

MINUTES

MEETING: **Anti Social Behaviour Study Group**

DATE: Tuesday 15th July 2008

TIME: 10.30 a.m.

VENUE: East Durham Homes, Head Office, County Durham.

CHAIR: Greg Johnson, South Tyneside Council

Apologies:

Chris Przysiecki – Bradford Community Housing Trust
Allan Russell – South Tyneside
Neil Hobson – Sedgefield
Paula Leckey – Cheviot Homes
Amanda Reed - Gateshead
Karen Townsend – City of Durham
Neil Mcfarlane – York
Clive Ledner – Accent
Ian Johnson – Blyth
Jennifer Leach – South Tyneside Homes

Present:

Greg Johnson – South Tyneside	Mike Picknett - GONE
Carl Ashton – South Tyneside	Sharon Dalton – Coast & Country
Neil Denton – ARCH	Sara Herrington – Endeavour
Joe Hogan – Safe Newcastle	John Phillips – SBC
Rose Harrison – CMHT Easington	Diane Maughan - SBC
Lisa Luke – Tees Esq & Wear Valley NHS Trust	Malcolm Woodhall - Tynedale
Amanda Fulcher – East Durham Homes	Claire Tierney - Gateshead
Pam Cox – East Durham Homes	Satty Rai - NHC
Susan Howes – Nomad E5	Fiona Luckhurst Matthews - Cheviot
Lee Godfrey – Broadacres	Andrew Dawes - Cheviot
Bob Houghton – CSP Easington	Michael Cowie - Gentoo
Tracey Whelan – Durham Constabulary	Colin Ashwatt – South Tyneside
Val Ward - Gateshead	

-
- 1. Minutes of Last Meeting**
Minutes agreed

2. Matters Arising

None

3. Joe Hogan – Alcohol Watch (presentation circulated)

Scheme devised to combat underage street drinking. Pilot carried out in May 07 in Walker/Byker.

Use stickers on drinks that are purchased among young people, that are identifiable to the shop, stickers are allocated to local police teams and then distributed to shops. Shops are identified that are based in neighbourhoods where street drinking and ASB as a result is an issue, then the scheme is publicised and launched to the local community and the shops in the area. It is a voluntary scheme.

In the area of Westgate Hill there is an issue of older street drinkers that hang around all day on the drink, shops were identified in the local area and introduced to the scheme to tackle this problem, the results have been very positive. Although some argue that this affects the profit margins of these smaller businesses, on the positive side passers by will go into the shop and buy goods, where as in the past this was not the case as they felt intimidated by drinkers hanging around the shops and in the area.

The biggest stumbling block with this scheme is the cost of stickers at 10p each.

Information is shared with various agencies and groups, and there is a commitment from the police, every shop is allocated with PCSO to visit the shop 2/3x a week to ensure stickers are on the bottles and to generally monitor this.

There is currently no engagement with supermarkets at present, but these are discussions that need to be had.

4. Neil Denton – ARCH tracking, monitoring and responding to hate crime in Newcastle (presentation circulated).

This is a web based reporting/referral case management system. Information is shared to all agencies/organisations involved with the clients concerned, it looks at data in different forms.

Results so far have seen an increase in reporting up by 155% in 2 years, looking to expand it to homophobia and bullying, working with schools and teachers to pick this up.

5. Youth Taskforce Update – Greg Johnson

There is a lot of money around - £218m.

Publication - Crime and Communities Review, Satty to circulate to group.

Intensive intervention project – guidelines out soon, £30m is being offered for 20 projects

Currently there are academy events hosted through the Youth Taskforce that are taking place around the country.

6. Lisa Luke – Mental Health – Tees Esq & Wear Valley NHS Trust (presentation circulated)

Secondary service dealing with severe mental health and personality disorder.

Clients need to be assessed on a case by case basis, individuals need to take responsibility for their own actions.

There seems to be a common issue amongst officers of understanding the PCT and mental health services, communication seems to be a big issue and the separation of the two entities.

Need to look at bigger picture of housing, education, employment etc.

Many mental health services say personality disorder is not their problem there is a need to bridge this gap in some areas, as this group is most likely to cause problems. A lot of mental health problems are as a result of social problems.

Need to have people that are employed in housing need to be used to feed into mental health teams.

Jonathon Nash Solicitor for NCC, insight into Mental Health provided training for Gentoo.

7. NHC Event Update

Satty provided the group with an update and members recommended some speakers and themes for the professional practice sessions.

8. Regional round up

Greg – South Tyneside

FIP's some positive and negative examples.

Michael – Gentoo

In September 07 realised that they were good at dealing with the perpetrators but not the victim, now they have officers who are in

regular contact with the victims and provide support. Engages with children on estates, this has been very successful and as a result has recruited another two victim officers since.

Pam – East Durham Homes

Lifewise scheme set up six months ago, looking at the issues faced by young people who are failing to maintain their tenancies. This has been a partnership approach and offers six accredited courses, sessions covering managing tenancies, living on a budget and sustaining tenancies.

Paul – Easington

Criminal damage has reduced by 30-40% in the area, cutting across all ASB areas. A multi agency approach has been used.

Caroline – Easington

Main concern is mental health issues; they have an ASB floating support programme. Parents and children are not getting the help and support that they need.

Malcolm – Tynedale

Agrees we need to do more to support victims. They have started an off watch programme in the area, where they have engaged with off licences, identifying the buyers of alcohol for younger drinkers. This approach has worked very well through the involvement of the local community.

Claire – Gateshead

Victim support officer seconded to work with the team, this has proved to be very popular amongst residents, it is important that involvement needs to be at the very early stages.

Working on positive activities for young people on Friday and Saturday night

Next meeting

Since the last meeting it has been confirmed that the next meeting will take place on:

Date: Wednesday 29th October 2008

Time: 10.30 – 2.00pm

Location: Endeavour Housing, Stockton

(Details have been circulated)