

COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP EXECUTIVE GROUP - 2 FEBRUARY 2017

Present:

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| Cllr Liz Terry (Chair) | Lead Councillor for Neighbourhoods, RBC |
| Anthony Brain | Community Safety Manager, RBC |
| Chris Bagshaw | Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service |
| Emma Burroughs | Thames Valley Police |
| Kathryn Warner | Communities Manager, PACT |
| Lisa Wilkins | Troubled Families Project Manager, RBC |
| Liz Harrison | Chair, Berkshire Magistrates |
| Nicola Bell | Manager, Rahab Project |
| Sarah Gee | Head of Housing and Neighbourhoods, RBC |
| Simon Allcock | National Management Trainee, RBC |
| Stan Gilmour | Reading Police, TVP |
| Simon Hill | Committee Services, RBC |

Apologies:

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| Cllr Jan Gavin | Lead Councillor for Children's Services and Families, RBC |
| Cllr Tony Page | Deputy Leader and Police & Crime Panel representative, RBC |
| Aaron Blessing | Thames Valley OPCC |
| Ann-Marie Dodds | Head of Governance & Business Support, DCEEHS, RBC |
| Clare Muir | Policy, RBC |
| Geoff Davis | Head of Operations, Thames Valley CRC |
| Jo Middlemass | Anti-Social Behaviour Team Manager, RBC |
| Tina Heaford | Children's Action Team, South Reading |

1. MINUTES AND MATTER ARISING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 10 November 2016 were agreed as a correct record.

Further to Minute 2 of the previous meeting it was reported that the training on County Lines had been very popular with good feedback. There were a small number of places available for the remaining sessions.

2. TROUBLED FAMILIES UPDATE

Lisa Wilkins submitted a report providing an overview of the different elements of the Troubled Families Programme in Reading.

The report included information on the following:

- Progress with meeting DCLG payment-by-results targets;
- Current work to strengthen and share areas of specialised expertise with partners;
- A new data sharing agreement and a proposed new system for data management;

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- The first round of applications to the Innovations Fund and the awards to be made, up to a total of £70,020. The Awards had been made through the Council's Decision Book Issue 521.

Lisa reported that the second round of applications to the Innovations Fund was about to open, with more specific requirements for applicants to follow. The meeting noted that the proposed new database was potentially a significant asset for the CSP, and that the Delivery Groups should consider how it could be used.

AGREED: That the update report be noted.

3. PREVENT UPDATE

Simon Allcock presented a report submitted by Clare Muir giving an update on the implementation of the Prevent duty in Reading.

The report updated the Group on training and awareness raising activity since the previous report, and summarised the 7 cases considered by the Reading Channel Panel. It also explained that the Prevent Management Group had agreed to focus on the following areas of the Prevent Action Plan:

- Improving the referral pathway for partners
- Developing a communication strategy
- Developing an engagement plan with faith establishments
- Using educational establishments' returns on discriminatory incidents
- Identifying the range out-of-school settings providing support to young people

The Group noted that it was encouraging that referrals to the Channel Panel had come from a number of different agencies and not the Police.

AGREED: That the report be noted.

4. DELIVERY GROUP ACTION PLANS

The four Delivery Groups submitted their current actions plans, which set out progress against actions/tasks under the agreed priorities for each group.

a) Domestic Abuse

Sarah Gee reported on the Domestic Abuse Group's progress against the Action Plan. She noted that the Council was currently consulting on proposed changes to the commissioning of domestic abuse services, which included a reduction in funded refuge places from 25 to 15, alongside an increase in investment in non-accommodation based support and preventative activity. The Group had drafted a letter to central government to highlight that due to funding cuts local authorities were having to make large reductions in refuge provision, and to lobby for a national system of funding.

The meeting noted some apparent trends in the need for refuge provision, such as a recent fall in the number of referrals to the specialist Asian women's refuge provision and also fewer EU national being referred. It was suggested that relevant partners meet separately to consider these issues.

b) Violent Crime

Emma Burroughs, Thames Valley Police, gave the Group an update on the priorities and related tasks identified by the Violent Crime Delivery Group. She noted that the Pubwatch scheme had been reinvigorated, and that TVP had appointed an officer to lead on licensing issues. Purple flag accreditation had also now been obtained.

Emma also noted that the First Stop bus service would be relocated to Reading Minster, who had been very helpful in arranging and accommodating the change. It was agreed that a letter be sent on behalf of the CSP to recognise their support.

c) Modern Day Slavery and Adult Exploitation

Nicola Bell updated the Partners on the work of the Modern Day Slavery and Adult Exploitation Delivery Group. She noted that current issues included trying to increase take up of training in health services, and working to reduce referrals to Adult Social Care by diverting appropriate cases to RAHAB instead. More preventative work and awareness-raising was being carried out and there had been outreach across the town centre.

Nicola noted that Rahab had been asked to work across Berkshire, but that a 10% funding reduction from the PCC was expected, and future funding of victim support services had not been confirmed. The Chair suggested that victim support funding be discussed at the next meeting.

d) Vulnerable Communities

Anthony Brain updated the Partners on the priorities and tasks identified by the Vulnerable Communities Delivery Group. With regards to counter terrorism work he noted that the annual conference for the Town Centre Business community and a town centre evacuation table top exercise were being planned. Following the Christmas market attack in Berlin, the safety of large crowd situations such as Reading Festival had been reviewed.

AGREED:

- (1) That the Delivery Group Action Plans be received;
- (2) That the Partnership endorse a letter to government on refuge provision funding;
- (3) That S Gee, S Gilmour, A Brain, Cllr Terry and N Bell meet to discuss the refuge provision issue further;
- (4) That A Brain and M Golledge arrange for a letter from the CSP to Reading Minster to recognise their support for the community in hosting the First Stop service;
- (5) That Victim Support funding be discussed at the next meeting.

5. CRIME PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

Anthony Brain submitted a report on the latest crime figures to the end of September 2016, covering:

- All British Crime Survey crimes - there had been a 13% year-on-year increase, the main drivers of which were arson, theft from vehicle and criminal damage. The crime rate in Reading was 9/15 in the group of most similar local authority areas ('most similar group').
- Burglary of a dwelling - 16% year-on-year increase, Reading was 5/15 in most similar group.
- Violent Crime - 1% year-on-year increase, Reading was 2/15 in most similar group.

It was noted that acquisitive crime was increasing in all areas, and that although Reading had also seen a recent increase in burglary, the rate was still low compared to historical levels and within the most similar group. Violent crime had increased in many other areas, but not significantly in Reading, and there had been no homicides in Reading in 2016.

AGREED: That the report be noted.

6. UPDATE FROM THE OFFICE OF POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

There was no representative of the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office present at the meeting.

7. COMMUNICATION & PUBLICITY

Chris Bagshaw reported that there had been a large increase in incidents of arson (mainly bin and scrubland fires), and that RBFRS were working on a leaflet on this issue. He asked if this could be distributed with a future Council mailing.

The Group also noted that there would be an ACRE event to mark International Women's Day on 8 March 2017 and that a press release had been prepared on changes to the First Bus service.

AGREED: That A Brain try and arrange for the RBFRS arson leaflet to be distributed with a Council mail-out.

8. FUTURE ITEMS

Stan Gilmour reported that there was a proposal being developed to use the old Civic Centre site for community use with an early intervention/crime reduction programme.

AGREED: That the proposal for use of the old Civic Centre site be reported to the Group when ready.

9. DATES OF FUTURE MEETING

The next meeting would take place on Thursday 27 April 2017 at 9.30am.

(The meeting commenced at 9.30 am and closed at 10.51 am)

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Present:

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| Emma Burroughs (in the Chair) | Thames Valley Police |
| Cllr Tony Page | Deputy Leader and Police & Crime Panel representative, RBC |
| Cllr Jan Gavin | Lead Councillor for Children's Services and Families, RBC |
| Anthony Brain | Community Safety Manager, RBC |
| Jo Middlemass | Anti-Social Behaviour Team Manager, RBC |
| Sarah Gee | Head of Housing and Neighbourhoods, RBC |
| Aaron Blessing | Thames Valley OPCC |
| Geoff Davis | Head of Operations, Thames Valley CRC |
| Sally Andersen | Contract and Project Manager, RBC |
| Carol Kelly | Berkshire Magistrates |
| Simon Hill | Committee Services, RBC |

Apologies:

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|------------------------|--|
| Cllr Liz Terry (Chair) | Lead Councillor for Neighbourhoods, RBC |
| Kathryn Warner | Communities Manager, PACT |
| Liz Harrison | Chair, Berkshire Magistrates |
| Lisa Wilkins | Troubled Families Project Manager, RBC |
| Tina Heaford | Children's Action Team, South Reading Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service |

1. MINUTES AND MATTER ARISING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 2 February 2017 were agreed as a correct record.

Further to Minute 4(3) of the previous meeting a meeting to discuss refuge provision and new communities was being arranged.

Further to Minute 7 of the previous meeting the distribution of an arson leaflet with Council mail-out was still to be arranged.

2. DRUG AND ALCOHOL ACTION TEAM UPDATE

Sally Andersen gave an update on the current work of the Drug and Alcohol action team. She explained that the drug and alcohol team had now been incorporated into the public health team due to the significant commissioning function of their work. Following the completion of a Needs Assessment in 2016 there was now a greater emphasis on alcohol issues and prevention and education, to recognise the large number of problem drinkers, and there had been a reduction in work with the much smaller cohort of habitual Class A drug users. A drug and alcohol strategy was being prepared, although the national strategy was still awaited.

The Group discussed the need for more work to identify the cohort of offenders who were also problem drinkers, and to link up interventions with this group. Sally said that she would share new research on whether treatment reduced reoffending.

Sally asked how the CSP wished to engage with drug and alcohol services, and it was agreed that the Delivery Group Chairs' Group should discuss the issue further.

AGREED:

- (1) That the update be noted;
- (2) That the Chairs' group consider arrangements for reporting of drug and alcohol issues to the CSP and invite S Andersen to attend meetings as required.

3. COUNTY LINE UPDATE

This item was deferred to a future meeting.

4. DELIVERY GROUP ACTION PLANS

The Delivery Groups submitted their current actions plans, which set out progress against actions/tasks under the agreed priorities for each group.

a) Vulnerable Communities

Anthony Brain explained that the reporting of hate crime was increasing, but that current performance in achieving a successful outcome for victims of hate crime was 29% against a target of 43%, which placed Reading 11th out of 15 Thames Valley local police areas. The annual figures for referrals to Prevent were due to be published shortly, and would be reported to the next meeting.

Regarding the priority to raise awareness of the threat of terrorism and how to recognise signs, Anthony outlined the key points of the South East Counter Terrorism Unit's (SECTU) current assessment of the changing terrorist threat. The full briefing would be circulated to the Group after its forthcoming release. Anthony also noted that Councillors would be invited to the annual Project Griffin conference for the Town Centre Business community.

b) Violent Crime

Emma Burroughs reported that the move of the First Stop service to Reading Minster had been very successful, and noted the successful implementation of the Purple Flag scheme.

c) Modern Day Slavery and Adult Exploitation

No representative was present at the meeting.

d) Domestic Abuse

Sarah Gee noted that changes to Domestic Abuse services had been agreed at Policy Committee (Minute 98 of the meeting held on 13 March 2017 refers). Referrals to MARAC were now at 98% of the Safelives figure, above the target of 75%. A new communications group had been successfully established.

e) Integrated Offender Management

Geoff Davis outlined current work and priorities for the IOM Delivery Group, which included:

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- Understanding the profile of offenders, mapping current interventions and considering how to work differently with different groups;
- Putting a process in place to understand violent crime / Domestic abuse perpetrators, who were very different from the acquisitive crime cohort, and identify the best way to manage them;
- Considering how IOM could be used with regards to organised crime groups involved in adult exploitation such as cuckooing.

AGREED:

- (1) That the Delivery Group Action Plans be received;
- (2) That a report on Prevent referrals be submitted to the next meeting;
- (3) That detail on the performance for achieving a successful outcome for victims of hate crime be reported to the next meeting;
- (4) That A Brain circulate the briefing from SECTU to the Group when available.

5. OPCC UPDATE

Aaron Blessing gave an update including the following:

- detailed allocation of the PCC's 10% 'topslice' from the Community Safety Fund was yet to be decided, but it would be used to support current issues including supporting IOM and possibly FGM;
- a bid had been made for government(?) funding for RAHAB but a decision on this would not be made until after the General Election;
- a redesign of Victims' Services was planned for 2018 and this could involve a central hub in Reading to which all victims would be initially referred before being moved on to the relevant service.

AGREED:

- (1) That the update be noted;
- (2) That A Brain circulate information on the proposed Victims' Services redesign.

6. CRIME PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

A Brain gave an update on the latest crime figures. He noted that the overall rate of all British Crime Survey crime types was increasing, and that Reading was in the middle of the most similar group of local areas. The main drivers for the increase had been theft from vehicle and vehicle damage. For the rate of violence against the person Reading was below average in the most similar group, despite the night time economy (NTE) attracting large numbers of people from other areas, which suggested that the NTE was being well managed.

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It was noted that Reading, like other CSPs, had changed emphasis over the previous few years away from burglary and serious acquisitive crimes, but that crimes of this type were beginning to increase again. Detective Inspector Katie Smith outlined some current local trends in burglary.

AGREED: That the update be noted.

7. COMMUNICATION & PUBLICITY

A Brain suggested that due to the increase in burglary and theft from vehicle some publicity should be considered. Cllr Gavin noted that the University participated in the local NAG, and would be able to circulate information to their database of students in private rented accommodation.

8. DATES OF FUTURE MEETING

The 2017/18 meetings would take place on the following dates:

Thursday 21 September 2017

Thursday 16 November 2017

Thursday 1 February 2018

Thursday 26 April 2018

All meetings at 9.30am.

(The meeting commenced at 9.30 am and closed at 10.55 am)