

**Minutes of a Meeting of the External
Partnerships Select Committee held at
Surrey Heath House on 20 January
2015**

+ Cllr Josephine Hawkins (Chairman)
+ Cllr Paul Deach (Vice Chairman)

- Cllr Glyn Carpenter	+ Cllr Adrian Page
+ Cllr Ian Cullen	- Cllr Ken Pedder
+ Cllr Tim Dodds	- Cllr Chris Pitt
+ Cllr Heather Gerred	+ Cllr Ian Sams
+ Cllr Liane Gibson	- Cllr Pat Tedder
- Cllr David Hamilton	+ Cllr John Winterton
+ Cllr Lexie Kemp	

+ Present

- Apologies for absence presented

In Attendance: Cllr Mrs Vivienne Chapman

17/EP Chairman's Announcements and Welcome to Guests

The Chairman welcomed the guest speakers.

18/EP Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 25 November 2014 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

19/EP Presentations- on Street Angels

Karen Kendall gave a presentation on the work of the Camberley Street Angels, including a podcast on Street Angels operating on the High Street Camberley during the evening economy.

The presentation focussed on recruitment, training and equipping of Street Angels, the scenarios in which they regularly operated and the way that they dovetailed with other initiatives and in particular with Surrey Police during the evening economy on Fridays and Saturdays.

Street Angels, supported, trained and managed by Churches Together, Camberley, are non-judgemental and supportive to people in distress. Operating with a rota of 4 volunteers every Friday and Saturday evening, the Street Angels were currently recruiting new volunteers to add to the 35 – 40 already in place.

Members reported personal experiences of the tremendous work and calming influence of the Street Angels, from clearing night life detritus to providing flip-flops to bare footed revellers, to staying with seriously ill or injured people until medical help was on hand. A big part of their role was to talk to revellers and take the heat out of often alcohol fuelled situations.

Combined with the evening road closures, taxi marshals and the firm approach of the Neighbourhood Police Team, the Street Angels made a major contribution to revellers being able to safely enjoy the nightlife in Camberley High Street and the rest of the Town Centre, with related crime and in particular incidences of violence, continuing to show a downward trend.

Members voiced their strong support for the current and continued efforts of the Street Angels and considered ways in which the Council could assist, particularly in terms of publicity.

RESOLVED, that the presentation be noted and that Officers be asked to consider possible vehicles for promoting the Street Angels, including Heathscene and social media.

For the record Councillor Paul Deach reported that he had previously provided media coverage for both Churches Together Camberley and the Street Angels.

20/EP Presentation by Your Sanctuary

Fiamma Pather reported that Your Sanctuary, previously known as Surrey Women's Aid was a domestic abuse specialist service provider, with a 24 hour helpline, a community outreach service for men and women and 2 refuges in secret locations in North West Surrey. Operating with 18 staff and 65 volunteers, Your Sanctuary sought to protect, empower, be respectful to and non-judgemental of domestic abuse victims.

Domestic abuse was considered to be any incident or pattern thereof involving controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over, who were or had been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. This could typically, but not exclusively include psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional abuse. Prior to 2013, the lower age limit for domestic abuse had sat at 18.

Whilst the majority of domestic abuse was against women, men were also victims and the Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner had recently provided funding for a male outreach worker to cover Surrey.

Ms Pather reported that in the financial year 2013/14 there had been 12,000 reported domestic abuse incidents in Surrey, though this was likely to be severely under-reported as people were frequently subjected to a number of incidents before submitting a report.

3,455 new referrals had been received by the Surrey Domestic Abuse community outreach services in 2013/14 and it was reported that 1 in 3 women and 1 in 6 men would experience domestic abuse some time in their adult lives.

Your Sanctuary itself, in 2013/14, received 2,039 helpline calls, 714 new referrals to outreach (640 female/74 male) plus 593 children. It had 186 referrals to outreach for Surrey Heath residents, with 55 women and 69 children supported in a refuge. The Surrey Heath outreach worker would handle between 35 and 40 cases at any given time.

Your Sanctuary provided 1:1 support from a trained outreach worker, group work in local venues, access to a 24 hour helpline and support through the Specialist Domestic Violence Court. It also provided training to other professionals and worked with multi-agency partners to reduce risk through appropriate information sharing and joint work.

Your Sanctuary was funded from grants from statutory bodies, Trusts, businesses, charities and individuals. With most of the funding going on salaries, there was increasing pressure due to year on year reductions in statutory funding.

65 – 70% of referrals to Your Sanctuary came from Surrey Police. High risk referrals were made without consent being sought but permission was sought on medium risk cases. People were interviewed away from the danger area and outreach workers were non-judgemental, advising and advocating on behalf of victims. Whilst, in general, women found group work very helpful, men seemed to prefer 1:1 support.

Whilst many victims were supported to live safely in their own homes with secure locks and panic buttons in case perpetrators returned, some needed removing from the environment, either being allocated a refuge place or being assisted under the 'Sanctuary' scheme.

Members noted both personal and resident casework examples of domestic abuse, focussing in particular on how difficult it can be for victims to see their way to getting out of an abusive relationship, often only reporting abuse to protect children.

In response to Members questions, Ms Pather reported that Your Sanctuary had provided training for frontline practitioners in the previous year and that this had been open to Members. She indicated that she would welcome the opportunity to provide further training and that all Members would be welcome to attend. YS had difficulty in achieving the levels of publicity they would wish, including better access to schools and GP surgeries.

Members encouraged Your Sanctuary to consider having a stall at the Surrey Heath Show.

Resolved, that the presentation be noted and that Officers be asked to

- (i) examine vehicles for publicising Your Sanctuary, such as Heathscene and social media;**
- (ii) facilitate a meeting with the Surrey Heath Clinical Commissioning Group; and**
- (iii) promote a training day for frontline staff and Members.**

For the record Councillor Paul Deach reported that he produced a podcast on Your Sanctuary.

21/EP Presentation from Surrey Police and Crime Panel

Councillor Charlotte Morley, the Council's representative on the Surrey Police and Crime Panel (PCP), reported that PCP's had been formed, under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act, after Police Authorities had been replaced by directly elected Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs).

This joint committee, hosted by Surrey County Council consisted of one Member from each of the Borough/District Councils, one from Surrey County Council and 2 independent co-opted Members, each with equal voting rights.

The PCP was responsible for reviewing:

- (i) The PCCs draft Police and Crime Plan;
- (ii) The PCCs proposed chief constable;
- (iii) The PCCs annual report;
- (iv) The PCCs proposed precept; and
- (v) Senior appointments to the PCCs office.

It also dealt with non-criminal complaints against the PCC and had a wider obligation to act as the PCCs critical friend as well as acting as a supportive but independent voice, seeking to investigate the PCC with a view to recommending improvements. The PCP had a complaints sub-committee and a finance sub-group, but could establish ad-hoc project/task groups as required.

The PCP had the power to veto PCC decisions, but only twice, after which the PCC could overrule the Panel. It could veto the appointments of a Chief Constable or a Deputy PCC, but had no influence in the selection thereof.

Councillor Morley reported that the PCC was proposing a precept increase of 24%, which would trigger a referendum. The PCP would consider the precept proposal at its meeting on 5 February 2015. The PCC was required to have a fall back precept should the PCL vote against his proposal and in the event that the precept triggered a referendum, the resultant costs would be met by the PCCs office.

Councillor Morley reported that a Crime Summit for Surrey Heath would be held in the Camberley Theatre on Thursday 12 February 2015 from 7 - 9 p.m. and suggested that Members take the opportunity to attend and contribute.

Resolved, that the presentation be noted.

22/EP Community Safety Update

Inspector John Davies reported that the current priority in Surrey Heath and across the Force was burglary of dwellings and violent crime.

Burglary of dwellings was down in the Borough, due to initiatives such as Operation Candlelight.

There had been a slight rise in violent crime. Whilst there had been an improvement in Camberley Town Centre, an increase had been reported at the edge of the Town Centre and in the villages.

More domestic violence victims were coming forward, which was considered a positive outcome, as victims had more confidence in the Police and other agencies.

Work continued to address drug offences in the Borough and the number of offences was down, but the priority crimes were as indicated above.

Inspector Davies emphasised the successes of partnership working, particularly with the Borough Council and Accent Housing Group. He detailed changes to Anti-Social Behaviour legislation. He emphasised the impact on night time economy related crime reduction on the High Street, Camberley from the introduction, on Friday and Saturday evenings, of road closures, Street Angels, Taxi Marshals and a zero tolerance policy by Surrey Police, which included no alcohol consumption on the street.

RESOLVED, that the presentation be noted

23/EP Committee Work Programme

The Committee considered a report on the work programme for the remainder of the 2014/15 municipal year.

The Chairman reported that The Chief Executive of the Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust would be unable to attend the next or subsequent meeting.

Members asked the officers to explore the possibility of SADAS and/or Crossroads Care attending the March 2015 meeting.

RESOLVED, that the Work Programme for 2014/15, as attached at Annex A to these minutes, be agreed.

Chairman