

## **SELECT COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY SAFETY**

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2005, at 6.00 p.m.  
in Committee Room 3, Council House, Dudley

### **PRESENT:-**

Councillor Blood (Chairman)  
Councillor Cotterill (Vice Chairman)  
Councillors Attwood, Ms Craigie, Finch, Ms Foster, Harley, Male,  
Mrs Turner and A Turner.

### **Officers**

Lead Officer to the Committee (Chief Executives Directorate), Principal  
Lawyer (Directorate of Law and Property), Assistant Director (Directorate  
of Adult, Community and Housing Services), Community Safety Manager  
and Commissioning Manager (Community Safety, Chief Executive's  
Directorate), Local Authority Liaison Inspector (Police), Assistant Director  
(Legal and Democratic Services) Head of Policy and Strategic Anti-Social  
Behaviour Co-ordinator (Chief Executives Directorate)  
Mrs J Holland (Directorate of Law and Property)

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### **MINUTES**

#### **RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 29<sup>th</sup>  
September 2005 be approved as a correct record and signed,  
subject to the following amendment:

Pg 9 Para 2 - After the words "Dawn Hewitt and Members of the  
Community Safety Team (Chief Executives) in the final paragraph  
of the preamble to Minute 12, the insertion of the words "in  
preparation for the CPA and identifying evidence pertaining to the  
Audit Commission Key Lines of Enquiry.....".

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### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No Member made a declaration of interest in accordance with the  
Members' Code of Conduct.

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### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Mrs Dunn Ms D Hewitt (Head of Community Safety) and Mr M Gallikowski (Youth Offending Team).

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16                    APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTE FOR THIS MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE

It was reported that Councillor Attwood had been appointed to serve as a substitute for Councillor Mrs Dunn for this meeting of the Committee only.

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17                    COMMUNITY SAFETY TEAM

The Head of Policy, Mr G Thomas, presented an overview of the current work being undertaken, and planned future initiatives being carried out, by the Community Safety Team.

In making the presentation, Mr Thomas stated that the raised profile of Community Safety issues during the past five years had been expected, reflected public opinion, and had been based on a significant increase in the range of activity undertaken by the Council, through pooling funding from Government, Health Sector and the Local Authority. He explained the background to the work of the Team, including the legislative context and the recent merger of DATT (Drug and Alcohol Team) and the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership. He confirmed that Councillor L Jones had been appointed as a member of the newly formed Strategic Safe and Sound Partnership..

Inspector Cook explained the “LALO” role (a police post based within each Borough) stating that a key initiative was joint tasking, although resources were limited. A performance management system had been put in place and performance indicators showed that the performance was strong. Partnership working was operating in Dudley “hot spots” and criminal damage issues were being tackled. CRIG (Crime Reduction Implementation Group) was monitoring the initiative with a view to extending it Borough-wide.

Inspector Cook also reported on the progress of other initiatives, including a Childrens’ Fund Steering Group with a budget of £1.1/2m of which a quarter was allocated to Youth Offending issues. Partnership working was also taking place at Pensnett School and an alcohol referral programme was in hand that was likely to be evaluated on a trial basis by the government with a view to it being extended to other areas. He explained that the Prolific and Priority Offender initiative had developed a strong partnership ethos and had produced some excellent results.

Mr A Winning, Strategic Anti Social Behaviour Co-ordinator explained the roles and responsibilities of members of his team, namely Ms A Beard, (Domestic Abuse), and Mr P Burford. He explained that Mr Burford had dealt with a caseload of one hundred and eighty cases over the last six months mainly consisting of liaison with complainants and perpetrators of anti social behaviour and nuisance. Other members of the team were Ms N Sharma and Ms Katriona Lafferty who was based with the Youth Offending Team.

In response to a question from Councillor Attwood, Mr Winning informed the Committee that work with vulnerable older people was ongoing as was contact with schools.

Following the presentation a short discussion ensued and, in response to questions from Members with regard to the crime figures for Stourbridge, Inspector Cook agreed the evidence can suggest that alcohol and the incidence of crime in Stourbridge was related.

In response to a question from Councillor Attwood querying whether figures gathered by the "Park Watch" had been included, Mr Thomas stated he would look into this and report back once he had ascertained the information.

In response to concerns expressed by Members regarding the impact of the new Licensing Legislation on crime, Mr Tart, Assistant Director Legal and Democratic Services, reported that over eight hundred applications for new licences had now been processed and that a meeting would be held in the near future between key police officers and Council Officers regarding enforcement activity post 24<sup>th</sup> November 2005, in order to avoid duplication.

The Chairman expressed disappointment at the lack of police support at Licensing Hearings, but expressed the hope that the police would become more proactive once the new licences came into force on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2005, particularly at meetings to consider complaints of nuisance from local residents resulting from the new licence issued.

Councillor Turner and Councillor Ms Craigie praised the efforts of Mr Burford and his team with regard to work they had undertaken on their behalf with older residents and the visits Mr Burford made to liaise on issues associated with neighbourhood nuisance and anti social behaviour. Councillor Cotterill also praised the work undertaken by Mr Burford.

Mr Thomas introduced Ms E Hopwood (Commissioning Manager) who explained the role of the National Treatment Agency and the reporting procedures with regard to substance misuse. She stated that the issue of substance misuse was a high priority in the Dudley Borough Strategy and that the Borough was on target to increase the numbers of people being treated for their addiction.

Ms Hopwood explained the work her team were undertaking, particularly the involvement with the Drug Intervention Programme and drug prevention in general.

Mr Thomas presented the crime statistics produced by the Dudley Partnership and advised the Committee that there would be a fresh round of LPSA2 targets to meet with effect from April 2006 and the Select Committee needed to become involved in the scrutiny.

#### RESOLVED

That Mr Thomas, Mr Winning and Miss Hopwood be thanked for their interesting and informative presentations and that the presentations be noted.

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The meeting ended at 7.30 pm.

CHAIRMAN