

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
SAFER AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, 23 SEPTEMBER 2008 AT 4.00 P.M.
IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors

Jones, R. (Chairman)

Bennett, K. L.	Kraujalis, J. T.
Bullock, L. W.	Jillings, J.
Green, M. R.	Mawle, D. L.

(An apology for absence was received from Councillor Mrs. D. M. Todd. The Head of Environmental Health informed the Committee that apologies had also been received from Staffordshire Police who should have been attending in connection with item 5 on the agenda, 'Policing Green Paper').

9. Minutes

The Committee noted that neighbourhood watch schemes had recently received local press coverage and it was envisaged that more schemes would be set up in the future.

AGREED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 19 August 2008 be approved as a correct record.

10. Domestic Violence

The Committee received a presentation from Philippa Carr, Domestic Violence Co-ordinator.

It was explained that domestic abuse was any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) between persons who were or had been intimate partners or family members. Domestic abuse affected 1 in 4 women and 1 in 6 men within their lifetime. Research intimated that it could take on average 35 incidents to have occurred before abuse was reported to the police. Within Cannock Chase, 2113 domestic abuse incidents had been reported to Staffordshire Police during 2007/08 and this formed 27% of violent crime between April-June 2008.

Police data for the year 2006/07, showed that a total of 686 incidents had been reported with 105 children being present during the offences. It was estimated that the cost to Cannock Chase was £44.908 million for that year and £25.261 billion nationally.

Philippa reported that a Inter Personal Violence and Abuse Strategy 2008-2011 was being formulated in consultation with other agencies which covered the following four themes:-

- Service Provision
- Training and Awareness
- Protection and Justice
- Equality and Diversity.

Cannock Chase Council currently provided accommodation for the Staffordshire Women's Aid Outreach Service. However there was no formal commitment and this did not therefore allow for future planning. Chase PAIRs were holding a 'Month to Count' campaign based on matters raised following consultations with service providers to identify gaps and issues for improvement.

Domestic violence was sometimes confused with anti social behaviour and it was important that clear protocols were developed detailing clear and appropriate actions in relation to domestic violence. Philippa informed the Committee that she considered that it would be beneficial if the Council had a specified domestic violence champion.

It was also explained that further training for front line staff needed to be undertaken with respect to:-

- General awareness
- Perpetrators
- Employee policy

In order to raise awareness of domestic abuse within the community, a socks campaign and a play entitled 'he brings me red roses' had been undertaken which had received publicity.

It was considered that further analysis needed to be carried out to ascertain where best to channel resources to tackle domestic violence and the Partnership Development Manager informed the Committee that a crime analyst would be appointed shortly and this would be a key task.

It was explained that a white ribbon campaign was to be carried out in November with men being asked to wear the ribbon to symbolise their commitment not to commit, condone or remain silent about violence towards women. The Committee considered that the Council should support the campaign, although they expressed the view that there should be some form of symbol against domestic violence to anyone. Members suggested that the ribbon, or a similar symbol, be worn by Members at a full meeting of the Council and the reason behind it be included on the agenda.

The Committee thanked Philippa for the work she had carried out for the Authority and wished her well with her visit to Australia.

AGREED

- (A) That Cabinet be requested that Cannock Chase Council support the white ribbon campaign, or a similar symbol, to be held in November 2008.
- (B) That, subject to (A) above, Members be requested to wear the ribbon at a full meeting of the Council and the reason behind it be included on the agenda.

11. Policing Green Paper 'From the neighbourhood to the national: policing our communities together'

Discussion took place on the Policing Green Paper and that the Council had until 10 October 2008 to respond with their views. The Partnership Development Manager informed the Committee that he would draft a response on behalf of the authority which he would circulate to the Committee for their views.

AGREED

That the Partnership Development Manager drafts a response on behalf of the Council, on the Policing Green Paper to be circulated to the Safer & Stronger Communities Policy Development Committee for their views.

12. Work Programme 2008/09

Discussion took place on the work programme. It was requested mini motos and associated problems be included for consideration.

The Partnership Development Manager informed the Committee that an Anti Social Behaviour Co-ordinator had been appointed and would be producing a strategy for addressing this issue. An item had been included for discussion at the meeting scheduled for 21 October but he considered that the Committee may wish to defer this until a later meeting when the Co-ordinator would be able to provide more detailed information.

The Committee requested that a further meeting be arranged for early December 2008.

AGREED

- (A) That ways to overcome problems associated with mini motos be included in the Work Programme.
- (B) That consideration of the development of a strategy for addressing anti social behaviour be deferred from 21 October 2008 meeting to a later date.
- (C) That a further meeting be arranged for early December 2008.

CHAIRMAN