

## **NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL**

### **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

#### **MINUTES**

of meeting held on **5 July 2012** at Loxley House

from 2.03 pm to 3.07 pm

- ✓ Councillor Parbutt (Chair)
- Councillor Bryan
- ✓ Councillor Choudhry
- ✓ Councillor Culley
- ✓ Councillor Dewinton
- Councillor Hartshorne
- ✓ Councillor Healy
- Councillor Jenkins
- Councillor Khan
- ✓ Councillor Klein
- ✓ Councillor Molife (for minute 19 to minute 21 inclusive)
- ✓ Councillor Parton
- Councillor Watson
- Councillor S Williams

- ✓ indicates present at meeting

#### **In Attendance**

- Mrs B Denby - 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector Advocate – co-opted member
- Ms E Martin )
- Mr P Moyes )
- Ms C Oliver )
- Mr J Rhodes ) Crime and Drugs Partnership
- Mr T Spinks )
- Mr P Usherwood )
- Mr N McMenamin - Overview and Scrutiny Review Co-ordinator
- Mrs Z West - Constitutional Services Officer

#### **16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bryan, Hartshorne, Jenkins, Watson and S Williams (other Council business) and Councillor Khan.

#### **17 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

No declarations of interests were made.

## **18 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 07 June 2012, copies of which had been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

## **19 CRIME AND DRUG PARTNERSHIP (CDP)**

**RESOLVED** that the report of the Head of Democratic Services, copies of which had been circulated be noted.

## **20 CRIME AND DRUG PARTNERSHIP (CDP) - PRESENTATION**

The Committee received for information a presentation of the Crime and Drugs Partnership, provided by Ms C Oliver, Senior Implementation Manager.

The information provided in the presentation included:

- the 2012/13 annual strategic assessment of the Crime & Drugs Partnership would start in September 2012. The strategic assessment would analyse crime, anti-social behaviour (ASB) and Substance Misuse, helping demonstrate emerging patterns and trends over several years to identify partnership priorities;
- the 2011/12 strategic assessment found that 18-24 year olds continued to make up almost a third of all victims and offenders, while overrepresentation of Black Minority Ethnic offenders remained an issue;
- Nottingham's crime profile continued to change, with an increase in 'less serious' forms of acquisitive crime. In 2004, the three largest crime types (auto crime, criminal damage and burglary) accounted for nearly 50% of all crime. By 2011, in part through targeted partnership actions, there were no particularly prevalent crime types, the three most common (theft from shop, other theft and actual bodily harm) accounting for only 28% of all crime;
- some areas of the city were disproportionately affected by crime and other poor social outcomes, and a new approach of targeting high impact neighbourhoods was being developed. Whilst 50% of all crime and 47% of Police recorded ASB was within five wards (Aspley, Bulwell, St. Anns, Arboretum and Bridge), only 26% of Nottingham's population lived within those five wards. Targeting of specific geographic areas and complex families was seen as the appropriate way forward;
- violence represented 20% of all crime, and rates were reducing, but at a slower rate than that of all crime. The three main causes were the night-time economy, gang related and domestic violence (making up 44% of all violence);
- drug treatment: in 2011/12, 18.4% of service users successfully completed drug treatment (higher than the national average of 15%), while there was a

7% re-presentation rate, lower than the national average of 10%. Nottingham City was one of only two authorities in England to be awarded Mirror Status for our drug treatment, and strong performance was experienced overall;

- re-offending: though historically high, Nottingham had seen a significant reduction in re-offending rates from 2005 to 2009. The overall re-offending rate in 2009 was 29.9%, compared to 26.3% nationally, while the most recent statistics (June 2010) showed a slight increase in re-offending rates, at 30.3%. This increase was in part due to increased Police detection rates, arising from daily arrest data being used to track offenders more closely and gather more accurate information. Performance figures on re-offending were subject to an 18 month time-lag due to new methodology for data collection;

During discussion the following comments were made and information was provided in response to questions:

- in response to councillor concerns, it was explained that a concentration of resources in respect of wards with high levels of crime would not mean that wards with small geographic pockets of high crime, or cross-boundary crime, would be neglected;
- information on re-offending was provided by the Ministry of Justice, who did not provide detailed breakdowns, such as if perpetrators of certain types of crime were more likely to re-offend. It was agreed that more detailed information could be useful for targeting re-offenders. Those who spent less than 12 months incarcerated were the most likely to re-offend, and measures were being introduced to collect information on these re-offenders in real-time. The point was made that re-offenders tended to commit crimes in areas they knew best, and rarely travelled to neighbouring boroughs;
- over the last four years, reports of domestic violence had remained consistent. The fact that there had been no increase in calls received, but an increase in recorded crime suggested that this was due to an improvement in investigation and recording methods by the police, not necessarily due to an increase in incidents. While Nottingham had the highest recorded number of incidents of domestic violence amongst statistical neighbours, recording methods varied greatly between authorities, so it was difficult to compare like for like. Domestic violence remained a key priority for the Partnership;
- £500,000 had recently been allocated in reducing gang violence. Once the scheme was operational, hopefully a reduction would be seen in gang violence;
- work was being done to tackle linked crimes, such as test on arrest for acquisitive crimes to see if they were drug-related. Nearly 50% of people arrested for acquisitive crimes tested positive for drugs. Drug usage was evolving away from 'hard' drugs towards more 'recreational' drug-taking, making existing trigger offences and testing methods increasingly outdated;

- the view was expressed that domestic violence amongst the elderly, especially those suffering from dementia, was an under-reported and growing issue, given the increase in the numbers of elderly people in Nottingham. While monitoring and recording of incidences currently took place within care homes, abuse within a home environment was potentially hidden and not likely to be discovered as easily. Carers who visit the elderly in their homes may have required more training to deal with suspected domestic violence between family members;

## **RESOLVED**

- (1) that the appreciation of the Committee for the information provided by Crime and Drugs Partnership (CDP) colleagues be recorded;**
- (2) that it be noted that further consideration was to be given by the CDP and its partners to:**
  - (a) tracking re-offending by crime type, it being explained that current Ministry of Justice re-offending statistics were not detailed; and**
  - (b) revising drug-testing procedures to take account of changing drug-taking habits.**

## **21 PROGRAMME FOR SCRUTINY**

Consideration was given to a report of the Head of Democratic Services, copies of which had been circulated and updates provided by Mr McMenam, Overview and Scrutiny Review Co-ordinator.

Mr McMenam confirmed that the following items would be considered at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in the coming months:

- 5 September 2012 – The Nottingham Plan, Outcomes of Scrutiny Topics
- 3 October 2012 – The Councils Flood Risk Management (statutory)
- 7 November 2012 – Child Poverty: City Response to National Changes and Impact on Families

In the discussion which followed, several issues were raised and points made:

- domestic violence affecting older people and those with dementia could be linked with consideration of wider Adult Services issues;
- it was reported that Ms Kaufhold of the Overview and Scrutiny Team been unable to identify councillor availability for a meeting to discuss reviews and council tax benefit. It was suggested that the meeting might take place at the rising of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's September 2012 meeting;

- while it was agreed that no items would be taken off the work programme at this point, it was acknowledged that the work programme would need rationalising from September 2012 to ensure that it remained relevant, focussed and achievable.

## **RESOLVED**

- (1) that two new Scrutiny Review Panels be formally established and membership confirmed as follows:**
  - **How effective is the route that Nottingham City Homes' tenants have to follow to get a good quality housing repair, and how does Nottingham City Homes ensure its commissioning and procurement procedures ensure contractors, for example those who worked on the Decent Homes Standard, provide good quality, timely repairs which are quality assured?**  
Councillor Parton (chair)  
five more councillors to be advised
  - **How is the changing relationship between schools, academies, the Council and wider community impacting upon issues that need to be addresses in the partnership?**  
Councillor Jenkins (chair)  
Councillor Morley  
Councillor Healy  
Councillor Molife  
two more councillors to be advised
- (2) that 'Child Poverty: Nottingham's response to national welfare and related changes impacting on families' be added to the work programme, for consideration at its November 2012 meeting;**
- (3) that further consideration be given to how the Committee might conduct scrutiny into the issue of domestic violence among elderly dementia sufferers in the home setting, alongside consideration of wider Adult Services issues.**