Making Safer Communities 2015

Notes from feedback session

Are there quick wins? Things we can do together now?

- Ensure all organisations are in the summit pack with contact details
- Footlights offering others support with media

Do you want further themed joint Manchester - Salford discussions? Yes on:

- Gangs and family support – Salford to learn from Manchester
- Community cohesion
- Mental health and wellbeing
- Elderly and safety

Are there three things we can offer the PCC?

- Second VCSE people into PCC – job exchanges
- Voices of survivors/victims into police training
- Online directory of VCSE's (joint action with PCC)
- One stop shop for engagement
- Report hate crime - secondary reporting
- Tell the PCC when things are not working as they should e.g. with police response
- Facilitate meetings with specific communities and families

Are there three things we would ask the PCC for?

- PCC to reply to sector information and concerns
- More money to VCSE's : review terms and manage the risk, review investments and identify how this has worked, identify what further investment would be effective
- Programme of training and development with police, consult with the VCSE on this
- Involve VCSE in scrutiny of stop and search
- Treat sector as "partners for change"
- Provide routes in for sector to be involved in timely and strategic ways

Table Feedback – Key Points from the plenary

- Expectation on communities to "self-help"- How? We need more awareness – knowledge hub e.g. i-HOP
- Prevention
- Communication – within organisation and across network/ communities
- Address CSE/DA/hate crime in schools
- Campaigning as a sector
- Unique approaches of sector – identify and promote
- Consistent and sufficient funding for longer than 1 year with clear objectives
- Social value of sector
- Build relationships with statutory agencies and across sector
- Knowing our limits and sign posting to specialist services
- Funders should visit the organisations they are funding
- Target awareness raising/training to include smaller community groups and not just large voluntary organisations
- Competition within the sector is a reality that needs to be managed : others can influence this as well
- Geographical knowledge/ networking – knowing who is who
- Be proactive in contacts with police
- Flag up where police response is not good enough - sector evidence important. How can this be done / what is the process to do this whilst sustaining relationships? What are the structures to support this with GMP and PCC?
- Collaboration - how is knowledge shared in sector & communities about crime and community safety? Do we all understand CSE, hate, domestic violence?
- Pull in experts by theme whatever sector
- Influence - strategically, in communities, accessible campaigns
- Hate crime - need to promote social and cultural changes so that hate crime no longer seen as acceptable across different community norms. Sentencing messages needs to reflect this as well. Need to increase knowledge and confidence in reporting and evidence the difference reporting makes.
- Domestic Violence as a "culture" in communities. The complexity of emotional abuse - difficult to engage police understanding of this.
- Rationing can prevent referrals
- Prevention work a key place for collaboration
- CSE- get into schools "Real Love Rocks"; training for volunteers; referrals and link into specialist support
- Commitment to collaboration is the key: is your door open?

- A strategic approach in GM to domestic violence and hate crime is needed with PCC and VCSE input
- Phoenix strategy – needs to connect to communities
- Investment in perpetrator programmes need to come with additional investments and not disinvestment from the victim pot.

Actions agreed from the plenary

- Jim Battle to meet with Manchester Women's Aid CEO
- Graham Cooper to feed in to PCC examples of CSE reporting and strategy for gangs in Salford
- PCC to identify to Refugee Action and Warm Hut the routes for challenging the Police response to hate crimes

Making Safer Communities 2015

Notes from Individual tables

Table 1

Priorities

- Consistency and sufficient funding
- Specific objectives and outcomes
- Social value of community relationships - commissioners need to value the real relationships of VCSE
- Building relationships between VCSE organisations
- Getting accurate and up to date information
- Clear referral points that gets the VCSE point of view : multiple access points non–statutory
- Awareness
- Know the limits of your organisation & signpost
- Listen to users

Collaboration

- PCC lots of money but need to see VCSE providers potential
- Mechanism of who does what training giving the VCSE the infrastructure
- Build on close links

Maximise success
- Strong communication network
- Massively help MACC and CVS
- Engage more smaller VCSE's
- Target awareness raising training

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Table 2

- Role of the local authority is shrinking. There is an expectation on communities to help themselves. How can we make this happen?
- We need to work more at prevention work sharing information between different sectors/professionals/sectors through events such as this. Sharing a variety of knowledge between agencies.
- More communication between different areas & regular networking.

- Organising and recognising that there may be "solutions" on a community level rather than a "higher" private/statutory level.
- Capacity building and further engaging at community level
- Talk more
- A knowledge hub (online resource)
- Family forum
- More communication with schools and teachers within lessons

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Table 3

Priorities

- Collaboration
- Opportunities to network/ Link
- How is the PCC plan being implemented and shared
- Lots of talking but lack of understanding
- Raise issues with PCC state processes and reporting structures
- Building evidence
- Influence for stat.
- Use clear language no jargons
- Training – using VCSE community knowledge
- Equitable responses to hate crime, structural differences in response, language and police not dealing with incidents appropriately
- Training programme is multi – agency: VCS and stat value knowledge

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Table 4

Priorities

Domestic abuse Barriers:
- "Processes controlled environment"
- Barriers to reporting – When they are not around children
- Funding cuts midway – Protecting older people more difficult
- Not as many networking opportunities- Lack of liaison with the/ community safety officers.

CSE:
- Almost zero communication with police
- Capacity
- Box ticking

What next?

- Forum
- Opportunity to network
- Internal communication more effective
- Links with Protect
- Partnership agreements
- Consistent/fluid communication processes
- Increase confidence/trust in delivery within communities

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Table 5

Opportunities for collaboration

- Barnardos – "Real love Rocks"- foot in door with schools, opportunity when other issues raised.
- Additional training for CSE, looking for warning signs
- Support for workers coming into direct contact with volunteers
- Make referral to support groups
- Raising awareness of other routes, not just statutory sector, for support
- How do we break down the competition within the voluntary sector?
(created by commissioning/funding environment)

What support is needed?
- Strategic approach to sexual and domestic violence, abuse and hate crime
- Similar to Phoenix project for CSE
- Identify all partners involved to tackle not just obvious or most direct. Target subtle approach
- Positive message from media

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Table 6

Priorities

Hate Crime

- Social and Cultural change
- Needs to be stigmatised (like smoking)
- Socially unacceptable norm to be created
- Pressure on the media and politicians to change the narrative (sentencing messages)
- Reporting – Increase confidence and knowledge –how to report and the need to see the difference it makes
- Focus on victim
- Need a strategy for working with different community norms

Opportunities for collaboration

- Lots of barriers to cross referrals
- Increase VCS presence in The Bridge
- Culture of referral and then rationing due to stat criteria/threshold
- Danger too many agencies make young people disengage
- Increase operation for collaboration – Prevention

Domestic Violence

- It's a culture
- Increased rates in Salford, especially white communities
- Link to alcohol, worklessness and housing
- Emotional abuse –complex plus not well understood by the police (like grooming)
- Classless –Hidden