

**COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP EXECUTIVE GROUP MINUTES - 4 DECEMBER
2013**

Present:

Councillor Terry (Chair)	Lead Councillor for Neighbourhoods, RBC
Councillor Page	Deputy Leader and Police & Crime Panel representative, RBC
Anthony Stansfeld	Thames Valley Police & Crime Commissioner
Stuart Greenfield	Local Police Area Commander, Thames Valley Police (TVP)
James Hahn	Local Police Area Deputy Commander, TVP
Keith Stacy	Inspector, TVP
Ann Manning	Magistrate
Asha Badhen	Senior Probation Officer, Thames Valley Probation
Julie Pett	Locality Manager, RBC
Michelle Tenreiro-Perez	DAAT Manager, RBC
Lorraine Briffitt	Voluntary and Community Sector representative
Anthony Brain	Community Safety Manager, RBC
Jo Middlemass	Anti Social Behaviour Team Manager, RBC
Jo Anderson	Neighbourhood Project Officer, RBC
Pol Exeter	Consumer Protection Manager, RBC
Sarah Gee	Head of Housing, Neighbourhoods and Community Services, RBC
Tina Heaford	Youth Engagement Service, RBC
Simon Hill	Committee Services, RBC

Apologies:

Councillor Lovelock	Leader, RBC
Gabriel Amahwe	Director, Thames Valley Probation
Suzanne Westhead	Head of Adult Services, RBC

1. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 25 September 2013 were agreed as a correct record.

Further to Minute 2 of the previous meeting, Sarah Gee noted that a one-year Community Safety Fund settlement had been announced by the PCC. Following negotiations there had been an adjustment to the formula, resulting in a smaller funding reduction for Reading than had previously been forecast. Work was continuing on absorbing the reduction in funding and ensuring continuity of services. Anthony Stansfeld noted that Reading would also receive additional police funding and resources for tackling burglary in 2014/15.

Further to Item 4 of the previous meeting, regarding the changes to Probation, Anthony Brain reported that the Home Office had issued guidance to the new Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRC) stating that they were required to continue being a member of existing statutory partnerships such as the CSP and that a protocol should be agreed. The CRCs would become the responsible authority on 1 April 2014 and would remain public sector organisations until 2015.

Further to Minute 6(c) of the previous meeting, Councillor Page reported that the Council had passed a motion on the Reading Prison site and that discussions were

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being held with the Ministry of Justice in advance of a draft planning statement being produced. Formal closure of the prison would take place on 20 December 2013.

AGREED: That the position be noted.

2. CRIME FIGURES OVERVIEW

Anthony Brain gave a presentation on crime figures as at the end of October 2013, using the BCS crime categories, and showing the actual number of crimes recorded against the agreed target of a 5% year-on-year reduction.

Anthony noted that the figures showed that for the overall number of BCS category crimes, there had been an 11% year-on-year reduction and Reading had moved from the top end to the middle (8th of 15) of the group of 15 comparable areas. There had been a 45% reduction in burglary and Reading were now 5th of 15 in the group, having in the past had the highest rate in the group and one of highest nationally. There had also been a reduction in robbery and theft of a vehicle, but the figures for shoplifting showed a 9% increase on the previous year and Reading now had the highest rate within the group.

Anthony explained that it was also intended to monitor violence against the person in the town centre, but that work was still required to extract the figures for the town centre from the overall data.

AGREED: That the presentation be noted.

3. COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN

Anthony Brain submitted a report presenting the draft Community Safety Plan. The Plan would cover the period 2013-16 and was based on the findings of the latest Strategic Assessment. It set out the priorities agreed by the CSP Executive Group at its workshop in September 2013 and the mechanisms for delivering the priorities.

The report explained that the agreed priorities were to reduce:

- Burglary of a dwelling
- Shoplifting
- Violence Against a Person
- Domestic Violence
- Situational Anti-Social Behaviour
- Hate Crime
- Substance misuse

It had been agreed that these priorities would be delivered through five delivery groups:

- Domestic Violence Delivery Group
- Community-Based Crime Group
- Offender Management Delivery Group
- Town Centre Delivery Group
- Drug and Alcohol Delivery Group

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Each Group was responsible for developing an Action Plan to be added to the Plan, and new priorities would also be added as they emerged. Monitoring of performance against the Plan would be the responsibility of the Executive Group, who would receive a report from each of the delivery group chairs at least once a year, or more often should performance against the agreed targets not be achieved.

AGREED:

- (1) That the Community Safety Plan be adopted;
- (2) That the supporting Action Plans be submitted to the next meeting;
- (3) That the Delivery Group Chairs give a detailed report to the Executive Group once a year and report back to each meeting on any targets that were not being achieved.

4. CSP DELIVERY GROUP PRIORITIES

The Chairs of the Delivery Groups gave presentations on their priorities and emerging action plans as follows:

(a) Town Centre Delivery Group

Group Chair Keith Stacy explained that this Group would be responsible for work to reduce violence against a person and shoplifting. With regards to violence he explained that the TVP targets and categories would be used for monitoring. The current targets for the entire Local Police Area were for a 2% reduction and 45% detection rate, and 2014/15 targets would be in place by March 2014. Keith outlined current work around the night time economy, including the imminent launch of the First Stop bus, and the potential uses for the funding from the late night levy that would be secured if the new Business Improvement District were agreed.

Keith tabled a draft action plan for Shoplifting, which identified two areas of work - targeting main stores with detection-driven policies to change working practices, and crime reduction measures. For each area a number of actions were set out with an identified lead partner and timescale. Keith noted the significant increase in shoplifting, which could partly be attributed to burglary offenders now committing shoplifting. The proposed targets were to slow the rate of increase over 2014-16 and for no increase in 2016/17.

Keith highlighted the problem of the increasing number of second hand stores providing an easy outlet for the sale of stolen items, and noted that it was planned to investigate the option of introducing legislation to try and control this issue (the 'Kent' Act). Anthony Stansfeld requested a briefing on this issue, with a view to circulating advice to other local authorities in the Thames Valley region.

Lorraine Briffitt reported that the voluntary sector provided a course for convicted shoplifters, which was based on the restorative justice model.

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(b) Drug and Alcohol Delivery Group

Julie Pett gave a presentation on behalf of the Group Chair Suzanne Westhead. She tabled a presentation which set out the membership, sub-groups, function and purpose of the Group and a summary of current work activity. The presentation also covered the Group's three priorities of tendering of adult drug and alcohol treatment services, strengthening the management and monitoring of harm reduction issues, and understanding alcohol need and prevalence in Reading. Julie noted that the tender for adult drug and alcohol treatment would be issued shortly.

Lorraine Briffitt reported that the Strategic Sex-workers Action Group had not met for some time, and that a lack of buy-in to the Thames Valley prostitution strategy was also a concern.

(c) Domestic Violence Delivery Group

Group Chair Sarah Gee gave a presentation outlining the key achievements in this area and the current priority which was to develop a new Reading Domestic Abuse Strategy from 2014 to reflect current needs, and build on achievements to date. Work to develop the strategy would include reviewing the current strategy and matrix of services available for perpetrators, victims and children and identifying gaps/issues/changing needs, and ensuring that the voice of the victim/survivor was heard in both developing and monitoring the strategy. The Group would also work towards implementing the MARAC review and improving data collection. Sarah also noted the issues around domestic violence nationally, such as increased risk during pregnancy, emerging evidence to show an increase in domestic violence and abuse amongst adolescents, and housing pressure.

(d) Community-Based Crime Group

Group Chair James Hahn explained that this newly-formed Group would be working on reducing Anti-social Behaviour (ASB), reducing the impact of hate crime on victims and families, and increasing community engagement.

James explained that the Group would look at various ways of measuring and prioritising the many different forms of ASB and the different areas in which it occurred. They would use data and priorities from existing groups, for example in the area of housing, to inform the Action Plan. There had been a reduction in reported hate crime, with the exception of homophobia, and he noted that use of the third party reporting service had been very low. In looking at community engagement the Group would work with Neighbourhood Action Groups, Residents Associations and other groups.

Tina Heaford suggested that the Youth Service be represented on the Community-Based Crime Group.

(e) Offender Management Delivery Group

Asha Badhen gave a presentation on behalf of the Group Chair Gabriel Amahwe. She noted that this was a well-established Group and outlined some of the achievements to date. Priorities included ensuring a smooth transition to the new Probation arrangements, expanding and improving the Integrated Offender Management (IOM)

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service, developing and enhancing peer mentor and volunteer support, and increasing the use of restorative justice.

AGREED: That the priorities and emerging action plans for the Delivery Groups be endorsed.

5. NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION GROUP SURVEY

Jo Anderson submitted a report on the Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) Survey.

The report explained that in February 2013 the NAG Chairs had agreed that a single Borough-wide consultation take place, with the exception of the Redlands and University and Oxford Road NAGs who already had a robust consultation process in place and would continue with their existing arrangements. The survey had been carried out between 1 June and 31 July 2013 and the leaflet was attached to the report at Appendix 1. Approximately 700 responses had been received.

The report explained that residents had been asked to list crimes, anti-social behaviour or other traffic-related problems that they had experienced or witnessed in the last 12 months. 62% had listed speeding, 50% indicated cycling on the footpath and 49% littering/fly-tipping. When asked to identify their top concerns residents had highlighted speeding (16%), parking (13%), drugs (10%) and burglary (10%). The top three priority areas for each individual NAG had also been identified, and these were set out in the report. NAGs have produced problem profiles for each of their priorities and action plans were being produced. Examples of problem profiles for burglary and speeding were attached to the report at Appendices 2 and 3.

The report noted that there were a number of areas where the NAG priorities overlapped with one of the CSP's priorities including burglary, prostitution, drugs, alcohol related ASB and rough sleeping. The Neighbourhood officer for these areas would ensure that the local action plan complemented and worked alongside the respective delivery groups' action plan. The report also set out examples of partnership working on speeding, cycling on the footpath and litter.

The Chair noted that the outcomes of the survey could help energise the NAGs, and said that areas of the Borough that did not currently have an active NAG should be revisited.

AGREED: That the report be noted.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

(a) Task and Finish Group on Working with Female Offenders, Those at Risk of Offending and Other Vulnerable Women

Further to Minute 5 of the meeting held on 10 July 2013, Sarah Gee reported that the probation service would be funding services at Alana House for 2014/15. The task and finish group would continue to look at options for a longer-term funding model.

AGREED: That the position be noted.

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7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The remaining meeting for 2013/14 would be held on 12 March 2014.

(The meeting commenced at 9.32am and closed at 10.57am)