

## COMMUNITY SAFETY BOARD

30 October 2015

### PRESENT:

#### Responsible Authority Members / Representatives:

Cllr Gary Haley (Chair)	- Cabinet Office, Gateshead Council
Jeff Boath	- Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue
Steve Hails	- Northumbria Police
Martyn Strike	- Northumbria CRC
Alan McDonald	- HMI Probation (observing)
Mary Burns	- Newcastle Gateshead CCG

#### Partners / Officers:

Mark Warcup	- Chair – Domestic Homicide Review
Susan Butler	- Care, Wellbeing and Learning
Alice Wiseman	- Public Health
Julie McCartney	- The Gateshead Housing Company
Adam Lindridge	- Care, Wellbeing and Learning
Julie Crichton	- Care, Wellbeing and Learning
Nicola Johnson	- Care, Wellbeing and Learning
Rosalyn White	- Corporate Services and Governance

### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Liz Hogg, Neil Bouch, Karin O'Neill, Louise Rule, Chris Piercy and Geoff Hagon.

### 2. MINUTES

The minutes of the last meeting held on 28 August 2015 were agreed as a correct record subject to the time of the Fire and Rescue Service automatic response to automated fire alarms being amended to 8am - 6pm.

### 3. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

### 4. DOMESTIC HOMICIDE REVIEW

#### Update – M Grey

Mark Warcup, Independent Chair of the Domestic Homicide Review Panel (DHR), provided an update on progress to date. It was noted that the Panel had expected to be nearer completion at this time, however at its meeting in October there was further disclosure of information provided by the police

which required further investigation. The Home Office has been informed of the delay.

It was reported that the issue was discovered following the split between the Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC) and the National Probation Service (NPS). Although the issues identified could not have prevented the death there are issues that are being addressed before any recommendations are agreed.

It is hoped that the conclusion of the review will be agreed at the next meeting in December.

RESOLVED - That the Board receives further updates from the DHR panel.

### New – S Garba

The Board was informed of a new DHR which will take place following the death of a woman in Felling. Domestic homicide was identified and formal notification of the DHR was given to the Home Office this week. Work is ongoing with Legal and Commissioning to set up a Review Panel and it is hoped the first meeting will be held during the first week of December.

## **5. PARTNER UPDATES**

### Community Rehabilitation Company

It was confirmed that between November and March the organisation will be reduced by 105 people, there will be 160 staff left. CRC is moving out of the Gateshead office during the first week of December to Aiden House, it is not expected that this will cause any access problems for service users.

### TWFRS

It was noted that a targeted response vehicle had been brought to a recent Council meeting to show Councillors what to expect.

## **6. BUSINESS MANAGER UPDATE**

An overview of the national, regional and local developments that have occurred in community safety since the last Board meeting was provided.

### **National Developments**

The Counter Terrorism Strategy has been launched and outlines how work will be undertaken to beat extremism. A report will be brought to December's meeting about how this fits with Contest and Prevent.

It was acknowledged that the resettlement of Syrian refugees could lead to an increase in hate crimes. A joint meeting has been planned with Newcastle next week around work with area commands to mitigate such crimes. In addition, work is being carried out with Communications for when the refugees move into the area.

## **Regional Developments**

It was noted that Northumbria Police were previously successful in obtaining Innovation Funding for the development of the MASH, Operation Encompass and Serial Victims of Domestic Abuse. 2016/17 funding has been announced and this focuses on increasing efficiency and improving outcomes. A Partner Working Group has been established by the PCC and bids have been submitted.

## **Local Developments**

Discussions have been held with the Council's Volunteering Team around the possibility of recruiting volunteers to help support victims of anti-social behaviour.

It was reported that joint work is ongoing with Sunderland Council to train domestic abuse practitioners to deal with domestic violence victims consistently. This work has been commissioned through Wearside Women in Need and roll out is expected in January 2016.

In terms of resident perceptions, which was discussed at the last meeting, mapping work has started across Gateshead to find any hotspots for crime and disorder issues. The findings from the mapping exercise will be reported to the Crime, ASB and Confidence Sub-Group and a report will be brought back to December's meeting to identify any areas for development.

It was confirmed that all schools have undertaken the Prevent Duty Awareness training. The sessions have been well received and it has been asked that a six month refresher training be held.

In terms of the Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) Team there has been a significant increase of 57% in referrals, this equates to 300 extra clients. Analysis work is underway to identify why there has been an increase, updates on this work will be reported to the Domestic Abuse Executive Forum.

Training sessions are ongoing by the Drug and Alcohol Treatment services, focusing on the importance of legal highs.

A response has been submitted to the consultation on closer working between emergency services.

RESOLVED - That the information be noted.

## **7. CRIME, ASB AND CONFIDENCE SUB-GROUP – UPDATE**

Steve Hails presented a report on progress of the Crime, ASB and Confidence Group.

It was reported that there is a review of the current Safer Neighbourhood Framework, a further report will be brought back to a future meeting. Two Operation WAYS have been undertaken in the Central and West of

Gateshead, focused on ASB and perceptions. Operation Sentinel has been launched in the South of Gateshead to offer crime prevention advice to those most vulnerable to burglary.

It was confirmed that the first Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) application in Gateshead has been made. This is around motorcycle incidents in the Kibblesworth area.

Work is ongoing with the University College London to develop a burglary initiative, this will focus on reducing repeat victimisation, Central Gateshead has been identified as a suitable area for this initiative.

It was reported that the Central Area Command has established a Central Engagement Team to enhance community engagement across Gateshead, they will support and work with communities and take administrative work from operational officers.

- RESOLVED -
- (i) That the contents of the report be noted.
  - (ii) That the Board agreed to receive a further report following the review of the Safer Neighbourhoods Framework.
  - (iii) That the Board agreed to receive further updates in relation to Crime, ASB and Confidence Group.

## **8. COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE / FRAMEWORK**

The Board was provided with an overview of the Communications Framework, this has been produced to raise the profile of the work undertaken by partners to make residents feel safe.

It was confirmed that Gateshead continues to be one of the best performing boroughs in Northumbria in terms of community safety and residents feeling safe and secure. However, it was noted that with increasing reported crime it is now more important to get the message out.

The framework sets out the commitment of the Community Safety Board and who the target audience will be. Communication work has been undertaken since July around promoting the work of the Board.

The next step is to implement the framework and set up a Task and Finish Group with media leads to progress communication activity on behalf of the Board. An action plan for the next 12 months will be developed.

It was queried whether the CCG would be part of the focus group. It was confirmed that the group has not yet been set up and it was acknowledged that health would be represented. It was also suggested that it would be good practice to have more joint media releases. The point was made that it would be beneficial to join up with the work of Environmental Health and Public

Protection. It was noted that mapping of all communications is ongoing to see where community safety fits.

- RESOLVED -
- (i) That the comments of the Board on the contents of the report be noted.
  - (ii) That the Board approved the communication actions/priorities identified in the report.
  - (iii) That the Board agreed to receive a further update at a future meeting.

## **9. HOME OFFICE INNOVATION FUND PILOT: SERIAL VICTIMS AND OPERATION ENCOMPASS**

A report was presented to the Board providing an update in relation to the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and the Innovation Fund.

It was noted that through funding from the PCC the adult MASH was formed to mitigate the risk of anyone slipping through the safeguarding net. Additional funding has been received which means that the MASH will be extended until March 2017, so there is now more focus on protecting serial victims of domestic abuse. Two additional domestic violence workers and a serial victim worker have been appointed.

It was reported that the MASH focuses on low level incidents to ensure early intervention and more preventative work. Officers are looking at other areas of good practice and a recent visit has been held to Camden, which also has an adult MASH. Newcastle University is currently undertaking an evaluation of the MASH and Northumbria Police has also commissioned a separate evaluation of the serial victim's project, which is currently being developed.

In terms of Operation Encompass, in the first four months there have been 276 separate incidents of domestic abuse reported to schools. 601 children have been identified as being present at the time of the incident taking place. The highest proportion of incidents took place in the South of Gateshead, 29% and Central Gateshead, 22%. All schools have signed up and training have been delivered around how to approach and support a child who has been affected.

It was questioned who was present at the operational meetings regarding the MASH. It was confirmed that there had so far only been two operational meetings, it was also noted that the MASH will be relaunched and will set out clear procedures, pathways and a performance framework so it is clear what is being achieved.

- RESOLVED -
- (i) That the Board discussed and noted the contents of the report.
  - (ii) That the Board agreed to receive regular updates

on the MASH, Operation Encompass and serial victim project.

## **10. ASB FRAMEWORK AND PRACTICE GUIDANCE NOTES**

A report was brought to the Board for endorsement of the Guidance Notes to support the ASB Framework. It was noted that at July's meeting the Board agreed the ASB Framework and guidance documents have now been produced for partners and residents. This has been produced following implementation of new legislation which sets out tools and powers to tackle ASB.

It was reported that the guidance documents are in four different sections;

- Safer Neighbourhood Guidance
- Community Trigger Guidance
- Graded Response Framework
- Practitioner Guide to Anti-Social Behaviour

All documents have been submitted to the Crime, ASB and Confidence Sub-Group so all Neighbourhood Inspectors have seen these.

It was confirmed that some actions have already been undertaken in relation to the Framework. For example; agreed treatment services if the root cause of ASB, a dedicated protocol established with the YOT regarding consultation for under 18's and regular discussions are being held with Registered Social Landlords. In addition, a regional ASB Working Group has been established to share best practice.

The documents will be presented to Cabinet in December and then rolled out through training sessions to all partner agency organisations.

- RESOLVED -
- (i) That the Board noted the contents of the report.
  - (ii) That the Board endorsed the ASB Guidance Documents.
  - (iii) That the Board agreed to receive regular updates at future meetings.

## **11. SUICIDES: UPDATE ON REGIONAL GROUP AND AUDIT**

A report was presented which gave an overview of findings of the audit of suicide and injury undetermined deaths in Gateshead 2011-2014. It was noted that suicide is often under reported because if it is not a clear suicide it will not be recorded as such, however work has been undertaken with the coroner to look at all deaths.

The audit looked at 48 deaths, the majority of which were men. Significant risk factors were identified such as; unemployment, relationship problems, drug and alcohol problems. Of these 48 deaths, 42% had previously

attempted suicide and 63% died in their own home. It was reported that of the deaths looked at, half had made contact with primary care in the three months prior to death and a third of those contact were due to a mental health problem. 27% of the deaths were by people who were known to mental health services. It was confirmed that the findings have shown that there is no conclusive profile of a suicidal adult.

In terms of prevention work, this has been ongoing with Police and other services. Data has been received from Police around suicide attempts, particularly in relation to hotspots such as bridges. 63 suicide attempts were made from bridges, two of which succeeded. Therefore work is ongoing around possible interventions, for example, signage, barriers and CCTV.

The findings of the audit will contribute to the development of the Safeguarding Adults Practice Guidance for practitioners. Public Health England have completed a Health Needs Assessment and recommended;

- The development of a local suicide prevention plan
- Ensuring individuals are supported to access benefits, debt advice and employment support where required
- Strengthening CCG's approach to suicide prevention work within their broader mental health agenda

National guidance is expected in December and work is continuing to finalise the suicide prevention plan, which will focus on the wider determinants.

It was suggested that 'near misses' should also be monitored and it was agreed to bring a report back to the Board on this.

It was queried whether any links had been made to the housing tenure for these people. It was confirmed that the coroner reporting is limited and therefore this information was not known. It was suggested that any near misses should be reported to the Housing Company so that the system can be flagged and appropriate support services put in place, links to the Troubled Families programme are already in place within the Housing Company.

It was suggested that more needs to be done to raise awareness of the Troubled Families programme with GPs and it was acknowledged that closer working is required in this area.

- RESOLVED -
- (i) That the Board considered the issues outlined in the report and its suggestions on how to further strengthen suicide prevention be noted.
  - (ii) That the Board agreed to receive the completed suicide prevention plan for Gateshead.
  - (iii) That the Board agreed to receive updated reports on the combined drug related and suicide death process to ensure trends are monitored and appropriate action taken.

## **12. YOUTH OFFENDING TEAM BOARD – UPDATE (inc FAMILIES GATESHEAD UPDATE)**

The Board received a report outlining the current work at YOT Board and the latest performance in relation to Families Gateshead.

It was confirmed that the Youth Justice Plan has been signed off by the YOT Board. In addition, the Prevent Schools Programme has been developed by the YOT to tackle areas of anti-social behaviour in years 5 and 6, good feedback has been received regarding this. The HMI Inspection Framework is changing from 1 October 2016 and it was noted that an inspection will be held before that date. A pilot Adolescent Perpetrator Programme has been developed with the PCC to work with adolescent perpetrators of domestic abuse and there is now a domestic abuse worker on the team.

In terms of performance there have been 15 first time entrants in Gateshead in the quarter ending September 2015, which is a 9.8% reduction and is below the regional average. The rate of custody for Gateshead is 0.23 for 2014/15, which represents 4 custodial sentences and a 0.06 decrease and is below the regional and national average. It was reported that to the end of September 2015 there was two remands into custody. Also, there has been a 77% reduction in re-offending since 2008, this has left the very complex, hard to work with young people so the team is currently dealing with very difficult young people. In relation to tracking of re-offending it was noted that there are 160 young people in the cohort, and to date 103 young people (64%) have not re-offended. 57 young people (36%) from this cohort have re-offended, a total of 183 further offences. Of these further offences, 52% were committed by 10 prolific offenders, the majority of which were done within the first five months. It was reported that 23 young people from the cohort are open to a YOT intervention, five of whom are classed as prolific offenders.

It was reported that the Youth Justice Board has confirmed that it will be clawing back some funding, therefore it is likely that some of the current prevention work will have to stop.

In terms of the Families Gateshead work it was confirmed that 1030 families are currently being worked with in phase one and two. There are another 170 families coming through the Referral and Assessment Team that meet the criteria, so there are approximately 1200 families to work with. The overall target is 2010 families by the year 2030, however this will mean working with around 12,000 families to ensure 2010 families show successful and sustained outcomes through payment by results. It was acknowledged that this is challenging in terms of effecting sustainable change and to take families forward to payment by results. It was confirmed that so far 46 claims have been made, which is the highest in the region so progress is good.

- RESOLVED -
- (i) That the Board noted that contents of the report.
  - (ii) That the Board agreed to receive future reports.



### **13. REVISED SUBSTANCE MISUSE STRATEGY 2015-2030**

The Board received a report outlining progress on the Substance Misuse Strategy. It was noted that there has been slower progress than intended as there has been problems in terms of engagement and there is no solid core group as of yet. A Task and Finish Group has therefore been set up and is due to meet next week. Members of the Board were asked to speak to their organisations to check the right person is on the group.

- RESOLVED -
- (i) That the Board noted the contents of the report.
  - (ii) That the Board agreed to receive further updates on the strategy development.
  - (iii) That the Board reconsider representation from individual organisations to ensure full engagement.

### **14. DRUG RELATED DEATH KEY FINDINGS 2014 AND 2015 UPDATE**

The Board received a summary report on the finding from the Drug-related Death Panel for 2014. It was noted that there was an increase in deaths from 8 the previous year to 11 in 2014. The profile characteristics remained the same; white males, aged 25-34 years living alone.

During 2014 guidance was issued to all GPs about misuse of prescription drugs, also new drug and alcohol services were commissioned to deliver guidance across Gateshead.

In 2015 there have been five confirmed drug related deaths and another eight awaiting post mortem, however it is likely these are drug related. From these deaths the average age has increased to 36 years, heroin deaths have increased from one to six. The majority of the deceased had been involved with mental health services and had a history of long term drug abuse, four had overdosed in the past.

It was noted that there is currently no process in place to monitor near misses, this will be looked at when the terms of reference of the group are changed.

A regional review of drug related death processes has taken place and Gateshead came out well. Public Health England has given guidance and work will be held with the panel from January 2016.

- RESOLVED -
- (i) That the Board noted the contents of the report.
  - (ii) That the Board received further updates regarding the new suicide procedure, drug related deaths and implementation of recommendations from the Public Health England review.

**15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Board was advised that Dave Escott has taken over from Geoff Hagon as representative of the Fire and Rescue Service. The Board thanked Geoff for his work.

**16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Friday 18 December 2015 at 10.00 am in the Blaydon Room, Civic Centre.