

Oswestry Town Council

Notes of a meeting of the Police Partnership Panel held on Monday 2nd August 2021 at 6.00 pm via Zoom video call.

Present **Councillors M Isherwood, D Kerr, J Michie, J Moore,
G Stackhouse and J Upton
Arren Roberts, Town Clerk
Inspector C Greenaway, West Mercia Police**

1. **Appointment of Chair**

It was **resolved** to appoint Councillor J Moore as Chair.

2. **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor L Maguire.

3. **Declaration of Pecuniary Interests**

There were no declarations made.

4. **Terms of Reference and Confidentiality Agreement**

The Panel considered the draft Term of Reference, and Confidentiality Agreement as provided. Inspector Greenaway reported that West Mercia Police were drafting an Information Sharing Agreement and that this would be brought forward when complete.

It was recognised that, as the meeting was held virtually, Members could not sign the confidentiality agreement and therefore it was **resolved** that by remaining in the meeting all parties accepted the terms of the Confidentiality Agreement.

It was further **resolved** to note that that Partnership could only operate under these terms.

5. Priorities

The Panel considered each of the agreed areas of focus in turn and Inspector Greenaway asked Councillors to consider why these were important to the Council. The notes reflect the actions arising from the discussion:

a) **Domestic Abuse, Sexual Offences and Sexual Harassment;**

Inspector Greenaway provided Members with data which highlighted the extent of the issue in Oswestry and provided an overview of the Victim Advice Line.

It was **resolved**:

- To promote the White Ribbon Campaign and recognise White Ribbon Day in November.
- When appropriate to do so, promote the Victim Advice Line.

In response to a question regarding female police attending specific incidents, Inspector Greenaway provided a response.

b) **County Lines, Anti-Social Behaviour and Support for Young People**

It was viewed that County Lines and drug dealing remained an issue in Oswestry.

It was **resolved** to:

- Encourage reporting to the Police.
- Invite a representative from the Substance Misuse Service to a future meeting of the Panel in order to gain insight into the issues faced by young people.
- Consider promoting the work of the We Are with You charity <https://www.wearewithyou.org.uk/services/shropshire-for-young-people/>

Inspector Greenaway provided an overview of the work with the Marches School and the involvement of specialist policing teams in tackling issues in Oswestry. She also highlighted that the Marches

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School were seeking match funding of £1,320 towards AlterEgo's 'Chelsea's Story' which is an innovative and powerful production highlighting the very serious and emotional issue of child sexual exploitation. It was reported that this would reach 1,500 pupils, staff and parents and that the school hoped to be able to hold the production in the Autumn of this year.

It was **resolved** to recommend to Council that Oswestry Town Council provides the match funding to enable the production to take place.

A discussion followed about Oak Street and the prevalence of drug dealing. It was **resolved** to encourage dialogue between SYA as the Council's provider and the Police.

c) **Hate Crime and Supporting the Vulnerable in the Community**

It was reported that reports of hate crime are not extensive, however there is evidence of an increase in stickering, and it was **resolved** to encourage reporting of issues to the Police. Members praised the Police response following a recent incident.

d) **Anti-Social Driving and Associated Issues.**

The Council provided Inspector Greenaway with an overview of the current status of the design and access study of the Central Car park.

It was **resolved**:

- To circulate the draft report to the Design Out Crime Team for advice.
- To consider the feasibility and associated benefits of installing number plate recognition software to support the reporting of anti-social driving on the Central Car Park.

A discussion followed regarding speeding on Gobowen Road and Inspector Greenaway provided details of a recent and successful campaign by West Mercia Police.

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It was **resolved** to contact the Safer Roads Partnership to understand how a community speed watch project could be initiated along Gobowen Road.

6. Next Steps

It was agreed to issue a press release highlighting that the Panel had met and to provide an overview of the priorities in order to promote public confidence.