would take place so that communities and citizens knew what to look out for and how to report

any issues. Officers stated that this would send a message to the crime gangs that partners were taking the matter seriously.

Officers reported that there were real concerns over the number of drug related deaths in Neath Port Talbot and Swansea. Officers stated that the group had identified a need to develop an outreach programme to identify and engage with people who were not receiving help through services provided by partner organisations. Officers stated that it was important to find, keep and treat these people. Officers explained that those who did engage with services and had addiction to various substances could wait up to two years for treatment, by which time they are taking a concoction of different substances to satisfy their addictions which were harmful and sometimes fatal. Officers stated that there needed to be swifter and immediate action taken. Officers explained that communication and reporting of rogue batches of substances between agencies in a timely manner would also save lives.

Officers reported some services needed to be re-commissioned in future to meet the need. Officers explained that school and universities had very universal programmes to educate young people when it was possible that a more targeted approach was required.

Officers informed the committee that the Area Planning Board (APB) had re-focused their priorities. Officers stated that drug related deaths had doubled in the past 10 years and that arrangements needed to be made fit for purpose. Officers informed the committee that there was a follow up meeting planned for December and that the Board would then assess the impact at the end of February. Officers suggested that the committee may want an update from the Board at some point to hold the APB to account.

Members referred to the second bullet point on appendix one of the report, and questioned how partners would assist the Police in freeing up time to disrupt drug related crimes; and the seventh bullet point and questioned how partners would remove barriers and silos to ensure effective working across partnership agencies. Officers explained that there was an issue around the amount of time that the Police were spending on cases regarding Looked After Children. Officers stated that the Council's Chief Executive would be

addressing the issue. Officers added that the Chair of the Critical Incident Group had also asked ABMU for the protocol for the ambulance service to be reviewed in order to free up time spent by Police officers at hospitals.

Members queried at which point would a looked after child be considered missing and would then become the responsibility of the Police. Chief Inspector Cahill stated that the missing child would become the responsibility of South Wales Police Western BCU and not just resources in Neath Port Talbot, from the moment the child was reported missing to the Police; however it had been discussed at the CIG whether action could be taken by providers and foster parents so that the Police were not always contacted in the first instance.

6. **FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2018/19**

The committee requested for representatives from the APB and particularly ABMU to be present for the next Substance Misuse update in order to provide a position statement on what was being done to tackle drug related deaths in the county borough.

The committee requested that it would like to look at issues regarding Cybercrime at a future meeting.

The committee requested for the report on CCTV to be brought back to the next meeting. The committee also requested for the consultant's report to be circulate to Members in the meantime.

Officers queried whether the committee still wished to embark on a task and finish group to look at substance misuse/anti social behavior issues in Aberavon and Port Talbot following targeted efforts made by the Police in Aberavon. Officers added that an action group had now been set up in Aberavon and Local Members were involved. The committee confirmed that it no longer wished to set up a task and finish group following recent Police efforts. Members queried whether the action group looked at issues within the Port Talbot ward also. Officers stated that the action group only looked at issues within the Aberavon ward; however the suggestion for an action group in the Port Talbot ward would be fed back to the Police.

CHAIRPERSON