

MINUTES

MEETING: Anti Social Behaviour Study Group

DATE: Tuesday 21st August 2007

TIME: 10.30 a.m.

VENUE: Crutes Offices, Teesdale Park, Stockton

CHAIR: Greg Johnson, South Tyneside Council

Apologies:

Neil McFarlane – York
Elaine Whitaker – Yorkshire Housing
Mark Barrow – Harvest Housing
Sharon Carr – Middlesbrough
Sue Wharam – Northern Counties
Alex Rhind - Home office
David Jones – Chester-le-Street
Karen Townsend - Durham CC
Amanda Reed – Gateshead
Phil Tweedle - Richmond shire

Kevin Reid – Home Group
Simon Riley – Doncaster
Gary Jackson – City of Durham
Ian Johnson – Blyth
Jennifer Leech – South Tyneside
Jane Hill - Middlesbrough
Paul Nilsen – Cheviot Housing Association
Pam Cox – Easington
Gavin Brown - Endeavour

Present:

Greg Johnson – South Tyneside
Michael Cowie – Sunderland Housing Group
Sharon Dalton – Coast & Country
Clare Tierney – Gateshead MBC
Neil McFarlane – City of York Council
Nick Hardy – East Durham Homes
Susan Howes – Nomad E5
Karen Vickers – Two Castles HA``
Anna Smith – Darlington BC
Malcolm Woodhall – Tynedale DC
Paul Nilsen – Cheviot

Satty Rai - NHC
Gilly Marshall – Erimus
Clive Ledner – Accent Group
Mandy Reed – Gateshead MBC
Amanda Fulcher – East Durham
Neil Hobson - Sedgefield
Neil Hutchinson – Tristar Homes
Monica Marron - Middlesbrough
Sue Howes – Crutes Law Firm
Andy Shipping - Middlesbrough

1.0 Minutes of last meeting

1.1 The minutes of the meeting of the 13th March 2007 were agreed as an accurate record.

2.0 Matters Arising

- 2.1 Greg mentioned that there was not enough knowledge around the room on mandatory statutory targets for the LAA's, and felt that this should be built around ASB, need to think further on this.
- 2.2 CDRP surveys, a reminder to all to send them off, Michael mentioned that many organisations are not sending them in, and the reasons why need to be explored. Greg also mentioned that he was not receiving anything from RSL's, and Greg to discuss this further with Alex Rhind.
- 2.3 Malcolm Woodhall mentioned that they may be getting their dispersal order on the main street in Hexham extended, due to its success. Greg informed the group that South Tyneside implemented a Dispersal Order earlier in the year. It ran for 6 weeks, and has a result there had been many arrests and crime has decreased, but there is still the issue of the lack of resources.

3.0 Alex Rhind – Update

- 3.1 Unfortunately Alex was unable to attend due to other commitments and put her apologies in.
- 3.2 Greg informed the group that through discussions with Alex prior to this meeting, with the changes to Respect and the move to the Department for Children, Schools and Families, this has resulted in no changes. Gordon Brown is as committed as Tony Blair to the Crime & ASB agenda.
- 3.3 Some of the members expressed a slight concern, and felt that this move should have resulted in some change, more so in the area of getting schools on board, to allow RSL's to deliver programmes on good citizenship. There should be more emphasis on schools to join up with programmes like this, and to look at underlying causes of ASB.. Members felt that this area was very adhoc, and it all depends on the head teachers, some were very keen to include it as part of the curriculum.
- 3.4 Greg pointed out that the agenda on Respect is not going to go away, and Alex is the best person to talk about this in detail and cover some of these concerns and issues.

4.0 Selective Licensing Presentation – Monica Marron, Middlesbrough

- 4.1 Circulated to members – waiting for Monica to send it to me.

5.0 Demoted Tenancies Presentation – Sue Howes, Crutes Law Firm

5.1 Aim is for tenants to moderate their behaviour, and is a useful tool for negotiating a settlement. Tenants become much more aware that their house is on the line and at risk.

5.2 RSLs can now apply for a demotion order that converts a secure tenancy to a demoted tenancy or an assured tenancy to a demoted assured short hold tenancy. This allows a landlord to take possession proceedings without having to rely on any statutory grounds if there is a further breach of the tenancy agreement. If the tenant's behaviour improves and no possession action is taken after 12 months the tenancy is promoted back to a secure or an assured tenancy. This is similar to the introductory tenancy but makes the probationary period available for use at any time during the tenancy. Demotion is a less severe sanction than an outright possession order and provides the tenant with a last chance to improve. A demotion order can be ordered if the tenant or someone else for whom the tenant is responsible has used the premises for illegal purposes or has behaved in a way that is capable of causing a nuisance or annoyance. The court must also be satisfied that it is reasonable to make the order..

5.3 Reviews – LA's have to have one in place, RSL's do not have to have one, in any case the review has to be carried out, and if there is the question of fairness in the review, it will go through a judicial review.

6.0 Safer Estates Agreement – Draft

6.1 Greg pointed out that the Safer Estates Agreement was forwarded to Northumbria Police Data Protection at Ponteland and was still awaiting comment. Greg will circulate this to the rest of the group.

7.0 NHC – Crime & ASB Conference update – Satty Rai

7.1 Satty provided an update of the developments so far, and asked the group for some ideas for some of the Professional Practice sessions for the two days. Some good ideas were proposed and Satty will follow up and provide a final update at next meeting.

8.0 Local Action Good Practice (around the table)

8.1 Gateshead

Claire mentioned that in Gateshead a document had been produced and circulated on Graded Response, information for victims on who to

go to, contacts, where they can get help and support from. This document is circulated to all heads of schools, magistrates, district judges and the CPS.

Claire also mentioned that in Gateshead they have a Youth Offending Team where she spends 3 days a week. Claire is happy to deliver a presentation on this for a future meeting.

8.2 **Gentoo**

Michael said that Gentoo now have a CCTV van, dealing with disorder and drug dealers in the City, and if anyone wanted to have a look at it was more than welcome. There may be the possibility of renting it in the future to other organisations.

8.3 **Erimus Housing**

Gilly reported that Erimus was taking action on persistent malicious complainers, they have taken an injunction on one, it has taken a lot of time to get to this stage, but pro active approaches are needed to deal with this.

8.4 **Coast & Country**

Sharon mentioned that CC are running two day training sessions on neighbourhood policing, for neighbourhood police officers and those working on the ground.

8.5 **Tri Star Homes**

In Sedgefield it has proven difficult to get witness statements, Tri Star have brought more cameras and photographic equipment to tackle this issue. Officers are doing more observation work.

8.6 **Tynedale District Council**

The Dispersal order scheme in Hexham proved to be very good in its first 6 months of its life, then was extended, and resulted in the reduction of minor crimes in the area. Were looking to get it extended for the third time, but was not successful, they are now looking at finding something to replace it.

8.7 **Cheviot Homes**

Have obtained an injunction with power of arrest against a non cheviot resident in Wansbeck.

YHN has joined the A2B – Access to Basketball respect initiative for 2007-2008. The diversionary activity is now due to go into its second year. Cheviot, NomadE5 & YHN have confirmed with Gentoo that they are likely to rejoin, and Places for People and Hartlepool are considering.

Cheviot have teamed up with NomadE5 to get an economy/saving with noise monitoring equipment. Cheviot has had it for 6 years, an update from tapes to digital should improve the service.

8.8 Monica mentioned that it had recently come to light that whilst Gresham was responding to a complaint of two females causing ASB, they had identified that 12 people were under risk of a Vice trade. Failed Asylum Seekers were grooming these two young women as well as others with gifts etc. Gresham are working with local organisations and the police to tackle this.

9.0 Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 6th November at 10.30am, at Havelock Civic Buildings, Hylton Road, Sunderland, SR4 8HA.