

COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP EXECUTIVE GROUP - 1 FEBRUARY 2018

Present:

Cllr Liz Terry (Chair)	Lead Councillor for Neighbourhoods, RBC
Cllr Jan Gavin	Lead Councillor for Children's Services and Families, RBC
Anthony Brain	Community Safety Manager, RBC
Chris Bloomfield	Neighbourhood Initiatives Manager, RBC
Emma Burroughs	Deputy Area Commander, Thames Valley Police
Emma Smith	Thames Valley Police
Geoff Davis	Head of Operations, Thames Valley CRC
Jo Anderson	Neighbourhood Initiatives Officer, RBC
Jo Middlemass	Anti-Social Behaviour Team Manager, RBC
Kathryn Warner	Communities Manager, PACT
Nicola Bell	Manager, RAHAB
Paul Thomas	Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service
Rachel Jaycock	Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service
Sally Andersen	Contract and Project Manager - Public Health, RBC
Sarah Gee	Head of Housing and Neighbourhoods, RBC
Vicky Rhodes	Strategic Lead for Early Help, RBC
Simon Hill	Committee Services, RBC

Apologies:

Cllr Tony Page	Deputy Leader and Police & Crime Panel representative, RBC
Eddie Fitzpatrick	Thames Valley OPCC
Liz Harrison	Chair, Berkshire Magistrates
Melanie Smith	Head of Berkshire, National Probation Service

1. MINUTES AND MATTER ARISING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 16 November 2017 were agreed as a correct record.

Further to Minute 4 of the previous meeting Anthony Brain reported that he had booked rooms for the Reading Community Court at the Civic Offices until April 2018.

2. ENRICH PROJECT

Kathryn Warner presented an end of pilot report on the Enrich Project, a targeted intervention pilot with Alana House, Reading Borough Police, IRIS and RBC Troubled Families. The project had aimed to deal with domestic violence, mental health and socio-economic vulnerabilities by helping women develop resilience, life skills, and emotional literacy and by tackling substance and alcohol misuse. The meeting noted the positive outcomes achieved and lessons learned set out in the report.

AGREED:

That the report be noted.

3. LEARNING FROM READING BOROUGH COUNCIL'S APPROACH TO CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND NEXT STEPS IN ADDRESSING CRIMINAL EXPLOITATION

Vicky Rhodes presented a report, also submitted to the meeting of the Council's Adult Social Care, Children's Services and Education (ACE) Committee on 31 January 2018, which provided an overview on the significant improvements that had been delivered in addressing the risk of Child Sexual exploitation (CSE) in Reading.

The report explained that a revised approach had proved to be successful in addressing the local risk and management of child sexual exploitation and missing children, and was increasingly understood by practitioners and partners. It was therefore deemed appropriate to adopt this methodology to address new and emerging child and adolescent risk through other means of criminal exploitation such as 'County lines' activity in Reading. The report's recommendations had been approved for the ACE Committee.

AGREED:

That the report be noted.

4. TROUBLED FAMILIES - INNOVATION FUND

Vicky Rhodes gave a presentation on the projects funded by the second round of the Troubled Families Innovation Fund. The 10 projects were:

- Safe! (support for young people affected by crime)
- Browns (preventative support and advice to socially excluded, disadvantaged and vulnerable women)
- Right Trax (motor mechanics project)
- Children Heard and Seen (mitigating the effects of parental imprisonment on children, young people and their families)
- Home-Start (school readiness project)
- Smart Works (helping women prepare for the workplace through interview guidance, and supplying an interview outfit)
- Suit 2 Go (free suits, personalised grooming and interview advice to vulnerable men)
- Alana House (Peer Mentoring)
- Bounce back 4 Kids (therapeutic techniques to support children who have been victims or witnesses of domestic abuse)
- East-West Kids-Connect (family mindfulness training)

Vicky explained that projects had been evaluated according to their added value for the child, reduction in demand on statutory services, and impact on the family unit. Good links had been established to the Family Service to make referrals to projects. The criteria for selecting projects would be reviewed for the next funding round and a cross-partner selection board would be established.

The Chair noted that a number of projects run by regional or national organisations had been funded, and expressed the hope that local organisations could be supported as much as possible in future funding rounds.

AGREED:

That the presentation be noted.

5. COMMUNITY SAFETY SURVEY INITIAL FINDINGS

Chris Bloomfield and Jo Anderson gave a presentation on the initial findings of the 2017 Community Safety Survey.

The survey had been carried out online through the new Citizens Panel and there had been 989 responses. 24% of respondents felt that Reading had high or very high levels of crime, but 34% felt crime had increased and only 6% that it had decreased. The top issues identified across Reading had been highlighted as parking issues, potholes, drugs, begging and speeding. Drugs was one of the top three issues for the first time in six years

The next steps would be to refer specific issues to the relevant services and cross-reference the results with crime data and the CSP priorities. Localised information and analysis would be fed back to the Safer Neighbourhood Forums and ward councillors, and work from within the CSP such as actions on the drugs issue would be shared with neighbourhood forums when appropriate. Chris suggested that partners seek to improve on providing reassurance to the community and informing people of work being done to address local issues.

AGREED:

- (1) That the findings of the Community Safety Survey be noted;
- (2) That actions arising from the Survey be reported to a future meeting.

6. DRUG MISUSE STRATEGIC GROUP UPDATES

Drug dealing Intelligence Picture

Emma Smith reported on the current intelligence regarding drug dealing in Reading including the operation of County Lines.

Treatment Service Overview

Sally Anderson gave a presentation giving an overview of Treatment services, which were provided by IRIS Reading for adults and Source for young people. Sally explained that information on non-attendees was being collected so that these users could be targeted with the police. She noted that there were very low numbers of young people in treatment, which did not reflect the reported prominence of young people involved in County Lines.

Environmental Impact Presentation

Anthony Brain gave a presentation on dealing with the Environmental impact of drug misuse. He explained that targeted work included a Town Centre sweep and clear, bringing areas such as small parks back into public use, and a clean-up funded by the Business Improvement District (BID) of non-public space in the town centre that had attracted drug use. Planned work included engaging with the Safer Neighbourhood

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Forums on local issues, needle monitoring work with pharmacies, and securing empty shop frontage using powers under the Public Health Act.

Drug Dealing Operation update

Emma Burroughs reported on a high-profile police operation which had led to 52 arrests. The meeting discussed possible reasons for the increasing supply and demand for drugs in Reading and the age and demographic of users.

Next Steps

Emma Burroughs outlined some of the proposed next steps which included gathering more intelligence on the use of hotel rooms for dealing, and the development of a communications strategy which would be led by the BID.

AGREED: That the updates be noted.

7. CRIME PERFORMANCE REPORT

Anthony Brain submitted a report on the crime figures to the end of November 2017, which set out the year-on-year comparison, trend prediction and performance against the 15 other CSPs in Reading's 'Most Similar Group', for the following: total British Crime Survey Crimes, Burglary of a dwelling and Violent Crime.

The report also set out the outcome data for Domestic Abuse and Violence against the person (VAP). It was noted that the outcome rate for VAP was low and that this was partly due to fear of reprisals. However the overall level of Violent Crime was low and Reading was positioned 2nd among the 15 CSPs in the Most Similar Group. The Chair suggested that partners continue to promote the message that Reading was a safe place with a low rate of crime.

AGREED: That the report be noted.

8. OPCC UPDATE

No representatives of the OPCC were in attendance.

9. 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 reported that the CSP needed to consider readiness for the introduction of online hate crime recording and how this would be promoted.

The town centre evacuation table top exercise was planned for September 2018.

b) Violent Crime

Emma Burroughs reported that the night time First Stop in the Minster was continuing to work well, although the Street Wardens service was still to be commissioned.

c) **Modern Day Slavery and Adult Exploitation**

Nicola Bell noted that Rahab had been commissioned by the OPCC to provide a service across the Thames Valley. She noted frustration that immigration raids had been carried out without involving local agencies. There was concern that NRM referrals of potential victims of trafficking or modern slavery were low and that incidences of cuckooing were not being recognised as criminal exploitation.

d) **Domestic Abuse (DA)**

Sarah Gee reported on current progress including schools being invited to sign up to Operation Encompass, a new video link at Reading for giving evidence to Court and the publication of standard information/links on DA for partner websites. The MARAC (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference) process was being reviewed and a session with the Local Safeguarding Children Board was needed.

AGREED: That the Delivery Group Action Plans be received.

10. COMMUNICATION & PUBLICITY

The Chair noted that information from the meeting should be reported to the next round of Safer Neighbourhood Forums. It was suggested that care should be taken to be clear and specific about the extent and location of issues such as County Lines.

AGREED: That the CSP Management Group consider the reporting of issues such as County Lines back to Safer Neighbourhood Forums.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

Anthony Brain reported that consultation had concluded on a Public Spaces Protection Order, and it was anticipated that most of the proposed conditions would be implemented.

AGREED: That the position be noted.

12. DATES OF FUTURE MEETING

The remaining meeting for 2017/18 would take place on Thursday 26 April 2018 at 9.30am.

(The meeting commenced at 9.30 am and closed at 11.32 am)