

## Minutes of a meeting of the Keighley Area Committee held on Thursday, 20 December 2018 in Council Chamber - Keighley Town Hall

Commenced 6.00 pm  
Concluded 7.45 pm

### Present – Councillors

LABOUR	CONSERVATIVE
M Slater Godwin Abid Hussain	Brown M Smith Herd Whitaker

Apologies: Councillor Anne Hawkesworth and Councillor Khadim Hussain

### Councillor Abid Hussain in the Chair

#### 37. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

In the interest of transparency Councillor Brown disclosed an interest as he was a member of the Police and Crime Commission (Minute 42)

#### 38. MINUTES

**Resolved –**

**That the minutes of the meeting held on 18 October and 22 November 2018 be signed as a correct record.**

*Action: City Solicitor*

#### 39. INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

There were no appeals submitted by the public to review decisions to restrict documents.

#### 40. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions submitted by the public.

#### 41. ARRANGEMENTS BY THE COUNCIL AND ITS PARTNERS TO TACKLE CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

The report of the Interim Strategic Director, Children's Services, (**Document "T"**) provided an update to the report presented to the Keighley Area Committee on 1 March 2018 regarding the issue of child sexual exploitation (CSE). It set out the arrangements that had been put in place and which continued to be developed to safeguard children from CSE.

The Business Manager for the Children's Safeguarding Board, accompanied by representatives of the Youth Service and West Yorkshire Police addressed the meeting to report the work being undertaken, in partnership, in the Keighley area.

A comprehensive presentation of Document "T" provided assurances that CSE remained a focus for Bradford Council and its partners and that collectively there was a commitment from a strategic and operational perspective to safeguard children.

A summary of progress since the issue had been discussed in March 2018 was provided as follows:-

- The recently published Working Together legislation would result in changes to safeguarding arrangements nationally and partners were considering the local impact.
- The production and finalisation of the Strategic Response to CSE
- The development of a CSE action plan in support of the Strategic Response
- The appointment of a new Local Authority CSE analyst
- A continued review around the CSE Team around operational functionality
- The continued development of the monthly CSE Operational meeting to complement daily activity and the strategic CSE Sub-group
- Bradford's successful bid for Home Office funding for Trusted Relationships to provide additional support to vulnerable children
- Strategic Boards were now working together to tackle other complex safeguarding themes such as criminal exploitation, organised crime and modern day slavery.
- The development of Innovative methods of raising awareness through Safeguarding Stories, Mr Shape shifter, Somebody's Sister and Somebody's Daughter.
- A District Communications Group now in existence to provide practitioners, parents, carers, children and communities with proactive, innovative and consistent approaches to communications.
- Children's Services had appointed its first Social Media Apprentice to create stronger and more effective links with children and young

people.

- The District Digital Safeguarding Group would develop and deliver a Digital Safeguarding strategy and it was intended to develop a virtual hub, aimed at practitioners and the community.
- Bradford District Police Cyber Team continued to deliver training around on-line safety within the educational sector.
- Partners were coordinating a District wide approach to support schools in Bradford to meet the Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) needs of young people.
- Public Health was now taking a higher profile role within CSE and had developed a specific Public Health offer to support CSE work across the district
- The BSCB's development of detailed audit tools to ensure organisations and schools had appropriate safeguarding arrangements in place and evidence the voice of the child. (Section 11 and the Section 175 Audit Tools)

In addition appended to Document "T" was detailed information about the multi-agency CSE Hub April 2017 – March 2018; details of Braithwaite and Guardhouse Children's successful Year of Safety initiative and specific information and statistics for the Keighley Area.

Following a very detailed presentation a Member questioned how the CSE risk flags contained in the report were determined.

It was explained that a number of factors were used to flag CSE as either high, medium or low risk. A national risk assessment tool was used, by the CSE team, to provide a consistent, national, approach. The West Yorkshire Police representative reported that high risk was where a young person had made a disclosure or it was known that CSE had taken place. Medium risk could be where behaviour of the young person suggested they were at risk. A huge evidence base of factors attributed to CSE was considered and Members were assured that a scientific approach was taken. A representative from the Youth Service explained that a signs of safety assessment was undertaken if it was suspected a child may be at risk. That could be because a child had more money than they could explain or perhaps was using an expensive mobile phone.

A Member, whilst welcoming the comprehensive oral account of measures being undertaken, believed that Document "T" did not provide such a clear explanation. He requested that future reports provide information more in line to the oral presentation provided and that the use of acronyms be reduced or they be more clearly explained. It was acknowledged, in response, that the document was a general report which had been shared with the Executive and Overview and Scrutiny Committees but had been tailored to provide specific information about the Keighley area.

Members acknowledged that the report provided a positive account of partnership work being undertaken at a high level and at an early stage and wished that to be portrayed more widely.

Increases in reports of CSE were questioned and it was explained that increases over time were attributed to more informed understanding of CSE, practitioners were more informed and trained and ways of reported had changed. It was recognised that more children were vulnerable and intervention took place at a more early stage. Primary to secondary school could be a key age but there was no difference in Bradford than with other cities about the level of grooming or how that took place.

The role of parents was questioned and Members advised that a key area for parents was to strengthen their awareness of vulnerability. Work was undertaken with parents at school parents' evenings and with work around transition to secondary school.

A Member suggested that exploitation of vulnerable adults was also a concern and the role of the Adult Safeguarding Board was explained.

**Resolved –**

**That Members' appreciation of the corporate networking, providing an early warning of Child Sexual Exploitation, to ensure preventative work can be carried out be noted.**

***NO ACTION***

(Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny)

#### **42. KEIGHLEY NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TEAM**

The report of the Strategic Director, Place, (**Document "S"**) provided an update of work undertaken by the Keighley Neighbourhood Policing Team during the year 2017-2018.

Appended to the report was a summary of work undertaken by the Keighley Neighbourhood Policing Team over the past year and included an overview of the Keighley Area crime figures for November 2017 and provided a comparison with the same period in the previous year.

Inspector Khalid Khan addressed the meeting and presented his second area committee report on behalf of the Keighley Neighbourhood Policing Team. His report explained the new Neighbourhood Policing Structure which had been in place since March 2018. His presentation included the consultation process undertaken with communities to understand their concerns and to put in measures to address those concerns. It was explained that this was in the form of street surgeries; Ward Officer Team meetings; Parish Council and community meetings. Key issues which had arisen from that communication were reported and included bad driving; anti-social behaviour and drug related issues.

Members were informed that the Neighbourhood Policing Team had obtained funding, which had been match funded by Keighley Town Council to implement Operation Steerside which had resulted in a total of 369 driving prosecutions over

a three month period.

Document "T" reported that specific attention had been paid to key anti-social hotspots. Major issues had come to rise as a result of the hot summer weather in Ilkley and issues to address those, together with initiatives undertaken at Holden Park and Worth Valley Railway were reported.

Drug related crime was discussed and the success of Operation Saucerlake to target and disrupt those involved in the supply and production of drugs were detailed.

Work to target members of organised crime groups involved in all form of criminality was reported and subsequent arrests and sentencing were discussed.

Members were assured that reducing burglary dwellings was one of the key priorities of the Neighbourhood Policing Team and although there had been an increase in the overall number of recorded residential burglaries there were a number of reasons for that rise including changes in the recording process. Incidents of travelling burglaries targeting the area were reported and particular incidents occurring in affluent areas were being addressed.

Assurances were provided that visibility was a key element of the daily work of the team and formed a core role of engagement strategy. Attendance at key events in addition to ensuring Police Community Support Officers (PCSO) were present outside local schools and allowing direct interaction with parents, teachers and children was a priority. Early intervention was a key tool to divert youths from crime and the influence of negative role models and organised crime. Work was on going with primary schools running the citizenship programmes within identified schools.

Details of the Police Cadet Scheme were discussed and Members were advised of a two year scheme with 21 cadets in the Keighley area. The cadets met once a week at Keighley College and the scheme provided further volunteering opportunities for young people aged between 14-18 years old.

Following a very detailed account of the work being undertaken by the Neighbourhood Policing Team in the Keighley area a number of issues were raised to which the following responses were provided:-

- Taxi enforcement was a Council not police role but the police did work in partnership with council officers.
- Regular intelligence did suggest that enticements to crime were becoming more sophisticated. Evidence was required to enable prosecutions to progress and technical problems could arise with the collection of that evidence.
- It was acknowledged that there was some dissatisfaction with the police recorded in surveys. It was felt that this was because that satisfaction was influenced by other sources. A lot of misinformation was circulated on social media, however, the police did publicise success stories on their own social media to assure residents that they did focus on what local

people had identified as concerns.

- Police colleagues were working with a number of hydroponic gardeners (the cultivation of plants in a nutrient liquid with or without gravel or another supporting medium) to address concerns about cannabis production. Cannabis farms were linked to organised crime groups.
- There were a number of 'special constables' recruited in the Keighley area. They were allocated to specific neighbourhood teams for a designated number of hours per week and, due to the investment made in their recruitment they were asked to commit for a period of two years. Those constables provided a wealth of experience and support.
- Vehicles seized under Operation Steerside were rarely destroyed. The cars would go to a recovery garage and owners would then have to rectify the issue for which the vehicle was seized; prove that the vehicle was insured and pay for storage and recovering before the vehicle was released.
- There had been a reduction in the number of stolen bikes in the area from the previous year.
- Studies revealed that the use of cannabis led to the use of other drugs. Evidence was required to obtain a prosecution and unfortunately, when cannabis was smoked, the evidence was destroyed.
- The percentage of recovered stolen goods was low. This was because items such as cash or jewellery were easily disposed of. Cars often were sent to 'chop shops' where their parts were used for other vehicles.

A Member referred to particular issues encountered with parking in the Craven ward and questioned if those were a police or parking enforcement issue. She reported residents' frustrations with a lack of action around the congestion which was being caused. In response it was explained that police resources were stretched, however, if details of prolific problems were passed to the police or the Council's Ward Officers a focus could be provided on those issues.

The use of Criminal Behaviour Orders (CBO) was questioned and it was confirmed that if a person failed to comply with the restrictions of a CBO they could be arrested and charged.

#### **Resolved –**

- (1) That the work undertaken by the Keighley Neighbourhood Policing Team during the year 2017-2018, that contributed to addressing Community Safety priorities within the Ward Plans for the Keighley area, be noted.**
- (2) That the positive partnership working to address crime and community safety between the Police, elected Members, Parish and Town Councils, Bradford Council officers, community organisations, volunteers and**

**residents within the Keighley area be noted.**

***NO ACTION***

(Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee)

Chair

**Note: These minutes are subject to approval as a correct record at the next meeting of the Keighley Area Committee.**

THESE MINUTES HAVE BEEN PRODUCED, WHEREVER POSSIBLE, ON RECYCLED PAPER