



CAI.05 17/18
Challenge and Improvement Committee
23 May 2017

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Subject: Update report on the work of the SWW Partnership Group to tackle anti-social behaviour and criminal activity in the SWW.

Report by:

Senior Community Action Officer

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Purpose / Summary:

Provide an update on the workings of the SWW Working group in regard to addressing anti- social behaviour and criminal activity within the SWW of Gainsborough. It is in response to a recommendation at Chairs brief 28 September 2016 that the effectiveness of the work in the South West Ward should be reviewed in six months' time.

This report seeks to offer reassurance that work has been done to form the right structures and focus to the SWW partnership.

This report seeks to offer assurance that positive measures are being taken to tackle both more immediate issues and changes that will show benefits over the longer term.

RECOMMENDATION(S): That the Committee are reassured that the right steps are being taken to tackle anti-social behaviour and criminal activity within the SWW.

IMPLICATIONS

Legal: None arising from this report

Financial : None

Staffing : None arising from this report

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights : None arising from this report.

Risk Assessment : None arising from this report

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities : None arising from this report

Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:
Challenge and Improvement Committee 11 October 2016 Minutes
Report to Prosperous Communities Committee 29 October 2015
Minutes from the council meeting 27 July 2015

Call in and Urgency:

Is the decision one which Rule 14 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?

Yes

No

Key Decision:

Yes

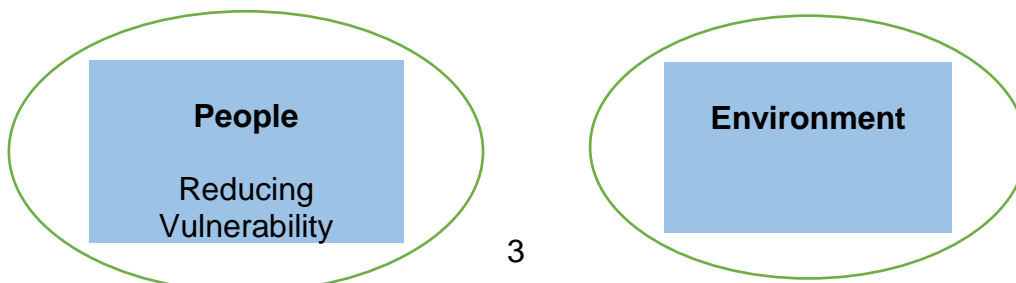
No

1.0 Introduction/Background

- 1.1 The Challenge and Improvement Committee at its meeting on 1 September 2015 resolved to establish a task and finish group of members (supported by officers) to investigate responses to incidents and anti-social behaviour and criminal activity in the South West Ward of Gainsborough. The members of the group were agreed as Cllrs Howitt-Cowan, J. McNeill and Young.
- 1.2 This Working Group identified, among other things, that more effective action was needed to the area. In closing the group it was agreed that the measures taken through the localism review had the potential to deal with the issues. However it was agreed at the 28 September 2016 briefing that the report should contain a recommendation to review the effectiveness of the work in the South West Ward in six months' time.
- 1.3 This report is to update the Challenge and Improvement Committee on the effectiveness of these internal changes and update on the improved focus given to the SWW Partnership Group to help address the issues.

2.0 The Re-Focus

- 2.1 The Committee has recognised through its review that to address the number of issues underlying anti- social behaviour a longer term approach is needed whilst also addressing the incidents of anti-social behaviour which are occurring at present.
- 2.2 This needs a two prong attack. A focus on the people, providing effective support or enforcement as appropriate and a focus on the environment – the street scene, community issues.
- 2.3 Proactive work is being done within the Authority to tackle these two areas together with a re-focus of the SWW Partnership Group.
- 2.4 Over the last 6 months the SWW partnership has been reviewed. A summary of the positive and negative comments made by the partners on the review is attached in **Appendix A: SWW Partnership Review**.
- 2.5 It is important to acknowledge the positive work of this partnership. Good effective working relations enable progress and these links have been made and are still there. It is however also important to note an overriding comment made in the review that they “tried to do too much”. Re-focusing from this has taken some time.
- 2.6 A proactive review has now been undertaken. The work of the SWW Partnership has been re focused to concentrate in these two areas.



- 2.7 A focus is being put on ensuring steps are being taken to effectively link people, processes and other wider partnerships in order to gain better results for the people and environment within the SWW.
- It is hoped that this learning and work can be spread to other areas within the district.
- 2.8 Clear measurable outcomes for the SWW Partnership are needed to be able to demonstrate the work that is being done and to link these with those of the Authority. These are in development.
- 2.9 Strong Strategic Leadership for this partnership across partners is needed to drive this work and this is the focus of the next few months. The re focus noted above will help achieve this.
- 2.10 WLDC Officers feel confident this re-focus, together with the positive work of the Authority will help make a difference within the SWW.

3.0 People

- 3.1 The SWW partnership has been re-focused to bring the people, the most vulnerable within the Ward, more to the fore within the SWW Working Group.

Identified aims within this are being drawn up within the partnership currently but immediate steps have been taken and are noted below.

- 3.2 Work has been done to join up the work done internally, and with partners to support the vulnerable people more.

There is more work to be done but the immediate example of what this means is noted here:

An existing Vulnerable Adult panel – a multi-agency forum dealing with vulnerable people in housing need – has reviewed its terms of reference and will now be taking consent based referrals not just based on housing need but a wider set of needs and also from members of the partnership.

- Those closer to the vulnerable residents - the community bodies, the Managed Care Networks who have been working to support these residents will now be better supported, where necessary, through a multi-agency forum.
- Clear links and support have been established to help not only the people in need but the Managed Care networks themselves. It is a clear link between the work of the partners and our internal work. It also connects SWW partners with wider public agencies that they may not have established links with before.

- 3.3 Data to help us understand and identify where the help is needed and help us work in partnership with other partners have 'shared data' is key to tackling issues.

The SWW Partnership will look to tackle this issue.

We do however increasingly know more about the needs of residents within the SWW and yes it needs building on but can already respond better;

- Safeguarding Information is now available at ward level. This collective information can be fed back into the partnership to direct future work under the People focus. It helps engage our partners more proactively to link up resources to help individuals.
- Selective Licensing visits have and continue to identify vulnerable cases requiring support. The SWW Partnership have been continually kept in the loop regarding the scheme and their support has been engaged.

3.4 A focus on how we tackle true shared data where appropriate will be a focus of the SWW Partnership going forward. It is a key enabler for true effectiveness.

3.5 Already though this collective increased identification noted above of the most vulnerable residents, together the links with the wider network of partners as appropriate will help reduce immediate need and also work towards longer term aims of redressing need and possible linked behaviour.

4.0 Environment

4.1 A Community Action and Enforcement Officer (Anti-Social Behaviour and Envirocrime) has been in post since October 2016 and the presence of this officer and the continual reaction to issues is having a very positive effect both in a remedial and re-educational side.

The level of day to enforcement being undertaken is increasing and the role is helping to identify the key issues that need to be resolved in order to find long term solutions to problems that are continuing to recur (e.g. early presentation of waste and high levels of trolley umbers).

4.2 Fixed penalty notices and community protection notices are being issued for the relevant offences demonstrating that further action will be taken where offences are occurring. Public Space Protection Orders have been agreed for dog fouling and are currently being consulted upon to tackle a variety of activities on Town Council land and to combat anti-social behaviour and alcohol consumption in the vicinity of Trinity Arts Centre.

4.3 A West Lindsey Enviro Crime Strategy is being developed within which there are keys actions to tackle issues within the South West Ward. This will be presented to Prosperous and Communities

Committee in the autumn. The strategy will outline our approach towards the following across the District:

- Abandoned vehicles
- Fly tipping
- Early presentation of waste
- Dog fouling
- Commercial waste
- Training, delegations and enforcement (Council, Parish Council's and Town Council's)

4.4 As noted above the SWW partnership focus is being reshaped to have an Environment Working Group. The working group will develop an action plan in line with the West Lindsey Enviro Crime Strategy that will enable partner's action to link in and support the actions of West Lindsey. This will provide the means of monitoring and reporting back on the effectiveness of the partnership in this area.

4.5 At Prosperous Communities Committee in March 2017 an update report on selective licensing was tabled. This report outlines the stage that the licensing process is currently at and shows the key statistics relating to the scheme.

At the point of the report there were 566 properties within the scheme, all of which are either licensed or within the applications process. A public register of licensed landlords is on the Council's website and will be updated periodically. The report demonstrates the improvements that have been made in the area in relation to gas and electrical safety and also makes clear that the number of properties within the area that are privately rented has been underestimated, which has increased the size of the scheme.

The focus on the scheme is to now ensure that every licensable landlord is licensed by the end of July 17 and to commence with the prosecution of those landlords that remain unlicensed. These prosecutions are underway.

5.0 The conclusions

5.1 Appropriate steps to take a more proactive look at the issues of anti-social behaviour and enviro crime following the Task and Finish Working Groups work, signed off September 2016, has taken place.

5.2 The work of the SWW partnership has been re-focused and already has improved links with the Authorities work. Action has already been taken to help join the work to those most vulnerable people in the SWW.

The structures to monitor this and ensure this is a whole partnership response are being built.

It will take time to fully demonstrate success however it is felt that real positive steps to provide more support to people on the ground who support residents is starting to take effect and will continue to give a more immediate and longer term response.

- 5.3 It is felt that with the re focus of the SWW partnership, together with re-establishing the Strategic direction and commitment across our partners, we will gain the needed support of our partners within the SWW Ward. This commitment together with the positive work being taken by the Authority to address the issues will be able to make a difference.
- 5.4 It is hoped that this report, together with tabled examples of the good practice on the ground to be discussed at Committee, will provide the assurance needed at this time.

It is recognised that clear reporting of progress is needed to fully support this. It is recognised that a further report in six months may be required.

Recommendations

- 6.0 This report aims to provide reassurance that the appropriate steps are being taken to tackle what are entrenched and long term issues in many respects within the SWW Ward in association with our partners.
- 6.1 It recognises that monitoring and reporting needs to be in place however would ask Committee members to understand that this is early days in an important re focus and these would be forth coming at a later date on request.

Appendix A: SWW Partnership Review.

Taken from the SWW Partnership Minutes 24 January 2017

Positive achievements gained through the partnership formed 3 years ago were noted but also noted were the aims were too wide & too much detail.

Positive and negative comments captured here:

Positives	Negatives
Connections made – helps hugely in day to day workings	Tried to do too much too soon
Cross cutting enables stronger understanding of dynamics of area – greater understanding of what the problems are	Too much detail & swamped with paper
Partnership has helped (and will continue to help) selective licensing process	Number of staffing changes
Improvements made re environment & ASB through proactive tasking and resources	Lack of engagement with partners at differing levels
Ben Adalard schools involvement and move out of special measures	Inability to achieve performance data – myriad of reasons
X Church’s growth & growing number of activities	
<p style="text-align: center;">Way forward comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Can we do more preventive work - Selective licensing – addressing issues of housing not the people in the homes. Need to look at how we help the people - Outcome of Troubled families Programme – can we tap into this - Data sharing – nobody informs who they are working with - Facilities re disabilities is reducing - More complex cases – growing number of desperate complex people - Number of tactical areas are now business as usual - if a particular issue arises form a task and finish group for that <p>Discussion re a referral system First Contact principles but an internal referral</p> <p>Different models discussed ARC / ASBRAC / Vulnerable Adult Panel various models to learn from / adapt plus there are mechanisms to capture (I.T. systems). Shay to investigate</p> <p>Mark summed up flipping focus to individual ‘prolific need’ vulnerability. Shay noted need for environment side & work in prevention projects where and if needed.</p>	