

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

**PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY, COMMUNITIES & PROSPERITY SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE SITTING AS THE COUNCIL'S DESIGNATED CRIME & DISORDER
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

(Under Sections 19 & 20 of the Police and Justice Act 2006)

Minutes of the meeting held at the Council Headquarters, The Pavilions, Clydach Vale on
Monday, 11th January 2016, at 5.00 p.m.

PRESENT

County Borough Councillor G.R.Davies – in the Chair

County Borough Councillors

S A Bradwick	P Howe
J Bunnage	L Langford
S Carter	(Mrs) S Pickering
(Mrs) A Davies	(Mrs) A Roberts
G Holmes	R Yeo

Officers:-

Chief Superintendent Sally Burke, South Wales Police & Divisional Commander for
RCT & Merthyr Tydfil

Mr P Mee – Service Director Public Health & Protection

Mr A Mallin – Community Safety & Licensing Manager

Mr A Wilkins – Head of Legal, Corporate & Democratic Services

Ms L Davies – Head of Environmental Health, Trading Standards & Community
Safety

In Attendance:-

County Borough Councillor R. Smith – Chair of Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny
Committee

County Borough Councillor (Mrs) J Rosser – Cabinet Member for Safer
Communities, Libraries & Heritage

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology of absence was received from County Borough Councillors J Bonetto,
(Mrs) L De Vet, M Weaver, D Weeks and T Williams

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In accordance with the Code of Conduct, there were no personal declarations of
interests made, pertaining to the agenda

3. **WELCOME**

The Chairman formally welcomed Chief Superintendent Sally Burke, County Borough Councillor R W Smith, Chair of the Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee and (Mrs) J Rosser, Cabinet Member for Safer Communities, Libraries & Heritage to this, the Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee sitting as the Council's designated Crime & Disorder Scrutiny Committee (under Sections 19 & 20 of the Police Justice Act 2006).

4. **COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP UPDATE – STRATEGIC PROJECTS & PRIORITIES**

In conjunction with the report of the Group Director, Community & Children's Services the Committee received the Service Director, Public Health & Protection, the Community Safety & Licensing Manager and the Chief Superintendent & Divisional Commander, South Wales Police who, with the aid of PowerPoint slides provided Members with an update of the strategic projects and priorities of the Community Safety Partnership (CPS) in Rhondda Cynon Taf.

Chief Superintendent Sally Burke reported that there has been opportunity to consider the future strategic direction of community safety in Rhondda Cynon Taf and the Cwm Taf region, specifically more robust governance arrangements for community safety which can only be achieved through the rationalisation of the existing partnership arrangements and by exploring opportunities for integration of services. The review of the community safety partnership landscape has been ongoing with a view to forming a clear view around governance structures and the results of these discussions and meetings will be reported back to the Regional Collaboration Board In February 2016 with a view to having significantly more streamlined and efficient services and processes in place which will help improve reporting mechanisms. The Service Director Public Health & Protection added that the partnership landscape has evolved and he fully supports the work of the Chief Superintendent to progress these proposals and join up the regional Cwm Taf footprint.

Following the address by the Chief Superintendent, a number of questions were asked by Members in respect of many issues such as substance misuse and domestic violence. Members expressed concern at the limited powers held by their local PCSO's to tackle anti social behaviour and at the diminishing numbers within their communities.

It was acknowledged by the Chief Superintendent that the PCSO role could benefit from having increased powers but added that they are crucial in gathering intelligence on the ground which is a vital tool in the fight against substance misuse and anti social behaviour. It was explained that a tenure of two years is now in place for all new PCSO recruits, a step change which may help maintain some stability regarding recruitment and for the local communities. The Chief Superintendent confirmed that a number of PCSO's have recently been recruited and will be visible in the communities shortly.

The Chief Superintendent considered the role of the local Councillor to be a reliable and valuable source of information for the Police due to their engagement with the communities in which they live, helping to tackle anti social behaviour at a local level and recognised that having an open and honest dialogue is key to developing a strong partnership environment. Committee was reminded that any feedback and challenges are welcome to ensure that South Wales Police is listening and

responding to the needs of the local communities and stressed the importance of South Wales Police being held to account (linking this in with some potential, future opportunities for joint scrutiny involving Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr Tydfil).

It was agreed that Committee should have sight of the South Wales Police & Crime Reduction Plan 2016-21 which would serve as a useful tool in understanding the South Wales Police vision, values and principles. Members felt that it would also be of benefit to this Committee if the South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner is invited to attend a future Crime & Disorder Scrutiny Committee.

The Service Director Public Health & Protection continued with the presentation regarding the topic of substance misuse and set out details of the Cwm Taf Substance Misuse Area Planning Board which has the responsibility of coordinating substance misuse services across Cwm Taf and managing the two funding streams which finance the substance misuse services. Details of the differing levels of intervention were provided and Members were informed that a review of the secondary specialist care across Cwm Taf would be undertaken in conjunction with the requirement by Welsh Government for a five year Capital Strategy.

In outlining the work which has been undertaken recently in RCT regarding Domestic Abuse since the Kafka Brigade project in 2009, which used citizen engagement to gain an understanding of the experiences of those using services, it was confirmed that considerable progress has been made to services in place. A review is currently being undertaken by the office of the PCC in conjunction with the Cwm Taf Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Forum, which was created in 2014, of all existing services for domestic abuse victims across Cwm Taf with results of the review to be implemented shortly. It was explained that due to changes to the Welsh Government/PCC funding arrangements discussions are being held with Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council around having a single Domestic Abuse Coordinator for the Cwm Taf region from April 2016. Information was shared with Committee regarding the National Training Framework for Domestic Abuse training framework which will be rolled out across public services to raise awareness about domestic abuse issues.

The Community Safety & Licensing Manager continued with the presentation regarding the new 18-25 project to tackle offending and re-offending in this age group and of the support the delivery of this project has received through a Cwm Taf regional approach. An update was provided in respect of Anti Social Behaviour since the implementation of the "Anti Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act, 2014" in Rhondda Cynon Taf which was reported to the Crime & Disorder Committee in March 2015. It was reported that in 2015 the team received 3002 anti social behaviour referrals from the Police and PCSO's, the majority of which were dealt with by implementing early intervention strategies. It was confirmed that Rhondda Cynon Taf has a success rate of 75% for dealing with the more vulnerable high risk victims. Details of the high level Closure Orders which have been used recently were reported which have provided the communities in which they sit with immediate results and instant remedies.

Committee was also provided with an update in respect of the CCTV service changes which has led to a reduction in the hours of surveillance by 68 hours per week. However, despite the reduction in the number of surveillance hours the service changes have resulted in budget savings being delivered and as part of the Invest to Save scheme a significant upgrade in equipment has been carried out which has delivered noticeable results such as assisting with convictions and overseeing the

night time economy. A recommendation already arising from the PCC review is that RCT will be one of the four CCTV controlled sites.

Committee noted the statutory responsibilities placed on partner organisations by the Counter Terrorism & Security Act 2015 and the arrangements which have been developed to discharge that duty such as the Cwm Taf Channel Panel which has been established to address issues of Counter Terrorism. It was confirmed that Hate Crime contributes considerably to the work load of the Rhondda Cynon Taf team.

Several topics under the heading of Crime Reduction were referred to such as the safer town centre forums which have been established within Pontypridd and Aberdare to manage the night time economy and specific 'hot spot' locations. Committee was also made aware of community engagement activities and effective Licensing interventions which have all contributed to crime reduction. The Regional Violent Crime Group which has achieved partnership funding opportunities carries out targeted campaigns at key times within the national events calendar such as the 6 Nations and Operation B.A.N.G.

Following the presentation a series of questions were asked by Members which were duly responded to and in conclusion the Chairman formally thanked the Chief Superintendent, the Service Director Public Health & Protection and the Community Safety & Licensing Manager for their presentation. The Cabinet Member for Safer Communities, Libraries & Heritage acknowledged the continued good working relationship of the Community Safety Partnership and also acknowledged the engagement and effective line of questioning by members of the Crime & Disorder Committee.

Committee **RESOLVED:-**

1. Not to scrutinise in greater depth any matters contained within the report at this stage as Committee noted that some of the strategic projects for the Community Safety Partnership to be delivered over 2015/16 and 2016/17 are in the early stages of development and others undergoing a significant change in programme.
2. To support the proposals for a clearer governance for community safety in Rhondda Cynon Taf and Cwm Taf
3. To invite the Police and Crime Commissioner to a future meeting of the Crime & Disorder Committee

The meeting closed at 6.45pm

G. R. Davies
Chairman