

| Report of                  | Meeting               | Date                 |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Director People and Places | Overview and Scrutiny | Monday 9 August 2010 |

## OVERVIEW OF POLICE AND COMMUNITIES TOGETHER MEETINGS, THE MATAAC AND MINI MATAAC PROCESS AND MEMBER COMMUNICATION

### PURPOSE OF REPORT

- To provide elected members with an overview of:
  - Police and Community Together meetings (PACT),
  - Member Engagement
  - The MATAAC and Mini MATAAC frameworks.

### RECOMMENDATION(S)

- That the report be noted

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

- Elected members with recall at the joint overview and scrutiny meeting on Wednesday 21 August 2010 a request for further information relating to PACT meetings, the MATAAC process and general member communication was requested. This report provides an overview of PACT, MATAAC and Communication.

### CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

|  |  |   |   |
|--|--|---|---|
| Put Chorley at the heart of regional economic development in the Central Lancashire sub-region |  | Develop local solutions to climate change.                        |   |
| Improving equality of opportunity and life chances   |  | Develop the Character and feel of Chorley as a good place to live | x |
| Involving people in their communities  |  | Ensure Chorley Borough Council is a performing organization       | x |

### POLICE AND COMMUNITIES TOGETHER FRAMEWORK

- 'PACT' stands for Police and Communities Together and is a term used for meetings held between Police and the local communities to discuss issues affecting people's quality of lives that the constabulary and the community can try and combat together. They also offer an opportunity for intelligence gathering about crime within those areas
- PACTs were established as a fundamental part of Neighbourhood Policing to deal with issues specifically in relation to crime and disorder. When police Neighbourhood areas were being defined through consultation and the alignment with council wards, it was agreed regular

meetings would be held in each area to encourage community engagement with the police and to help combat local issues that were affecting the community.

7. Most areas have PACT meetings once per month. Some are run as 'street surgeries' focusing on communicating with the public out on the streets. Others are targeted at certain groups of the community, such as Youth PACTs or elderly PACTs.
8. PACT is fundamental in shaping service delivery. At each PACT meeting, three policing priority issues are determined which the local neighbourhood policing teams will focus on. Additionally any calls relating to these priorities are treated as a priority.
9. Whilst PACT is solely a police established and administered method of communicating and engaging with residents it does link in effectively with the wider Community Safety Partnership and wider neighbourhood agenda.
10. The location and number of PACT meetings vary each month, and the details can be obtained directly from the Police or from the Constabulary website.
11. Information and data from each PACT meeting is published on Lancashire Constabulary's website and allows members of the public to hold the police to account with regards to the tackling of area priorities. Progress and updates on the tackling of PACT priorities is also posted on the website and in turn this information is fed into subsequent PACT meetings.
12. Dip samples are also carried out by Police Headquarters staff to ensure local Neighbourhood policing teams are complying with PACT protocols. Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) also conducts independent dip sampling.
13. Where it is deemed that a multi agency response to a particular issue is identified they are fed into MATACs and mini MATACs. A problem solving approach is applied to each issue and accordingly additional resources are discussed and deployed. These priorities also inform the police's divisional tasking and MATAC document where consideration for further resources are discussed and agreed. In areas where less formal arrangements such as mini MATACs do not exist there are established links between police officers and other agencies allowing the facilitation of problem solving approach to continue.
14. The information gathered at PACTs are also used to inform and shape the CSPs strategic assessment which in turn ensures that the CSP action plan delivers against community priorities. It is important to note that not all issues raised at PACT meetings require a multiagency response and therefore the CSP will not be aware of every crime/incident tabled.
15. PACTs are chaired by the police and in the main attended by members of the community, although in some areas attendance can be poor, as people will often only attend if a specific problem is currently affecting them. The local Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator, local Councillors and partners also attend on occasion. Meetings are advertised locally in prominent buildings (doctors/shops/libraries etc), as well as being published in the newspaper, on Lancashire Constabulary's website and quarterly newsletters are distributed.
16. If the police feel that there is a specific problem that either a local Cllr or partner is better placed to assist with, they will specifically invite them to attend a meeting, although all partners and Cllrs are welcome at any meeting. Anecdotally there appears to be better attendance from partners when the meeting is held within a partner owned building, schools being one example.
17. PACT meetings are continually reviewed to try and maximise attendance, thereby achieving a wider picture of community issues. Times and locations are reviewed and sometimes varied in order to try and attract different groups within the community.

18. PACT is seen by Lancashire Constabulary as a fundamental tool in achieving local community engagement, in order to resolve local issues affecting individual's quality of lives and is integral to the Neighbourhood Policing Model within Lancashire.

## **MATAC**

19. Multi Agency Tasking and Coordinating (MATAC) has been around since 2007 with Mini MATACs being established in 2009. This multi agency approach to crime reduction has been significant in the reduction of crime on Chorley Borough. They are officer groups which meet monthly and focus on reacting to Crime trends, patterns and hotspots, commission research relating to specific areas crime types which include but are not limited to Serious Aquisitive Crime (vehicle crime, robbery and burglary), violent crime and ASB. The MATAC framework also supports future planning of multiagency initiatives in response to events which could pose crime and disorder threats, and provides supporting evidence for the provision of positive actives for young people.
20. The membership of this group is varied and includes representation from a number of partners including Chorley Council (ASB, licensing etc) including the portfolio holder for the People and Places Directorate, the police, fire service, housing providers, Lancashire County Council (trading standards), the Primary Care Trust and the Voluntary Community and Faith Sector.
21. MATAC is an intelligence led process which makes use of a monthly analytical and intelligence report. Information from this document is received from several areas including the police, fire service, environmental data, PACT meetings, targets area groups (PAICE/SWITCH) and elected members. Partners also have the opportunity to raise concerns which are tackled using a problem solving approach which aims to identify and resolve the underpinning causes of crime and the development of actions. The group also has strong links with other operational groups to ensure information and intelligence is shared appropriately. Operational groups include the Prolific Priority Offenders, The Prevent and Deter (youth offenders), the Multiagency licensing and tasking groups and Mini MATAC groups. The group manages the performance of the CSP in relation to LAA, corporate and local crime targets the delivery of local neighbourhood action plans and CSP priorities as outlined in the strategic assessment and partnership plan.
22. Mini MATACs are formalised grassroots working arrangements delivered in wards which are responsible for a disproportionate amount of crime and disorder when compared with other areas. They focus on information sharing and the tackling of localised issues, problematic households/individuals and foster a grass roots approach to problem solving. They also have strong links with operational working groups including the submission of referrals into the boroughs Families First vulnerable households project. Furthermore areas where Mini MATACs have been established are given priority in relation to funding based on their presented crime levels and requirements.
23. Permanent members of the Mini MATAC groups include the police, Chorley Council Neighbourhood officer and local housing providers. Other agencies are invited to participate as and when additional support is required. Communication between MATAC and Mini MATACs are regular and governed by a data/information sharing protocol. Both groups are ultimately accountable to the Strategic group of the CSP. Where the Mini MATACs have dealt with an issue raised at PACT which required a multi agency approach the resulting actions are fed back to the PACT meeting where the issue was raised.
24. Whilst Mini MATACs are not established in all wards areas due to resourcing issues and the intelligence led approach to service delivery, strong links between partners exist across the borough and have been strengthened as part of Chorley Councils neighbourhood working agenda. Police, housing providers and neighbourhood officers liaise regularly and where applicable feed directly into the MATAC process.

25. There are currently 6 Mini MATACs established on the borough and they are in Chorley East, the Town centre, Chorley SW, Clayton Brook, Coppull and Clayton Le Woods. The Mini MATAC framework has been identified as best practice and several other areas within the borough are being considered for the initiative. Mini MATACs have now been adopted by South Ribble Borough Council.

## **COMMUNICATION**

26. Communication is an important aspect of the Community Safety Partnership and there are several ways that the partnership engages and communicates with elected members.

27. One of the main ways elected members can engage with the community safety agenda at a grass roots level is the aforementioned PACT meetings. The PACT meetings provide an ideal way for elected members to raise resident concerns and be informed about the presented crime and disorder for their ward area. If a multiagency approach has been used to tackle a specific issue raised an update will be provide via the PACT forum.

28. Information relating to events or initiatives delivered by the partnership including those developed and implemented via the MATAC or mini MATAC forums is fed directly to elected members via mediums such as in the know, Members Learning sessions, where applicable neighbourhood emails and directly from Community Safety Team or partner officers including the neighbourhood policing teams. Examples of initiatives include the Weeks and Days of Action programme, Bright sparx (Halloween and bonfire initiative) and summer confidence campaigns.

29. Key partnership information including minutes, agendas, performance reports produced for the Community Safety strategy group and the Community Safety action plan up are published on Chorley Council website. Information relating to Community Safety is also made available via the overview and scrutiny process.

30. Information relating to crime levels for a specific ward is readily available. Should elected members wish to examine crime levels within their wards they can do so quickly and easily by accessing Lancashire County Councils Multi Agency Data Exchange (MADE) goes public <http://www.saferlancashire.co.uk/statistics>. This site provides a comprehensive breakdown of the presented crime for each area.

31. Currently the partnership and police do not readily provide crime data to street level. Furthermore information relating to specific incidents or individuals will not be automatically shared with elected members or partners for operational reasons and confidentially. Requests for information are treated on a case by case basis.

32. County and District elected members are represented on the Strategic group of the CDRP and at the county wide Safer Lancashire Board. Furthermore the portfolio holder for the people and places directorate attends MATAC. In their capacity as portfolio holder the elected member and Chair of the Community Safety Partnership also updates the Chorley LSP on Community Safety business.

33. Members will be aware that the Community Safety Partnership acts as a thematic group of the LSP. The LSP is currently reviewing how the LSP and its thematic groups engage and communicates with both internal and external partners including elected members. It has been recognised that joint communications could be better coordinated across partners, to ensure that good news stories and information are published.

34. As a result of this it has been agreed that an LSP communication sub group be formed to coordinate communications for Chorley Partnership and will take responsibility for various themes through the year including Community Safety. Representation of the group will be reflective of the LSP and include the majority of the CSPs statutory partners.

35. Lancashire County Council has also formalised a County Community Safety communication sub group which will also ensure pan Lancashire communication with elected members is carried out effectively.
36. Members will appreciate crime and disorder is a busy and dynamic environment and it is important to note that not all reported incidents or crimes will be resolved from a multiagency perspective. If a crime or an incident is being addressed by a single agency i.e. the police then the partnership will not necessarily be aware of it. Therefore elected members should seek updates for singular incidents from the appropriate lead agency.

## IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

37. This report has implications in the following areas and the relevant Directors' comments are included:

|                 |  |  |   |
|-----------------|--|--|---|
| Finance         |  | Customer Services                        |   |
| Human Resources |  | Equality and Diversity                   |   |
| Legal           |  | No significant implications in this area | x |

There are no background papers to this report.

| Report Author | Ext  | Date     | Doc ID   |
|---------------|------|----------|----------|
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