

COUNCIL SEMINAR 11th June, 2013

Present:- Councillor Hussain (in the Chair); Councillors Ahmed, Ali, Beaumont, Beck, Clark, Dalton, Dodson, Gosling, Hoddinott, Pitchley, Roche, Rushforth, G. A. Russell, P. A. Russell, Sims, Watson and Wallis.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Godfrey, Lakin, McNeely and Pickering.

VULNERABLE PERSONS' UNIT

The Chairman, Councillor Hussain, Cabinet Member for Cohesion and Communities, welcomed everyone and introduced Zafar Saleem and Carol Adamson from the Community Engagement Team, along with Chief Inspector Richard Butterworth from South Yorkshire Police to the meeting.

The Officers gave a presentation about Rotherham Vulnerable Persons Unit (VPU) which focused on:-

- The context why the VPU was set up.
- Recent national cases involving vulnerable and repeat victims.
- Weaknesses highlighted nationally in local partnership responses.
- VPU Priorities – Hate Crime/Harassment, Vulnerable People, Community Tensions and Prevent.
- How Police identify vulnerability.
- Assessing risks and risk assessments.
- VPU activities for vulnerable people.
- Multi-agency strategy meetings of the Vulnerability Group and the sharing of information.
- Membership of the Vulnerability Group and the associated groups and the co-ordinating/scrutiny of activity.
- Recently reviewed cases – demand (graphical data) and the reduction and mitigation of risk.
- Key performance indicators around the VPU.
- VPU activities – community cohesion.
- VPU activities – hate crime and harassment.
- Tell MAMA – Measuring Anti-Muslim Attacks – A national service to report any form of anti-Muslim abuse.
- Prevent Issues and the co-ordination of a partnership approach to the Counter Terrorism Local Profile (CTLP) and support to Safer Neighbourhood Teams.
- Future Challenges – community tensions and tension monitoring, impact of national and global events, impact of recent protests, young people and schools and vulnerable people.
- VPU personnel and roles.

A discussion and answer session ensued and the following issues were raised and subsequently clarified:-

- The point at which the VPU considered a person at crisis and when intervention would commence.
- New structure and remit of the VPU.
- Involvement of key agencies and co-ordination of support.
- Child sexual exploitation training and assurances of referrals to the PPU.
- Co-ordination of the PYPPO's work in schools.
- Access to mental health services and referrals by Elected Members.
- Identification of a vulnerable person and the assessment criteria.
- Cataloguing of anti-social behaviour on the Police Anti-Social Behaviour Case Management System.

Agreed:- That the Officers and Chief Inspector Butterworth be thanked for their informative presentation.