

Meeting	Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Date	11 March 2014
Present	Councillors Douglas (Chair), Orrell (Vice-Chair), Fraser, Hodgson, King and Richardson (Substitute for Councillor Healey)
In attendance:	Councillor Cunningham-Cross
Apologies	Councillors Healey and Warters

44. Declarations of Interest

Members were asked to declare at this point in the meeting any personal interests not included on the Register of Interests, or any prejudicial or disclosable pecuniary interests they may have in respect of the business on the agenda. None were declared.

45. Minutes

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting of 10 February 2014 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

46. Public Participation

It was reported that there were no registrations to speak at the meeting under the Council's Public Participation Scheme.

47. Attendance of the Police and Crime Commissioner

The Police and Crime Commissioner gave an update on the following issues:

(i) New Arrangements for Probation Services

Discussions had taken place with the Police and Crime Commissioners regarding the new arrangements for probation services. It had been agreed to set up an overview board to monitor the contract for the area.

(ii) Victims Commissioning

Details were given of the Victims Commissioning work that was taking place. From October 2014, Police and Crime Commissioners would be given funds to commission services locally for victims. Victims' Needs Assessments were being carried out. The work involved looking at the overall service that victims received, including the service delivered by the Police. The work was taking part in three stages:

- an exercise around the profiling of victims
- qualitative research through talking to victims
- quantitative work in terms of benchmarking.

The findings would be used to develop the service specification. It was also important that the Police provided a more victim focussed service. The first report was due to be available in April and the qualitative work would then follow. A key issue would be victims of domestic abuse.

The Police and Crime Commissioner was asked if there would be consultation on the victims commissioning work. She stated that the research would be evidence based to ensure impartiality but that she would be pleased to report back to the Committee on the findings.

(iii) Police and Crime Plan Refresh

Details were given of the refresh of the Police and Crime Plan. A thorough review of the Plan was about to commence. The revised plan would be more evidence based than the existing plan and a more extensive consultation with stakeholders would take place. Members asked what action was being taken in respect of hate crime and suggested that more could be done to raise awareness of this issue. The Police and Crime Commissioner stated that she shared the concerns regarding this matter and, as part of the work that was taking place, the views of victims of hate crime would be sought as to how improvements could be made.

The Police and Crime Commissioner was asked about links that had been made with the universities. She stated that she had recently met with the University of York

regarding issues in respect of community safety. There was a dedicated Police Community Support Officer for the students and a member of the Student Union focussed on student safety. Work was ongoing to understand students' requirements in respect of safety.

The Police and Crime Commissioner was asked about the funding arrangements for the Safer York Partnership. She gave details of the proposed funding arrangements for York and North Yorkshire and stated that historically York had received 33% of the funding and the remainder had been allocated to other areas within North Yorkshire. The proposed future allocation would result in York receiving 30% of the funding. The proposed allocation had taken account of issues such as the amount of reported crime/anti-social behaviour and the number of victims. An outcome based specification would be in place in order to improve the situation for victims. From October there would be funding available for which the Safer York Partnership could bid. The Police and Crime Commissioner stated that she believed that currently some of the community safety funding was being used for purposes that should be provided from the police core funding. Through the victims commissioning process there would be more services available, for example mediation and counselling facilities, but these may be accessed differently. Members' attention was also drawn to the commitment of resources to the Anti Social Behaviour Hub.

A Member expressed concern at the proposed 3% reduction in the share of funding allocated to York and commented that this did not reflect the percentage of crime that took place in the city compared to other areas of North Yorkshire. Clarification was sought as to whether this ratio would also be reflected in the policing allocated to the city. The Police and Crime Commissioner stated that she was aiming to be as fair as possible in the allocation of resources across the North Yorkshire area. The approach taken was not based solely on the number of incidents of crime but also the impact that it had on victims. Currently the focus was too offender and location based.

Details were also given of the Community Fund. The Police and Crime Commissioner stated that the criteria for accessing this funding was likely to be reviewed.

It was noted that details of funding was available on the Police and Crime Commissioner's website.

The Police and Crime Commissioner stated that a fundamental review of police resourcing was taking place. Although it was not envisaged that any radical changes would be implemented, it was possible that there could be changes to management and ranks and consideration as to whether some positions could be carried out by civilians. There would also be investment in mobile technology.

The Police and Crime Commissioner was asked about the action that was being taken to address internet fraud. She stated that this was a major area of concern and work was taking place at a national level. Nationally there were some issues regarding the obtaining of information from telecommunications providers. Police and Crime Commissioners were lobbying hard regarding this matter.

The Chair thanked the Police and Crime Commissioner for her attendance at the meeting and accepted her invitation to return to speak to the Committee once the work on the victims' needs assessment was complete¹.

Resolved: That the update from the Police and Crime Commissioner be noted.

Reason: To ensure that the Committee is kept updated on the priorities of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Action Required

1. Include on work plan

MC

48. Attendance of Probation Service

A representative from the Probation Service gave a Ministry of Justice presentation on "Transforming Rehabilitation: A revolution in the way we manage offenders". A copy of the presentation is attached to the on-line agenda papers for this meeting.

Details were also given of the local arrangements that would be in place. The majority of low and medium risk offenders would be managed by independent providers. Members were informed of the procurement process. York would be part of a contract that also included North Yorkshire, Humberside and Lincolnshire. Contract compliance would remain the responsibility of the Ministry of Justice.

Resolved: That the presentation be noted.

Reason: To ensure that the Committee is kept updated on forthcoming changes within the Probation Service.

49. Quarter 3 Finance Monitor for Environmental Services and Public Protection

In view of the number of items on the agenda it was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting to enable it to be given due consideration.

50. Winter Maintenance Update

Members received a verbal update on the winter maintenance programme. Officers gave details of the number of treatments that had been carried out and explained the factors that were taken into account when determining whether or not to grit. Because of the mild winter, there had been fewer treatments than in previous years. Members noted that the allocated budget for the year had been spent and that there were budget commitments remaining.

Resolved: That the verbal update on the winter maintenance 2013/14 be noted.

Reason: To ensure that the Committee is kept updated following the changes to the winter maintenance programme.

51. Work Plan/Attendance of Cabinet Member for Crime and Stronger Communities

Consideration was given to the Committee's work plan.

The Cabinet Member for Crime and Stronger Communities was in attendance to update the Committee on her priorities and challenges. A copy of her report, which was tabled at the meeting, is attached to the on-line agenda papers for this meeting.

Discussion took place regarding the Community Conversations events. The Cabinet Member stated that this was the start of a process by which the Council was seeking to improve engagement with the community. Members stressed the importance of ensuring that ward committees, and residents' association meetings were well advertised.

Resolved: That the work plan be approved subject to the following amendments¹:

- Attendance of Cabinet Member for Crime and Stronger Communities removed from the proposed agenda for the next meeting.
- Inclusion of item on Quarter 3 Finance Monitor report on the agenda for the next meeting.

Reason: To ensure that the Committee has a planned programme of work in place.

Action Required

1. Update work plan

MC

Councillor Douglas, Chair

[The meeting started at 5.30 pm and finished at 7.10 pm].