



Safer Neighbourhood Panel – Cannock Chase

Wednesday 15th February 2017

Aquarius Ballroom, Victoria Shopping Park, Hednesford, WS12 1BT

Attendees:

Lesley Harrison	Chair - Rugeley Resident
Gill Thomas	Panel member - Rugeley resident
Geoff Knight	Chief Inspector – Cannock LPT
Mark Ward	Inspector - Cannock LPT
Paula James	Smart Alert
Ash Connor	Smart Alert
Mike Tams	Panel member - Rugeley resident
Warwick Bourton	Panel member - Rugeley resident
Dave Lucas	Panel member – Rugeley resident
Bryan Jones	Panel member – Hednesford resident
Bev Henderson	Observer- Rugeley resident
Alan Edwards	ETAP link member
Junaid Gharda	OPCC
Jan Matthews	Support Staffordshire Cannock Chase (minutes)

Apologies

Oliver Greatbatch
Sue Thornley
Pat Tams

1. **Welcome, introductions and apologies**

Special welcome to Paula and Ash from Smart Alert, new members Bryan and Dave, observer Bev, ETAP link member Alan and LPT Mark Ward.

2. **Information on Smart Alert from Paula James and Ash Connor**

Smart Alert was launched in March 2016 and is a useful source of information on local policing providing an opportunity to hear local news in real time. Provides an opportunity to form part of future scrutiny. People can sign up to Smart Alert by using the website or the app, or by emails and by phone. It is a two way information service and is accessible by people who may not have access to IT or not be I.T. savvy. Settings can be made to access information by post code. Rural, Business crime. Horsewatch and Cyclewatch all form part of the Smart Alert system. Smart Alert awareness is encouraged to help combat increasing car key burglaries. There is currently an emphasis on working closely and sharing information with partners e.g. P.C.S.O.s, Trading Standards, Missing Persons service. Information is sent from Smart Alert to the LPT. The Smart Alert website is confidential and secure and cannot be seen by the public. Non-emergency crimes must be reported via the 101 service.

Questions were raised by panel members regarding Neighbourhood Watch and concern around some people not able to use electronic systems. People are also able to access the service by telephone. The OWL newsletter is going to be resurrected and limited supplies in hard copy can be requested/made available. It was explained that Smart Alert was not taking over or away from the valuable work of the Neighbourhood Watch scheme but complements it. It is intended to roll out the Smart Alert scheme to P.C.S.O.s so that real time information can be recorded out of normal office hours

Statistics – Cannock Chase District

3865 members are registered in a watch scheme. Of those, 2524 members are registered in a neighbourhood watch and 700 businesses are registered to receive information from Smart Alert. A total of 270 people are smart alert app users (Source: OPCC January 2017 for Cannock Chase District).

Promotion materials are available from the Smart Alert team at Police Headquarters

ACTION: Local P.C.S.O to be invited to attend part of a panel residents meeting in the near future

3. **Minutes from previous meeting**

Minutes were agreed.

4. **Matters arising (not covered by agenda items)**

ASB – Geoff Knight has sent Jan draft ASB Policy and Procedure documents to be shared with the panel members (not with the public at present).

ASB will not - at present - be highlighted on Smart Alert so as not to raise public concerns and fear of crime

ACTION: Panel members to read documents and discuss at next residents panel meeting. Comments to be fed back to Geoff.

Operation Athena

The operation was a success in 2016 in the Cannock Chase District. Will be delivered in 2017 with funding secured from Matthew Ellis

CCTV

CCTV is not being cut in the district at present.

Supporting Schools Initiative

Laura Mancicius is actively involved with 9 high schools in the district and some junior schools are planned to be next. Laura is to be invited to the next panel meeting.

ACTION: Geoff to arrange Laura to attend meeting.

Drugs

The challenge to investigate 20 cases before 2017 was successfully completed.

Meet the local Commander

Sessions at Tescos in the area were successful.

Recruitment

SNP recruitment leaflets are available at the meetings.

ACTION: Bryan Jones to take up the offer from Duncan Roll re a slot on Cannock Radio if Lesley unable to do so.

5. LPT Commander update and response to questions

- Q.** ASB - We understand from discussion with Insp Grieves, the Force policy in respect of Anti-Social Behaviour that you have been instrumental in formulating is now ready for presentation and you will be feeding back to the panel about it. At the last meeting panel members expressed support for looking over and reviewing the policy document - do you envisage us still having a role in doing so?
- A.** Geoff handed the ASP policy to Lesley Harrison at the meeting and emailed to Jan
ACTION: Jan to email to panel
- Q.** Police visibility continues to be an issue for local residents and the community at large. Matthew Ellis, the Police and Crime Commissioner has stated a commitment to increasing the visibility of the Police Force in Staffordshire. Despite adverse publicity (Express & Star, 28.1.17) regarding a fall in workforce across the region the PCC has maintained there has been little or no impact on police presence / visibility. How is this affecting the Cannock LPT and has there been local progress to address this issue?, e.g.:
**Recruitment to and increase in the local workforce, i.e. officers, PCSOs, Special Constabulary;
**What is the current status in terms of cover for shifts across the LPT?
**Are there any areas of concern regarding the local workforce and capabilities to provide policing cover?
- A.** The article in the Express and Star was misleading and did not include a quote issued from Geoff Knight. See also comments below
- Q.** At the residents' meeting last week we discussed our proposed work-plan for this coming year (possibly into early next). As it has now been 2 years since the pilot for Transformation was initiated in Cannock we felt it was timely to revisit how effective the process has been in terms of increased efficiency and effectiveness, workforce satisfaction, victim feedback. Ironically at a SNP Chair's Forum earlier this week we understand that KMPG has been appointed to prepare

a business plan for the future of policing in Staffordshire so it would be very useful to have your perspective on the local impact, pending release of the business plan in March.

- A. There will be a fall in the workforce in Staffordshire over the next two years as 200 - 400 officers are due to leave the force. Recruitment has been taking place and will continue over the next 12 – 18 months. Cannock Chase currently has 14 'restricted' officers due to illness/injury which lowers work force levels. There is an ageing work force which impacts due to retirement and health related issues. However, there is enough resource for public demand and if necessary personnel from other areas are used to supplement local capacity. Proposals are in place for future Police Officers to have a degree to enable them to join the force. This proposal is being discussed to professionalise the service. Apprenticeships are also planned to be available. Four Neighbourhood Police Officer roles in Cannock LPT are being re-appointed and there will be more in the future. New PCSO's have been recruited, the requirement is to have 15 in place – there are currently 13 recruited. PCSO's patrol alone or in pairs as necessary.

General update from Geoff Knight

- Geoff distributed the latest ASB data (up to 15/2/17) and explained the details. It is always important not to read the figures without a narrative to explain the stats.
- Geoff explained that the internet had opened up an avenue for an increase in online crime.
- Theft of motor vehicles is a major problem and is currently the worst crime taking place in the district.
- Recording practices have been investigated and have been changed where necessary.
- Geoff was asked whether hate crime had increased since Brexit. Geoff stated that there had not been an increase.

6. **Feedback on Panel Activity since last meeting**

- **Role of Appropriate Adult** – panel member Sue Thornley can now sit in on interviews around the county as an Appropriate Adult.
- **Chairs' Forum** – The forum included feedback on TASER and Stop and Search scrutiny reports. It was a positive feedback and thanks were made for the efforts of the SNP members. Chris Dawson had recently attended the Firearms Officers meeting and the good work of the SNP was highlighted.

Panel members are invited to attend large events to accompany officers on Stop and Search e.g. V festival.

The final TASER scrutiny report, TASER and Stop and Search recommendations by the panel and the response by Chris Dawson were handed out and have been emailed to panel members.

As the 101 service is not under the remit of the LPT Commander, it would not usually be a priority to scrutinise the service. However, it was requested at the forum that the SNP did undertake some scrutiny by way of dip sampling of phone calls in SNP areas. OPCC to arrange awareness raising in preparation for the 101 scrutiny. Further visits to the Control Room are also to be arranged for interested SNP members

The minutes from the Chair's forum have been issued by email

➤ **TASER report**

The final report has been issued. Hard copies were available at the meeting

➤ **Complaints Procedure and Data session**

Lesley Harrison attended the session on 1/12/16. Hard copies of the presentation were available during the meeting. An electronic version has been emailed to panel members.

➤ **Resident members sub group meeting**

24th January meeting minutes were available and an electronic version has been emailed to panel members

7. Forthcoming activity

Future priorities

Spit Hoods

Matthew Ellis has stated that there is an intention for 'spit hoods' to be issued to each officer and would like scrutiny to take place.

Mental Health

A Mental Health Retention review document has been produced – to be discussed at the next meeting.

ACTION: Alan Edwards to take issues back to ETAP to discuss any actions by the SNP>

Transformation review

Cannock Chase was the Transformation prototype and also the first SNP to be set up.

ACTION: Alan Edwards to look at in conjunction with KMPG options

8. AOB

There is an opportunity to promote the work on the SNP on Cannock radio by a panel member.

ACTION: Bryan Jones to take up the opportunity if Lesley is not available

2017 meetings:

Thu 20 Apr 2pm	Residents interim meeting	Coniston Hall
Mon 15 May 7pm	Main panel meeting	Rugeley Community Centre Burnthill Lane, Rugeley, WS15 2HX
Mon 26 Jun 2pm	Residents Interim meeting	Coniston Hall
Tue 15 Aug 7pm	Main panel meeting	Coniston Hall
Tue 26 Sep 2pm	Residents interim meeting	Coniston Hall
Wed 15 Nov 7pm	Main panel meeting	Aquarius Ballroom,
Wed 6th Dec 2pm	Residents interim meeting	Coniston Hall