



Safer Neighbourhood Panel – Cannock Chase

Tuesday 15th August 2017

Coniston Hall, Chadsmoor, Cannock, Staffs WS11 5HG

Attendees:

Lesley Harrison	Chair - Rugeley Resident
Gill Thomas	Panel member - Rugeley resident
Sarah Wainwright	Commander - Cannock LPT
Mark Ward	Inspector - Cannock LPT
Mike Tams	Panel member - Rugeley resident
Pat Tams	Panel member – Rugeley resident
Warwick Bourton	Panel member - Rugeley resident
Bev Henderson	Panel member - Rugeley resident
Dave Lucas	Panel member – Rugeley resident
John Bernard	Panel member – Heath Hayes resident
Jodie Townsend	OPCC Interim Head of Governance and Assurance
Alan Edwards	ETAP
Jan Matthews	Support Staffordshire Cannock Chase (minutes)

Welcome, introductions and apologies

Lesley welcomed Sarah, John and Jodie and thanked them for attending their first meeting and thanked all other members for their continued support.

Sarah gave a brief introduction around her role and background. She has a lot experience in different areas of police work and is looking forward to working back in the Cannock Chase area. She has recently moved from Offender Management. Sarah will welcome questions which will be given to her in advance of the meeting.

Jodie gave a brief description of his interim role in the OPCC. While he is post he will be overseeing parts of Junaid's work. He offered his support in helping to move the panels forward and fully understood the panel members concerns about not being valued and supported, lack of training; recruitment and difficulty in viewing the work of the panel on the OPCC website.

Apologies

Sue Thornley

Bryan Jones

Carl Bennett

Minutes of last meeting

One amendment KMPG should read KPMG.

Matters arising (not covered by agenda items)

KPMG – Target model described by Sarah – priorities include: visibility, neighbourhood policing, I.T upgrade, partnership working.

ACTION: Sarah to feedback further at next meeting

Chairs' Forum – was cancelled – no new date has been announced yet

ACTION: Jodie to complete new guidelines to be issued at Chair's Forum

Mental Health Cop – Inspector Michael Brown

ACTION: Jan to distribute link to Mental Health Cop website to panel members

A panel member asked if police staff have undertaken and dementia training. Mark explained that dementia training is not done specifically but police take part in some on line training which includes short modules including a limited amount of information on mental health conditions. Mark suggested that maybe the residents would benefit from a visit from a trainer who has personal experiences to support panel work.

LPT Commander Update, questions/answers

Q.1. What are the main challenges local police officers face in dealing with situations involving mental health?

A. Limited powers; custody cells are not appropriate; officers have received some but not extensive training; resources; cannot always get a 24 hour response from Mental Health teams; no access to GP records so don't know the full picture; LPT are usually first on the scene – it is more appropriate to have a MH team there first; can't always get hold of relevant services; the law doesn't always allow officers to act & help as needed.

Q.2. What strategies are currently in place to enable effective responses to people with mental health / other issues?

A. A pilot has been trialled over the last 18 months. A Triage car manned by a police officer and a Mental Health team member has been successful with most appropriate staff working at critical times. The pilot will still be in place over the next few months. A gap analysis will take

place to see where the gaps are for future funding. Physical injury always takes precedence over a mental health illness. Officers stay with person in A & E until they are safe. Best practice is shared nationally via forums.

Q.3. How have these strategies impacted in terms of police work and also 'client' experience?

A. Positive feedback has been received from family members and partners.

Q.4. How confident is the LPT in current systems to prevent poor communication between the police and other agencies which impacts on work with people with mental health issues, for example:

a). How quickly can a Mental Health Team usually be involved?

A. The Mental Health Team are engaged as soon as possible, sometimes involving the nearest next force area. It is problematic when the Triage Car is not available as referring services are not always available 24/7.

b) Do the LPT have designated officers for Mental Health involvement?

A. No designated officers. Staff swap around as needed.

c) It is important for a Mental Health professional to be involved once a situation has escalated to prevent the situation worsening. Does this happen?

A. It is more important for more work on prevention to take place to avoid the situation escalating.

d) Are there police personnel with Mental Health experience on call if there is not a member of a crisis team available?

A. Not always. There is a resource knock on effect involving LPT, GP's, finance, targets, and referrals. Suggest that we contact Di Malkin from the LPT Vulnerability Strand to attend a residents meeting to discuss further.

ACTION: Jan to invite Di Malkin to next residents meeting.

Resident Sub Group meeting feedback

Recruitment – A panel press release has been prepared following on from an article in the City Life magazine. It will be sent to City Life for inclusion in the October edition. The article mentions specific towns within the Cannock Chase District. Pat has done a brilliant article, please look out for it. It is felt that the OPCC need to support the panels more in recruitment. There has also been a press release issued by the OPCC which was also distributed on Smart Alert.

Development.

For the Panel to progress further, new members require an induction presentation and training to be able to carry out scrutiny roles and all panel members require training in writing-up

scrutiny paperwork. The table top exercise organised by Geoff Knight was extremely helpful in supporting panel members to understand the day to day work in the LPT Operations unit.

Future priorities.

Mental Health

Police Visibility

Spit Hoods

Further stop & Search (preferably where mental health issues are involved).

Jodie responded to the comments above agreeing the OPCC need to give the panels more support including recruitment, training in all areas and scrutiny report writing. He understands that as more panel members join the panel they also need training to enable scrutiny to take place and not all current members have had opportunities to take part in much training. He will be pushing forward with this and will be taking the issues back to the OPCC. He will also feedback the positive comments about the table top exercise.

Mark suggested it would be helpful for the panel to hear about policing resources in context to help the panel's work

ACTION: Mark/Sarah to provide at next meeting

A discussion took place around whether police departments could be scrutinised other than LPT's.

Mental Health TOR

Everyone agreed the updated version

Training

Has been discussed above.

Summary: repeat/additional training needed in all areas to support the panel to function effectively. OPCC need to do more to support panels.

ETAP update

Alan reported that there has been an improvement in Financial Management/Transformation Investment. An exhaustive scrutiny review has taken place on Care in Custody. The result is that it is fit for purpose. The review can be found on the OPCC website.

ACTION: Jan to ask Alan to provide a summary report of the review for the panel

The next ETAP review is going to be on the Police and Fire Collaboration Governance.

AOB

Dave and Bryan have been in contact with Vic Farrar at the OPCC regarding information on stats on Mental Health. Vic has responded to say that she will look at it. Awaiting further response from Vic.

If anyone would like to take part in a Dementia Friends session, just google Dementia Friends, pop in your post code and book yourself in to a session. Lasts about an hour and is free

Election of Chair

The guidelines state that a Chairperson is elected every 12 months which is now overdue. Lesley will step aside if anyone wishes to nominate themselves or other panel members. She will stay till the end of the year if no offer comes forward.

Close of meeting

Lesley thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for all of their support.

2017 meetings:

Tue 26 Sep	2pm	Residents interim meeting	Coniston Hall (venue tbc)
Wed 15 Nov	7pm	Main panel meeting	Aquarius Ballroom,
Wed 6th Dec	2pm	Residents interim meeting	Coniston Hall (venue tbc)