

**PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL – ADDRESSEE ONLY**

**UTTLESFORD COMMUNITY SUPPORT GROUP held at 11.00 am on 19 SEPTEMBER 2000 at COUNCIL OFFICES, LONDON ROAD, SAFFRON WALDEN**

Present:- Ronni Ayres – Victim Support  
Heather Brun – Essex Probation Service  
Clive Cooper – Emergency Planning (in the Chair)  
Councillor Mrs Jan Menell – Uttlesford District Council  
Katheryn Nessling – Essex Police  
Doreen Poole – Uttlesford Housing Department  
Cathy Roberts – Secretary  
Linda Robinson – Homestart  
Nick Savage – Essex Social Services  
Caroline Skinner – Uttlesford Primary Care Group  
Alex Stewart – Uttlesford District Council  
John Willoughby – Citizens Advice Bureau

1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Linda Sturgess and Roy Withers and the Crown Prosecution Service.

2 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Group held on 24 July 2000 were received and considered. Heather Brun asked that it be noted that she is a Member of the West Essex Probation Service.

(i) **Minute 3(vi) – Data sharing Proforma**

Clive Cooper updated the meeting on the progress of the profiler system for conveying information on violent crime. The Minutes were signed, together with the Minutes of the meeting which took place on 22 May 2000, as true and correct records subject to the amendment of Heather Brun's designation.

3 **MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

(i) **Action Points**

Clive Cooper said that he would look at the action plan to ensure that it covered necessary matters including the data sharing proforma. It was agreed that the data sharing proforma should carry the CSAT logo and should list the County District and other authorities involved.

Alex Stewart informed the meeting that Mark Newman had been invited to make a presentation but that the County Prosecuting Solicitor had sent apologies to the current meeting and had been invited to the next one.

Chris White informed the meeting that Mr Keefe was not now occupying his previous position. It was agreed that developments as regards his post be reported to the next meeting of the Group.

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#### **CHAIRMAN'S RPEORT FROM CSAT**

Clive Cooper reported that it would be necessary during the next year to produce a Strategy Document. On audit, the criticisms had been that consultation had not been wide enough; it would become necessary to talk to victims of domestic violence. CSAT would be looking at this matter at each meeting and it was now being put on every agenda.

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#### **PERFORMANCE MONITORING – CSAT OBJECTIVES**

##### **(i) Final Version of Reporting Form**

This matter had been discussed earlier in the meeting.

##### **(ii) Asbos/Aide memoiré for pre-court guidelines**

Clive Cooper explained that this was currently a document for CSAT. He was trying to make the explanation of Asbo responsibilities very simple. Chris White asked Members to note that it was the Police or District Council, not the Essex County Council which was responsible for initiating Asbos. Clive Cooper said that Social Services had an input however. In answer to a question from Alex Stewart, Clive Cooper informed the meeting that the designated officers would be himself, Joy Postings, Tim Newcombe of the Police, and Chris White from Essex County Council Social Services. The costs of making such an order would be in the region of £2,000.

At this point (11.25 am) PC Caulfield and Sergeant B Davis joined the meeting.

After discussions the view was expressed that Asbos, might not be appropriate for domestic violence since they operated by use of exclusion areas.

##### **(iii) Homophobic/Racial Incidents Policy Update**

Alex Stewart informed the meeting that the Racial Incidents Panel had not met. Information had been prepared for draft policy and had been submitted to the Racial Equality Council for observations before being submitted to the Group at its next meeting.

## PERFORMANCE MONITORING – OTHER ISSUES

### (i) Domestic Violence Statistics

Kathryn Nessling reported that there had been 33 domestic violence incidents since 24 July 2000. There had been 7 arrests; 4 had been repeat arrests and 11 repeat victims. The figures were from Dunmow and Stansted and showed a 3-fold increase on the last figures.

Sergeant Davis reported that in the Saffron Walden areas there had been 41 incidents since 27 May 2000. 11 arrests had taken place of which one was a repeat arrest and 9 were repeat victims but now with different partners so that it was difficult to establish who was in fact the perpetrator. PC Caulfield commented that there may be a need in some cases for conflict management training for both partners. The Victim Support representative had no statistics to report. The CAB representative reported two cases, one of refusal to pay housekeeping and 1 of intimidation. Nick Savage of Social Services commented that the Department had cases which involved much non-violent abuse, bullying and financial control. Sergeant Davis informed the meeting that victims were provided with the booklet and that currently he did not have enough booklets.

PC Caulfield stated that he was most impressed with the way the Colchester Perpetrators Programme retrained perpetrators to prevent reoffending. He laid great emphasis on the need for more of this. Group members discussed their common experience of likely times and seasons for domestic violence. Caroline Skinner suggested that the Group should examine prevention programmes such as parenting support groups and healthy schools partnerships.

Alex Stewart and Clive Cooper referred to the need to seek broader based socio-economic data and Chris White suggested that this should be raised with the Countywide Information Group.

### (ii) Perpetrators Programme

Heather Brun gave a very comprehensive report on the progress of the initiative towards a West Essex Perpetrator Programme since the last meeting. It now seemed that whilst those areas where accredited programmes had not been developed for domestic violence were not funded for further progress currently, the West Essex programmes were part developed and organizers could therefore continue planning and providing perpetrators and parallel programmes for women victims and children. The Perpetrators Programme continued to operate in Colchester. It was noted that the Criminal Justice Mental Health Team had agreed to undertake assessments of suitability or responsibility for the benefit of the programme.

Sergeant Davis raised the question of attendance at programmes as a condition of bail.

Heather Brun concluded that the start date for the West Essex Programme was a question of staffing and funding but might be April 2001. PC Caulfield stressed that he thought the problem of domestic violence could not be changed without this programme.

Chris White emphasised the need for County Council support to facilitate fund raising and the statistics link.

Councillor Mrs Menell suggested that something should be included in the booklet about the Colchester Perpetrators Programme and the possibility of self-referrals. Heather Brun agreed to investigate how widely the Colchester Programme was accepting referrals.

## 7 **CROWN PROSECUTION PRESENTATION**

Alex Stewart informed the meeting that the Crown Prosecution Solicitor had been asked to attend the next meeting.

Clive Cooper informed the meeting that a seminar had been arranged on 17 October in London on the subject of \*\*. He invited members to make application to attend it.

## 8 **COMMUNITY SAFETY DAY**

Sergeant Davis explained the scope of this Police organised day at which there would be Victim Support and Community Safety input. It was noted that there was also an organised event at Police HQ on 6 October for the purpose of liaising with Parish Councils on community safety.

## 9 **HOMESTART – COURSE**

Sergeant Davis and PC Nessling agreed to speak at a Homestart course, date to be arranged.

## 10 **HOUSING**

Doreen Poole reported about rehousing problems occasioned by domestic violence.

## 11 **SOCIAL SERVICES**

Chris White reported that the appropriate County Council committee had agreed to fund an Anti-harassment Officer for the whole county with a Community Development Officer. This officer could work with the Racial Incidents Panel to promote good practice.

## 12 **VICTIM SUPPORT**

Ronni Ayre reported that 12 volunteers had been training for witness support duty which would begin from 2 October at Epping.

13                    **ESSEX POLICE POLICY ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

Sergeant Davis commented that a review of this policy was taking place since, due to the Human Rights Act, the discretion of Officers might have to be reduced. Ronni Ayres added that the Harlow Police had sponsored their first witness support year.

14                    **AIDE MEMOIRE**

Kathryn Nessling circulated an aide memoiré prepared to assist victims of domestic violence in conjunction with the booklet. A credit card sized list of phone numbers had been prepared and would be submitted to the next meeting of the Group. Kathryn Nessling asked for 2-3 sentences from each agency explaining what that agency could provide in the way of help, for inclusion in pre-court guidelines. This matter was discussed and it was agreed that these pre-court statements should be incorporated in the booklet when updated.

15                    **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ALARMS**

PC Caulfield explained the pros and cons of installing domestic violence alarms in residential premises.

16                    **HEALTH VISITOR REPRESENTATIVE**

It was noted that no health visitor representative had been provided and it was agreed that the North Essex and Herts Trust be asked to replace the health visitor representative.

17                    **POLAROID CAMERAS**

Kathryn Nessling reported that it was permissible to use polaroid cameras for other purposes than witnessing domestic violence at the request of officers.

18                    **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday 14 November 2000.

The meeting ended at 12.30 pm