

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
SAFER AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
MONDAY, 19 JANUARY 2009 AT 4.00 P.M.
IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors

Jones, R. (Chairman)

Bennett, K. L.	Mawle, D. L.
Bullock, L. W.	Todd, Mrs. D. M.
Kraujalis, J. T.	

(An apology for absence was received from Councillor M. R. Green, Vice-Chairman).

17. Minutes

AGREED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 25 November 2008 be approved as a correct record.

18. Staffordshire Intensive Family Support Service (SIFS)

Nick Hackney, Partnership Development Officer, informed the Committee that he had that day been informed that Emily Watson, Children's Service Manager, Barnardos Staffordshire, was unable to attend the meeting. He would endeavour to obtain relevant information relating to Staffordshire Intensive Family Support Service and forward this to Members.

19. The Policing and Crime Bill

Nick Hackney, Partnership Development Manager gave an oral update on the Policing and Crime Bill which was published on 18 December 2008, but had not yet received Royal Assent.

The main aims of the Bill were to increase effectiveness and public accountability of policing by empowering local people and giving them a stronger voice in police decision making. The Police would have greater freedom and discretion on local policing priorities. Local Government had expressed concern that the Bill proposed the reform of police authorities by replacing Councillors with directly elected Crime and Policing Representatives (CPRs) as proposed in the Green Paper. This had now been removed from the provisions of the Bill and it was proposed to place a statutory requirement on the police to engage with people locally. Although at present the police did consult with the public, it was not a statutory duty. H.M. Inspectorate of Constabulary would assess the police authority's performance with regard to this issue.

The Bill proposed the introduction of a statutory Code of Practice on the sale of alcohol and the Secretary of State could impose mandatory conditions for all premises with premises licences, without exemption. Local authorities would be able to impose conditions on existing licences in a particular locality where problems had arisen. Local Authorities had expressed concern that if blanket regulations were imposed, these could cause significant burdens on local establishments such as village halls, community clubs etc.

The regulation of lap dancing establishments would be tightened under the Bill by amending the statutory definition of sex establishments to include sex encounter venues and Councils would be allowed to impose conditions when considering the granting of licences.

It was proposed to amend the legislation around the powers to search, seize and retain property under the proceeds of crime legislation, but the implications for Local Authorities were not clear at present.

The Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership would have additional responsibility to reduce re-offending and Probation Trusts would be included in the list of Responsible Authorities. The Bill would contain a clause to amend the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to achieve these two objectives.

20. Work Programme 2008/09

Discussion took place on the work programme.

The Chairman explained that the meeting scheduled for 26 March 2009 would now be held on Tuesday, 31st March. It was considered that an additional meeting of the Committee should be held in April 2009 in view of the heavy workload.

Nick Hackney informed the Committee that he would liaise with Jonathan Bletcher from the PCT with respect to him attending a future meeting to provide details on the development of a District Alcohol Strategy.

The Committee requested that a representative from Barnardos be invited to a future meeting to provide information on the Staffordshire Intensive Family Support Service.

AGREED

That:-

- (A) The meeting of the Safer & Stronger Communities Policy Development Committee scheduled for 26 March 2009 be re-arranged for 31 March 2009.
- (B) An additional meeting of the Committee be held in April 2009.
- (C) A representative from Barnardos be invited to a future meeting to report on the Staffordshire Intensive Family Support Service.

CHAIRMAN