

AGENDA ITEM**2.1****MINUTES OF THE SCRUTINY – CRIME AND DISORDER COMMITTEE****5TH MARCH 2019 AT 7.00 P.M – VENUE COUNCIL CHAMBER****PRESENT: COUNCILLORS**

Councillor Pedersen (Chair), Baker (Vice Chair), Councillors, Davis, Franks, Keens, Mirza, Moles, Rogers, and J. Taylor.

01.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (REF: 1)	
	<p>Resolved: Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from Councillors Agbley (Vice Chair) and Roden.</p>	
02.	MINUTES (REF: 2)	
	<p>Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 27th March 2018 be agreed and taken as a correct record and the Chair be authorised to sign them.</p>	
03.	CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENT – WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS (REF: 3)	
	<p>The Chair, Councillor Anna Pedersen welcomed everyone present and led the introductions.</p> <p>The Chair explained that the Crime and Disorder Committee had the responsibility to review and scrutinise the work of the Community Safety Partnership in relation to crime and community safety in line with legislative requirement and to hold the Community Safety Partnership to account.</p> <p>She stated the committee would not be able to address individual queries about crime in Luton as it was a public meeting. However, opportunity would be given at the conclusion of the meeting where time permits to take written questions which would be collected towards the end of the meeting otherwise, written response could be forwarded at a later date where email or contact addresses had been provided.</p> <p>She further explained the structure of the meeting with the opportunity for Members of the Board to ask question of officers at the conclusion of each item.</p> <p>Resolved: That the Chair's announcement be noted.</p>	

04	REFERENCE FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD – BRINGING ON STREET SEXUAL EXPLOITATION TO AN END (REF: 6.1)	
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Members of the Crime and Disorder Committee received the Reference regarding Bringing on Street Sexual Exploitation to An End (Ref: 6.1). The item was introduced by Vicky Hawkes, Service Manager Neighbourhood Delivery. She stated that Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Board would recall that the report on this matter was submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Board on 14th January 2019 and it was resolved that “That the Crime and Disorder Committee request the Bedfordshire Police to report on their action plan and proposals to tackle on street sexual exploitation with the aim of addressing the impact on victims and bringing on-street sexual exploitation to an end”.

Councillor Mirza explained that the reference report was in relation to her query whether there was police action plan in place to tackle and identify from source the demand for on street sex trade. She stated that from local resident’s perspective the sex trade activities continue to take place and it felt that there was very little that was being done about it. She enquired if there was real evidence which shows that the on street sex issues were being addressed by responsible organisations. She enquired about the level of work undertaken by the Police and any undercover work which was taking place to capture offenders who continue to demand or promote the on street sex trade.

In response, Greg Horsford Police Superintendent, Bedfordshire Police stated that a huge amount of work had been undertaken in respect of protecting vulnerable victims. A reasonable amount of undercover work continues to take place regularly in view of tackling sexual exploitation and to protect citizens who were vulnerable. He said however, that he was unable to give details of work being carried out daily as most of this work was intelligence and work in progress. He explained that the internet had changed the way in which the sex trade currently operated because it gradually moved from on-street sex trade to the cyber world of internet. Police officer would continue to be deployed to undertake undercover work, specifically work relating to on line sex trade.

Members felt that it was reassuring to hear that undercover work were taking place to investigate and tackle the sex trade and to protect the most vulnerable in the community.

The Portfolio holder for Place and Infrastructure (Safer Stronger Communities) Councillor Aslam Khan, also explained that quite a number of initiatives were regularly taking place to support the work of the police including improvement of street lightings, installation of cameras and “car number recognition” to help reduce the demand for on street sex trade.

A Member commented that licensable and regulatory brothels with public health support was possibly the way forward for on street sex trade and therefore the Police involvement would be to monitor and tackle illegal trading, people not registered thus freeing police resources to concentrate on other critical matters.

Another Member explained the need to cut off the demand for the on street sex trade from the grass root. He stated that increased enforcement action

	<p>against the perpetrators would reduce the supply to a bare minimum. It was acknowledged that the issue of reduced resources in terms of enforcement action was a challenge.</p> <p>Greg Horsford Police Superintendent Bedfordshire Police in response further explained that sex trade had been in existence from time and may never be completely eradicated as it was driven by many factors. He said that the Police resources were presently stretched to the limit but as much as possible the Police would continue to take action in order to protect the vulnerable.</p> <p>In response to questions regarding the regularity of police enforcement action, the committee was informed that last year enforcement action was brought against 2 perpetrators, however, a lot of those involved in the sex trade had become smarter and had switched most of their activities from on street sext trade to on line trade. This had made it more challenging for the Police however, the number of people involved in the sex trade had reduced and no longer on the increase due to police intelligence.</p> <p>There were several initiatives and actions by the police that helped to trigger arrest and in the past police officers had been deployed as moles and put on special duties and undercover work to crack down on street sex trade. As the sex trade had gradually transcended undercover tactics was now being used on line to target underage sex exploitation more effectively.</p> <p>Resolved: (i) That the report (Ref: 6.1) be noted; that the work of the Bedfordshire Police in regarding on line sexual exploitation be noted by the Crime and Disorder Committee;</p> <p>(ii) That the Recommendation from the Overview and Scrutiny Board (Ref: 6.1) be noted;</p> <p>(iii) That the Committee's thanks to the Bedfordshire Police be recorded.</p>	
<p>05.</p>	<p>SETTING THE SCENE/INTRODUCTIONS/BRIEF SPEECH ON THE WORK OF THE COMMUNITY SAFETY (REF: 7)</p>	
	<p>Laura Church Interim Chief Executive and Chair of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) welcomed members of the committee, colleagues and members of the public to the 2019 Crime and Disorder Committee. She expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to attend this year's meeting to briefly talk about the work of the Community Safety Partnership in the past year and the year ahead. She stated that this year despite the challenges and limitations with stretched council and police resources, and a range of complex issues, the partnership had continued to work closely with other agencies to deliver their priorities both for the past and coming year.</p> <p>She stated that the CSP would to focus on sustainability and reflect on the effectiveness of work that had taken place and to ensure that the existing issues had been addressed before taking on more work for the coming year. The progress of work and achievements and the business plan for 2019-20 would be discussed in detail during the course of the meeting.</p>	

	<p>Resolved: That the introduction and brief speech by the Chair of the Community Safety Partnership be noted.</p>	
<p>06</p>	<p>RECORDED CRIME OVERVIEW (REF: 8)</p>	
	<p>Superintendent Greg Horsford, Bedfordshire Police and Chair of the Reducing Violence & Exploitation Board delivered the report (Ref: 8) on the levels of crime and overview of crime figures and antisocial behaviour (ASB) at ward levels. Inspector James Goldsmith, Inspector Anita Clarke and Sergeant John Killick provided additional information to support the report.</p> <p>They reported on progress and highlighted key areas of work, allocated hot sports with dedicated new PCSO Team to help tackle burglary and more invasive crimes within the community. He said this targeted work would ensure prompt action by the Police and also enable victims to receive support within 48 hours of the crime taken place. A lot more work continue to take place between Bedfordshire Police and the CSP in order to reduce crime levels in the town including installation of cameras in strategic places to capture and tackle crime locally.</p> <p>Members were informed of key areas in which the Police tackle crime by utilising all of their functions and main responsibilities to locate and identify areas of work. The Police continue to work in an innovative and creative nature including initiatives to target drug dealers in a proactive way. Members were further informed of other police action plan in place to tackle crime in Luton as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Future’s House</u> – Collaboration with Luton Council, Housing and other partner agencies in relation to planning and risk assessment of work to be carried out; • <u>Utilising Local Priorities</u> – Utilising local priorities in conjunction with crime figures, domestic and burglary were a major priority; • <u>Van Burglaries</u> – This does not feature as a priority but a lot of work was taking place around intelligence and police were looking at options to deploy resources to address the issue of van burglaries. A more partnership plan should be adopted and the Bedfordshire police would like to invite the council and partner agencies to work with the police in order to address this issue. <p>The Chair of the committee commented that she found “Beds Alert” scheme very effective but enquired whether the general public were willing to sign up to it and whether there were enough people on the scheme. In response, the Police advised that they were currently utilising the “Neighbourhood Watch”</p>	

	<p>coordinators but the Police would continue to promote “Beds Alert” as it was found to be effective.</p> <p>Responding to questions in relation to unlicensed motorbikes and planned action to tackle this nuisance, Members of the committee were informed that there had been lots of issues around addressing this matter. Volunteers who worked as special constables were not always available for work and therefore not sustainable, as a result, last year, the Police recruited more volunteers who would continue to work as special constables with the responsibility to issue Section 51 notice which allowed unlicensed motorbikes to be crushed and or destroyed. He stated that it was not always possible to pursue unlicensed motorbikes due to the inherent risk involved.</p> <p>Councillor Franks acknowledged the presence of the representative from the Police and Crime Commissioner’s Office and stated that he was pleased with the work of the PCC. He said he understood the context and the difficulties in deploying available resources to specific work streams, but stated that consistency and stability was vital to this work.</p> <p>Members heard that the issue of limited resources was generally recognised by the Police hence they continuously review options to deploy resources. Up to 20 Community Officers would be in post within the next 12 months. In terms of lifelong positions and consistency it was not always possible as there were different pathways. In the past, there had been huge increase in police numbers but those police officers had now been in positions for up to 30 years and some of them were now due retirement and the Police Force was now losing their police officers not just in relation to retirement, but in a number of ways, however increased numbers of Community Officers was expected this year 2019.</p> <p>In terms of funding in respect of Neighbourhood Watch, it was stated that funding was not the only challenge faced by the Police, there was generally constraints around not finding the right people to be involved in the scheme but the Police would continue to support the scheme in every way.</p> <p>Members commended the work of the Police.</p> <p>Resolved: That the report (Ref:8) regarding Recorded Crime Overview be noted and that the Bedfordshire Police be commended for their work in tackling crime in the community.</p>	
<p>07.</p>	<p>TOWN CENTRE PUPBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER (REF: 9)</p>	
	<p>Vicky Hawkes Service Manager, Neighbourhood Delivery Luton Council delivered the report Ref: 9 in respect of progress on the implementation of the Town Centre Public Spaces Protection Order which came into force in July 2018.</p> <p>The Service Manager explained that the Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) was introduced through the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act</p>	

2014. She stated that at the commencement of the PSPO in July 2018, an engagement process took place to inform the public about the proposed restrictions in the Town Centre. She stated that progress had previously been reported to the Overview and Scrutiny Board in the last year.

She further advised of the details of the restrictions and progress as follows:

- **Consumption of alcohol**

A breach of this order would take place where a person had failed to stop drinking or failed to give up alcohol when required to do so at the request of the police or authorised council officer.

- **Begging**

It was now an offence to beg within the town centre either by approaching individuals and or sitting and loitering with the intention of asking for money from passers-by. This offence would only occur when an individual fail to stop begging when requested to do so. This was an addition to the current criminal offence of begging only enforceable by the police.

- **Urinating and Defecating in a public space**

This was prohibited in defined areas of the town centre and a number of penalty charges had been issued and a high number of payments recorded. She added that there were no prosecutions recorded.

The Service Manager explained some of the impact and progress of the PSPO as highlighted in the report. She stated that there had been visible reduction in the antisocial behaviour issues outlined within the responsibility of the PSPO within Luton Town Centre. She said there might be further progress made during the summer months.

In terms of compliance, and data collected since implementation, positive feedback from partners including the Mall Security had been received. Also a number of PSPOs had used their powers in a number of ways since the implementation and high compliance had been recorded. Members were further informed that by September 2019, the service would be able to evident and evaluate more transparently the impact of the PSPOs in having positive effect. She explained that the PSPO was linked with anti-social behaviour order and it was not to be used in isolation.

It was stated that an annual review of the PSPO would take place to track its progress and effectiveness, whilst capturing seasonal trends, it was expected that there would be visible behavioural change and reduced breaches in the near future.

In response to questions relating to the number of paid penalty charge notices (PCN), it was stated that where PCN had not been paid, the next line of action was prosecution; however, that very few prosecutions had been recorded, was evident that offenders regularly paid their penalty charges.

In terms of dog fouling, a Member commented that there was need to do

more and tackle the issue from the grassroots of the problem as people currently use bags but would then resort to dumping the used bags in the green space or in the bushes nearby. She stated that the provision of more bins should be considered as an option. In response, the Service Manager explained that the PSPO had not been extended to all areas in Luton as the Order was particularly to address the issues in the town centre.

The Portfolio holder for Place and Infrastructure (Safer Stronger Communities) Councillor Aslam Khan stated that the provision of additional bins may not be a workable solution and although there was no easy way of addressing this matter, the service would continue to educate members of the public, it was about behavioural change.

In terms of available figures, the Service Manager stated that the figures were currently not available; however, there were quite a number of repeat offenders which would be subject of full analysis in due course.

A Member stated that in relation to the street drinking and begging, there were visible number of offenders at the town centre during evening times, he enquired how resources was spread and or distributed to tackle this issue. In response, the Service Manager advised that resources were robustly spread during day and evening times but mainly within the town centre.

It was stated that the train station was another key area that should be looked into, as begging was quite visible in this area during day or night time.

In terms of referrals, the Police and Council Officers continue to identify and refer offenders for support to various groups including the Town Centre Intervention Group, the Police and Council. The PSPO had been carefully designed taken into consideration the complex nature and the vulnerability of the group involved.

A Member stated that in London, a scheme which deterred people from giving cash but instead use alternative method of support had been designed and it appears to be effective. The scheme encourages giving through alternative means more beneficial to them.

Councillor Aslam Khan stated, that the service would continue to explore different approaches and options to help understand what was driving the behaviour of this particular group. He said the "Alternative Giving Scheme" which gives members of the public opportunity to make donations to Housing support and other support agencies would continue to run alongside the PSPO to help mitigate perception and to help bring awareness to members of the public.

Councillor Mirza, suggested that the service should look into displaying signs of the "Alternative Giving Scheme" at the train station and at other strategic places within the town to ensure that people who may wish to support this vulnerable group were made aware of other means more beneficial.

Resolved: (i) That the report (Ref: 9) regarding the town centre Public Spaces Protection Order be noted;

	<p>(ii) That the Service be requested to publicise “Alternative Giving Scheme” more widely with signs displayed around the train station and other strategic places in the Town Centre in order to discourage people from giving cash but also encouraging them to give in a way that would be more beneficial to this vulnerable group.</p>	
<p>08.</p>	<p>ACHIEVEMENTS AND PROGRESS OF THE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP (REF: 10)</p>	
	<p>Vicky Hawkes Service Manager, Neighbourhood Delivery Luton Council delivered the report (Ref: 10) in respect of recent achievements and delivery of the work of Community Safety Partnership Plan (CSP) 2018/19. She stated that the partnership was near the completion of the second year of delivery and that this report sets out the key activities undertaken by the partnership. The current CSP Plan covering 2017 to 2020 tabled at the meeting was the overarching plan which set out the partnership’s key actions and priorities.</p> <p>The Service Manager highlighted some of the key achievements of the partnership as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partial closure order on 60 private properties in Farley was successfully obtained by the partnership following high levels of ASB and complaints. Members of the committee were informed that this was a significant achievement that had received positive feedback from the community. The project was further extended for a 3 months period. closed in one area – This was a good piece of work • Visible reduction of antisocial behaviour in respect of the new PSPO in designated areas of the town centre • High number of community based campaigns successfully took place and these included World Cup Domestic Abuse Campaign, Hidden Victimization Campaign, 16 days of action against domestic abuse and Hate Crime Awareness Week, etc. • A range of different activity had been delivered under the Keep Luton Safe, and Keep Luton Tidy brand in the past year, and Luton achieve Purple Flat status; Delivered a Responsible dog ownership campaign, deployed officers into hot spot areas, and received a Platinum award for Dog Warden Team, etc. • A new on street sexual exploitation strategy consultation group which informed the redesign of the strategy, already signed off by the Partnership and Council Executive. • The highlight of the year was Operation Core Approach <p>David Collins, Operations Manager Youth Offending highlighted areas of work in relation to serious youth violence. He explained key developments and success of innovative work and progress as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of education programmes in Key Stage 2 and 3: He stated that the key stage 2 educational programmes had been rolled out and a lot of work was planned in relation to Key Stage 3 programmes. It was planned that every 9 years old would receive information leaflet on 	

knife crimes and drugs related crimes.

- Production of the Serious Youth Violence (SYV) Community Engagement Plans
- Development of the Community Volunteer Engagement Group
- Delivery of the Amber Unit and MagPlan and a number of individuals had expressed their interest to become part of engagement forum.
- In relation to domestic abuse services, the Partnership had carried out an audit of local services and key gaps and priorities had been identified.
- An external grant funding had been received from the Home Office for two bids in Housing support. The criteria for Luton Youth Funds had changed in terms of performance framework and the LLAL funding.

A series of community involvement events on tackling serious youth violence were delivered and public feedback and involvement informed further work carried out by the Youth Offending Team. Putting public engagement into perspective, there was now better understanding of the issues around exploitation.

The Service Manager further informed the committee of other areas of work including successful case conference and safeguarding hubs which were launched.

She explained the two areas of recommendations to the Committee and stated:

- a) Lay Members concept with the CSP – This was a concept which would enable the CSP to consider introducing lay members into appropriate partnership meetings subject to suitable vetting and selection criteria to enable greater involvement and participation by members of the public but also to ensure that confidential and sensitive matters remained confidential and controlled.
- b) Reducing duplication of work in terms of cross-cutting with other boards. It was stated that currently significant duplication of work existed in terms of reporting to statutory and non-statutory boards including the Children & Adults Safeguarding Boards and the Youth Justice Board, etc. These cross cutting work had led to a high number of duplication of work

In response to questions and comments from members of the committee, Officers advised that early intervention and identification of issues was vital in terms of resilience for young people already known to the system and MAGPAN was a key player and link to relevant agencies. Members expressed concern about the lack of communication between agencies and the constraints involved.

It was further stated that MAGPAN operated within its statutory responsibility and therefore may not necessarily be able to share information held with other organisations. However, the Service was currently looking at a suitable model where information could be centralised to enable shared access.

	<p>The Click Software which could connect different data base was one of the ideas currently being explored but this required vetting of information before being centralised. It should be noted that the statutory constraints in relation to shared information was a national problem.</p> <p>With regards to serious violence, Luton Council had a sustainable plan and was ahead in comparison to many local authorities.</p> <p>In relation to the prevent agenda, there was assurance from the Police that a multi-agency approach and plan had been adopted.</p> <p>Resolved: (i) That the report (Ref: 10) regarding achievements and progress of the work of the Community Safety Partnership 2018/19 be noted.</p> <p>(ii) That the proposal for the CSP to consider the introduction of lay members into appropriate partnership meetings subject to suitable vetting and selection criteria be supported by the Crime and Disorder Committee.</p> <p>(iii) That the proposal for the CSP to work with other boards in order to reduce duplication of governance in relation to issues that fall between 2 or more boards be supported by the Crime and Disorder Committee.</p>	
09.	COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP BUSINESS PLAN (REF: 11)	
	<p>Vicky Hawkes Service Manager, Neighbourhood Delivery Luton Council delivered the report (Ref: 11) regarding the Community Safety Business Plan and advised that this was the final year of the business plan for 2018/19. She stated that there were three key areas for consideration.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Completion of activity and focus on sustainability and ongoing work. The plan captures key activity. 2) New Approach – Proposal to adopt a long term plan for a geographical pilot zone and targeting operation; and coordinated approach to a particular area; 3) Planning for the Community Safety Partnership process to identify the priorities for 2020 onwards – This would focus on full strategic assessment of the process and would be one of the new roles for the Community Safety Partnership Manager new in post to review the plan. <p>Members of the Committee were being asked to support the plan as set out in the report.</p> <p>In response to the timeline for planned work, the Service Manager stated that the plan was still at an early stage of the process, but explained that timeline and target for completion was before the end of this year 2019.</p> <p>In terms of taking the lead on specific project, as the plan progresses specific organisations would be identified in the plan.</p>	

	<p>Resolved: That the report (Ref: 11) regarding the Community Safety Partnership Plan 2019-20 be noted and supported by the Committee.</p> <p>(ii) That the proposal for the Community Safety Partnership Executive to adopt a pilot target area, as set out in section 2 of the business plan be supported by the Committee</p> <p>(iii) That the Community Safety Partnership be requested to submit a formal report on the progress of work regarding the proposed pilot of target areas to the next meeting of the Crime and Disorder Committee in 2020.</p> <p>(iv) That the proposal for the Community Safety Partnership Executive to adopt the Business Plan for 2019-2020 be supported by the Committee.</p>	
10.	<p>PUBLIC QUESTIONS (WRITTEN QUESTIONS ONLY) (REF: 12)</p>	
	<p>The Chair announced that two written questions had been received. She read out the first question and called on the questionee to expand on the context of the question.</p> <p>She explained that children and young people were growing up not knowing the difference between what was real and what was not. She said professional support was lacking and this should be addressed in conjunction with their parents who appear to be lost in transition as a result of modern day challenges. The parents had no understanding of how to provide support for their children who caught up in modern day vices. She stated that all these professionals should share their skills and to start looking at the solutions and to think of ways of engaging with the parents.</p> <p>The Chair stated that written responses would be provided in respect of questions received.</p> <p>Resolved: That the public questions be noted and written responses be provided where necessary.</p>	
11.	<p>CONCLUSION AND ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS TO CSP</p>	
	<p>The Chair Councillor Pedersen thanked all Members of the Community Safety Partnership and the Police for their attendance and contributions towards community safety. She also thanked members of the public and officers for their attendance.</p> <p>She advised of recommendations from the committee to be considered by the community safety partnership during the year with outcome to be reported to at the next meeting of the committee in March 2020.</p> <p>1. <u>That the Crime and Disorder Committee recognise</u> the significant work undertaken by CSP in relation to the implementation of the Town Centre Public Protection Order (PSPO) which came into effect in July 2018; and</p>	

the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) be requested to submit the outcomes in due course;

2. **That the Crime and Disorder Committee acknowledge** the significant progress of work undertaken by the CSP in their delivery of the Community Safety Partnership Plan during 2018-19, support the 2 overarching priorities:

- Reducing violence and exploitation;
- Keeping Luton safe and tidy;

and request the CSP to further identify local issues of gang related violence including knife crime in view of the current high national profile on this topic;

3. **That the Crime and Disorder Committee support** the proposal for CSP to consider introducing lay members into appropriate partnership meetings, subject to suitable vetting and selection and that CSP be requested to report on progress once the idea is further developed over the coming year;

4. **That the Crime and Disorder Committee acknowledge** the significant cross cutting work with other statutory boards, especially in relation to reducing violence and exploitation which cuts across the work of these boards; but request that any potential duplication in these areas be addressed by the CSP so as to make most effective use of the resources available.

Resolved: That the Recommendations as read out by the Chair and as listed above be adopted by the Crime and Disorder Committee; that thanks to the Community Safety Partnership and the Police be recorded.

(Meeting ended: 21.00pm)