



northern
beaches
council

MINUTES

COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

held online via TEAMS on

THURSDAY 5 AUGUST 2021

Minutes of the Community Safety Committee

held on Thursday 5 August 2021

online via TEAMS

Commencing at 8 - 10am

ATTENDANCE:

Committee Members

Cr Michael Regan	Mayor – Chairperson
Cr Candy Bingham	Deputy Mayor
Cr Sue Heins	
Cr Kylie Ferguson	
Cr Stuart Sprott	
Jason Falinski MP	Federal Member for Mackellar
Zali Steggall OAM MP	Federal Member for Warringah
James Griffin MP	State Member for Manly represented by Kim Preston-Hiney
Supt Patrick Sharkey	Northern Beaches Police Area Command
Angela Whitby	CatholicCare
John Kelly	Community Northern Beaches
Michelle Povah	Community Representative
Ray Mathieson	Community Representative
Roberta Conroy	Community Representative
Michelle Erofeyeff	Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ)
Trish Bramble	Women and Children First (previously Manly Warringah Women's Resource Centre)
Melissa Palermo	NSLHD Health Promotion
Tony Hilliger	Surf Lifesaving Sydney Northern Beaches
Belinda Volkov	Sydney Drug Education & Counselling Centre (SDECC)

Council Officer Contacts

David Kerr	Director Community and Belonging
Kylie Walshe	Executive Manager Community, Arts and Culture
Azmeena Kelly	Executive Manager Environmental Compliance
Rob van den Blink	Manager, Youth and Community Development
Kath Young	Community Safety Coordinator
Helen Askew	Program Support Officer, Youth and Community Development

Visitors

Cr Vincent De Luca OAM	
Lynelle Hales	CEO Sydney North Health Network
Sharon Dale	Manager Northern Beaches Family Relationship Centre, Relationships Australia

1.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Mayor acknowledged the traditional custodians of the land on which the meeting gathered, and paid respect to Elders past and present.

ITEM NO.	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	DUE DATE
1.1	Share Pioneer Clubhouse's well received Acknowledgment of Country with Committee Members	Mayor's Office	ASAP

2.0 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from:

Doug Brooker Northern Beaches Liquor Accord

The following members were not in attendance:

Brad Hazzard MP	State Member for Wakehurst
Jonathan O'Dea MP	State Member for Davidson
Rob Stokes MP	State Member for Pittwater
Luisa de Bont	Community Representative
Stephen Pirovic	Community Representative
Christina Franze	Manly Chamber of Commerce
Drew Johnson	Manly Chamber of Commerce
Kamal Krishan	State Transit Authority Northern Region

3.0 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of pecuniary or non-pecuniary conflicts of interest.

4.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

4.1 MINUTES OF COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 17 JUNE 2021

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the Community Safety Committee meeting held 17 June 2021, copies of which were previously circulated to all Members, were accepted and confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.

5.0 ACTIONS UPDATE

5.1 ACTIONS UPDATE

ITEM NO.	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	ACTION UPDATE
6.1.1	Sydney North Health District data will be shared with the Committee at the next meeting.	Lynelle Hales	Completed at today's meeting
6.2.1	A program of safety audits to be scheduled for priority areas.	Kath Young	In progress – audits delayed due to COVID
7.1	Traffic engineering and pedestrian safety at Dee Why and Manly be referred to Council's Transport & Civil Infrastructure Division.	Kath Young	Completed. Noted: Kath Young and Ray Mathieson to have further offline conversation.

The topics discussed at the Northern Beaches Police and Council Operational Meeting were noted.

6.0 AGENDA ITEMS

6.1 POLICE REPORT - SUPERINTENDENT PATRICK SHARKEY

HIGHLIGHTS

Superintendent Patrick Sharkey provided an update on local Police matters.

EOFY 2020/21 statistics indicate that:

- Northern Beaches Police exceeded community safety indicators for all crime categories except for sexual assault which mostly relate to historical cases and between persons known to each other.
- North West Region legal action rates exceeded community safety indicators for several offences relating to theft of property from persons, motor vehicles and dwellings.
- Reporting of domestic and family violence is lower than in previous years but Police are pursuing offenders and have high rates of compliance with charging offenders with breach of AVO and DV related assault.

Community Messaging:

- Significant proportion of motor vehicle theft and break and enter offences into homes involve cars and homes being left unlocked. The best way to prevent opportunistic theft is to lock windows and doors and don't leave valuables in cars.

COVID:

- Community should be directed to [NSW Health](https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/COVID-19/Pages/default.aspx) website for updates on Public Health Orders and other COVID related information.
- Police are extremely busy responding to COVID related issues and conducting proactive strategies to ensure compliance with the Public Health Orders and address public perception of crowds on beaches.

- Vast majority of people are complying with the Public Health Orders. This is supported by aerial drone footage.
- Police are working with Council, Health and other stakeholders to implement local solutions and discussed implementing some of the key strategies from the 2020 Summer Safe Plan.
- Short term restricted parking around key beaches, public areas and hotspots has been introduced.

Forward planning:

- Engaging with Council's Local Emergency Management Officer (LEMO) and other emergency stakeholders in regard to bush fire season.
- Reviewing last year's COVID-19 Summer Action Plan in preparation for changes to the Public Health Orders.

DISCUSSION

Most uniformed Police choose to wear body worn video equipment and anecdotally, this has contributed to an increase in convictions and assists as court evidence.

Police are not interacting with many people entering the area without legitimate reason and in conflict with the Public Health Orders however, when detected, breaches are enforced on a case by case basis.

Police are aware of agency reports of increases in domestic violence which is not reflected in matters reported to Police. Proactive strategies are in place to manage domestic violence in lockdown, such as Apprehended Violence Order (AVO) compliance checks and risk assessments.

The PACER team and NSW Ambulance are a great support to Police when cases relate to mental health. Police are acutely aware of the heightened risk in the current environment.

Sydney Drug Education and Counselling Centre (SDECC) and Women and Children First have met with the Police Crime Manager and created a small committee to develop training for Northern Beaches frontline services and workers. The training will focus on how to approach clients and navigate complexity.

Non-Government Organisation (NGO) funding was raised. Smaller NGOs who are on the front line of mental health and family domestic violence would welcome contact from local State and Federal representatives to understand what they are experiencing and the urgent need for sustainable funding.

The residents of Collaroy and Narrabeen conveyed their thanks to Police in regard to their response to break and enter and car theft which occurred in their area.

Residents who have concerns in regard to non-compliance of Public Health Orders are encouraged to always check [NSW Health](https://www.health.nsw.gov.au) for the most up to date information. If proceeding with a report, ring the local Police Station or if urgent or life threatening 000. Crime Stoppers is Sydney wide – 1800 333 000.

In regard to medical exemption for mask wearing, it is understood that under the Public Health Orders, services can take reasonable steps to request compliance, have the right to refuse entry and require the person to leave. Police can be called in instances of dispute and people are required to provide evidence of exemption to Police.

6.2 COMPLIANCE REPORT - EXECUTIVE MANAGER ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

The Executive Manager Compliance provided an update on Compliance matters. The presentation, which includes statistics, will be circulated to the Committee.

Matters raised included:

- Data in relation to dog attacks and management of declared dangerous dogs.
- Alcohol Free Zone patrols continuing however quiet at the moment due to lockdowns. Rangers are continuing daytime patrols with priorities to assist police with adherence to Public Health Orders and social distancing.
- Real Estate signage compliance has been good following Council actions.
- Dumped waste and litter management – proactive patrols undertaken and letters issued to residential unit blocks providing information about requirements.
- Shopping trolley management – recent focus on the Brookvale and Balgowlah industrial areas.

DISCUSSION

Cat statistics have not been included in this meeting's data as none have recently been captured. A recent State Government funded initiative which Council are participating in with the RSPCA will assist local councils with nuisance cats. An update on this initiative will be reported to the next Committee meeting.

Council's COVID Safety Management Plan is still active and will be initiated again this season, from the October long weekend.

The Rangers were thanked for their care and compassion for a victim of a recent dog attack.

ITEM NO.	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	DUE DATE
6.2.	Provide a briefing on the joint Council and RSPCA nuisance cats initiative	Azmeena Kelly	7 October 2021

6.3 DRAFT COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN - UPDATE

The Committee were provided with an overview of the submissions received during the public consultation period of the Draft Community Safety Plan which closed on 20 July 2021. The presentation, which included the consultation results summary, will be circulated to the Committee.

A formal report on the consultation outcomes will be considered by Council at its September 2021 meeting.

6.4 ALCOHOL FREE ZONES - UPDATE

The Committee were provided with an overview of the 193 submissions received during the public consultation period (18 June to 18 July 2021) of proposed Alcohol Free Zones (AFZs) in six areas (Stage 1). The presentation, which included the consultation results summary, will be circulated to

the Committee.

AFZs differ from Alcohol Prohibited Areas (APAs) which are applicable in parks and reserves and come under Section 532A of the Local Government Act.

Stage 1 AFZs of Belrose, Collaroy, Forestville, Brookvale, Cromer and Narrabeen were adopted by Council on 27 July 2021. The re-established AFZs will be effective from 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2025.

Stage 2 AFZs which expire December 2021 include Avalon, Church Point, Dee Why, Freshwater, Mona Vale, Palm Beach and Newport (2 zones). A report proposing to engage with the community on re-establishment of these AFZs will be submitted to the Council's August meeting.

Stage 3 AFZs in Manly are due to expire in July and September 2022. It is intended to consider re-establishment of these AFZs in early 2022.

DISCUSSION

During the exhibition period the confusion with APAs in parks and reserves and outdoor dining was recognised. In response, Council developed a number strategies to inform the public, including website information, FAQs and individual respondent emails. Within the next public exhibition period, options to more strongly build this knowledge are being considered.

6.5 SYDNEY NORTH HEALTH DATA - CEO, SYDNEY NORTH HEALTH NETWORK

Lynelle Hales, provided an overview on the health data from the Sydney North district. The [Sydney North Health Network](#) (SNHN) is a government funded, local, not-for-profit primary health organisation supporting the role of general practice and primary health care.

The presentation, which included regional needs assessment, socio economic and mental health data will be circulated to the Committee.

Key areas of focus include older people, mental health, young people and those who are vulnerable. Local gaps identified include awareness and health literacy, ability to access the right services and ease of navigation of the health system.

Impact of the COVID pandemic on the Northern Beaches include:

- Increased presentation of youth to hospital and community based services, with increased complexity
- Higher rate of hospitalisations for mental health disorders
- An overall 12% increase in mental health emergency presentations (2019 – 2021) and 30% for self-harm/suicidal ideation presentations
- Additional funding being received for Mental Health: Youth, Older persons and CALD
- Vaccination rollout
- PPE equipment supplies for general practice, allied health and service providers.

DISCUSSION

[Community Northern Beaches](#) (CNB) has one of the largest migrant and refugee services on the Northern Beaches. There may be an opportunity to link with SNHN to educate, improve communications and reach these communities.

Northern Beaches COVID vaccination statistics were highlighted and 47% of Northern Beaches residents have had a least one vaccine dose. The current supply challenge will improve over the next month. SNHN can share generic vaccine information with the Committee to improve

community understanding and address vaccine caution. The barriers for under 60s access to vaccine was highlighted and confirmation provided that GP consultations are bulk billed.

[NSW Department of Health](#), [The Doherty Institute](#) and [The Lancet](#) have relevant information relating to COVID vaccines.

SDECC indicated that the positive relationship with the Primary Health Network (PHN) was appreciated. Sustainable funding to support the increase in mental health, particularly for smaller community organisations, was raised.

ITEM NO.	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	DUE DATE
6.5.1	Sydney North Health Network and Community Northern Beaches to discuss opportunities to work together	Lynelle Hales/ John Kelly	7 October 2021
6.5.2	Sydney North Health Network to share generic vaccine information with the Committee	Lynelle Hales	ASAP

6.6 COMMITTEE MEMBER INFORMATION SHARING

[Women and Children First](#) (formerly Manly Warringah Women's Resource Centre) General Manager, Trish Bramble provided the Committee with information relating to domestic violence on the Northern Beaches.

[National Homelessness Week](#) 1-7 August 2021 aims to raise awareness of the impact of homelessness and increase understanding of the issues that lead people into homelessness.

Women and Children First also supports people still living in the family home at risk of domestic violence and those homeless or at risk of homelessness. The last six weeks have been incredibly busy. The service just signed a new four year contract with no increase in funding but with 180% increased demand and still turning people away.

The Premier's Priority to cut rough sleeping by 50% by 2025 has had a huge impact on women and children escaping domestic violence as most of the available social and affordable housing has been taken up by rough sleepers. Crisis temporary accommodation in motels does not address the need, particularly in the current lockdown circumstances. Increased domestic violence response and support is required, more than just a drop in service. Nationally, 7,690 women returned to the home with the perpetrator due to the lack of social and affordable housing last year.

Noted the impact of COVID. Victims are locked down with perpetrators and are reluctant to get AVOs in that situation, children are home from school. Women at increased risk of domestic violence during and in the first 3 months after pregnancy.

The availability of Royal Far West's Drummond House from June to December 2020 filled a great gap however this is no longer available due to redevelopment. Women and children are unfortunately moved out of the Northern Beaches, away from their support network where accommodation is more affordable. Zonta has offered support to some women on temporary visas in this situation. [Rent Choice Start Safely](#) doesn't work well on the Northern Beaches due to rental subsidies being below the areas high rental rates.

DISCUSSION

The Committee noted the service's new name and the changes required to Council's website.

CNB acknowledged the housing difficulties for women however, the 'Together Home' for homeless people has been hugely successful to address the number of rough sleepers. To address the significant need, a similar housing subsidy scheme for women and children would be welcomed. Local State and Federal representatives were called upon to make representations to support this proposal and allow women and children to live safely within their community.

Alternative housing options were discussed. Mosman House and Beecroft House are for women over 50 (no children). To activate a support package proposal for urgent temporary accommodation for women and children, the ALH Group was identified as a COVID safe possibility.

[Northern Beaches Family Relationship Centre](#) Manager, Sharon Dale, provided an overview of the core business of the Relationships Australia service located in Dee Why. The presentation, including available programs and Northern Beaches specific statistics, will be circulated to the Committee.

The Centre's core business is families: counselling for families, individuals, couples, family dispute resolution with separating families and educational and parenting groups. Additionally, the service has had a significant increase in the area of domestic violence.

Government funded programs for male victims of domestic violence are being delivered by Relationships Australia:

The [Safer Pathway](#) program – on attending a domestic violence incident, police refer male victims to Safer Pathway where they will receive an offer of support and assistance from a specialist domestic violence support worker. The specialist worker does a safety assessment, offers help with safety planning, connects the person with helpful supports and services, and refers any person identified as being at 'serious threat' of harm to a Safety Action Meeting.

A six week [Men's Choice and Change](#) program is also offered and provides male victims over 16 years of age with individualised case management and support over six sessions and endeavours to provide safety planning, mental health support and personalised referrals for services such as accommodation, family law and counselling. The program is a new 12 month pilot for residents in the Ryde, Sydney City and Northern Beaches local government areas.

Within two weeks of the program launch, over 400 internet clicks accessed Relationship Australia's website.

Noted that crisis accommodation is not available for men with children.

[Taking Responsibility - Men's behaviour change program](#) is a group program (largely court ordered) for men who have committed domestic or family violence in the past but who are willing to move forward and make positive change in their behaviour. Relationships Australia has added a casework component to this program where the perpetrator's partner is also supported.

DISCUSSION

The lack of knowledge of services available for men as victim of domestic violence was highlighted.

SDECC recognised the opportunity to work collaboratively with Relationships Australia to encourage collective wisdom, reduce silos and increase sector knowledge.

ITEM NO.	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	DUE DATE
6.6.1	Update Council's website with Women and Children First (formerly Manly Warringah Women's Resource Centre)	Rob van den Blink	ASAP
6.6.2	Advocate with the ALH Group opportunities for urgent temporary accommodation for women and children	Jason Falinski / Mayor	ASAP
6.6.3	Share with Zali Steggall and Belinda Volkov the Men's Choice and Change links	Kath Young	ASAP

7.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

Northern Sydney Local Health District's, Melissa Palermo shared with the Committee that Health Promotion and Council are working together on a public art project on the north western corner of Brookvale Community Health Centre.

Protective community factors and funding for young people was raised as an issue. It is a key priority for Council to consider youth issues and work in this area is planned for the near future.

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

ITEM NO.	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	DUE DATE
1.1	Share Pioneer Clubhouse's well received Acknowledgment of Country with Committee Members	Mayor's Office	ASAP
6.2.	Provide a briefing on the joint Council and RSPCA nuisance cats initiative	Azmeena Kelly	7 October 2021
6.5.1	Sydney North Health Network and Community Northern Beaches to discuss opportunities to work together and provide an update on actions taken.	Lynelle Hales/ John Kelly	7 October 2021
6.5.2	Sydney North Health Network to share generic vaccine information with the Committee	Lynelle Hales	ASAP
6.6.1	Update Council's website with Women and Children First (formerly Manly Warringah Women's Resource Centre)	Rob van den Blink	ASAP
6.6.2	Advocate with the ALH Group opportunities for urgent temporary accommodation for women and children	Jason Falinski / Mayor	ASAP

- 6.6.3 Share with Zali Steggall and Belinda Volkov Kath Young ASAP
the [Men's Choice and Change](#) links

The meeting concluded at 10.17am

This is the final page of the minutes comprising 11 pages
numbered 1 to 11 of the Community Safety Committee meeting
held on Thursday 5 August 2021 and confirmed on Thursday 7 October 2021