



COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP TASK GROUP

Wednesday, 10th October, 2012

6.00 pm

Town Hall

Publication date: 3 October 2012

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
2. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS
3. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting on 11 July 2012 to be submitted for signature.

4. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND ABUSE IN WATFORD (Pages 1 - 2)

Representatives from different agencies have been invited to attend and discuss domestic violence in Watford.

The briefing for the meeting is attached and includes questions for the guests to address.

Members may ask any further questions and draw conclusions on the topic.

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The latest government definition of domestic violence and abuse is:

Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. This can encompass, but is not limited to, the following types of abuse:

- *psychological*
- *physical*
- *sexual*
- *financial*
- *emotional*

“Controlling behaviour is: a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour.

“Coercive behaviour is: an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim.”

** This definition, which is not a legal definition, includes so called 'honour' based violence, female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage, and is clear that victims are not confined to one gender or ethnic group.*

5. WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 3 - 18)

The Task Group is asked to agree the work programme for the remainder of the municipal year.

The draft work programme is attached as are the outstanding proposals that the Task Group should consider.

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Agenda Item 4

Watford Borough Council Community Safety Partnership Task Group
Wednesday 10 October 2012 6.30 pm
Committee Room 1, Watford Town Hall

Membership

Cllr Martins (Chair)

Councillors Aron, Joynes, Khan, Lovejoy, McLeod and Meerabux

Introduction

The role of the Task Group is to review the Community Safety Partnership and in particular its strategic priorities. Meetings of the Community Safety Partnership are open to the press and public and the agenda is published on the Council's website.

This will be the second meeting of the year for the Task Group. At the first meeting the performance and priorities of the Community Safety Partnership were reviewed and domestic violence was suggested as a topic for the group to look at. The minutes of the meeting are available here:

<http://watford.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=209&MId=1062&Ver=4>

The main item on the agenda will be domestic violence although the councillors will also consider their work programme. Guests need not stay while the Task Group discusses their work programme, unless they wish to.

Domestic violence in Watford

Representatives from different agencies working on domestic violence have been invited to attend. The Task Group would like to gain a good understanding of the current situation surrounding domestic violence and domestic abuse and are particularly interested in the following:

- An introduction to the roles of the different agencies in Watford and how they work together. What is the impact of privacy legislation on information sharing?
- What is the extent of the problem in Watford and what factors have contributed most to the levels of domestic violence and domestic abuse? Are there any trends that can be identified? How does Watford compare with other areas in the county/region/country?
- Which approaches have been particularly successful in supporting victims in Watford?
- What preventative measures have been most effective?
- What are the current challenges being faced? What are the gaps, if any, in services?
- What are the priorities going forward for the agencies working on domestic violence? What are the barriers?

After the meeting, all attendees will receive a copy of the minutes which will be published on the Council's website.

If you have any queries please contact jodie.kloss@watford.gov.uk or on 01923 278376.

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Agenda Item 5

Community Safety Partnership Task Group Rolling Work Programme 2012/2013

Committee Membership

Chair: Councillor Martins

Councillors: Aron, Joynes, Khan, Lovejoy, McLeod and Meerabux

Date of Meeting	Item for agenda	Officer
11 July 2012	Election of a Chair	-
	Review of the Community Safety Partnership's priorities and performance in 2011/12	Community Safety Manager/Executive Director- Services
	Invitation to new Chief Inspector to discuss his priorities for the Borough	Chief Inspector Caveney
	Work programme	Committee and Scrutiny Support Officer
	Date of next three meetings	Committee and Scrutiny Support Officer
10 October 2012	Domestic Violence	Domestic violence agencies
	Work programme	Committee and Scrutiny Support Officer
11 December 2012	Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessment	Community Safety Manager
	Implications of Police and Crime Commissioner for Watford	Community Safety Manager
13 February 2013	Drug and Alcohol Treatment (outstanding item previously suggested)	Brian Gale, HCC or replacement
	<i>or</i> The Probation Service	Representatives from appropriate agencies
	<i>or</i> Residents and Tenants' Associations	Representatives from appropriate groups

Date of Meeting	Item for agenda	Officer
13 February 2013	CSP Task Group contribution to scrutiny annual report	Committee and Scrutiny Support Officer

Selection of topics and issues for scrutiny by councillors or officers

The selection of useful and viable topics and issues is vital to the successful and effective operation of scrutiny.

It is proposed that from June 2011 scrutiny topics be selected from a rolling programme open throughout the year. This will require scrutiny to promote and advertise its willingness to accept new projects and for the Overview & Scrutiny Committee to more actively manage the programme on an ongoing basis.

1. Sources

The following are sources of ideas for the work programme:

- Performance indicators, both national and internal.
- Views of Cabinet and Leadership Team especially in relation to policy subjects.
- The Council's surveys, such as the annual residents' survey.
- The Complaints Report which is compiled annually by the Customer Service Centre.
- Service complaints more widely; although individual cases will not be taken up if a large volume of complaints is received about a single issue then it may be appropriate to pursue the topic.
- Reports of external inspections of services.
- The views of the Council's partners.
- Issues picked up by ward councillors in their locality.
- The Council's Forward Plan

2. Criteria

To qualify for consideration the topic must meet the following criteria:

- Affect a group or community of people. Scrutiny will not normally look at individual service complaints.
- Relate to a service, event or issue in which Watford Borough Council has a significant stake.
- Not be an issue that Scrutiny has covered during the last year.

- Not be a planning or licensing issue, or any other matter dealt with by another council committee.
- To match one or more of the Council's current priorities.
- To be feasible and able to be completed within the timescale projected for the work.
- There must be availability within the relevant department/service to support the review.
- Be a topic that members wish to scrutinise.

Suggestions for topics to be scrutinised – evaluation table

A Member/Officer suggesting a topic for scrutiny must complete this table as fully as possible. Completed tables will be presented to Overview & Scrutiny for consideration.

Proposer: Councillor/Officer Kelly McLeod, Helen Lynch	
<p>Topic recommended for scrutiny:</p> <p><i>Please include as much detail as is available about the specific issues and areas which should be included/excluded from the review. Should the focus be on past performance, future policy or both?</i></p>	<p>Probation service and support of ex-offenders. What support do ex-offenders receive when leaving prison? Do they get help with re-locating, applying for benefits. What are the handover procedures when probation/ prison terms are complete? Is the local council informed for housing/benefits? What policies the council has with regards to ex-offenders rehousing/benefit claims? Does a family situation have a bearing on how much support they receive? Is a young offender expected to return to a family home and will the family receive support? Do they get extra help in looking for work at the job centre? Is the local health authority informed of drug offenders and the support system/care that they may need? Who is responsible for monitoring and providing counselling? With the closure of Stoneham how will we measure the missing functions from this facility?</p>
<p>Why have you recommended this topic for scrutiny?</p>	<p>Evidence from casework shows that there seems to be little support for young offenders in accessing services that they need.</p>
<p>What are the specific outcomes you wish to see from the review?</p>	<p>A flow chart of what processes are in place for supporting ex-offenders and their families.. Named links between the services for members to access for casework</p>

Does the proposed item meet the following criteria?	
It must affect a group or community of people	Ex-offenders are cross community and cross age
It must relate to a service, event or issue in which the council has a significant stake	Re-housing of ex-offenders, reducing re-offending through drug re-habilitation/job placement
It must not have been a topic of scrutiny within the last 12 months <i>There will be exceptions to this arising from notified changing circumstances. Scrutiny will also maintain an interest in the progress of recommendations and issues arising from past reports.</i>	Not sure.
It must not be an issue, such as planning or licensing, which is dealt with by another council committee	<i>Yes, it is just covered by the Community Safety partnership</i>

<p>Does the topic meet the council's priorities?</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enhance the town's economic prosperity and potential 2. Supporting individuals and the community 3. Securing an efficient, effective, value for money council 4. Influence and partnership delivery <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Please confirm which ones</i></p>
<p>Are you aware of any limitations of time or other constraints which need to be taken into account?</p> <p><i>Factors to consider are forthcoming milestones, demands on the relevant service area and member availability</i></p>	<p>no</p>
<p>Does the topic involve a Council partner or other outside body?</p>	<p>Yes, police, probation, housing trust, NHS, County council</p>
<p>Please complete the 'sign off' section at the end of this document</p>	

The following section to be completed by Democratic Services	
<p>Consultation with relevant Heads of Service <i>(this section to be completed by Democratic Services)</i></p>	<p><i>It is important to ensure that the relevant service can support a review by providing the necessary documents and attending meetings as necessary. The Head of Service's comments should be obtained before the request to hold a review is put to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee.</i></p>
<p>Has the relevant Head of Service been consulted?</p> <p>Is this a topic which the service department(s) is able to support.</p> <p>When was the last time this service was the subject of a scrutiny review?</p>	<p><i>Yes/no (if no, please give reason)</i></p> <p><i>Include HoS comments here</i></p> <p><i>Include date if known</i></p>

Sign off			
Councillor/Officer Kelly McLeod	Date 14.05.12	Head of Service	date

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Suggestions for topics to be scrutinised – evaluation table

A Member/Officer suggesting a topic for scrutiny must complete this table as fully as possible. Completed tables will be presented to Overview & Scrutiny for consideration.

Proposer: Cllr Malcolm Meerabux	
<p>Topic recommended for scrutiny:</p> <p><i>Please include as much detail as is available about the specific issues and areas which should be included/excluded from the review. Should the focus be on past performance, future policy or both?</i></p>	<p>Meeting with and involving tenants and residents associations in identifying community safety issues is about better community engagement, early intervention and enforcement in order to build safe, secure and vibrant communities. This involvement can also be done through eg Q & A sessions, open ended written requests, face to face sessions, which could contribute to building key objectives and short and long term strategies for safer communities.</p> <p>This involvement could mean:</p> <p>Assisting with identifying anti-social behaviour eg littering, speeding when, where and frequency and type as well as ‘prevention measures’ eg CCTV cameras where to position them, how to make the best use of Safety Neighbourhood teams in a collaborative way with groups.</p> <p>Exploring the level of cooperation and communication between local Police, the community and hard to reach groups.</p> <p>Outlining the actions that need to be taken on addressing residents’ priorities, as well as asking the community to look at opportunities for getting more involved in designing and delivering services in their area.</p> <p>This work will help to build stronger and safer communities where people live together, respect each other and have a shared vision for their neighbourhood leading to community confidence, engagement and cohesion.</p>

	<p>Local people and other data suggest that we need to continue to focus on finding ways WBC can effectively intervene in making our communities safer.</p> <p>Working on places that are experiencing problems or are at risk of experiencing problems.</p> <p>It is about being safe and feeling safe, by addressing locally identified priorities in relation to policing and community safety.</p>
<p>Why have you recommended this topic for scrutiny?</p>	<p>I would hope that this topic would lead to an enhancement in the quality of lives for our residents and if necessary recommend action.</p> <p>Community safety should be at the heart of everything we do. It's one of the more easily demonstrable ways of showing that we are involved in our communities and sends a clear message that we are supportive and are on their side. It also offers a window to examine development partnership opportunities through collaborative work with a variety of organisations.</p>
<p>What are the specific outcomes you wish to see from the review?</p>	<p>To ascertain if current strategies are working effectively and if not, to find how best to support or adjust local approaches when dealing with community safety partnerships issues.</p> <p>To assist in identifying the community safety issues which matter most to communities where they live, work, study and visit.</p> <p>Creating safer areas through symbiotic workings with the police, local authority, county council, primary care trust, police authority and fire authority in order to develop and implement a community safety strategy designed to reduce crime and disorder within their local authority area.</p> <p>Integral to all these outcomes will be cross cutting themes such as community engagement, equality and diversity and reassurance of vulnerable people.</p>

Does the proposed item meet the following criteria?	
It must affect a group or community of people	<p>Tenants and residents associations to be consulted to bring about a positive impact on reducing crime, the fear of crime and by working alongside local communities may bring a sense of safety for all.</p> <p>The primary purpose is to make our areas a safer place to live, work and visit. Everyone has a right to feel safe as they go about their daily lives and this can be achieved by encouraging groups to play their part in tackling issues of crime and disorder.</p>
It must relate to a service, event or issue in which the council has a significant stake	Safer Watford Campaigns & One Watford which is the local strategic partnership for the town which is allied to Watford Community Safety Partnership.
It must not have been a topic of scrutiny within the last 12 months	
	<p><i>There will be exceptions to this arising from notified changing circumstances. Scrutiny will also maintain an interest in the progress of recommendations and issues arising from past reports.</i></p>
It must not be an issue, such as planning or licensing, which is dealt with by another council committee	

<p>Does the topic meet the council's priorities?</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improve the health of the town and enhance its heritage Yes 2. Enhance the town's 'clean & green' environment Yes 3. Enhance the town's sustainability Yes 4. Enhance the town's economic prosperity and potential Yes 5. Supporting individuals and the community Yes 6. Securing an efficient, effective, value for money council 7. Influence and partnership delivery Yes
<p>Are you aware of any limitations of time or other constraints which need to be taken into account?</p> <p><i>Factors to consider are forthcoming milestones, demands on the relevant service area and member availability</i></p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Does the topic involve a Council partner or other outside body?</p>	<p>Community safety is not the responsibility of any one agency but involves a number of different bodies apart from tenants and residents associations eg the Police, PCSOs, HCC, WBC, Fire and Rescue Service, Primary Care Trust, the Anti Social Behaviour Unit, WCHT, Watford & Three Rivers PCT, Neighbourhood Watch Organisations, partnership Protected Areas, the Probationary Service.</p>
<p>Please complete the 'sign off' section at the end of this document</p>	

<p>The following section to be completed by Democratic Services</p>	
<p>Consultation with relevant Heads of Service <i>(this section to be completed by Democratic Services)</i></p>	<p><i>It is important to ensure that the relevant service can support a review by providing the necessary documents and attending meetings as necessary. The Head of Service's comments should be obtained before the request to hold a review is put to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee.</i></p>
<p>Has the relevant Head of Service been consulted?</p> <p>Is this a topic which the service department(s) is able to support.</p> <p>When was the last time this service was the subject of a scrutiny review?</p>	<p><i>Yes/no (if no, please give reason)</i></p> <p><i>Include HoS comments here</i></p> <p><i>Include date if known</i></p>

Sign off			
Councillor/Officer	Date	Head of Service	date
Cllr Malcolm Meerabux	10th May 2012		