

**CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE**  
**COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**  
**HELD ON MONDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2018 AT 3:30 P.M.**  
**IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK**  
**PART 1**

PRESENT:  
Councillors

Allen, F.W.C. (Chairman)  
Hewitt, P.M. (Vice-Chairman)

Buttery, M.S.      Foley, D.  
Cooper, Miss J.    Freeman, Miss M.A.  
Davis, Mrs. M.A.   Startin, P.D.

Also in attendance –

- Chief Inspector S. Wainwright, Cannock Chase Local Policing Team, Staffordshire Police.
- Ms. S. Black, Families First Child Sexual Exploitation Co-ordinator, Staffordshire County Council.

**9. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were submitted for Councillors Miss M.J Dudson, J.P. Johnson and D.J. Snape.

**10. Declarations of Interests of Members in Contracts and Other Matters and Restrictions on Voting by Members and Party Whip Declarations**

No declarations of interests or party whip declarations were received.

*(Councillor Mrs. M.A. Davis arrived at the meeting during this item.)*

**11. Minutes**

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 17 July, 2018, be approved as a correct record and signed.

**12. Scrutiny Review – Child Exploitation and ‘County Lines’**

Members noted the contents of the review scope and briefing documents enclosed with the agenda (Item 4.1 – 4.80 of the Official Minutes of the Council), and received presentations from Chief Inspector Wainwright on ‘County Lines’,

and Ms. S. Black on Child Exploitation.

The presentation from Chief Inspector Wainwright covered the following:

- ‘Following a Business Model’
- County Lines Definition (produced by the National Crime Agency);
- Case study
- Operation ENGAGED;
- Operation Ribble and Operation Rufino;
- County Lines – Warning Signs / Indicators;
- Partnership Support – Opportunities;
- Referral Methods.

A Member queried what evidence there was of vulnerable people in the District being exploited. Chief Inspector Wainwright replied that there were people on the periphery that the Police had been concerned about, but only a small number of referrals had been made this year.

The same Member then queried whether much co-operation was received from mobile phone companies to help tackle issues related to County Lines. Chief Inspector Wainwright replied that companies were co-operative, but getting hold of the necessary data and sourcing the right individuals from that data was extremely time consuming.

The same Member then queried what assistance councillors could give to the Police on this issue. Chief Inspector Wainwright replied that councillors were encouraged to keep providing any information or intelligence they may receive, or ask members of the public to make direct contact with the Police.

Another Member asked if any activity was ongoing as a result of Operation Ribble and Operation Rufino. Chief Inspector Wainwright replied that nothing specific was ongoing, thus allowing the Police to focus on tackling day-to-day drugs related issues.

Another Member then asked that as many people were reluctant to use the 101 non-emergency number, could email contact be used instead. Chief Inspector Wainwright replied that 101 should always be used to report crimes, but email contact could be used to provide information on existing cases.

The same Member then queried if front-line Council staff were provided with information related to County Lines issues. The Partnerships, Community Safety & CCTV Manager replied that conversations happened on a daily basis within relevant teams about any issues raised. Chief Inspector Wainwright further replied that the Police received a lot of support from the Council in helping to deal with crime/community safety issues.

Another Member then queried if there was any way of counteracting the use of mobile phones anonymously. Chief Inspector Wainwright replied that it was difficult for the police to tackle this particular issue as the usage of pay-as-you-go mobiles was difficult to track as trace, as such phones could easily be purchased using false information.

A Member then suggested that a letter be sent to the Government, on behalf of the Committee, recommending that the law be changed to stop mobile phones being purchased and used anonymously, thereby making it easier for relevant authorities to tackle County Lines issues.

*(Chief Inspector Wainwright left the meeting following the conclusion of the presentation.)*

The presentation from Ms. Black covered the following:

- Aim of the session;
- Risk Factor Matrix;
- Current picture – barriers;
- Local picture of CSE;
- Age and Gender;
- Examples of Locality Info/Hotspot;
- Identified Themes across the area;
- The importance of Disruption;
- Multiagency Disruption Techniques;
- Background;
- Factors to Consider in Assessment;
- Outcomes;
- Key contacts.

A Member queried if those persons being exploited and were classed as being in isolated communities had an ethnic or religious prominence (or lack of such). Ms. Black replied that work on cultural awareness and understanding was currently being strengthened locally and nationally in order to try and improve engagement with different groups.

Another Member then queried of the total number of exploited children referenced in the presentation, how many were from this District. Ms. Black replied that this data would have to be sourced from the main report, but the figures provided could only account for known cases of exploitation. At present, no particular issues existed within the District. Where cases had been identified, disruption techniques were used to deal with any associated issues.

*(Ms. Black left the meeting following the conclusion of the presentation.)*

Following the conclusion of both presentations, Members commended the work undertaken by Staffordshire Police and Staffordshire County Council to try and tackle County Lines and Child Exploitation issues.

The Chairman suggested that a letter be sent to the Staffordshire Commissioner for Police, Fire & Rescue and Crime (PFCC) detailing the recommendations of the Committee on this review, once finalised.

A Member recommended that as part of that letter, the case should be made that relevant bodies be given extra funding to help further tackle the aforementioned issues. Another Member noted that funding issues had not been mentioned in either presentation.

**13. Quarter 2 2018/19 Community Wellbeing (Community Safety, Partnerships and Environment) Priority Delivery Plan Update**

Members considered and noted the latest performance information for the 2018/19 Community Wellbeing (Community Safety, Partnerships and Environment) Priority Delivery Plan (Item 5.1 – 5.7 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

**14. Community Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2018/19 Update**

The Chairman drew Members' attention to the updated work programme (Item 6.1 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

Following the earlier discussion on the Child Exploitation and County Lines review, it was agreed that Members would review the presentations outside of the meeting and submit to the Senior Committee Officer any comments or recommendations for inclusion in the review final report which would be presented to the Committee in March 2019 for consideration.

The meeting closed at 5:05 p.m.

---

CHAIRMAN