

## READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

### REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

TO:	HOUSING NEIGHBOURHOODS AND LEISURE COMMITTEE		
DATE:	1 APRIL 2014	AGENDA ITEM:	8
TITLE:	COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN		
LEAD COUNCILLOR:	CLLR TERRY	PORTFOLIO:	NEIGHBOURHOODS
SERVICE:	HOUSING AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES	WARDS:	BOROUGHWIDE
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#### 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 Reading's Community Safety Partnership is required to produce a three year rolling plan. The new plan is based on the findings of the annual strategic assessment. The strategic assessment identified seven priorities for the CSP to focus on between now and - 2016. These priorities are:

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

1.2 On the 10th July 2013 the CSP formally agreed the priorities and on the 4<sup>th</sup> December 2013 the Executive Group signed off the Community Safety Plan 2013-16.

1.3 The Community Safety Plan sets out the key successes of the partnership during the period of the last plan. In the final year of the plan this included:

- Overall crime fell by 11% (1,690 fewer crimes)
- Burglary was reduced by 34% (431 fewer victims)
- Violent Crime was reduced by 16% (548 fewer victims)
- Car theft reduced by 15% (16 fewer cars stolen)

1.4 The Community Safety Plan will be delivered through five strategic delivery groups, chaired by senior officers from across the partnership. The five delivery groups are:

- Domestic Abuse Delivery Group (DADG)
- Community Based Crime Delivery Group (CBCDG)
- Offender Management Delivery Group (OMDG)
- Town Centre Delivery Group (TCDG)
- Drug and Alcohol Delivery Group (DAADG)

1.5 Each of the delivery groups has produced an action plan against their priorities.

## **2. RECOMMENDED ACTION**

2.1 That the Housing Neighbourhoods and Leisure Committee acknowledge the report, the CSP Priorities and strategic groups' actions plans.

## **3. POLICY CONTEXT**

3.1 The Crime and disorder Act 1998 (as amended) set out the requirement for the setting up of Community Safety Partnership based on the lower level local authority areas. The act also requires the Executive group of the CSP to produce a three year rolling plan.

3.2 Reading Borough Council is one of the statutory partners of the CSP and provides both strategic and operational leadership.

3.3 The Lead Councillor for Neighbourhoods Chairs of CSP.

## **4. OUTCOME OF THE COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN 2009-13**

4.1 During the period of last Community Safety Plan there have been significant reductions across almost all crime types. These reductions not only mean fewer victims but there is also evidence that the fear of crime across Reading is falling.

4.2 Working with and alongside communities the CSP has reduced crime in Reading. Over the past three years the total recorded crime fell by 27%. In the final year of the strategy the figure fell from 15,433 to 13,753.

4.3 Table 1 below shows the successful reduction key crime areas during the last Community Safety Plan.

Crime Type	Final Year percentage Reduction	Final Year actual reduction	3 year percentage reduction
Serious Acquisitive Crime	17%	c500	32%
Burglary Dwelling	34%	431	38%
Robbery personal property	33%	79	51%

**Table 1: Key Crime Reduction figures**

- 4.4 The Residents survey shows a similar picture with fewer people concerned about crime in their area, which was 36% in 2011 and 29% in 2012.
- 4.5 The CSP has also had success in tackling ASB, which often impact greatly on communities. Report to the police fell from 88 incidents in 2010-11 to 54 incidents in 2011-12. Once again the latest residents survey supports this with impressive reductions across all perception measure for ASB (see table 2).

Measure / Year	2008	2009	2011	2012
Perception of ASB as a problem	<b>27%</b>	21%	18%	<b>18%</b>
Perception of drunk/rowdy behaviour as a problem	<b>41%</b>	29%	31%	<b>28%</b>
Perception of drug use/ dealing as a problem	<b>39%</b>	36%	34%	<b>31%</b>
Perception of parents taking responsibility for their children	<b>25%</b>	32%	44%	<b>51%</b>

**Table 2: Perception of ASB 2008 - 2012**

## 5. HOW THIS HAS BEEN ACHIEVED

5.1 Much of the crime reduction has been attributed to the successful management of offenders through our Integrated Offender Management (IOM) process. This includes:

- Reading's Drug and Alcohol Action Team out performing the national average for those retained in treatment.
- 84% of young people accessing treatment exiting in a planned way against a national average of 79%
- 100% reduction in offending for those young people successfully exiting treatment
- Reading's Youth Offending Service had out performed both the Thames Valley and National figures as measured by the Ministry of Justice. First time entrants falling by 69% over 3 years or 166 fewer of Reading's young people entering the criminal justice system.

## 6. DELIVERING THE PRIORITIES

6.1 Despite the success in reducing crime and fear of crime in Reading there is still much to do. The residents' survey identified crime as the most important factor for making somewhere a good place to live and 29% identified it as an area for improvement. In the 2012 census Reading had 55 lower super output areas in the worst 20% in England and Wales for crime.

6.2 The CSP is committed to supporting and working alongside our communities in tackling their local concerns. The Neighbourhood Action Groups are a key part of delivering this; examples of their work include:

- Targeting estate agents who leave "to let" signs up beyond the period allowed, to reduce burglary and improve the street scene.
- Carried out work with residents in burglary hotspots areas of South Reading which led to a 46% reduction in burglary in the targeted area.
- Speeding reduction initiative along roads identified by residents.

### 6.3 Domestic Abuse Delivery Group

6.3.1 We have continued to see an increase in the reporting of domestic abuse however the year on year analysis of repeat incidents is showing a decrease. This would indicate appropriate interventions preventing escalation.

6.3.2 The CSP had a domestic violence strategy in place for the life of the previous Community Safety Plan, some of its key achievements are:

- Public Health has carried out a review of Reading's Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC).

- Commissioned a “family choices” programme aimed at reducing repeat incidents and the impact of abusive relationships on children.
- Introduced a new pilot project aimed to improve the identification and referrals of domestic violence survivors in primary care.
- Delivered an honour based violence conference.
- Introduced a new two level training programme for staff.

6.3.3 The DADG is reviewing and developing a new domestic abuse strategy by:

- Mapping services and identifying gaps.
- Implementing the recommendations from the MARAC review
- Further analyse the needs and identifying gaps and changing needs
- Develop a framework for monitoring performance
- Ensuring the voice of the victim and survivor influence the development and monitoring of the strategy.

6.3.4 Since the introduction of the new Community Safety Plan the DADG has:

- Agreed monitoring measures for the MARAC.
- Commissioned a report on the quality and contribution to the MARAC of all agencies.
- Started a review of Sanctuary provision in Reading
- Adapted the Choices programme for clients with a Learning Disability (LD)
- Introduced a presentation on LD clients as part of level 2 training

## 6.4 Community Based Crime Delivery Group

### ASB

6.4.1 Reading’s continued investment in tackling ASB has resulted in significant improvements in all indicators based on the old National Indicator set, see table 2 above. However it remains a high priority for the people of Reading with nearly half of those who responded to the residents’ survey reporting they do not feel safe after dark.

6.4.2 Neighbourhood or situational ASB is a major concern. In some areas this is very specific such as street drinking or on street prostitution, whilst in other areas it is more general such as litter or graffiti.

6.4.3 The CSP already has a number of operational group working on these issues and over the period of the last plan they have:

- Reduced the impact of on street prostitution
- Targeted street begging in the town centre
- Introduced measures to tackle on street drinking

6.4.4 The new delivery group will provide strategic leadership by:

- Reviewing the operational plans of the groups and set clear measurable targets
- Produce and deliver Reading's first cross service Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy

## Hate Crime

6.4.5 It is well documented that all forms of Hate Crime are under reported, so the reduction in reporting of 11% between 2010 and 2012 are concerning. The impact of hate crime can be substantial and goes much wider than the individual, impacting on whole communities.

6.4.6 Although not a priority in the previous Community Safety Plan the partnership has been working to reduce hate crime across Reading and this has included;

- Delivered disability hate crime training for partner agencies and staff
- Introduced a "Safe Places" scheme in Partnership with Reading Business Against Crime
- Introduced Third Party Reporting via StopHate UK

6.4.7 The new delivery group will improve the outcome for victims of hate crime by:

- Develop a hate crime forum that will provide a voice for victims
- Review the effectiveness of third party reporting
- Develop an action plan linked to the Thames Valley Police hate crime strategy.

6.4.8 Since the introduction of the new Community Safety Plan the CBCDG has:

- Established strategic oversight of ASB
- Established effective governance systems for associated sub-groups
- Started a review of the operational plan for the SWAG and agreed key measures
- Established a strategic oversight for Hate Crime
- Established strategic oversight community engagement

## 6.5 Integrated Offender Management Delivery Group

6.5.1 Reading's offender management approach has been highlighted as one of the major influences in the substantial reduction in crime across Reading.

6.5.2 This has contributed to:

- Burglary reductions that outperform our most similar group
- Priority access to supported accommodation for offenders

- Introduction of a single point of contact within housing to improve effective joint working
- Implementation of a pilot “short term” emergency accommodation scheme for those who meet the criteria for supported accommodation
- Introduction of voluntary sector resettlement support to find a secure appropriate housing and long-term resettlement plans
- Reductions in youth reoffending rates that out perform Thames Valley, South East and England averages.

6.5.3 The CSP believe the continued effective management of offender as being essential to continue to deliver reduction in crime. The OMDG will of this by:

- Prepare for the changes in the Probation service to ensure the smooth transition from the current organisation to the new delivery model
- Develop and enhance the use of peer mentoring in supporting offenders
- Establish a performance monitoring tool to measure the impact of the scheme
- Improve the future capability and capacity of IOM through the use of GPS tagging
- Increase the use of restorative justice principles.

6.5.4 Since the introduction of the new Community Safety Plan the OMDG has:

- Updated the CSP Executive on the Transforming Rehabilitation agenda
- Begun to review IOM cohort against Domestic Violence Perpetrators and CSP Priorities.
- Agreed performance measures for the group
- Introduced a pilot scheme of voluntary tagging of offenders on the IOM scheme

## 6.6 Town Centre Delivery Group

6.6.1 Reading has a flourishing night time economy with over 140 pubs and clubs within a 2 mile radius. It is also one of the UK’s top ten retail destinations. In addition to the local population Reading had 5.97 million day visitors in 2012. This presents Reading’s CSP with a number of challenges, especially around shoplifting and violent crime.

### Shoplifting

6.6.2 Like many areas Reading has experience an increase in the levels of shop lifting. The strategic assessment found that Reading reflected the national average of a 12% increase. Given Reading's position as one of the premier shopping destination in the South East the increase is amplified and Reading is now worst when compared to it most similar family.

6.6.3 Whilst this is the first time shoplifting has appeared as a priority for the CSP and number of imitative are already in place to prevent and reduce this crime. These include:

- Reading Business Against Crime (RBAC)
- Town Safe Radio Scheme

6.6.4 The TCDG has identified a number of key priorities for the first year these are:

- Targeting main stores with detection driven policies, to change their work practises to prevention
- Work with the Business Improvement district to challenge the above practises
- Patrol plan and local policing strategies to prevent and reduce offences
- Review provision of effective CCTV in stores
- Work with the DAADG to engage offender in drug rehabilitation

### Violent Crime

6.6.5 Over the course of the previous Community Safety Plan we have seen substantial fall in violent crime Between November 2012 and March 2013 there were 31% fewer violent offences in the Town Centre than the same period the previous year. However more recently we have begun to see violence against the person increase and detections fall.

6.6.6 The CSP and its partners have introduced a number of key measures to tackle Town Centre violence. This has included:

- Targeted CCTV coverage linked directly to the Town Safe Radio Scheme
- Introduction of street pastors
- Obtaining a package of funding to support the introduction of the First Stop bus.

6.6.7 The TCDG has identified a number of key priorities for the first year, these include:

- Develop robust and effective data collection at A&E
- Strengthen pub-watch and door-watch through training
- Introduce the First Stop bus into the town centre
- Make effective use of social media to inform potential victims and perpetrators
- Review the police operation in line with Thames Valley police force best practise.

6.6.8 Since the introduction of the Community Safety plan the TCDG has:



- Identified a number of shops with detection driven policies and agreed a time scale to meeting with them
- Met with the national security of a business to discuss policies
- Identified how the Kent Act was introduced
- Identified a police officers as single point of contact for second-hand stores
- Identified possible funding for additional training in relation to pubwatch and doorwatch
- Overseen the introduction of the First Stop bus in the Town Centre

## 6.7 Drug and Alcohol Delivery Group (DADG)

6.7.1 There is a well established link between some crime and drug misuse and much of the violent crime within the town centre is fuelled by alcohol.

6.7.2 The DADG is a well established group within the CSP and as such has been working to the clear action plan for some time. This has included:

- Undertaking a needs assessment for alcohol treatment
- Harm reduction initiatives to reduce drug related deaths
- Above average performance in retaining people in treatment for 12 weeks or more
- Commenced the commissioning process for drug treatment services in Reading
- Working with the operational groups for street-sex working and begging to provide effective intervention for offenders.
- Supporting the OMDG in providing treatment services and intervention for offenders

6.7.3 The DADG has identified the following priorities for the first year of the new Community Safety Plan:

- Re-commissioning of drug services
- Strengthening the management and monitoring of harm reduction
- Improve governance pathways for young peoples substance misuse
- Assist in the creation of a robust alcohol strategy and action plan to tackle problematic alcohol misuse
- Provide strategic leadership to the street population and sex workers groups

6.7.4 Since the introduction of the Community Safety plan the DADG has:

- Continued the monthly activities and ongoing recovery initiatives including allotment, newsletter and café.
- Agreed performance levels and monitoring
- Progressed the tending of drug and alcohol services.

- Introduced a Drug related death and near miss meeting with clear aims to reduce injecting related harm, overdose and drug related deaths.
- Begun to identify opportunities from increased working with CCGs and Public Health.
- Started the production of a needs assessment for commissioners.

## **7. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

7.1 An equalities impact assessment has been carried out; this found no negative impact on any of the protective groups. Individual delivery groups will monitor impact as part of their performance processes.

## **8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 The CSP has a statutory duty to produce an Annual Strategic Assessment and three year rolling plan.

8.2 The CSP has a statutory duty to hold at least one public facing meeting a year.

## **9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 Nil