

COMMUNITY SAFETY SUB OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

22 MARCH 2016

PRESENT: Councillor T Graham (Vice-Chair)
Councillors B Coates, S Dickie, K Dodds, H Hughes, P Craig

CSS.19/15 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors P Dillon and A Wheeler.

CSS.20/15 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 January 2016 were approved as a correct record.

The minutes of the Community Safety Board held on 4 March 2016 were noted for information.

CSS.21/15 NOVEL PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES – LEGAL HIGHS

The Committee received a presentation from Faye Codling, Platform and Peter Wright, Licensing and Trading Standards Gateshead Council on the increasing trend and impacts on the use of Novel Psychoactive Substances or Legal Highs.

RESOLVED - That the information be noted.

CSS.22/15 OSC REVIEW – PREVENT FINAL REPORT

The Committee received the final report into the review for 2015/16 focussing on the Prevent agenda – one of the four key elements of the UK Government's Counter Terrorism Strategy (CONTEST).

The Committee has received a significant amount of evidence as part of the Review to help scrutinise the arrangements the Council and its partners have in place in order to support the delivery of the Prevent agenda within Gateshead. The Review focused on raising Committee's awareness and understanding of how Prevent is currently being delivered in order to help identify potential service gaps, areas of duplication and/or opportunities to work more effectively.

The CONTEST agenda sits under the remit of the CONTEST Board with support from the Prevent, Protect and Prepare Group. This multi-agency Group focuses on addressing issues associated with counter-terrorism and was established in 2011. The CONTEST Board has strong links to the Community Safety, Safeguarding Adults and Local Safeguarding Children's Boards.

A range of partners are actively engaged in this area of work including: a range of internal services from Gateshead Council, Northumbria Police (both Central Area Command and Special Branch), Gateshead Housing Company, National Probation Service, Northumbria Community Rehabilitation Company, Newcastle Gateshead Clinical Commissioning Group, Gateshead College, South Tyneside Foundation Trust and intu.

As a reminder, the review focused particularly on:

- The arrangements the Council and partner agencies have in place to meet the Duty and to assess whether they meet best practice.
- The national guidance, its implications for the future of the service and our capacity to respond
- Whether there are service gaps, areas of duplication or opportunities to work more effectively and efficiently.

In order to achieve the outcomes, a series of evidence gathering sessions were organised, each one with a specific theme/focus. Sessions were designed in a way that allowed the Committee to hear evidence from a range of services and partners which are currently supporting the roll out of the Prevent agenda in Gateshead.

Evidence gathering session 1 took place in June 2015 and set the scene. Evidence gathering session 2 took place in October 2015 and looked at the process of radicalisation. Evidence session 3 took place in January 2016 and looked at partnership working.

The Committee has received a great deal of evidence and information as part of this review. It is clear co-ordinated and partnership-orientated arrangements are in place to meet the statutory responsibilities, outlined in the national Prevent Duty Guidance, whilst in some areas, particularly in education, it was clear that the actions delivered in Gateshead could be seen as best practice.

There were no significant gaps identified in the current arrangements, although members felt it prudent that a self-assessment should be undertaken on regular basis to ensure that we continue to have strong and robust processes in place to safeguard those at risk of being drawn into extremism and to demonstrate that, as a Council, we are proactive in addressing future challenges.

Some slight concerns were expressed in relation to the following areas:

- Capacity of partners and Council services to continue to train practitioners in order to raise the profile of Prevent – particularly with even fewer resources at their disposal – but conveyed the need for continued partnership working in the future;
- Perceived lack of understanding and appreciation of all community and faith groups in Gateshead has the potential to restrict community cohesion and destroy confidence in local services;
- Greater challenge of negative and/or false stereotypes linked with terrorism (particularly with children and young people)
- Lack of general awareness of the local terrorism context within communities and neighbourhoods (and potentially amongst frontline practitioners), and
- Lack of awareness of Channel and Vulnerability Assessment Framework.

The review did identify a potential opportunity to utilise work developed by Gateshead College to cascade awareness to a wider range of recipients (e.g. exploration of how these tools could be used in primary and secondary schools as well as with local community and residents groups).

The following recommendations are proposed for this review and to provide a more structured framework, these recommendations have been aligned to the 3 themes identified in the national Prevent Duty Guidance: *Leadership, Working in Partnership and Capabilities*.

- RESOLVED -
- i) that the final report and draft recommendations be agreed
 - ii) that the final report be submitted to Cabinet for consideration and approval
 - iii) that the Committee agreed to receive a six monthly update in relation to the progress made against delivering the draft recommendations.

CSS.23/15 COMMUNITY SAFETY BOARD – PARTNERSHIP PRIORITIES 2016/2017

The Committee received a report which provided an overview of the draft strategic priorities proposed by the local Community Safety Board for 2016/17.

Committee members have received several updates throughout the last twelve-months to provide an overview of progress made against the current priorities for 2015/16, which are:

- Protecting Vulnerable Groups;
- Tackling Crime and ASB;
- Addressing Re-offending, and
- Tackling the Drivers of Crime and ASB

Similar to the process in previous years, once the strategic priorities are agreed for 2016/17, a Partnership Plan will be subsequently produced, which sets out how the Community Safety Board intends to deliver against the Partnership Plan for 2016/17 to Community Safety OSC Sub-Committee in June 2016 for approval.

Based on the findings outlined in the latest Strategic Assessment for 2016/17, the Community Safety Board has identified three strategic themes coupled with a number of sub-priorities. These include:

- Prevent Crime, Re-offending and ASB to Reduce Demand on Services
- Protect and Support Vulnerable Victims and Persons
- Addressing Key and Emerging Threats

A number of cross cutting themes have also been identified:

- FamiliesGateshead
- Early Intervention and Prevention (All Ages)
- Improving Community Confidence in Services
- Tackling Complex and Multiple Needs

- Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)
- Substance Misuse (Drugs and Alcohol)

As part of its statutory duty, the Board is required to undertake a series of public consultations in relation to the draft strategic priorities to ensure that the issues identified are based on local residents needs and includes consultation with:

- Partners and Council services represented on the Community Safety Board and its formal Sub-Groups
- Members of Communities Portfolio
- Portfolio Holder for Community Safety
- Local Councillors and Residents
- Members signed up to the Council's ViewPoint

An online consultation has been included within the Council Consultation Portal which can be accessed through the council website or on the following link: <https://consultation.gateshead.gov.uk/kms/dmart.aspx?noip=1&strTab=PublicDMart> and will be live for partners and residents to complete until 1 April 2016. The results will be analysed and fed into the final Partnership Plan which will be presented to the Community Safety Board for approval on 22 April 2016.

- RESOLVED -
- i) that the information be noted
 - ii) that the Partnership Plan for June 2016 be received and agreed
 - iii) that regular updates in relation to the action taken in relation to the strategic priorities (as per the OSC Workplan 2016/17) be submitted to the OSC

CSS.24/15 ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee received the provisional work programme for the Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the municipal year 2016/17.

- RESOLVED -
- i) that the Committee endorsed the provisional work programme for 2016/17 and agreed to refer it to Council on 26 May 2016 for agreement.
 - ii) that further reports will be brought to the Committee to identify any additional issues which the Committee may be asked to consider.