

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL – ADDRESSEE ONLY

**UTTLESFORD COMMUNITY SUPPORT GROUP held at 11.00 am on
20 NOVEMBER 2001 at COUNCIL OFFICES LONDON ROAD SAFFRON
WALDEN**

Present:- The Rev. Duncan Green – (In the Chair)
Peter Caulfield – Essex Police
Clive Cooper – Community Safety Officer
Rachel Hutchinson – Uttlesford District Council
Karl Llewellyn – Essex Police
Councillor Mrs J E Menell - Uttlesford District Council
Cathy Roberts – Secretary
Caroline Skinner – Uttlesford PCT
Judith Snares - Housing
Alex Stewart - Uttlesford District Council
Linda Sturgess – Homestart

INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW CHAIRMAN

Duncan Green explained that he was the Rector of St Mary's, Saffron Walden and had been chairing the Youth Initiatives Working Group for the previous five years. He looked forward to taking part in the work of the Community Support Group, having encountered the need for such work in his role as a Parish Priest.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Marian Atwell, Graham Seal, Nick Savage, Chris White and John Willoughby.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Group held on 18 September 2001 were received, considered and signed as a correct record.

MATTERS ARISING

The Chairman expressed an interest in the use to which statistics were put after they had been presented to the Committee and Clive Cooper explained that they were included within the Audit document.

It was noted that these statistics were always Police related. Karl Llewellyn informed the meeting that he had a record of referrals to other agencies but that otherwise there were not any statistics from those agencies. There was however a policy of third person reporting to relevant bodies.

Members discussed the position of the health service in this context and Alex Stewart drew attention to the fact that action took some months even when all

agencies were working together. The Chairman stressed that the Group was intended to be a working group rather than merely an information group and suggested that in view of this there might need to be meetings when all representatives should not be present. He suggested that, once fundamental purposes were established, membership should be reviewed.

In answer to a question Karl Llewellyn informed the meeting that two members of the public had attended the last drop in centre session. The Chairman asked about a help line for the Drop in Centre and Karl Llewellyn informed the meeting that flyers were issued with a reminder in the press about Drop In Centre sessions.

CSAT REPORT

Clive Cooper described the collection of data which had contributed to the audit process and findings.

STATISTICS

Karl Llewellyn informed the Group that there had been 40 domestic incidents within Uttlesford. 13 of these had been violent, 14 had been alcohol related and in the case of 8 there had been an arrest. There were three repeat offenders and one repeat victim.

In answer to a question he confirmed that the arrests probably related to violent incidents. He added however that whilst officers were aware of and acted on the policy of prosecuting, arrest was not necessarily the right thing to use in the differing circumstances of all cases. In answer to a question from the Chairman he explained that he endeavoured to track the violent and/or repeat offenders and cases where there had been referrals. It was noted that the Group could not act via repeat offender programmes.

The referrals made to other agencies were as follows

Social Services	9
Housing	1
CAB	1
Solicitor	13
Refuge	1
GP/Hospital	6
Other	4

Judith Snares from the Uttlesford District Council Housing Department reported that one 53 year old female had been rehoused in temporary accommodation having come to Saffron Walden from another area. During August there had been six nuisance cases and one noise disturbance case. No cases had occurred during September and in October there had been no incidents of domestic violence requiring rehousing but there had been two nuisance cases.

The Chairman commented on the need to follow up statistics to establish how they had arisen and what action was being taken, as well as to eliminate duplication.

There were no racial incidents reported which was a welcome surprise in the light of recent concerns among some communities in the town. It was agreed that a future meeting would discuss a strategy for action to follow up statistics received.

BEST VALUE UPDATE

Alex Stewart reported that the Best Value Review was almost complete and embraced partnerships, additional resources, community safety, and outsourcing of service areas, (e.g. needle pick up) the obtaining of external funding (e.g. sale of best practice), and review of staffing structure.

CSAT STRATEGY 2002-2005 – RESULTS OF SURVEY

Clive Cooper gave details of the postal survey results. The strategy had been derived from this information and from Focus Group studies of residents wants. He stressed that the object must be the reduction of crimes of violence and hate crimes in the District.

The Chairman said that a link should be made with the Drug Reference Group with regard to alcohol related crime and education. He felt that general statements were needed about the work of the Community Support Group with input from different areas including Social Services. He would be meeting Alex Stewart and Rachel Hutchinson to draft general statements for CSAT and Members ideas were needed within the week to be incorporated within the Strategy. It was noted that so far no Relate input to the Group had been obtained, and that although alcohol and anger management programmes were most valuable to the Groups work, the Home Office had stopped funding perpetrators' programmes.

Caroline Skinner raised the question of confidentiality issues which would arise if the Group took the form of a case conference and the Chairman reminded Members that a smaller group representing professional agencies might be needed for these purposes.

Councillor Mrs Menell pointed out that the booklet contained no information about the Primary Care Trust.

Members were asked to convey ideas for the strategy to Clive Cooper and Rachel Hutchinson by the end of the week. The Chairman stressed that it was important to establish what the Group was doing before tackling the update. The Group's overall role was prevention, support, increase of the reporting of domestic violence and a facilitating role for other agencies.

VICTIM SUPPORT

It was reported that Ronnie Ayres would soon be retiring from her role as representative of Victim Support and that her place would be taken by Peter Hesketh who had retired from Stansted Airport Police.

INTER-GROUP LIAISON

The Chairman informed Members of his intention to investigate other Community Support Groups eg. Braintree and Test Valley. He invited other Members to join him. He also referred Members to the Police website where there was much information on hate crime and domestic violence and useful publicity material.

DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

It was noted that the next meetings would be held on:

Thursday 24 January 2002
Wednesday 17 April 2002
Wednesday 17 July 2002
Wednesday 23 October 2002

The meeting ended at 12.05 pm.