

Minutes of the Trowbridge Safer and Supportive Communities Group meeting held on 5th December 2017, at County Hall

Present

Mary Cullen (Community Engagement Manager, WC), Cllr Bob Brice (Trowbridge Town Council), PC Gill Hughes (Wiltshire Police) Sgt Andy Fee (Wiltshire Police), Rev Barrie Dearlove (Breakthrough Trowbridge)

Apologies

Farzana Saker (Trowbridge Mosque), David Breese (Street Pastors), Tom Ward (WC), Julia Doel (SWAS), Annie Clayton (Alz Support).

Notes of previous meeting

For the benefit of members not present at previous meeting, MC gave an overview of items discussed including update on PSPO, Trowbridge Crime Issues, Dementia Friendly Trowbridge, City of Sanctuary.

Update on PSPO

SGT AF and GH gave an update on PSPO in Trowbridge. Due to problems with wording of the original order, it had to be reissued as it was not enforceable. The order and tickets have been updated and tickets are continuing to be issued. Over 100 tickets have been issued to date. It was noted however, that some people are believed to be drinking alcohol in the park from soft drinks bottles to avoid detection.

AF indicated that Police were doing covert work in the park and had good support from FOTP which was appreciated.

It was also discussed that in Warminster there had been a public protest against the introduction of a PSPO as this was viewed by some as an attack on the homeless.

Dementia Friendly Trowbridge

MC gave an update on progress towards Dementia Friendly Trowbridge including that all dementia champions for our area had recently had a meeting. This was very productive, all were keen to make more dementia friends and to continue driving the agenda forward. MC is continuing to offer DF sessions at county hall and is now working with Annie Clayton from Alzheimer's Support.

In discussion, it was noted that Trowbridge NPT had not been offered Dementia Friends sessions. GH and AF expressed the view that this was something they would be interested in. **MC to chase up training sessions for NPT.**

Safe Places

MC asked for views on future of Safe Places Scheme. She had visited around half of shops signed up in Trowbridge with mixed results. Some were not aware of what a Safe Place was, due to staff/management changes etc. Others had reported that

they had not had anyone request a safe place in the couple of years they were part of the scheme.

It was acknowledged that the scheme required a rethink and good publicity to be effective.

It was suggested that MC find out how well Safe Places is working elsewhere with a view to relaunching in Trowbridge with a few key businesses involved including Waterstones, Town Hall, Civic Centre, Boswells café, Post Office, Hub in the shires, supermarkets and job centre.

Updates from partners

Breakthrough Trowbridge

BD reported that Breakthrough were still supporting Homeless in Trowbridge with drop in sessions, advice and support. Following a query in numbers he reported that WC figures show 3 homeless people in Trowbridge, however their own estimates are much higher, considering that some people sofa surf or sleep in tents in hidden locations.

There are challenges over Xmas period for people who are homeless. Cold weather provisions are in place; however, people have to travel to Salisbury to access them. It was noted that in the past the Fire Service used to provide back packs with essential equipment for homeless people however this seemed to have ceased. MC was asked to discuss with colleagues in Salisbury if this was continuing there and to see if it could be reinstated in Trowbridge.

Breakthrough will not be open on Christmas Day or Boxing Day as volunteers need time with their own families. There will however be a Christmas lunch before Christmas and there is a Christmas Day lunch at County Hall.

It was noted that Apetito were also doing monthly Sunday lunches. MC to circulate details.

BD expressed continuing frustrations for the charity at being unable to find a building in Trowbridge from which to base a bigger operation. He is continuing to explore options.

Policing

Sgt AF and GH reported on current campaigns including Domestic Abuse campaign, Drink Drive campaign and the Outstanding Offenders campaign which had yielded some good results.

It was also noted that Trowbridge would get increased Policing resources, with 6 PCSO's starting in January and 5 PC's from March.

Trowbridge Street Pastors have reported that they will be moving activities to Friday nights, however Police figures and other evidence shows that there are still issues on Saturday nights. It is hoped that there could be a return to Saturday night operations or that both nights could be included.

The Gun Surrender saw 50 weapons handed in in Trowbridge. Not all were guns there were some knives and other weapons. It was noted that this was not an amnesty and that for any weapons known to be used in crime these would be followed up.

The NPT continues to have weekly tasking meetings to set local priorities for action.

Working arrangements for Safer Communities Group

Following discussion, the group agreed to retain quarterly meetings with ad hoc meetings to be called as required, in response to community issues/incidents.

A.O.B. None

Date next meeting April 2018 TBC