

COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP MINUTES - 13 MARCH 2013

Present:

Avril Wilson (Chair)	Director of Education, Social Services & Housing, Reading Borough Council (RBC)
Councillor Tony Page	Deputy Leader, RBC
Asha Bahden	Thames Valley Probation
James Hahn	Local Police Area Deputy Commander, Thames Valley Police (TVP)
Lorraine Joslin	Voluntary and Community Sector representative
Michelle Tenreiro Perez	Reading Drug and Alcohol Manager, RBC
Jo Daley	Anti Social Behaviour Team Manager, RBC
Anthony Brain	Community Safety Manager, RBC
Sarah Gee	Head of Housing, Neighbourhoods and Community Services, RBC
Julie Pett	RBC
Simon Hill	Committee Services, RBC

Apologies:

Councillor Skeats	RBC
Stuart Greenfield	Local Police Area Commander, TVP
Lindsey Bass	Youth Offending Service Manager, RBC
Ann Manning	Magistrate

1. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 5 December 2012 were agreed as a correct record.

a) Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC)

Further to Minute 2, Councillor Page reported that a private meeting had been held to brief the PCC on issues in Reading.

b) Third Party Reporting Centres

Further to Minute 3, Anthony Brain reported that potential funding for a Third Party Reporting Service had been identified. Anthony would be meeting 'Stop Hate UK' to discuss possible contractual arrangements.

c) Alana House

Further to Minute 4, it was reported that Alana House had secured a year's funding from Thames Valley Probation, and a group led by Sarah Holland were now looking at longer term options. Lorraine Joslin asked that she be included in future meetings of the group.

Agreed:

- (1) That the positions be noted;
- (2) That Sarah Gee speak to Lorraine Joslin about the Alana House group.

COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP MINUTES - 13 MARCH 2013

2. STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT

Anthony Brain gave a presentation on the Strategic Assessment, a draft of which had been circulated with the agenda.

The presentation outlined the current crime rate and significant issues in the following areas:

- Overall crime rate - there had been a 14% reduction in all crime, which equated to 2,461 fewer offences. However Reading was still 12th out of the 15 areas in the 'Most Similar Group' (MSG) and above the group average.
- Theft from Vehicle - this had increased by 18%, which was likely to be associated with one multiple offender.
- Burglary - this had decreased by 34%. However, Reading remained above the MSG average and burglary was still a neighbourhood priority.
- Robbery - had decreased by 31% and was below the MSG average.
- Theft from Person - had decreased by 2% and the 'spike' in offences around the Reading Festival had reduced.
- Shoplifting - there had been a 12% increase (identical to the national increase) and Reading was now worst in the MSG. Possible reasons included higher reporting, security cutbacks, and performance pay schemes that encouraged security staff to make arrests rather than prevent offences occurring. The profile showed an even spread of offences across the week and no obvious type of goods being targeted. James Hahn noted that this might be evidence of a shift beginning to occur from burglary to shoplifting.
- Serious Violent and Sexual Offences - serious violence had decreased by 22% and serious sexual offences by 10%. There had been a recent rise in reporting of historic cases, which could be associated with media coverage of Jimmy Savile.
- Violence Against the Person (VAP) - this had decreased by 27%. However the detection rate had also reduced, which could be associated with a difficulty getting victim and witness statements for incidents of town centre violence associated with alcohol.
- Domestic Violence - there had been an increase in the number of reports to the police and a 19% reduction in repeat victimisation, which suggested that there had been more successful interventions. An increase in reports of honour-based violence could also suggest increased awareness and confidence within the community. These reports had peaked in July, which needed to be analysed. Domestic Violence where children were involved had been featured as a problematic issue. There was significant under-reporting of domestic violence and the emphasis was on increasing the rate of reporting rather than reducing the recorded rate of offences.

COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP MINUTES - 13 MARCH 2013

- Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) - there had been an overall reduction in both Council and Police reports, and 83% of respondents to the Place Survey had reported that ASB was not a problem in their local area. However, this remained a priority and concern for the community.
- Hate Crime - there had been an 11% reduction in reports, which could indicate a lack of confidence. An increase in reporting of all categories of hate crime in Slough was noted.
- Offender Management - there had been significant reductions in the re-offending rate of Prolific and Priority Offenders, which had helped achieve reductions particularly in high impact crimes such as burglary. With an ever-changing cohort it was difficult to monitor annually but October - December 2012 had shown a 51% reduction in re-offending.
- Substance Misuse - Reading would no longer be a DIP Intensive area after March 2013. A need for separate focus on drug and alcohol issues had been identified, as well as a need to look specifically at the different needs of young people.

Anthony also reported that some of the emerging issues for TVP included London-based drug dealers; persistent issues concerning burglary offences and the volume of different criminals who resorted to this type of offence (a relatively low proportion were Class A drug users), and child sexual exploitation, for which there was a lack of data. James Hahn also noted that disposal of stolen goods was a current issue.

From the Assessment a set of potential priorities had been identified:

- Theft from Vehicle
- Burglary
- Shoplifting
- VAP offences with a focus on Detection
- Domestic Violence including the impact on Children & Safer Relationships
- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Hate Crime
- Substance Misuse with a separate focus on Alcohol, and Young People

These draft priorities had been mapped against the Police & Crime Commissioner Plan and were also discussed in a workshop (see Minute 3 below).

AGREED: That the presentation and draft Strategic Assessment be noted.

3. STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT WORKSHOP

The meeting divided into two groups for a discussion of questions related to the Strategic Assessment.

1) Are the draft priorities correct and what are the gaps?

It was suggested that burglary and 'domestic violence including the impact on children & safer relationships' should be priorities. Hate crime and 'Substance Misuse with a separate focus on Alcohol, and Young People' should also be

COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP MINUTES - 13 MARCH 2013

priorities but both needed a more specific focus. 'Violence against the person' offences needed further analysis in order to decide whether there was a particular aspect that should be a CSP priority, and Shoplifting could be a priority, with a possible link to burglary.

Anti-social behaviour was seen as 'business as usual' for neighbourhood-level working, but a specific aspect such as 'street population' could be a priority. Theft from vehicle was seen as 'business as usual' for TVP and not requiring CSP focus.

2) Can the current CSP structure deliver these priorities and have we got the right links to other delivery structures?

It was noted that there was currently some overlapping and multiple reporting on community safety issues, which created additional work and made it more difficult to focus on specific priorities. Different bodies were also not always clear on each other's roles, and accountability and reporting lines therefore needed to be clarified.

It was suggested that the delivery group structure be rationalised once the CSP's priorities had been agreed, with the Executive Group then setting clear outcomes and accountability which would allow the delivery groups to focus on their core priorities and, if necessary, refuse other work. However, it was noted that a degree of adaptability and 'covering gaps' was needed during the current transition to new structures e.g. in health.

3) During the assessment some people have suggested 'special interest' themed groups - how might this work or not?

It was generally agreed that standing 'themed' groups should not be pursued. Where a particular theme was emerging as a concern a short-term task & finish group could be appointed or a themed meeting of the CSP held. Twice-yearly strategic sessions, with follow-up actions carried out by the delivery groups, were also suggested.

There was also a question on future alcohol and drug strategy, but it was agreed to defer this for discussion elsewhere or at a future meeting.

AGREED:

- (1) That Anthony write up a summary of the workshop, in consultation with Sarah Gee and James Hahn, and circulate it to the CSP Management Group;
- (2) That the Management Group consider the workshop feedback and make any recommendations to the CSP.

4. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The meeting dates for 2013/14 would be circulated in due course.

(The meeting commenced at 9.30am and closed at 12.00pm)