

COMMUNITIES PARTNERSHIP BOARD
Thursday 25th November 2021
Microsoft Teams

Board Members:

Cllr Carole Pattison (Chair)	Portfolio Holder, Kirklees Council
Jacqui Stansfield	Service Manager, Adults Safeguarding Board
Jill Greenfield	Head of Local Integrated Partnerships, Kirklees Council
Jo Richmond	Head of Communities, Kirklees Council
Lee Hamilton	Safer Kirklees Manager, Kirklees Council
Val Johnson	Third Sector Leaders Representative (TSL)
Amanda Evans	Service Director for Adult Social Care Operations, KC
David Smith	Victims Advisor WYCA Mayors Office
Joanne Atkin	Probation Service Kirklees
Clare Robinson	Head of Nursing & Safeguarding CCG
Mel Meggs	Director of Children's Services, Kirklees Council
Dale Gardiner	District Commander Kirklees WYF

Also, in Attendance:

Alexia Gray	Head of Quality Standards & Safeguarding P'ships
Chani Mortimer	Service Manager Domestic Abuse & Safeguarding P'ships, KC
Chris Walsh	Performance Lead, Kirklees Council
Claire Groves	Service Manager CHART Kirklees
Helen Geldart	Head of Housing Service, Kirklees Council
Julia Clough	Head of Commissioning Policing & Crime WYCA
Julian Hobson	Senior Manager Welfare & Exchequer, Kirklees Council
Sarah Holmes	Operations Manager Housing, Kirklees Council
Steve Dodds	Sup Int Deputy District Commander WYP
Veronica Matheson	Business Support, Kirklees Council
Wayne Hoyle	West Yorkshire VRU

Apologies:

Cllr Naheed Mather	Labour, Dalton, Councillor
Emily Parry- Harries	Head of Public Health, Kirklees Council
Cllr Mohan Sokhal	Labour Greenhead, Councillor
Caroline Henderson	Partnerships Officer
Julie Kiddy	Operations Manager, Wakefield & Kirklees Victim Support
Cllr Mark Thompson	Conservative, Birstall and Birkenshaw, Councillor
Vikki O'Brien	Probation Service

Item 2: Matters arising from Communities Board Papers 13th September 2020 – Councillor Pattison

- **Inclusive Communities Framework** - All to offer time to be part of the ICF development Design Circles - **completed (update on the Agenda)**
- **Town Centre Policing** – LH & JR and Police to meet to discuss the continuation of funding for the Town Centre team on going past April 2022 – **completed**
LH updated He and Police representative attended the Huddersfield & Dewsbury Programme Board and will be having further discussions with Joanne Bartholomew on the funding as discussed at the last Communities Board meeting and recommended on continuing the funding. **Action: LH to feedback to the Board after meeting with Joanne Bartholomew**
- **Data and Intelligence**
CW to share the slides shown in this meeting - **completed**
All to take time to look at the interview questions regarding the plan in the pack - **completed**

Invitations to be sent to all board members for interviews regarding the Strategic Intelligence Assessment and Partnership Plan – GS - **completed**

➤ **Domestic Abuse**

KH to share slides presented at today's meeting with the group - **completed**

VJ, Julian & JR to discuss possible sources of white goods and furniture to support victims to move from refuge into more suitable safe accommodation- **ongoing, linking with Afghan Resettlement Programme to support victims to move from refuge into more suitable and safe accommodation.**

Minutes agreed and correct

Update - Cllr Pattison informed all that the minutes will be published on the Council's Website from today's meeting and future meetings.

A reminder will be given at the beginning of each meeting and the minutes will be checked by Legal. She asked members for their consent on publishing previous minutes of past meetings. **All agreed**

She reminded members of the format of today's meeting – the first will be a discussion on an item identified previously (**Unregulated Housing**) followed by an hour of business items.

Cllr Pattison informed members of Julie Sykes retirement and David Smith new role at the Mayor's Office. She thanked them both for the work they have done for Kirklees over the years.

Item 3: Unregulated Housing – Jo Richmond

JR gave an update on the key points and issues and asked partners for their comments on the unregulated housing report on accommodation for vulnerable adults. She stated these properties are not inspected by CQC or Ofsted and the issue is also happening in other parts of the country and is very challenging.

She described what unregulated housing was and highlighted a live case study of vulnerable women and the trauma experienced. The case study focussed on how vulnerable women, often prison leavers with a number of issues around substance misuse, domestic violence, mental health, sex working etc and the trauma they had experienced. The case came to the attention of the Council via Safer Kirklees, an elected member and residents in relation to an antisocial behaviour issue regarding a noisy argument on the street.

The report highlights nine properties, six in particular are very close together and information shared talked about the demand on the Police and Probation facing challenges around the Provider bringing women into the area from all over the country with no connections in Kirklees. The provider also went into premises used by the Council for temporary accommodation to encourage women to move into their properties. Enhanced housing benefit is used to fund the organisation and property/support.

We looked at the safeguarding risk and both partners and the Council were very concerned and looked at how we can work together to stop the flow of referrals into the properties. Probation was able to reach out to colleagues in other parts of the country to try and others referring people in.

They feedback that due to the shortage of places very few places are available for these women to live with their support needs.

She stated they met and visited with other providers to understand the safeguarding risk and vulnerability of the women living in these properties, the lack of experience of the staff and the organisation supporting them was obvious. Our Safeguarding Adults team and CHART partner supported the organisation with risk assessments and staff training and have arranged further visits.

Our concerns were escalated to our Director of Adult Services and a letter was sent by the Safeguarding Board as well as the Director.

Held further meetings with residents, elected members and partners contributing to this agenda.

CG stated the level of complexity was not what they were expecting in the properties they visited and the needs of the women needing support created additional risk by co existing in the same environment.

Engagement with the management team highlighted a lack of leadership and expertise on Risk Assessments and how to support the women in the properties. With coaching and guidance her team is trying to support the management team by offering training on basic lifesaving, managing risk and how to use Naloxone to save a life because we see it as the right thing to do. A supply of Naloxone was also given to them as this was lacking in the premises.

The local community also highlighted the use of injecting equipment and anti-social behaviour on the street, our team shared information with the community and the staff on managing these.

The Probation teams were excellent in a joint approach to managing risks and responding successfully with CHART over a number of events that took place in the properties that created additional trauma in supporting the women and it took some time in getting the properties to be a safer place in order to reduce the risk.

The work took a lot of resources but there was a wide system response in Kirklees to support the women and the Kirklees residents with the greatest risk but due to the lack of training and expertise from the provider, Kirklees residents then may not get the services they needed as the focus was on the highest risk, and that was a difficult decision we had to make.

Questions & Comments:

JS said there are implications on other Local Authorities placing people in our area and the providers management approaching them and technically making them homeless because they were placed there with no support and getting evicted or moved out before support can be offered. The management team has a very high level of turnaround and therefore relationship building is very difficult.

SH said Kirklees Housing Solutions took the decisions not to refer clients into the service because there was no assurance for us on the quality of support on offer by the client group and concern about the concentration on the numbers of properties in a very small street.

We do have a need for supported accommodation for vulnerable women and so does other local authorities hence the reason they come into our areas. We have inherited cases from other areas that becomes our problem when tenancies fail, and they need rehousing support through the statutory homelessness legislation taking up our resources and diverting away from existing Kirklees residents.

CR we cannot ignore the risk to the women and must write to Safeguarding Partnerships and other boards regarding what our issues are.

JH we have not paid any housing benefits to due to the complexities and are yet to make a decision. Hull City Council, Middlesbrough and Sunderland all raised the same concerns regarding the provider.

We have former staff as whistle-blowers, and we have also found some information ourselves. A decision will be made that they do not offer supported housing, they can appeal.

We have a particular need for supported housing across the borough that unlocks enhanced housing benefit for quality accommodation and need to procure for better accommodation.

We have no control over unregulated housing and because of what we have done by limiting the numbers this creates risk for the provider. We have learned a lesson across services and a decision will be taken with colleagues regarding commissioning and what needs to be done in the sector.

With registered social landlords, we get 100% of the charge back of the eligible charges that comes through the benefit system and a percentage from not for profit or charitable organisations.

Cllr CP there has also been an increase on the number of incidents for the NHS, Police and other partners and the resources can be used elsewhere, we need to find a way of supporting this.

SD there are wider issues and impact on the Police and our duty of care as partners. We have a right as a partner in relation to how we regulate services and thanked the group for the work they have done on the subject.

MM praised the team on the work that was done and a report that was well written. She said we now need to evaluate what needs to be done and the recommendation listed which she is happy to support through the Association of Directors of Adult Services (ADDAS).

She said with collective actions we get better outcomes for the vulnerable in society and need to have a campaign from all the different forums on committing to raising the issue.

MM has written to all Director of Children's Services in the country telling them about our experience of a private children's home provider and the experience that our communities are having around the mismanagement of provision and asking local authorities who are using that provision to review it and those considering it not to. As a recommendation she suggested contacting other local authorities to let them know of providers we are concerned about and build that into all our systems to escalate issues.

She asked the Probation representative how does Probation locally and nationally manage the market and quality assurance of unregulated housing when placing people straight out of prison and children into that type of provision.

JA updated they have a number of initiatives since they reunified in June and have received funding for Class 3 accommodation on providing accommodation for 80 days for people who are homeless. We also explore approved premises and refer to other housing providers locally. They also check for crime hotspots before placing individuals and carry out a Risk Assessment on the suitability of the accommodation.

Commissioned rehabilitative services to meet a range of areas of need related to people's offending, one of which is accommodation with Shelter for support and advice on accessing suitable accommodation.

In terms of nationally on quality assurance on unregulated accommodation, this is not seen as a Probation role but happy to feedback at the next meeting.

MM said quality assurance, risk assessment on unregulated accommodation will be raised and asked JA to inform Probation Service about the issues and happy to share our report with additional recommendation.

CG explained the provider was communicating directly via the prisons with the women in accommodation in Kirklees and the CRC team did not have an opportunity to get involved in rehousing of the women. This is now on the Out of Area Probation team agenda and needing highlighting to the board nationally.

Cllr CP thanked all for their input on the discussion and highlighting the issues on unregulated housing, the challenges and the work that is being done and getting the recommendations implemented and lobbying various bodies in getting actions on unregulated accommodation.

She also spoke on exploring opportunities for regional accreditation of good providers and asking Kirklees Specialist Accommodation Board to review the needs of vulnerable adults. It was suggested we make a formal complaint as a Partnership to the CRC Regulator subject to Council legal advice.

Actions:

- **JA to update on what Probation is doing locally and nationally on quality assurance on managing the market on accommodation for people coming out of prison**
- **All agreed to explore the recommendations and work together as a partnership to get the issues resolved**
- **JR/LH to liaise with the legal team before raising a complaint with the CIC Regulator.**
- **HG Ask that the Kirklees Specialist Accommodation Board review the need for accommodation for vulnerable adults (such as women coming out of prison/with complex needs) and report back to Communities Board.**
- **Housing to Explore opportunities for local or regional accreditation for 'good providers' that sets out our expectations, and links, where possible, to financial incentives (such as enhanced housing benefit)**

Item 4: Community Board ToR – Lee Hamilton

LH gave an update on the (Terms of Reference) ToR and the two key objectives which are the Councils Strategic vision.

1. People living in a safe cohesive community and protected from harm
2. Experience high quality clean and green environment

We have also added a new objective around “Serious Violence Duty” in place of the environmental focus which sits elsewhere.

The ToR gives full details of our Communities Partnership and what we have done and the statutory requirements as a group and individuals, our strategic commitments, priorities, and this is documented in the Strategic Intelligence Assessment (SIA) which looks at building resilient communities and reducing risk.

The ToR highlights our responsibilities and statutory requirements on meeting and achieving the vision, the strategic priorities, monitoring progress and the challenges on delivering the partnership plan. There are still gaps in the membership list and that needs to be looked at.

Meetings will be held quarterly and chaired by Cllr Pattison and deputy chair the Police District Commander

The Strategic Delivery group commented on the document, and we have added their comments, but there is still work to be done and welcome your comments.

Questions & Comments:

DS victims are still missing in the ToR and this needs to be addressed. The board must accept some responsibility for the care and support for victims of crime and antisocial behaviour.

Members agreed that “victims of crime and anti-social behaviour” can be added to the TOR, this can then be signed off.

Cllr CP as a board we have responsibilities but currently have nowhere to report to and this needs to be investigated but may be outside of our terms of reference.

JG suggested reporting to Health and Well-being Board and other Strategic Partnerships in terms of relationship between individuals, organisations, and partnership executives to get quick responses back to the board.

Actions:

LH & JR to add victims of crime and anti-social behaviour to the TOR document.

CR nominated Vicky Dutchburn as deputy representative for CCG

Item 5: Strategic Intelligence Assessment & draft priorities/ Partnership Plan – Chris Walsh & Lee Hamilton

LH gave a presentation on Kirklees Strategic Intelligence Assessment (SIA) and a summary on the background of the Crime and Disorder Act 1988 which states “authorities must outline strategic community safety priorities via a partnership plan”. Our current plan is due to expire at the end of the year and is being worked on.

CW updated there has been a few changes to the SIA but there are multi agencies assessment from various agencies including the Police, Housing, and board members alongside other base work information which we have now incorporated.

The assessment has lots of data sources and tries to identify what some of the shared themes are in relation to crime, fear of crime, behaviours, risk and harm.

The impact of Covid lockdown saw offences decreased by 13% overall but that did differ by offense type. Vehicle and burglary crime, reduced by 50% due to less people travelling and being at home.

There was an increase in online offences, fraud, stalking and harassment, fly tipping and anti-social behaviour.

Lots of partners were engaged in remote working and Covid response meant there was less opportunities to pick up issues and fewer referrals coming into Channel.

Questions and Comments:

JR asked members for comments on the SIA to assist her CW and LH in writing the key objectives of the plan and priorities on what we want, how it will be measured and how we get there. She stated they are hoping to have a draft plan ready before the Christmas holidays and to carry out consultation and engagement to present to the board in March 2022.

SD said Covid has had an impact on the level of crime and there has been some changes in demand, threats, harm and risk across the districts and Kirklees. West Yorkshire Police received over 3295 more reports of crime than they did last year. We are currently tracking 2019-20 incidents and overall seeing 1301 reduction of crime in the districts which is a positive sign and a successful partnership plan, but still needs to be mindful and not be blinded by Covid.

He suggested we may want to cross reference the Mayor's Police and Crime plan that will be produced early in the new year into our plan.

Cllr CP said she is aware the Mayor has been consulting on their plan, there will be similarities, but we will be working on a Kirklees Plan and not West Yorkshire.

MM the plan needs to say something about Covid and the impact and what the data is telling us. We are seeing some unusual data across the services and need to keep in mind what the SIA is saying to us is kept under review and need to be cautious.

She also suggested the Council sign off the Youth Justice Plan which is a statutory plan addressing some of the issues of inequality for both victim and perpetrator of crime and the disadvantaged groups where we might not understand their needs.

JR said she is working with the disproportionality group to make sure we can connect as we move forward

Actions:

LH& CW to share the presentation with members

LH/JR to check progress on West Yorkshire Plan.

ALL members to forward comments on the SIA to LH&JR to write up the key objectives to produce and agree a Communities Partnership Plan, draft to next Communities Board.

Item 6: Inclusive Communities Framework– Jill Greenfield

JG gave an update on the papers that was shared with the board on the Partnership framework to meet the outcomes and make inclusive communities everyone's business and supporting the work on unregulated housing.

We have developed the Inclusive Communities framework and working with three design circles, and Belong, a national cohesion and integration agency, Council services and other partners focusing on the principles of Inclusive Communities' framework to ensure all voices can be heard and taking the intelligence data that feeds into the project to track our progress on how well the job is being done. Two of the design circles has taken place and the third is due mid-December.

We want to understand communities and focus on listening to their issues as individual organisations and agencies to come together. She recommended that Inclusive Communities framework is held by the board in terms of governance and partnership accountability and understanding the root causes in tackling inequality within the communities and celebrating their strengths and building relationships.

A copy of the draft principles was included in today's meeting papers for feedback from members.

Questions & Comments:

None

Cllr CP we will continue to support the development of the Inclusive Communities Framework

Actions:

JG to liaise with JR and other partners to get indicator of measures and how we all contribute to them to update in March 2022

Item 7: Serious Violence/ Serious Violence Duty – Lee Hamilton & Jo Richmond

JR gave a summary on Serious Violence and stated there is still lots of working to be done on identifying who is doing what and the drivers.

Our approach is not replacing existing work, we have a number of strategies we are working on (Domestic Abuse, Reducing Youth Reoffending, Violence Against Women and Girls and a draft Reducing Youth Violence and Exploitation Strategy) and working on how best to connect them and agreeing an overarching framework on addressing serious violence and who leads on each.

We are meeting with the VRU team on accessing support and to discuss the strategies and connecting on West Yorkshire level on organised crime and exploitation. We will be using the VRU Gold structure for coordination along with our key partners working on the agenda of violence which is a key part of the Community plan.

The plan is coming ahead of the strategy, and we will be covering the work we are doing now and what we intend doing and writing the strategy after the plans have been approved for this year.

A draft copy of the Serious Violence Duty report was sent out prior to today's meeting. LH gave an update on the duty, which looks at information sharing data, and knowledge around serious violence to have a local needs assessment and strategy to prevent and reduce serious violence.

The duty covers the public health approach and other specified authorities like the Police, Fire and Rescue, Probation, Youth Justice and Youth Offending teams, health and local authorities and consultation with education when the needs assessment is being done. We are planning on rolling the duty out around Spring 2022.

Questions & Comments:

SD in terms of Police response in the district we have a positive response rate of 1 in 3 for most serious violent offences at the moment which is the highest across the county, but there is still work to be done.

Cllr CP asked are there any financial resources available and are we in a position to fulfil the duty?

JR we won't know until we see the duty and whether financial resources are allocated to Community Safety Partnership's and should know more in the new year. By March we should have a strategy and what our approach will be and will take that to the VRU. If a needs assessment duty is requested this could happen very quickly. We will also talk to other local authorities should the government not release the Duty by March.

Actions:

JR/LH to feedback on Serious Violence Duty at March meeting

Item 8: Any Other Business – All

Cllr CP two papers for AOB was circulated for today's meeting as listed below for information purposes but happy to take comments for feedback.

Kirklees Council's Corporate Safeguarding Strategy

None

WY Combined Authority Q2 Report

DS a new Vision Zero Board has been created to politically lead and support the rollout of Vision Zero on culture change to address people being killed, suffering life changing injuries on our roads completely unacceptable and set a date for achievement. The Police are involved, and the vision is championed by the Chief Constable.

JC updated commissioning of provisions in the new year for restorative justice for victims of sexual violence. Spoke on a key decision relating to sexual violence and domestic abuse and the grant from the Ministry of Justice uplifting on specific roles for the next two years for West Yorkshire providers. MOJ had moved this second-year funding to indicative making it difficult for some of the providers and generated issues around recruitment and retention of 25 trained specialist roles. The issue was raised with the Mayor, and she has agreed to commit up to £1M worth of funding to secure the roles for next year and will be working with the MOJ to get the funds

SD West Yorkshire Police has been judged outstanding by Her Majesty Inspectorate of Constabulary, Fire and Rescue services. There are 10 areas being measured and were graded outstanding in four, good in four and adequate in two.

Close of meeting – Councillor C Pattison

THE NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 2nd March 2022 1:30pm – 3:30pm