

Date	Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> September 2008
Venue	The Town Hall, Lytham St Annes
Committee members	Kiran Mulholland (Chairman) Fabian Wilson (Vice Chairman) Brenda Ackers, Craig Halewood, Louis Rigby, Peter Collins, John Singleton, Howard Henshaw, Bill Thompson.
Other Councillors	
Officers	Bryan Ward, Clare Platt, Annie Womack
Others	Police Sergeant Bob Rushforth, Tom Pickering (D&L Consortia), County Councillor Bernard Whittle.

1. Declarations of interest

Members were reminded that any personal/prejudicial interests should be declared as required by the council's Code of Conduct adopted in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000.

2. Confirmation of minutes

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the Community Outlook Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2008 as a correct record for signature by the chairman.

3. Substitute members

Cllr Bill Thompson for Cllr Richard Fulford-Brown

4. Local Strategic partnership Thematic Group - Community Safety Partnership

County Councillor Bernard Whittle (Chair of the Community Safety Partnership) and Bryan Ward (Community Safety Manager) presented a report detailing the work of the CDRP in relation to the targets set out in the Community Safety Strategy 2005 and the new Sustainable Community Strategy from 2008.

County Councillor Whittle reported that the Fylde Community Safety Partnership was established in October 1998 in response to the Crime and Disorder Act of the same year. It was made up of a number of key organisations who worked together to ensure that the Borough of Fylde remains one of the country's safest places to live, work or visit. Partners include Lancashire County Council, the Police, The Primary Care Trust, The Probation Service, the Youth Offending Team, the fire and Rescue Service and the Lancashire Drugs Action Team.

The Partnership had identified a number of key priority aims which were encompassed in the Community Safety Strategy 2005 and the Sustainable Community Strategy 2008. These included:

- Safer Streets
- Safer Homes
- Substance Misuse
- Young People's Issues
- Anti Social Behaviour
- Prolific and Priority Offenders

The Partnership operated through a Steering Group which set the direction and a tasking and coordinating group who implemented and managed projects. These groups reported to the full partnership, which monitored progress against the targets set out in the strategies.

The committee heard about specific work that had been done, for example in the areas of youth engagement, substance misuse and domestic violence. There had been an initiative to tackle the issue of alcohol and young people, and a joint initiative with the family care trust in which the services of a project worker were obtained. There is a 3-weekly task and co-ordination meeting in which youth action and drug preventions teams are also involved. They are developing activities for young people and rewarding good behaviour. Funding has enabled the provision of a well-used website for young people to access, to learn about local activities. Work has been done on providing youth shelters and in reducing anti-social behaviour.

Members questioned Cllr Whittle about several issues, including how their successes in reducing anti-social behaviour were measured, and whether known trouble areas were targeted. The issue of late drinking licenses working against the aims of the partnership in reducing youth drinking was raised and Cllr Whittle and Bryan Ward agreed that it was frustrating and work was being done to mitigate the problem.

The committee was advised that a report on CCTV was to be delivered to Cabinet proposing that there should be live monitoring on Friday and Saturday in certain areas, and after a period to be rolled out to Lytham and Kirkham.

Following the discussion, it was RESOLVED:

1. To thank County Councillor Bernard Whittle and Bryan Ward for the excellent work that the partnership does, and for their presentation.

5. North Lancashire Teaching Primary Care Trust Strategic Plan Consultation.

Mr Tom Pickering (D&L Consortia) presented a report detailing the 5 year strategic plan from the North Lancashire Teaching Primary Care Trust. The aim of the strategic plan was to reduce regional health inequalities in a number of key areas.

Mr. Pickering reported that the outcomes in the plan needed to show overall improvement in the health and well-being of the population with improved life expectancy and reduced health inequalities across different areas.

There were five key areas that will be addressed in the plan:

- Children's Health - To improve child health, reduce childhood illness and thus improve the health of the next generation.
- Cancer - To reduce premature mortality and narrow the life expectancy gap associated with cancer in North Lancashire
- Vascular Disease - To reduce premature mortality and narrow the life expectancy gap associated with vascular disease in North Lancashire.
- Mental Health - To treat mental health problems earlier and nearer home, by further developing prevention, well-being and community-based services to reduce the need for hospital care.
- End of Life Care - To allow individuals to die, pain free, in their place of choice with dignity, by increasing the level of support for them and their families.

Mr Pickering explained to the committee that NLTPCT was keen to engage with stakeholders and partners and that a formal document would be produced in the next few weeks to seek their views.

The committee was very interested in the health inequalities which the presentation highlighted for the Fylde, and questioned Mr Pickering on various aspects of the work of the NLTPCT, such as how they differentiated between hereditary problems and those which resulted in inequalities because of social background and behaviour. Mr Pickering agreed that those were issues to be aware of and highlighted the incidence of poor diet and smoking in less affluent areas which led to health inequalities.

He told the committee that the NLTPCT was still committed to retaining District General Hospitals, and that their efforts were directed at shaping the way in which healthcare is delivered in the future, in order to achieve their vision of "Adding life to years and years to life". This will involve, for example, changes to where, how and by whom healthcare is delivered, and by achieving targets for preventative measures.

Mr Pickering closed by saying that when the engagement document was published, he would be delighted to hear from Fylde Borough Council through the committee.

Following the presentation, it was RESOLVED:

1. To emphasise the committee's support for the strategy which had been outlined, and to thank Mr Pickering for his presentation.

## 6. Police Statistics

Police Sergeant Bob Rushforth (Fylde Liaison Officer) presented a report detailing how crime statistics were recorded following a request from Councillor Halewood.

Sgt Rushforth distributed statistics which had been gathered from two bodies. One set was the figures from the British Crime Survey which is issued by the Home Office; the other set was the Police Recorded Crime statistics.

He explained in detail the difference between the two sets of data. For example the British Crime Survey (BCS) looks only at the classes of crime which directly affect the person.

People are randomly selected for survey and the criteria and question set has not changed for a long time. This means that the report can highlight crime trends which may not be apparent at a local level. It also captures the views of those who don't report crime to the police and establishes an overall percentage of under-reporting. It is only published once per year. Its weakness is that it does not capture crime other than against the person, and it does not include people under 16.

Conversely, Police Recorded Crime (PRC) is a record of every incident which is reported at local level. It is an up-to-date figure, and it allows the local police service to drill down to problem areas, even at street data level. It covers more crimes giving a better coverage of offences. However, its weakness is that it cannot capture under-reporting. If a crime is not reported, it cannot be recorded. Also, it cannot be used to look at long-term trends because there have been frequent changes to the way the data is captured. For example, if damage was done by one person to 20 parked cars, that would previously have been reported as one crime. It is now reported as 20 crimes because the focus has shifted from being incident-based to victim-based.

The committee asked Sgt Rushforth to clarify whether the PRC statistics could be manipulated. He advised the committee that a National Crime Recording Standard had been introduced, which was closely followed and rigorously enforced. This minimised the possibility of manipulating statistics. He explained that every reported incident results in an incident log, whether that incident is a crime or not and certain procedures are followed within given timeframes to establish whether the incident is a crime, and if so to generate a crime report and take necessary follow-up action.

When questioned, he told the committee that the process is subject to numerous checks and that any incident tagged as "no crime" must be justified. He agreed that there is an issue about building public confidence in the data and went to say that police statistics are subject to very detailed Home Office audits.

He also acknowledged the committee's concerns about underreporting of crime and an apparent lack of belief in the police service's ability to act swiftly enough or to obtain convictions for certain crimes and said that locally the police were doing everything they could to target problem areas identified through their stats, and so to offer the public a greater assurance as to their safety.

Following the presentation, the committee RESOLVED:

1. To thank Sergeant Rushforth for the presentation.

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