

SELECT CRIME AND DISORDER COMMITTEE

28th June 2017

Present – The Chairman (Councillor Staveley) and Councillors Brown, Graham, Mason, Mercer, Moorby, Pighills, Shuttleworth, Solloway, Sutcliffe, Thompson and Whitaker.

Officer – Community Safety Co-ordinator and Committee Officer.

Start: 6.35pm

Finish: 8.20pm

Minutes for Report

OS.385

LOCAL POLICING - CRAVEN

Further to Minute OS.377/16-17, the Chairman welcomed Inspector Crocker to the meeting and invited him to update the Committee on local crime and policing matters. A summary and analysis of the key crime statistics for the period 1st April 2017 to 14th June 2017, together with the data for the previous two years for the same period had also been circulated as an appendix to the Chief Executive's report in respect of community safety (Minute OS 386 below). Details of performance data regarding attendance to incidents and victim satisfaction were also submitted.

In presenting an overview of the crime situation in Craven, copies of which had been circulated with the agenda, Inspector Crocker reported that current data showed that in the period from 1st April 2017 the greater part of police work in the District continued to revolve around public safety and welfare, accounting for 42.3% of the Forces time, compared to 19.9% and 13.1% for crime and anti-social behaviour. Road related incidents, which included road traffic offences, accounted for 24.7%. He pointed out that changes in the definition of what was recorded as burglary would affect the ability to clearly compare the current situation with that in previous years.

Although still early in the year there had been a reduction in burglary, and as previously reported the area closest to the West Yorkshire boundary remained the key area for crime. Sexual offences had increased and e-safety was a concern. Across the County, Children's Safeguarding Boards were taking a proactive stance on e-safety as young girls were being drawn into sharing explicit images of themselves online. An emerging drug problem in the District was a concern, together with the threat of violence that accompanied such problems. Officers would be working with the community in that part of District most affected, going door to door and handing out crimestopper leaflets. The problem emanated from south of the District

Landrovers and quad bikes remained popular targets with four quads and two Landrovers having been stolen recently; one quad and one of the Landrovers had been recovered. With two camera vans now deployed in the District it would not be unreasonable to expect to see a reduction in the level of activity associated with road traffic incidents over the current 12 month period. Details of the costs associated with operating the two vans and results from arising from their presence could be made available at the Committee's next meeting.

National crime figures announced on 27th April 2017 for the year ending December 2016 had again confirmed North Yorkshire as the safest place in England. There had been a total of 36,680 crimes in North Yorkshire during this period, giving a crime rate of 45.3 per 1,000 of the population. While this reflected a 1% rise in crime in comparison to the same period the previous year, it was below the 10% increase in England and Wales and took into account improved crime recording standards nationally.

Amongst other news, Inspector Crocker also reported that

- From 10th May 2017 misogyny would be included North Yorkshire Police's hate crime policy.
- Response shifts were all fully staffed and two PCSOs would be starting on 20th June 2017, leaving three positions still to fill, two of which were additional positions. One of the additional positions would be placed in Grassington, the other in Cross Hills. A neighbourhood constable vacancy had recently been filled in Settle and all other vacant positions should be filled by the year end.
- Through the childrens' safeguarding board North Yorkshire Police had joined with partners to enhance the multi agency screening team (MAST). Created in 2014 with the aim of consistently responding to child safeguarding contacts, the team was now comprised of 14 members of staff.
- Chaired by Cllr Solloway, the first meeting of the Stop Search Oversight Group for the Craven area had met on 27th June 2017. The Group was the first of its kind in North Yorkshire and would help to ensure the process was open and transparent, providing independent scrutiny of the data. In the period June 2016 to June 2017, 143 stop searches had been recorded, including 22 individuals with ethnicity defined as black or minority ethnic. Data and outcomes from future meetings of the Group would be made available to the Committee.

During the course of the ensuing discussion Committee Members and others in attendance asked a number of questions and commented as follows, receiving replies from Inspector Crocker as indicated

- A recent television programme on child abuse and included a reference to Skipton?
Response : The case from eleven years ago had involved the grooming of three girls in Skipton by an Asian gang; locally the force was still in touch with one victim. Some of the offenders had been released, one recently. If Members had any child safeguarding concerns drawn to their attention they should speak to a police officer, crimestoppers, a social worker or a teacher, all of whom should be aware of how those concerns should be taken forward. Everyone in the public sector should be aware of how to report concerns.
- Locally, had there been an increase in racially motivated hate crime following recent terrorist incidents?.
Response : There had been some, but not a significant increase. Two incidents had been investigated which in turn had reassured the local community that complaints were taken seriously.
- When terrorist incidents took place such as that in Manchester, was there an impact on policing in this area.
Response : All Forces were a party to the National Strategic Requirement and made officers available when called upon to assist. The Police and Crime Commissioner also had a legal requirement to have officers available, all trained to a required level in specific disciplines.
- When officers were seconded out of the District or officers were temporarily engaged elsewhere, was provision made to cover their absence?
Response : The Force operated safe staffing levels, an Inspector had responsibility for ensuring safe levels were maintained and would move officers from neighbouring areas within North Yorkshire to provide cover as required. Different levels of staffing were maintained for different times of the day. A new system was to be deployed in the near future would identify the location of all officers and vehicles at any given time, the same system also automatically alerted officers to intelligence relevant to their immediate location. By the end of the year every operational police officer would have body cameras.
- The Rural Crime Team had delivered leaflets which included an offer to carry out farm visits to carry out audits and provide advice to farmers to mitigate the possibility of them falling victim to theft, but there appeared to be something of a delay in requests for a visit being followed up?
Response : The offer had resulted in several thousand replies and requests being received, with only one PCSO available to carry out the visits it was taking some time to

work through all the requests.

- The position in respect of online / internet fraud? Response : The Force had a positive response to fraud. A national fraud action group examined whether fraud incidents required investigation, incidents referred to North Yorkshire Police were acted upon.
- What was the technical capacity of the camera vans? Response : The cameras could cover vehicles approaching in either direction and alongside the vans. The lenses were very high quality and worked over quite a distance, some discretion was allowed over the speed limit. In addition to the obvious locations on the A59 and A65, alternative locations were being sought. Residents of West Marton had requested that a van be deployed within the village to act as a deterrent amid concerns from parents trying to cross the road with their children to school. A site was currently being assessed. One of the vans was also fitted with ANPR. As previously reported North Yorkshire was a lead force in the use of ANPR and the intelligence gathered from mobile, static and covert ANPR cameras was proving to be extremely useful in disrupting criminal activity, including cross border and the investigation of crime. The Chairman stated that Ribblesbanks Parish Council had recently expressed concerns regarding vehicle speeds through Rathmell and would appreciate the presence of a van.
- Was there anything the Council could do to help promote crimestoppers? Response : The Force worked with the Council's Community safety Officer and other parts of the Council, any assistance in promoting the initiative was welcomed.
- Was there an explanation as to why court proceedings in respect of crimes committed in Craven were increasingly being heard at Harrogate Magistrates' Court? Response : The Police had no input to the decision as to where cases were heard, it was a matter for the Court Service.

In drawing the discussion to a close the Chairman thanked Inspector Crocker for his attendance and response to Members' questions and comments. Members asked that the Chairman write to the Court Service seeking an explanation as to why cases are increasingly being heard in Harrogate, not Craven.

OS.386

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Further to Minute OS.378/16-17, the Chief Executive submitted a report updating the Committee on the work of the North Yorkshire Community Safety Partnership and the Craven Community Safety Hub, formerly known as the Community Safety Local Delivery Team for Craven. An analysis of crime statistics for the District provided by North Yorkshire Police for the period 1st April to 14th June 2017, with comparative data for the same period in 2015 and 2016, had been circulated with the Chief Executive's report.

a. North Yorkshire Community Safety Partnership

Key messages arising from the most recent meeting of the North Yorkshire Community Safety Partnership (20/06/2017) were

- A health representative had now been identified to sit on the Partnership.
- The Prevent strategic board was to have been the subject of a peer review in September, however that had been postponed to a date to be agreed, but in the meantime it was expected that the Board would be in receipt of a number of recommendations, including some related to governance.
- Events throughout the county were being organised in each district around Notice, Check, Share as part of the Prevent duty and would include presentations on the role of the community safety hub. Two events were being planned for the Craven area in October 2017.

- A victims of terrorism unit had been established to co-ordinate nationally, support for citizens affected by recent attacks and any future attacks affecting British citizens at home or overseas. Two gov.uk web pages had been set up that contain advice on the support services available.

b. Craven Community Safety Hub

The Craven Community Safety Hub supported the work of the North Yorkshire Community Safety Partnership by co-ordinating and ensuring delivery of the North Yorkshire Community Safety Plan in the Craven District. Working at an operational level, the Hub ensured that multiple agencies and related organisations worked effectively in partnership to make communities within the District safer; it was managed by the Council's Community Safety Officer and a Police Officer based at the Council's Belle Vue Square Offices. Being sited at Belle Vue Square enabled regular contact with Adult and Children's Social Services, an arrangement which was working very well with close co-operation on cases of anti-social behaviour. The Chief Executive's report highlighted the following activity etc

i. Multi-Agency Problem Solving Group : Monthly meetings of the Multi-Agency Problem Solving Group continued to take place with much of the focus on various forms of anti-social behaviour causing a nuisance to residents. Issues arising from the implementation of the PREVENT strategy and Hate Crime were also discussed as standing agenda items.

ii. PREVENT : As indicated at (a) above, two events highlighting the role played in helping people from becoming radicalised and drawn into terrorism were to be held in this District. The first would focus on the Notice, Check, Share initiative which supported trained and advised people where to go if they had anything to report. It would also promote the role and function of the community safety hub. The second event would run alongside any events already planned, focusing on understanding what the area's communities looked like and any emerging issues. The event would seek to improve community cohesion and provide awareness raising and reassurance in relation to the Prevent agenda. It was also hoped that it would improve community intelligence and assist in informing future counter-terrorism local plans. A theatre production/workshop aimed at young people (13-14yrs), exploring radicalisation and extremism had been rolled out across the County and all schools within Craven, with the exception of one, had hosted the production. A DVD had been produced of the same production to be given to each of the schools to enable them to host showings at their leisure.

In the wake of recent events the community safety officer would also be holding basic awareness training for the Council's business support and reception staff around the National Police Chiefs Council, Run, Hide, Tell advice, which outlined what to do if someone found themselves in the rare event of a firearms or weapons attack. A run, hide, tell leaflet would also be distributed in staff payslips. In responding to a members query as to what, if anything was being done to inform younger people about the run, tell, hide advice, the Community Safety Co-ordinator stated that it was an issue being worked on through the community safety pages on the Council's, she also regularly tweeted about the advice, and leaflets had been circulated to all Councillors. She would make enquiries of North Yorkshire County Council as to the information and advice being issued to schools. Any suggestions would be more than welcomed. Councillor Brown stated that he would mention the issue when next at Craven College.

iii. Anti-Social Behaviour : The Council's Cleaner Neighbourhood Team dealt with a large number of issues which originated in anti-social behaviour. The Community Safety Officer was now working alongside environmental health officers within the Team on issues around low level noise nuisance and other anti-social issues. The closer working arrangement was working well, enhancing the ability to address cross cutting themes. The Public Spaces Protection Order, a measure available to the Council under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, implemented in October 2016 at Coach Street Car Park, Skipton would be reviewed in October 2017, and a second proposed order for the Town Hall Car Park was to be the subject of further consultation.

iv. Funding : Uncommitted funding obtained from the Police and Crime Commissioner during the 2016-17 financial year was to be directed towards a scheme which supported victims of burglary and a rise in fire related domestic abuse incidents. Local mental health agencies were also being encouraged to bid for funding under the Community Safety Services Fund, available through the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, to assist any individuals with complex mental health needs.

Resolved – That the Chief Executive’s update on the work of the North Yorkshire Community Safety Partnership, the Community Safety Hub and related matters is noted.

OS.387

DOOR STEP COLD CALLING

In responding to concerns raised by Councillor Moorby in respect of door step sellers who had been operating in Long Preston, the Community Safety Co-ordinator stated that the activity was covered by trading standards, she undertook to obtain and make available “no cold calling stickers” from a colleague in the County Council’s trading standards department. If someone was being regularly pestered by the sellers it would be helpful if they could provide a description and possibly a vehicle registration number which could then be shared with the trading standards officers.

Councillor Moorby pointed out that the actions of the cold callers, whom he understood had become abusive if a resident refused to buy anything from them, was very worrying for older residents who felt vulnerable and intimidated. The Police had advised him that residents should contact them if a seller became abusive.

The Chairman asked the Community Safety Co-ordinator to circulate parishes, age concern locally and other appropriate community groups regarding the concerns raised and seeking their co-operation in reinforcing the message to residents regarding cold calling and the availability of stickers.

-Sitting as Select Committee-

OS.388

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 7th June 2017 are confirmed and signed as a correct record.

OS.389

NEXT MEETING - COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

Further to Minute OS.383/17-18, the Committee was asked to determine whether it wished to consider the North Yorkshire Police Commissioner’s business case for taking over responsibility for the North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service. It was understood the business case would be the subject of a 10 week consultation exercise commencing on 17th July 2017.

The Committee was also asked to consider bringing forward consideration of the Council’s sickness absence statistics for the 2016-17 financial year to a meeting of this Committee to be held immediately before a meeting of the Waste Management Working Group on 26th July 2017.

Resolved – That the 2017-18 work programme is adjusted to enable

- a. Consideration to be given to the North Yorkshire Police Commissioner’s business case for taking over responsibility for the North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service, and

Craven District Council

b. Presentation of the 2016-17 sickness absence statistics to a meeting of this Committee at 6.30pm on 26th July 2017.

Chairman.