

SELECT (CRIME AND DISORDER) COMMITTEE

16 February 2022

Present – The Chair (Councillor Staveley) and Councillors Hull, Jaquin, Mercer, Moorby, Pighills, Shuttleworth, Solloway, and Whitaker.

Officers – The Chief Executive, Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer, Communications, Customer Services and Partnerships Manager, Community Safety Officer, Human Resources Manager, Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager.

Also present – Sgt Paul Evans, PC Raheel Akram

Start: 6.35pm

Finish: 7.30pm

Apologies for Absence –

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Brockbank and Brown

Confirmation of Minutes –

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held 23 June 2021 are approved as a correct record.

Public Participation –

There were no members of the public in attendance.

Declarations of Interest –

There were no declarations of interest.

Minutes for Report

OS.462

Local Policing in Craven

Members were asked to submit questions in advance of the meeting so that PC Akram and Sgt Evans could provide as much information as possible.

- **“Gang grooming” and child sexual exploitation (CSE) in Craven**

County lines have impacted on North Yorkshire but there are dedicated teams dealing with this issue and fortunately, there are no major problems concerning grooming and CSE. There is successful collaboration between the Police, education and social services who are able to identify and support the individuals at risk and tackle the gangs. The Neighbourhood Policing Team make sure their partner agencies are aware of any issues. Regarding county lines, there have been attempts in Craven by gangs to use young people to deal drugs, and interventions have been swiftly put in place. There is very strong partnership working in Craven. Members were pleased to hear there are no serious grooming and CSE cases in the district.

- **Training for North Yorkshire Police in light of crimes by some officers within the Metropolitan Police**

Members were reminded that the Metropolitan Police is very different to North Yorkshire Police (NYP), both culturally and diversly. The new NYP Deputy Chief Constable has reminded all Police Officers that they are bound by a Code of Ethics. Staff are encouraged to

report inappropriate behaviour and full investigations are carried out. At present, it is considered that no additional training is required in Craven. Cllr. Solloway commented that NYP is a friendly force and officers are able to work closely with communities to build up good relationships. Cllr Hull asked how they engage with young people and schools. Sgt Evans explained that staff do visit schools and a new school liaison officer has just been appointed.

- **Domestic Violence update**

NYP deal with domestic violence cases very robustly and act immediately. Historically, cases may have been treated as a domestic private issue, but this approach has changed. Police officers receive thorough training and Sgt Evans attends daily meetings to monitor incidents and ensure that each report is dealt with. One significant achievement has been that their Domestic Violence Co-ordinator has influenced national policy, so that perpetrators are no longer able to obtain victim's contact details. Cllr Hull asked if we are still doing enough to tackle domestic violence. Sgt Evans explained that the Police rely on victims to report incidents but unfortunately, they are still under-reported.

- **Rural crime update**

There has unfortunately been a spike in South Craven (Lothersdale) with quad bikes and trail bikes being stolen. Crimes come in waves, with criminals moving onto different places. There are currently 3 Rural Watches: North Craven, South Craven and Upper Wharfedale. Their WhatsApp group (made up of over 200 volunteers) help to identify targeted areas. Crime in Upper Wharfedale has dropped significantly. The Chair asked how we can prevent some volunteers from becoming vigilantes. Sgt Evans explained that there is a Rural Watch code of conduct that volunteers sign up to and if they fail to adhere to it, they will be asked to leave the scheme and could be arrested. There is a rural task force leading on raptor crimes (birds of prey), however there are currently no major issues in Craven. CDC have funding available to spend on target projects e.g. to purchase radios and equipment. NYP's website has been updated to make it easier for residents to report incidents online. The Community Safety Partnership can complete NYP intelligence forms on behalf of a resident. The Chair said it would be helpful to have information for Members to distribute to parishes.

Resolved – That, the update on local policing, local crime overview and priorities is noted.

OS.463

Community Safety Partnership

The Community Safety Hub currently consists of 4 officers, 1 temporary Sergeant, 1 PC and 2 PCSOs. A Community Safety Sub-Group has been established and meets regularly to look at how the hubs in North Yorkshire could work in the future when the Local Government Restructure is in place. It is focussing on the statutory functions and duties around Anti-Social Behaviour, Prevent Strategy and reducing re-offending. The Chair asked if CCTV cameras in taxis pointed outside as well as inside. The Community Safety Officer explained that the cameras have been installed to primarily protect the driver and passenger, but she will enquire if they also point outside to observe any accidents. Cllr Moorby added that he has heard positive comments about CCTV in taxis

Resolved – That the update on the work of the Community Safety Partnership is noted.

OS.464

Date and Time of Next Meeting

The date of next meeting of Select (Crime and Disorder) Committee is to be confirmed.

Chair