

MINUTES OF THE HERTFORDSHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 10 JULY 2009

Members present:

Bengie Walden (Chair), Sarah Coffey, Ron Tindall, Sally Newton, Kevin McGetrick, Keith Emsall, Sue Warman, Derek Scudder, Clare Berry

Stuart Nagler

Police Authority officers present:

Emily Anderson	Communications and Consultation Officer
Bernice Compton	Members' Services Officer
Julia Harries	Committees and Members Services Manager
Peter Hinton	Performance and Operations Officer
Sally Patient	Communications Manager
Brian Pereira	Performance and Operations Manager

Constabulary officers present:

Martin Darlow	Detective Superintendent, Head of Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Professional Standards Department
Matthew Nicholls	Superintendent, Citizen Focus Department
Dean Patient	Chief Inspector, Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Professional Standards Department
Heather Valentine	Assistant Chief Constable
David Wharton	Superintendent, Citizen Focus Department

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Brenda Griffiths

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED

1. That the minutes of the Community Engagement Committee held on Friday 24 April 2009 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.
2. Regarding Item 5(a)3, Citizen Focus – it was noted that the procedure for scrutinising the Policing Pledge would be brought to the next meeting of this Committee in October and reported thereafter to the Scrutiny Committee, with the possibility of a Topic Group being set up to consider the Pledge.
3. Regarding Item 7(a), Stop and Account – it was noted that a comprehensive report on this issue would be brought to the Committee in October.

4. WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE COMMITTEE

The Committee discussed a report identifying the key issues for the Community Engagement Committee. It also provided an opportunity for Police Authority Lead (PAL) members to highlight any significant local issues and discuss an update on partnership working.

Various options for PAL support were discussed including a deputy system, which could be tailored to individual needs, ranging from a formally appointed deputy or identified substitutes, mentoring and the feedback process.

RESOLVED

1. Sally Patient will arrange one to one meetings with new PALs to brief them on roles and responsibilities.
2. Sally will email proposals outlining the various support options for PALs to Committee members.

3. The issues arising from members' feedback forms will be collated for the October meeting. (the form will be revised to include the date so that several events can be recorded on one form)

5. CITIZEN FOCUS

(a) Policing Pledge – HMIC

The Committee considered a report providing an update on the implementation of the Policing Pledge.

Members were informed of the different methods by which the public can access information and police resources. The HertsWatch website will be updated with the new PALs details.

RESOLVED

1. The delay in HMIC reports is proving an issue. ACC Heather Valentine will pick this up with the team and HMIC Office and report back.

(b) Hallmarks for Policing

The Committee considered a report on the adoption by the Constabulary of the NPIA Hallmarks, which will help embed further a citizen-focussed approach to the delivery of policing services.

RESOLVED

The Committee noted the report and agreed an update should be provided for the next meeting.

(c) Police Foundation Research

The Committee considered an update report on the project work and noted that, although this is progressing well, the start date had been delayed and Phase 1 would not be completed until the end of July.

RESOLVED

The Committee noted the report and revised timetable and agreed an update should be provided for the next meeting.

6. PUBLIC REASSURANCE AND DIVERSITY

The Committee considered a report regarding the Constabulary's support of Neighbourhood Watch (NHW).

RESOLVED

1. The Committee noted the report and asked that the Memorandum of Understanding for HertsWatch be circulated to members.
2. The effectiveness of Neighbourhood Watch should be considered by Scrutiny Committee.

7. PARTNERSHIP WORKING – Safe Haven Report and Review Update

The Committee considered a report on the status of the Safe Haven Project and the next steps.

RESOLVED

The Committee agreed that a more comprehensive report on options and financing, together with an update on the project and a review of Enquiry Offices be presented to the October meeting.

8 PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

(a) Professional Standards issues

The Committee considered a report on current professional standards issues within the Force. Members were asked to submit their views on the report format and statistics provided to Brian Pereira.

RESOLVED

1. That the report be noted and concern was expressed about the apparent increase in complaints and whether this was linked to new collaboration arrangements.
2. Sally Patient will arrange a visit for the PALs to the new joint Department at Biggleswade.

(b) Complaints File Readings 11th May and 8th June 2009.

The Committee considered a report on the outcomes of these meetings.

RESOLVED

1. That the report be noted, with future reports to include length of service statistics.
2. That DS Martin Darlow would bring letters of appreciation along to the file readings as well as complaints.
3. That the October meeting of the Committee would identify the categories and criteria for the next dip sample for the file reading.
4. That the Chair and Derek Scudder would carry out the file reading on 24 July. Stuart Nagler would assist with the file reading on 30 October.

Chair