

Special Community Action Team Meeting (CAT) 12 June 2019 – Ferneham Hall

Special CAT Meeting on Fareham Town Centre Drug Misuse

Who was there?

Present: Cllr Clubley, Cllr Ellis, Cllr Trott, Cllr Fazarckley, Cllr Cartwright, Mayor of Fareham Cllr Bryant

Residents: approx. 150 attendees

Chairman: Cllr Tom Davies

Speakers:

- Executive Leader of Fareham Borough Council, Cllr Seán Woodward
- Inspector Sarah Nicholson, Hampshire Police
- Amanda Winetroube, Inclusion supported by Jason Campbell
- Two Saints also provided an Information Stand to answer questions at the end.

What was talked about?

Special CAT Meeting on Fareham Town Centre Drug Misuse

Guest speaker: Sarah Nicholson, Hampshire Police

“I have been working in the District since September and was made aware of the historical issues in the town centre on my arrival here. This remains a Policing Priority, and I want to reassure you that there is a lot of work that takes place behind the scenes. We have had an increasing number of letters that there has not been enough police presence in this area. There have been recent abstractions due to events across Hampshire including the D-Day celebrations, but these have now concluded. There is a lot which goes on in the background with Partner agencies and we have operations in place. On a monthly basis, we review actions that are being taken and incidents that have occurred as well as information received. We make plans for the coming weeks and also meet with Community safety and other local Partners to discuss the issues. In relation to Offences, we discuss appropriate action and whether prosecution or support may a more appropriate way of addressing the problem.

High threshold with Court process to evidence to Court that we can secure convictions. We look at Criminal Behaviour Orders, that's where we go to the Judge to look to get them to impose a 2-year Order in relation to an individual's behaviour and locations we can restrict them from attending. Some headlines of recent successes - There has been a recent warrant in the town centre and 2 people have been arrested and are under investigation for drugs supply offences. Additionally, a male has recently been stop-checked, found in possession of a quantity of drugs and arrested. We are currently pursuing two people for Criminal Behaviour Orders through the

court process and have one person in prison in relation to Breaching such an order. We are also working with the management of the Shopping Centre to strengthen Banning Orders, in the hope that we can then use these to secure bail conditions if an offence is committed.

We are aware of the local Facebook sites, which we do read, but we are currently unable to comment on Facebook. We hope to have a Facebook page in the near future and this is being pursued centrally. We can't use Facebook for evidence at Court; it will direct us to an area, but not provide evidence that we can use at Court. People need to report issues and incidents to us so that we have the information and evidence to use to build evidential cases. There is the 101 system and you can report incidents online or at the front counter of the Police station. We also are keen to put together a mechanism in place to liaise with businesses and local residents and are looking for people to assist us with this. “

Sarah also confirmed the process for dialling 101 v 999

By phone

Emergency [999](#)

Call [999](#) if:

- a serious offence is in progress or has just been committed
- someone is in immediate danger or harm
- property is in danger of being damaged
- a serious disruption to the public is likely

If you're deaf or hard of hearing, use our textphone service [18000](#) or text us on 999 if you've pre-registered with the [emergencySMS service](#).

Non-emergency [101](#)

Call [101](#) for non-emergency enquiries. If you're deaf or hard of hearing, use our textphone service on [18001 101](#).

* Calls to 101 cost 15 pence per call from landlines and mobiles, no matter how long you're on the phone.

Guest Speaker: Amanda Winetroube, Inclusion

We take self-referrals, and people walking-in, we offer a lot of services to encourage people to engage in our services. We have an active needle exchange service and offer a free needle return. They will have advice whilst they are getting the needle exchanges. We have noticed a number of people returning for support. We also offer health and wellbeing services, nurses can offer advice, and offer group work, counselling and one to one support. We have individual care plans and keyworkers.

We can offer home detox, for people with alcohol use and we can refer them to inpatient units. We are able to offer family support, and we are able to offer family support links. We have a close relationship with QA and liaise with people who have been discharged. My colleague visits people who are known to them, he will talk to them and tell them to use the service. We work closely with our partners in Fareham. We work very closely with the job centre, mental health services, 101 hostels, neutral aid groups, Fareham Borough Council and we signpost services to them.

Cllr Woodward

There is a donation collection point at One Community based opposite Millets, please let them know where there are particular concerns.

Questions from the floor:

Q: There is a massive lack of police around Fareham. How many PCSOs (Police Community Support Officer) or police do we have working this area currently?

A: SN: There are four Officers two PCSOs on the Neighbourhood Policing Team with specific responsibility for the town centre area. The Neighbourhood team who work in the area deal with long-term issues within the community and threat, risk and harm within the community, then there is another team that deal with emergencies – 999 calls, the Response and Patrol team who are based at Fareham Reach.

Q: Can we educate children in schools, and encourage more people to not give to the beggars and to give to the agencies instead?

A: Cllr WW: Officers are present and taking notes on this and will work together on possible outcomes.

Q: I live in the town centre and have a service in the town centre. I'm yet to see a prominent poster deterring people to not give money to beggars. Can we have posters around the town

centre to educate people? We don't want to see people sleeping rough in this area. We want Fareham to be a thriving shopping centre.

A: Cllr WW: It's a matter of balance. 3 or 4 years ago we had 42 of them. Now we have 8. People come here to beg, some are driven in because they are given money from people in Fareham. We are working hard to make it work here, but the drug abuse issue is coming hand in hand with the issues of the beggars.

Q: The Police have known where the dealers live. Why can't they go to their houses and do something?

A: SN: Evidential thresholds to obtain warrants and secure prosecutions are high. A Judge will only issue a warrant if the evidential threshold has been achieved. There is 'knowing' and then there is 'proving'. We need to encourage people to report issues and incidents to us so that we can use these evidentially.

Q: It's us parents that suffer, when you can't stop them. We know where they live, you know where they live, why don't you do anything?

A: SN: Officers are on patrol and are building up evidential pictures, the law must be followed. In order to search a house, we need a warrant.

Q: We run the Ironmaster pub on West Street. We have CCTV installed, we are recording it happening by filming and recording it and we work closely with the Police. The drug users and beggars target the Lucketts coaches who drop off tourists on West Street. They target the elderly. We record them, and tell people getting off those coaches not to give them money. We will continue to record it, and work closely with the police to resolve these issues as we have been doing.

Q1: I live behind the Ashcroft Centre on the alley way, and they shoot up heroin in the alleyway there. We call the police time and time again, and they don't do anything about it.

A1: SN: We have to assess the 'threat, risk and harm' across the whole District. We need to have details so we can act, can I talk to you afterwards?

Q2: We have had people outside our house for 3-4 years, and nothing has ever been done about it?

A2: SN: We will bring issues like this up from at our monthly Partnership Action Group and task all agencies around the table with actions with a view to coming with solutions. Please provide me with the details.

Q: I'm in the process of buying a flat and there is a caravan which has been left outside and people are taking drugs in there.

A: SN: We are aware of this caravan and can report that a male is currently in custody with us having executed a warrant today.

Q: There is a lot for the services supporting people who are using but what about us? There are drug dealers on the way to Cams Hill school. There needs to be enforcement on the streets from the Council. I walk my dog here at night along the alley ways. I could show you drug pushers tonight. I could take you to them. I found needles in my garden. I've sent a letter with photos to the Police and my MP. I've phoned 999 continually. Final point, in the church area there are needles and you are stopping it from happening there by removing them. It works to get them off the streets. We need to keep this happening. Get these people off the streets.

A: There are a lot of people around the churches who have been working closely with the police and community safety. We have Fareham Street Aid as well who are working in partnership. We can't employ that many people. We will try to do joint up thinking.

Q: We saw a problem here 3-4 years ago and we are here, there are a lot of us, and we want it to change.

A: If everybody stopped giving to the beggars, then people would not have money for the drug abuse.

Q: I do have a background working in the police, but I see drug deals in Fareham. Our concern is for the children of Fareham. The youth are going to suffer. There are Cams school uniform students taking drugs.

A1: Head Mistress of Cams School speaks: Schools are proactively working on this in partnership with Police. From Monday there will be random visits to our schools with dogs to locate drug users. I have a proposal – I can create a video to help highlight the dangers and educate our children on the harm it causes. We need the funding for this though, and we ask Cllr Woodward directly if this can be funded?

A2: Cllr WW: We can discuss funding if you see me after the meeting.

Q: If money is the issue here, I will donate £1000 to pay for the signs on lamp posts to educate our children about drug misuse. This is a real problem, and I will give you the money for this.

Q: I am the Vicar of St Peters church – we have our own sharps pot which is collected and disposed. What else can we do? We need something which is a persistent presence. It is sad that children are witnessing this happening.

A: Cllr WW: This is a real issue, and concern, we feel this is a strong priority. We don't want this to be happening in Fareham. We must keep sharing information and intelligence with the police.

Q: The rough sleepers in town - why can't you just get rid of them?

A: Cllr WW: The law prevents us from doing these things but we have excluded a number of beggars causing anti-social behaviour from Fareham. There is support and beds available at 101 Gosport Road, but they have to cooperate and engage and then they are moved on. The police have to work on the evidence they have.

Q: We want Zero tolerance. Why can't our Council have Enforcement Officers to move them on?

A: Cllr WW: We have an Enforcement team. We bought in a private security firm to lock down our multi-storey car parks in the evenings.

Q: We want a private security team to manage Fareham's beggars.

A: SN: We are trying to address the aggressive beggars who are putting people at risk and we are building evidence for Criminal Behaviour Orders. We need to apply a holistic approach with all our other agencies. We also have to look after their Welfare. We are trying to deal with the problem.

Q: Half of them are not homeless people. There is a couple who knock on peoples' doors at night, and they say they are pregnant and that they need money. The elderly are getting targeted.

A: SN: We have to build up an evidential case and area actively pursuing the aggressive beggars. From the beggars' point of view, Fareham is an attractive place to live, low-risk to them compared to somewhere like Portsmouth, and the beggars can be earning a lot of money here.

Q: I have children and they understand about beggars and homelessness. The town is dying on its feet. The level of policing, is not good enough. It makes people not want to come into town. needs a more urgent approach from the police.

A: Cllr WW: Thank you for your response.

Q1: I have lived in Fareham for 49 years. I have stopped my daughter walking home from school, because she is not safe because she has been verbally attacked and pestered for money. This has gone on 4-5 years and it is something we know about and has got gradually worse. As the Leader of the Council you need to take responsibility for that.

A1: Cllr WW: Thank you for your points, you will not find another Council Leader who will do this meeting in front of their residents. For your daughter to feel threatened it is absolutely unacceptable. We need extra officers for the rise in council tax for policing.

A2: SN: There is no greater risk to the public at this time regarding the sexual assault near college site. In relation to the elderly gentlemen over the weekend, there has been two arrests, one has been charged. The people are from outside the area and not link to our beggars.

Q1: We rarely get a response after 101 calls. We don't get many visible responses. We don't want our children to have this as a relevant.

A1: SN: The call taker will assess the 'risk and harm' in relation to each call and assess whether the response required is immediate.

Q2: How can we report it and know you will do something?

A2: We have the station, we have 101, we have an email address and online. We have to assess the threat, risk and harm and the appropriate response

Q: I'm concerned for our children. It's a crime, when people are shooting up heroin, there is a risk of harm.

A: SN: We will build up evidence, and we will try to look at all the incidents.

Q: There is a group of people who are well known to residents. They could have photos up in shops notify the people of anti-social behaviours.

A: Narinder Bains, Community Safety Manager, FBC: It is impossible to share the photos with the public, we do share them with our partnered agencies. I promise you there is work

going on in the background to provide support and to use enforcement powers. Multi-agency partnership working to constantly removes people that cause anti-social behaviour from the area but others replace them. We can't eradicate it, we can only manage it. We talked about the caravan, this is on private land but we have gained the owners authority and served notice for caravan to be removed. We promise you we are all working hard.

Q: I appreciate the police have limited resources. My child has felt intimidated and seen people weeing in public. There was some vandalism last week. We need CCTV. I pay enough Council tax for this to be sorted. It is pushing people away from the town centre. I want to thank the organisations that are going out there. We are not in a position to put ourselves in danger by filming it.

A: Cllr WW: Thank you, we will look over this.

Q: It's about Human Rights, should their human rights go out the window because they are endangering people? Why can't we share the images of these people and why can't we have the images of these people?

A: It's an in agreement with shops and bars and comes under Licensing laws.

Q: I've been chased by kids with bikes at Park Lane. We told the police on June 5 and got told that there was no police around due to Donald Trump. I am concerned that it is moving out of the Fareham Town Centre to the skate park and the leisure centre. Do we have CCTV there? The children ended up on the roof of the leisure centre.

A. There is CCTV covering this area and Y Services are directed by PAG to patrol and engage with young people.

Q1: Door supervisor at the Iron Master; We were involved in the knife crime operation which was in place called Operation Septor.

A1: SN: We do thank you for all your help.

Q: My parents had a homeless person sitting outside their house. I complained to 101 and they said to call the Council.

A: Cllr WW: If there is a crime being committed then you should call 999. If you are reporting something that has already happened then call 101. The call centre will decide the priority of the response.

Q: Shopwatch publicises a list of local undesirables for local businesses. Can we be linked to a community scheme so what can we do more and know who these people are. Can we put a community group together?

A: Cllr WW: There is something called the Neighbourhood Watch.

Q: Can you clarify about begging – is it an offence?

A: SN: It is an offence, we have to assess the situation, look at the situation with a holistic approach, a prosecution isn't necessarily the desired outcome of the Court.

Q: (New) Community Cohesion Officer speaks: I work for Hampshire Constabulary. I will take this to Hampshire Police. I can see there is a lot of value here in what is being said. What is the method moving forward?

A: Cllr WW: I will provide a summary at the end of this meeting.

Q: In the past the Council have looked after us very well, in the past PSCOs have looked after us very well. We live close to the Gillies and these are areas that are being used by the drug users. The problem is growing. People are knocking door to door for money. Thank you for dealing with it now, but there is a problem growing.

A: Cllr WW: We can agree that there is a problem, and we will look to work together to get this resolved.

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