

MINUTES

Date: Friday, 15 November 2002

Time: 10.00 am to 12.55pm

Venue: Penlan Social Club, Penlan, Swansea

Attendance: Members

Val Lloyd (Chair) Swansea East

Andrew Davies Swansea West

Janet Davies South Wales West

Edwina Hart Gower

Dai Lloyd South Wales West

Gwenda Thomas Neath

Rhodri Glyn Thomas Carmarthen East & Dinefwr

Presenters: Ann Bateman Store Manager, Monkton, Pembroke

PC Max Bevan Dyfed Powys Police

Elaine Howarth Communities that Care Project

Debra Jones Communities that Care Project

Supt. Bob McAllister South Wales Police

Ken Sawyer Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council

Sally Thompson Pembrokeshire County Council

Committee Secretariat

Jane Westlake Committee Clerk

Item 1: Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

1.1 Apologies were received from:

Peter Black	South Wales West
Nick Bourne	Mid and West Wales
Alun Cairns	South Wales West
Cynog Dafis	Mid & West Wales
Glyn Davies	Mid & West Wales
Richard Edwards	Preseli Pembrokeshire
Delyth Evans	Mid & West Wales
Brian Gibbons	Aberavon
Christine Gwyther	Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire
Helen Mary Jones	Llanelli

There were no declarations of interest.

Item 2: Crime and Disorder

Neath Port Talbot Crime and Disorder Partnership

2.1 The Chair said that the minutes of the meeting would be referred formally to Edwina Hart, the Minister responsible for the Assembly's policy on crime and disorder and for liaison with the Home Office on their programmes to address the issues. The Minister was also a member of the Committee.

2.2 Edwina Hart highlighted the potential threat to the safety of communities in South Wales from organised drugs gangs. Police intelligence was that the gangs saw South Wales as a potential market for Class A drugs, such as crack cocaine and heroin. The three police forces - Gwent, South Wales and Dyfed Powys - had worked together to agree a strategic plan of action. The Minister announced that £630,000 would be made available to support the work of the task force next year and the next two financial years, along with a one-off payment for capital costs next year, making a total contribution in excess of £2.5 million. The funding would help with the costs of capital equipment, communications, professional fees, training and operational costs and would be found from the new £11.2 million Safer Communities Fund, announced in the recent budget.

Neath Port Talbot Crime and Disorder Partnership

2.3. Ken Sawyer, Chief Executive, Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council, and Supt. Bob McAllister, South Wales Police, gave a presentation on the work of the Crime and Disorder Partnership and made the following points:

- 10 of the wards in Neath Port Talbot were in Communities First areas and benefitted from funding through the Communities First Programme.
- The Local Authority Crime and Disorder Team were based in a police station in Port Talbot, which was symbolic of the commitment given to joint working.
- The Youth Offending Team reported directly to the Council's Chief Executive rather than being based within the social services department, as was normal practice.
- Statistics had shown a decrease in certain crimes, for example levels of house burglary had dropped in the last three years, but other crimes such as mobile phone thefts were causing an overall increase in recorded figures.
- There had also been an increase in violent crime and this was attributed to more incidences of domestic violence being reported following the development of the Domestic Violence Unit.
- The council used to receive most complaints about graffiti and vandalism, but after investing in these areas, the majority of complaints now related to anti-social behaviour.
- A multi-agency Crime and Disorder Case Review Group had been established to tackle anti-social behaviour and a range of options could be applied either individually or collectively. For the first time people were being challenged and told that the community would not tolerate bad behaviour.
- There were currently four Anti-social Behaviour Orders (ASBO) in place and 12 Acceptable

Behaviour Contracts. The latter operated for six months and the person involved had to sign a contract saying they would not engage in an identified activity or activities during that time. These contracts had been particularly effective in challenging anti-social behaviour.

- Generally, violent offences tended to be carried out by people under the influence of alcohol whereas crime tended to be drug related, as people tried to obtain more money for drugs.
- Concern was expressed that the Youth Justice Board and Home Office did not recognise the unique requirements of Wales.
- Tribute was paid to the excellent work of the West Glamorgan Drug and Alcohol Agency but concern was expressed over the way in which it was funded. It was not known whether the arrest referral scheme would continue beyond 31 March 2003.

2.3 In response to Members' questions and comments, Mr Sawyer and Supt. McAllister said:

- There was a tendency to label young people which was unfair as the majority of young people were very able, willing contributors to society.
- Youth workers were very effective and the recent increase in numbers was very welcome.
- The contribution of community councils in working locally with the police was recognised, but resources were limited and it was not always possible for the police to respond and work as closely as they would like.
- The police were working with pubs and clubs in Swansea and Cardiff trialling the use of plastic glasses in pubs and clubs but a lot of people now drank from bottles.
- The transfer of responsibility for licensing to local authorities would give the police more power to take action against premises with a high incidence of violence.
- There was concern about whether local health boards would be large enough to have the scale of resources needed for drug and alcohol initiatives.
- Organisations should be able to use new monies for drug and alcohol initiatives in the most effective way rather than being constrained by prescriptive guidelines.

2.4 Members of the Public were then invited to ask questions and to comment.

2.5. **Heather Jordan** raised the issue of poor security in council accommodation

2.6 The Chair said that she would speak to Ms Jordan after the meeting about her personal concerns.

2.7 Ken Sawyer said that the Crime and Disorder Team could make available locks and other security systems for victims of burglary.

2.8 **Mair Baker** said that youth workers needed more training in dealing with young people with behavioural problems.

2.9 Ken Sawyer said that young people were not interested in going to youth clubs. An initiative called 'Street Wise' had been set up where youth workers went out to places where young people gathered and

there would be tremendous benefit if that ad hoc arrangement could be expanded to other communities.

2.10 **Barbara Phillips, Blaenymaes Tenants' Association** said that since the Communities First Policing Team had been established in Blaenymaes in April there had been a considerable drop in crime, and many anti-social behaviour problems had been addressed. She wished to pass on her thanks to the Team.

2.11 **Nigel Lewis** said that it was difficult to get young people involved in activities to keep them off the streets when public transport out of Blaenymaes was so poor.

2.12 Edwina Hart said that since de-regularisation private companies now ran the bus service but she would raise the issue with Sue Essex, Minister for the Environment, particularly regarding what could be done in Communities First areas.

Communities that Care

2.13 Alison Shotbolt, Elaine Howarth and Debra Jones of the Communities that Care Project, Swansea, gave a presentation to the Committee. A copy is attached at Annex A.

2.14 In response to Members' questions and comments, the presenters said:

- Economic regeneration underpinned the work of Communities that Care and was key to building sustainability in communities.
- There was a problem with adults buying alcohol for younger children. Communities that Care's reducing drugs group was looking at a co-ordinated approach to target adults, young people and school children at the same time.
- The Assembly should ensure co-ordination of programmes and initiatives.
- The procedure for obtaining New Opportunities Funding needed to be simplified as it inhibited small community groups from accessing it.

2.15 Gwenda Thomas, Chair of the Local Government and Housing Committee, said that the presentation would be particularly relevant to the Committee's review of community regeneration and asked that a copy be made available to Professor Dave Adamson, the expert advisor to the review.

2.16 Members of the Public were then invited to ask questions and to comment.

2.17 **Mair Baker** said that drug education in schools needed to be more up-to-date and relevant to young people.

2.18 Edwina Hart said that she had discussed the issue of drug education with the four Chief Constables in Wales and would also be raising the matter with the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning. There was a number of groups working in the area of drug education, some involving parents and others that took former users into schools to talk about their experiences. It would be necessary to monitor good practice and consider whether intervention at an earlier age was appropriate.

2.19 **Margaret Glover** asked if she could send suggestions to the Committee for simplifying the grant application process.

Pembrokeshire Community Safety Group

2.20 Sally Thompson, Community Safety Officer, Pembrokeshire County Council, PC Max Bevan, Community Safety Officer, Dyfed Powys Police and Ann Bateman, a store manager in Monkton, gave a presentation on the work of the Community Safety Group and made the following points:

- Dyfed Powys Police did not operate a crime screening policy. Every victim of crime received a visit from a police officer.
 - Training from the Home Office Crime Prevention College had been made available to all partner agencies of the Community Safety Group.
 - Local magistrates would only issue a licence to work as a doorman if the applicant had completed the British Institute of Innkeeper training. Action was taken against anyone found operating without a licence.
 - Youth workers were being trained in drug awareness so they could identify particular problem areas. It was also hoped to bring in more youth workers and health workers for a more holistic approach.
 - Entertainment event promoters were not responsible for compliance with licences. Licensees were responsible and had been offered the use of mobile CCTV equipment to monitor such events and this had deterred drug pushers.
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- A scheme was in operation to help small retailers in deprived areas feel more secure. This could involve improving lighting outside shops, reinforcing door locks, putting up security fences or even just providing a plinth behind the shop counter which gave staff the advantage of being higher than the customer and gave greater visibility around the shop.
 - Domestic violence was a problem in Pembrokeshire and needed to be tackled in a multi-agency approach.
 - There may be a reluctance to report crimes relating racism and homophobia. A programme of diversity training had been developed.

- The idea of creating a joint data warehouse was being considered but Dyfed Powys Police had not yet adopted the appropriate communication system to make this possible.
- A system now needed to be developed to measure the effectiveness of the initiatives in place in the county.
- Consideration was being given to adopting a procedure whereby any suspicion of domestic violence reported by school could be referred to the local police.
- The 'Bobby Van' visited all victims of burglary who were aged over 60 or considered to be vulnerable and their homes were made safe. Currently demand was exceeding capacity.

2.21 Members of the Public were then invited to ask questions and to comment.

2.22 **Brian Smith, Pennard Community Council** asked what more community councils could do to implement the recommendations of Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act.

2.23 Edwina Hart said that community councils fulfilled a valuable role in engaging with young people and she was aware of some that were considering employing youth workers.

2.24 **Ros Davies, NACRO Cymru**, said that she had been working in the field of substance abuse for many years and wanted to endorse the comments made about putting more funding into prevention. The problems facing communities would not be stopped without investment in youth work

2.25 Edwina Hart said work had already started on looking at where drugs came from and rehabilitation. The next step was to identify what resources were needed to work with young people.

2.26 **Barbara Phillips, Blaenymaes Tenants' Association**, said that in her experience Communities First areas were successful. There had been a huge change in Blaenymaes and she thanked the Assembly for the funding they had received.

2.27 The Chair thanked all the presenters and the audience for their participation. She also thanked John Morgan, the steward, and the members of Penlan Social Club for allowing the Committee to use their facilities.

Item 3: Minutes of the Meeting on 24 May 2002

3.1 The minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

Item 4: Date of Next Meeting

4.1 Subject to final confirmation, the next meeting would be held on 31 January 2003 at Llangennith Parish Hall, Gower. It was agreed that the Committee would look at the capacity building aspect of community regeneration to feed into the review being undertaken by the Local Government and Housing Committee.

Annex A

Presentation by Communities that Care, Swansea

Presenters: Alison Shotbolt, Co-ordinator, Communities that Care Swansea

Debra Jones, Parent Volunteer, Bonymaen Family Centre

Elaine Howarth, Parent Volunteer, Bonymaen Family Centre

Communities that Care Swansea is a Partnership of voluntary and statutory agencies and members of the local community covering the Eastside area of Swansea, (Llansamlet, Bonymaen and Pentrechwyth).

Communities that Care is a community-based, long-term preventive programme which uses the concept of reducing risks and increasing protection for children and young people, so that the quality of life in the community is itself, the most effective preventative tool.

Simple as this idea is, the process requires:

- Systematic, focussed and sustained activity,
- Well researched information,
- And most importantly the involvement of those who live in the community and those who provide services in an equal partnership.

Although the ultimate aim of Communities that Care Swansea, is to reduce the incidence of young people's involvement in crime and violence, in substance abuse, school age pregnancy and school failure, our activity is far more holistic in scope. We can't possibly describe all the activity to you this morning (we have 20 objectives and over 70 recommended actions in our Action Plan for Eastside) but we will try to give you a flavour of the way the programme works and a brief insight into one particular initiative and the people who make it work.

We began in 1998 when the Joseph Rowntree Foundation selected Eastside to be one of three demonstration areas for the UK. Following a survey of every secondary school pupil in the area which provided a unique insight into young people's lives, attitudes and experiences, a Community Planning Team was elected at a public meeting. The team, led by a local resident, comprised community members and agency representatives, and over the next five months they scrutinised the data from the survey to

identify the priority risk factors. The team carried out a resource audit and then prepared a detailed Action Plan. Following feedback at another public meeting, five Task Groups of residents. Organisations and agencies were formed, to oversee the implementation of the Plan. The Planning team regularly monitors Task Group progress and feeds back annually to the community.

The five Task Groups are:

- Strengthening Ties among Families (a title chosen by one of the parents on the group). Their programme includes Parenting courses, like Handling Children's Behaviour; increasing and improving child care provision; post natal services and family support.
- The Raising Achievement Task Group addresses Family Learning; the introduction of cognitive skills programmes at pre-school, primary and secondary levels; after-school provision and out of school learning; improving school, family and community links and post 16 opportunities for learning.
- The programme for the Combating Disadvantage and Neighbourhood Neglect Task group includes increasing the number of community policing initiatives; co-ordinated multi agency approaches to neighbourhood improvements and community development initiatives; mediation services and the establishment of the Eastside Domestic Violence Forum (Whose Problem?).
- There is also a group tasked with Reducing Young People's sense of Alienation and lack of Social Commitment, which is now a thriving network of youth service providers and young people involved in developing their own action plan.
- Finally, the programme for the group tasked with Reducing the Availability of Drugs combines both enforcement and educational initiatives in a co-ordinated approach and developing 'safe' drug free spaces for young people.

Like the risk factors they address, the programmes are not mutually exclusive and there are common threads that run through each of the task areas.

When looking at young people in relation to issues of crime and disorder it is perhaps too easy to be lured into focussing only on the deficit model of young people –THE HALF EMPTY GLASS. The glass is also HALF FULL and in the CtC programme not only do we try to reduce risk factors, but we also attempt to increase protective factors, i.e. social bonding (positive relationships with adults, peers, community); values and healthy standards; recognition and praise; opportunities to be involved (essential for future citizenship skills) and social and cognitive skills (the ability to relate, to problem solve and to understand the relationship between action and consequence).

One of the initiatives that best illustrates the concepts of early intervention, protection and prevention is the High Scope model of early years learning, being piloted by one of the partner organisations, Bonymaen Family Centre.

Input from parent volunteers

Elaine Howarth

The high scope curriculum is an open framework approach in which adult and child plan and initiate activities by actively working together. Children develop their own activities through the Plan – Do – Review sequence. Within an open learning environment children:

- *Plan - with adults and alone what activities they wish to engage in.*
- *Do - children with adult support explore/ use the activities on offer (sand, water and top table's games).*
- *Review - in a peer group with adults to talk about what they have been doing.*

There is also a time for direct active learning in small groups.

For example in a Traditional Nursery setting, (having drawing's or words to look at) and in a High Scope setting, (having the materials where ever possible e.g. Apple)

From the High Scope approach it is evident that there is positive interaction between adult and child. Through this process children begin too match consequences of their actions to the outcome. They become more expressive in language and self-motivation. They rely less on praise and begin to have an understanding and confidence of the world around them. The result of 30yr research study by The High/ Scope Institution shows children develop a strong sense of self-control and self-discipline.

- *They are more likely to stay in education longer.*
- *They are a significantly lower percentage receiving social services input.*
- *They are less likely to become persistent offenders of drug taking and dealing.*

Debra Jones

Being a mum of 4, I automatically became someone's 'mum'. I was so involved with bringing up my children, seeing to their needs, that I seemed to lose my own identity.

When our Family Centre opened, I joined the parent and toddler group with my two younger children. Whilst there I became involved with a variety of activities like fundraising, art, first aid and parenting

classes. I learned a lot from these courses and other things I did there and it got me thinking about ‘ What I was going to do about returning to work when my children were settled into full time school?

What was I any good at? The answer was there – My Children. This was a turning point for me, I enrolled for the N.V.Q Early Years Care & Education Course and with plenty of help and support from people on every side, juggling my coursework about my 4 children, I succeeded in gaining my Levels 2 & 3 N.V.Q. I knew then, that I had made the right decision and went on to do The High/Scope Implementation Training.

I feel that this education has been of great benefit to both my children and myself, it has helped me to understand, encourage and praise my own children as well as others. Obviously I am still a full time mum and we ‘as parents’ want the same opportunities for our children but we can’t do this alone. We need the understanding and support of both Local and National Governments.

In any long term programme monitoring is essential and in June of last year we carried out our second school survey. We have already been able to detect some changes in risk and protective factors. Early indications show a decrease in the number of young people reporting family conflict (down by 8%); violence towards them in the home (50% less reportings); that it is easy to truant (down by 10%) and condoning of regular drinking and smoking (a drop of 16% on 1998 figures). However there were smaller, but significant increases in the number of young people condoning the use of illegal substances (5%); picking a fight (8%) attacking someone with harmful intent (3%) and bullying or being bullied. (This however needs to be viewed against the increased work the schools in the area have done in raising awareness of this issue). Sadly too the number of young people feeling that people in their neighbourhood were proud of them or encouraged them to do their best had dropped significantly.

These insights, together with comparative data from a Swansea-wide survey and a UK wide survey done at the same time have enabled us to focus our action and set specific targets for the next 3/7/10 years (our survey schedule). I am also engaged in finding ways that other programmes can access the data collected for the rest of Swansea for their own use: I am currently talking to one of the Development Trusts and have begun providing training for Swansea Youth Activities (an Objective 1 partnership), the Detached Youth work Team and Youth Access/Alternative Curriculum Teams.

It wouldn’t be appropriate to end without sharing with you some of the challenges we face.

- Implementation of the Action Plan is by no means as even as it needs to be yet. It often depends on the availability of funding and the willingness and ability of agencies to take on the recommended programmes. (A head teacher recently commented that it was not lack of support or belief in the work that inhibited his school from contributing, but he felt that both he and his staff were overwhelmed by initiatives already).
- I am always amazed at how ‘joined up’ the Action Plan is, for example, in addressing life long learning, health, crime and disorder, regeneration and welfare agendas. The challenge is to weave it into current strategies and to dovetail with other initiatives.

- We have already benefited from the introduction of targeted funding like Sure Start that has enabled the development of much of the family programme, but sometimes it can be too prescriptive to meet local need. A recent example was the CAD money, which disappointedly did not cover work on alcohol misuse, shown from our research to be the main problem amongst children and young people on Eastside and indeed in many other areas of Swansea.
- And last but not least, CtC's methodology is to promote evidence-based responses (like High Scope) to identified problems, but it is not always possible or appropriate to use 'off-the-shelf' models. We need to respect and work with locally and regionally developed initiatives. There is therefore a need for rigorous, longitudinal evaluation to run alongside initiatives and there has to be adequate provision made for this.

So in conclusion – I would like to support Debra's contention by saying that communities are themselves, one of the most valuable resources we have in addressing youth crime, but they need the trust and support of everyone to do it.