

Bath and North East Somerset Council

Community, Transport & Environment Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel

Community Safety Scrutiny Inquiry Day (12th October 2017)

Review Panel Members:

Cllr John Bull (Chair)

Cllr Brian Simmons (Vice Chair)

Cllr Neil Butters

Cllr Alan Hale

Cllr Richard Samuel

Cllr Peter Turner

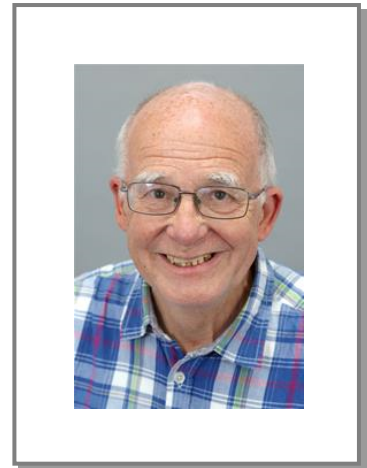
Cllr Patrick Anketell-Jones

Cllr Ian Gilchrist

Cllr Michael Evans

Foreword

The Communities Transport and Environment Panel undertook a scrutiny inquiry day on the 12th October 2017. This was an opportunity to examine what is needed from council services in the community safety context and how best this might be delivered.



The day involved a variety of presentations which provided the panel and partners with an opportunity to understand the national, regional and local perspective of community safety. It was also an opportunity to hear about some of the excellent work already being done within Bath & North East Somerset, particularly alongside our partners. A series of workshop sessions was held during the afternoon where we were able to explore in more depth some of key complex priorities, including Domestic Abuse, Street Communities, Prevent, and Modern Slavery & Trafficking. This was an opportunity for those that attended to discuss some of the key challenges that we all face and share our thoughts about how we can shape our services for the future.

The collective findings from the scrutiny day have informed this report which sets out to provide you with a brief background to the day and the panels key findings and recommendations for consideration.

Yours sincerely

Chair, Cllr John Bull

(Chair of the Communities, Transport & Environment PDS Panel, B&NES)

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Purpose & Objectives of the day

A number of wide ranging changes from the election of Police Crime Commissioner's (PCC), funding, and the increased recognition of the role of councils and partners can play in tackling a wide range of community safety & public protection issues have prompted many local authorities to consider their roles and responsibilities and explore how best to deliver their community safety functions.

In the context of these changes for local community safety services, this scrutiny Inquiry day set out to examine:-

- Our current picture,
- Challenges
- How best to shape our services for the future. (*Identifying what is needed from Council services and how might this be delivered*)

This also included an understanding of:-

- The national context of changing community safety priorities
- The key community safety issues and challenges that Bath & North East Somerset currently face?
- And current best practice approaches

It also provides the members of the Community, Transport & Environment Panel (CTE) Panel and key partners the opportunity to examine our own roles and responsibilities and collectively develop a range of options.

Methodology

What we did

Part of the planning for the event involved working out which key partners that we would need to invite, particularly as the nature of community safety is so wide and impacts on many of our local services, both internally and externally. We recognized that this also impacts on the remits of both the Children and Young People Panel and also the Health & Wellbeing Select Committee, who were also invited to attend.

The recent findings from the Local Government Association (LGA) '*Review of the Future of Community Safety Services*' (*March 2017*¹) provided the background information for the steering group to have a national perspective of the current context for community safety and to provide an understanding of some of our joint emerging challenges..

Based on this report we set the scene for the day by providing a national perspective presented by Cllr Anita Lower, Deputy Chair of the LGA's Safer and Stronger Communities Board. Then

¹ <http://lga.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=160&MIId=3297&Ver=4>

we heard from our Police and Crime Commissioner Sue Mountstevens who set the scene for the regional challenges and opportunities. This was followed by the leader of Bath & North East Somerset's Council Tim Warren who gave a very personal perspective to the event.

The afternoon presentations explored the local challenge to our Youth Justice Service but also provided the opportunity to highlight some of the great work that we do locally. This was followed by a presentation by Lucy Lord who is the Director, of Business Development & Communications of Women's Aid who provided an insight into how Social Impact Bonds work using an illustrative example to demonstrate the journey taken by a survivor of domestic abuse using one route with the help of social impact bonds and another without. This highlighted the comparative differences on the impact on resources.

The final part of the day was an opportunity for attendees to discuss in more detail some of our key local issues, these included:-

- Domestic Abuse, Facilitated by Amanda Movsesian, Domestic Abuse Team Leader, Julian House, Bath
- Prevent, Facilitated by Inspector Dickon Turner, Avon and Somerset Police
- Modern Slavery and People Trafficking, Facilitated by Jessica Wilde Anti-Slavery Partnership Coordinator and Gemma Davis, Training Coordinator from Unseen
- Street Communities, Facilitated by Roanne Wooten, Operations Director of Julian House. Nik Browne, DHI Reach Service Manager.

Our Current Picture & Challenges

- **Mainstream funding for Community Safety has reduced by at least 60% since 2010.** We will no longer be able to continue to work with the demand placed on us if there are more reductions in funding to our services. Our greatest challenge is how do we now focus on early prevention and early intervention with limited or dramatically reduced funding?
- **Our priorities for crime have now changed;** we are now experiencing more complex crimes, such as child exploitation, and modern slavery, making multi agency work even more important. The duty on dealing with community safety issues now requires greater shared priorities and responsibilities.
- Working within this new landscape and with a wide range of partners, places even greater importance in **understanding how we operate and in building stronger relationships** that are open, frank and allow the possibility of exploring how we safely share information.
- Every decision is about putting residents first, although the fear of crime is low in our area, **it is important that we maintain B&NES as an area that people feel safe.** For

example, the night time economy is often of concern to our residents but we recognize that the police can't be everywhere all of the time. It is important that we collectively report any relevant information to the police when required.

- Tim Warren (Leader of B&NES Council) reflected on a recent experience of the terrible **impact of mental ill health** on someone that he knew and more specifically on the use and mis-use of social media. Moving forward there are steps that are being taken to create more joined up thinking on this, such as the Health & Wellbeing Board and the NHS who have signed a charter on Mental Health but it is recognized that there is still more work that can be done.
- Sue Mountstevens provided an example of where pooled budgets with our local Clinical Commissioning Group have provided Mental Health Nurses based at Avon & Somerset Police headquarters that have direct access to personal health records. Our Public Health team are also working on suicide prevention services, particularly with young men, examining how we prevent suicide by providing services that treat people with mental ill health and by developing a strategy to support individuals throughout their use of local services.
- There is even greater importance of linking with our Local Safeguarding Children's Board, Adult Safeguarding, Health and Well-being Boards and Multi-Agency Safeguarding hubs. With Councils and more specifically **Councillors, in their community safety role to have an over sight of a range of complex issues** and to ensure that they are joined up with partners and can hold each other to account.
- **The impact of welfare reform** and more specifically the change to universal credit have had a ripple effect on our most vulnerable people including those in our street communities, particularly related to a rise in sex working, rough sleeping and a rise in the prevalence of begging, stealing etc. which has anecdotally been linked by these vulnerable people to welfare reform. Bath and North East Somerset was used as a pilot for these changes, so there is now local data and evidence available to support these stories. There is now an urgent need to raise our concerns of the inadvertent effect of welfare reform on central government to recognize this impact.

How can we shape our services for the future?

- In considering the different options of how we shape our future we will need **strong local leadership at a strategic level** to provide the support and encouragement to lead together.
- There are **opportunities to explore pooled budgets and a single commissioning framework** where all partners can work towards the same priorities to reduce risk. The

Greater Manchester Model, is one example of how this is now working and where community services are focused around the needs of the local community.

There are also some excellent examples of where pooled budgets have provided more effective shared working, such as the recent collaboration with Barnardos, B&NES, North Somerset, South Gloucestershire, and Bristol to tackle child exploitation. Ensuring that there are effective pathways in services for children to access support, and protect the most vulnerable.

- The LGA suggested that our next steps should include a **focus on Prevention and early Intervention with a focus on local community needs**. A good example is the ‘reducing re-offending board’ that is looking across the whole of Avon & Somerset and its agencies to identify how we can work together.
- There are **possible opportunities to explore through our local Devolution developments and to learn from other devolved authorities**. There may be further consideration of how we work together, even when there are boundaries between us.
- B&NES has already started working more collaboratively across internal portfolios and is considering **where there are possibilities to merge functions**. There is more opportunity to develop this externally too.
- Can we **examine the benefits and methods of social impact bonds** used by ‘Women’s Aid’ to tackle domestic abuse in our area? Lucy Lord (Director Women’s Aid) stated that social investment bonds can work well if you need to do something bigger, which can bring national figures to the table. Dependent on the size of the problem that you have, Social Impact Bonds can also be used in different areas of community safety, particularly if you have a local commissioner who is willing to invest in these services.
- **Continue to work with partners** including the BID, Task & Targeting Group, on any new initiatives. This is a standing item at the Responsible Authorities Group, **ensuring that we lead together**.

Recommendations

1. Joint PCC & Council Community Safety Plan:-

- This will be an opportunity to look at the specific local community needs for Bath & North East Somerset.
- Based on our Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)
- This can be achieved by council officers writing the first draft to identify our local priorities.
- (When) By April 2018, and presented to the Responsible Authorities Group
- (Financial considerations) Funding from the PCC until 2019

2. QLIK Sense: - (System of sharing real time, live data - developed by Avon & Somerset Constabulary)

- The Council would like to have a greater understanding of how QLIK Sense works and how can partners work together?
- How does this link or separate with our local JSNA data? Is there any duplication?
- Request to Partners - The Communities Transport and Environment Panel would like to invite those involved in developing 'QLIK Sense' to inform the Panel on how this works and its benefits to shared future working.
- (When) Next available CTE Panel meeting
- Can be met within existing resources

3. Improving community relationships:-

- The workshop sessions (*Appendix 1 Prevent*) emphasized the importance of greater social cohesion.
- Identifying how we can improve relationships with different community groups and faith groups together.
- This could be developed by using our local area forums to raise this question at their meetings and work together to share thoughts and ideas.
- There may also be opportunity to work with neighbouring authorities
- This can be met within existing resources
- Request for Community Engagement Team to explore further work through the Local Area Forums.

Next Steps

- Report circulated to Responsible Authorities Group at their next available meeting
- Reported back to the Communities Transport and Environment Panel at the November Panel meeting
- Recommendations agreed within the report and submitted to relevant person, i.e., partner agency as required.

Appendix 1 – key points from workshop sessions

a.) Domestic Abuse

- The group discussed what domestic abuse is and examined the behaviours a victim may experience including the barriers that may be encountered when trying to access services.
- There are currently 17 refuge beds in B&NES
- The CRUSH project is one example of where partnership with B&NES Youth Connect is working well. This is a project working with young people aged 13-19 to educate young people around healthy relationships.

b.) Prevent

- Terrorism is not just radicalization but we experience more right wing terrorism.
- The group discussed how we get the message for people to report a crime and have the confidence to pass information on. Many agencies know where to pass information on to, but it's not so obvious for the general public. It was agreed that there needs to be a combined effort amongst partners and that we need to have stronger links with our local universities to work better.
- We could be doing more around awareness training for Prevent. There is a possibility to provide further on-line training through e-learning and scope for bespoke training around recognizing radicalization.
- Elected members to work closer to build a stronger relationship with our local faith groups.
- The group discussed the opportunities to raise awareness of different faiths locally which will be of benefit to the local community, particularly if you have an incident which has an impact on the local reaction after an event.

c.) Modern Slavery and People Trafficking

- The group looked at what Modern Slavery is today, '*Movement of people by means such as Force, Fraud, Coercion or deception with the aim of exploiting them*' and looked at the two main criminal offences of the Modern Slavery Act 2015. 1, Slavery, Servitude and forced Compulsory Labour, 2. Human Trafficking
- The Anti-slavery Partnership is a victim centred, multi-disciplinary and collaborative community effort. Since January 2017 B&NES has referred 3 cases to the National Referral Mechanism.

d.) Street Communities

- The group discussed what they consider to be a street based lifestyle and examined some of the key figures and measurements for analysing homelessness, which has nationally experienced a rise for the 6th year in a row.
- The group also discussed some of the causes and understood the complexities including vulnerability and risk of being homelessness, examining a more recent rise in 'Cuckooing' and sex working and even the risk of death.

- The impact on B&NES includes pressure on the Criminal Justice , Police, NHS, Emergency Services, and Mental Health partnership, more likely needing frequent or long term intervention.
- Solutions were discussed and it was agreed that this is a whole community issue, and there are a number of opportunities to explore such, early intervention in schools and employment and pre-employment opportunities to raise aspirations.