

**RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY GROUP MEETING held at SAFFRON
WALDEN COUNCIL OFFICES at 12.30 PM ON TUESDAY 25 JULY 2006**

Present: - In the Chair – Paul Bowers – Essex Fire & Rescue
Alasdair Bovaird, Victoria Harvey, Nicole Morton, Alex Stewart
and Tracy Turner – Uttlesford District Council
Dale Atkins – Uttlesford PCT
Stephen Rhenius – PCT and UDC
Duncan Green - CSG
Neil MacDonald – Essex Police Authority
Peter Pearson – Essex County Council
Steve Sparrow – Essex Police
Colin Steele – Essex Police
Kerry Vinton – Go East
Christopher White – Essex County Council
Peter Woollard – Essex Probation

1 CHAIRMANSHIP

The new Chairman, Paul Bowers took the Chair and thanked Alasdair Bovaird for his work as Chairman.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Win Barnard, Robert Chambers, Carole Fuller, Fiona Gardiner, Melanie Walker and Jane Gardner.

3 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 April 2006 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

4 MATTERS ARISING

Chris White referred to page three, minute nine and said the pilot system for specialist domestic violence courts was in conjunction with ECC and would take place in, if successful, Basildon and Thurrock court house. This would incorporate Brentwood, Basildon and Thurrock CDRP areas.

5 TERMS OF REFERENCE

Nicole Morton provided the group with the new terms of reference and asked Members to email her with any comments or amendments they wished to make.

6 LEBANON UPDATE

Alasdair Bovaird reported on the Lebanese evacuation. Last Thursday UDC had been alerted to a possible flight arriving at Stansted airport. Friday morning, the Council stood up and since, has been in operation. The first flight arrived at 4.00am Saturday with 450 passengers on board, and a further two flights had followed, totalling around 600 people. Most of these passengers carried on with their journey, but between 130 and 140 people needed help. One of the flights, carrying 22 people all needed care. Presently there were 61 people under the care of the Council at the Hilton Hotel, Stansted. They were to be temporarily re-located to the University of Essex Halls of Residence at Colchester for the interim period. Now these people were in better condition they were keen to gain their independence. The Councils Housing department were working with these people. Another flight with a further 180 passengers was expected at 20.15 this evening; which would probably be the last flight expected into Stansted.

Gatwick, Manchester and East Midlands airports had been receiving refugees from the Lebanon also, and Stansted had got off fairly lightly with the least incoming passengers.

Alasdair thanked all agencies, especially the Red Cross and WRVS as well as UDC staff who had been involved for their hard work and commitment.

7 AWARENESS RAISING PRESENTATION ON ALCOHOL FREE ZONES

Steve Sparrow from Essex Police explained that a strategy to reduce Anti Social Behaviour and alcohol related crime in Uttlesford had been devised under the LA 2003 Licensing Objective reduction of crime and disorder.

If an Alcohol Free Zone (AFZ) was imposed Police Officers would have the power to confiscate the alcohol and make a fine up to £500, if people failed to comply they would risk arrest. These schemes were widely used over the Country and had proved to be very successful.

Implementing the strategy would make Uttlesford a safer place and would reduce the crime and disorder and anti social behaviour.

The suggested areas to be AFZ:

Saffron Walden – High Street, Bridge Street, Gold Street, King Street, Hill Street, Fairycroft Road and East Street.

Great Dunmow – High Street and White Street.

Stansted – Cambridge Road, Manor Road, Lower Street, and Station Road.

Steve illustrated the need through data and mapping of crimes within the market towns and village

It was questioned if the police had capacity to enforce the AFZ. Colin Steele informed that there would be times where it could not be enforced due to capacity, as that was the nature of rural policing. The NPT's would be made aware of the areas the AFZ's applied and would enforce as and when the need arose.

It was agreed that further statistics and evidence would be needed and then a pilot scheme in one area could be endorsed. The RAG agreed to the principle of AFZ within Uttlesford.

8 ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR UPDATE

Alex Stewart said Elsenham Designated Public Place Order would be in force by approximately the end of August.

9 UPDATE ON UTTLESFORD PROLIFIC AND OTHER PERSISTENT OFFENDERS

Peter Woollard reported that there were currently only 3 or 4 PPOs in Uttlesford, with one under supervision. It had recently been agreed that the PPO meetings, which incorporates the central police division, would take place the last Thursday of every month.

10 PERFORMANCE MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS

Nicole Morton presented the Performance Management Report April 2005 – May 2006, that had been made in conjunction with Steve Rhenius.

Nicole informed that Uttlesford CSAT were meeting our PSA1 target, to reduce BCS comparator crime by 15% by 2007/8. The information included BVPI, ASB and Domestic Abuse data.

Nicole and Stephen informed officers that they needed a routine data stream to enable them to gather reliable information for the report. A Funding and Strategy Group meeting was being set up in early September to discuss this further with relevant agencies. Nicole requested officers let her know if there was anything they felt was missing from the report or if it should be presented in a different way.

Chris White considered that the use of raw figures in the report was more appropriate than percentage increases / decreases due to the fact that in certain areas 1 crime could, for example, increase our figures by 100%

Dale Atkin referred to page three and suggested further narrative was needed where there had been increases in certain crimes.

The Chairman asked that any further issues were fed back to Nicole Morton and suggested the item go to the funding and strategy sub-group where it could be discussed further.

11 FUNDING UPDATE

(i) CSAT Fund

Nicole Morton presented members with the CSAT budget to July 2006. The full balance to spend stood at £22,430.

(ii) Arrangements for SSCF payments / monitoring

Chris White said the Council was accountable for the Safer Stronger Community fund. The payment of the grant was being paid by ECC by BACS on the 18th of each month. This should link with performance monitoring. He would liaise with FSSG.

(iii) Proposal of projects for Essex County Council aligned fund

Nicole Morton reported there was a £250,000 fund from ECC that has been aligned to LAA for possible projects with the Crime and Disorder Network Executive Group (CDNE). Possible options for the spend of this fund were discussed at the CDNE after recommendations from the review group. The review group had five possible projects:

- Advocacy workers
- Services for young people
- Fear of crime Survey
- Communication Forum
- Family Support Work (further work to establish feasibility)

The first four were fully supported by the CDNE with further work needed for the fifth. The Funding and Strategy Sub Group (FSG) had commented and agreed with the CDNE, but have asked for further information, no reply from ECC had been received. Chris White said he would try and get a response from ECC. There was also possibility of a further £250,000, this was not yet confirmed. The review group put together a 'reserve list' this included:

- Family Support Work – further funding allocated
- IDAP
- Priority Neighbourhood Area – pilot area Hutton
- Provide activities for victims of DA in a refuge setting - pilot

FSG agreed to 4 projects that would impact Uttlesford, with further information required. No comment was made on the project for Hutton.

12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(i) NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING UPDATE

Colin Steele said he had given a presentation to Full Council at UDC last week on neighbourhood policing. The Crime Sanction Detection rate was at 27% and were aiming for 28%. This figure put Essex Police in the top quartile for the UK. Essex were also the County with the highest arrests. A response was yet to be made on Essex Polices press release on switching street lighting off at night.

(ii) PCT Reconfiguration

Dale Atkin gave an update on the PCT reconfiguration. He presented the group with a map of the proposed layout for the East of England. Uttlesford were to join with Harlow and Epping Forest to make one West Essex PCT, although the name was yet to be confirmed. Currently there were 13 PCT Chief Executives who were going through a recruitment process to secure their CEO position; central level had meaningful intent to ensure the right CEOs were appointed. It was aimed that the new PCTs would retain a strong locality.

(iii) Possible Merger

Nicole Morton said she had attended a workshop on the Crime and Disorder Act review. The findings of the review were divided into 8 themes. From these themes national standards would be set that needed to be fully implemented by all CDRP's. The themes covered; split of strategic and operational functions, monitoring and inspection, national intelligence model, information sharing, community engagement, annual three year rolling plan, strategic assessment and overview and scrutiny. Nicole identified that there could be a possible resource issue

No date had yet been decided for the meeting to discuss LSP / CDRP's. Jane Elson would shortly be circulating dates.

(iv) Probation

Peter Woollard reported that Custody Plus had been postponed due to delays at the Home Office.

(v) Force merger

Colin Steele said the forced merger was on hold and there was a caveat for the plan. He suggested it might be beneficial for the RAG to gain a leading knowledge.

12 DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The next meeting of CSAT would be held on 24 October 2006.

Future meetings to be arranged.

The meeting ended at 1.55pm.