

COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP EXECUTIVE GROUP MINUTES - 12 MARCH 2014

Present:

Councillor Terry (Chair)	Lead Councillor for Neighbourhoods, RBC
Councillor Lovelock	Leader, RBC
Councillor Page	Deputy Leader and Police & Crime Panel representative, RBC
Ann Manning	Magistrate
Anthony Brain	Community Safety Manager, RBC
Bernadette Adams	Service Development Manager, Berkshire Women's Aid
Gabriel Amahwe	Probation Director, Thames Valley Probation
Jo Middlemass	Anti Social Behaviour Team Manager, RBC
Julie Pett	Locality Manager, RBC
Julie Waterworth	Safer Communities Coordinator, RBFRS
Keith Stacy	Inspector, TVP
Lindsey Bass	Youth Offending Service Manager, RBC
Lorraine Briffitt	Voluntary and Community Sector representative
Phil Bullingham	Partnerships & Edge of Care Service Manager, RBC
Stuart Greenfield	Local Police Area Commander, Thames Valley Police (TVP)
Suzanne Westhead	Head of Adult Services, RBC
Tina Heaford	Youth Engagement Service, RBC
Simon Hill	Committee Services, RBC

Apologies:

James Hahn	Local Police Area Deputy Commander, TVP
Michelle Tenreiro-Perez	DAAT Manager, RBC
Pol Exeter	Consumer Protection Manager, RBC
Shona Morrison	Policy Advisor, Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner

1. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 4 December 2013 were agreed as a correct record.

2. CRIME FIGURES OVERVIEW

Anthony Brain gave a presentation on crime figures as at the end of January 2014, using the BCS crime categories. The presentation included information on the overall number of BCS crimes, burglary of a dwelling, shoplifting, violence against the person (without injury) and violence against the person (GBH).

Anthony noted that overall there had been 526 fewer crimes in comparison to the previous year-to-date, which represented a 9% reduction, and Reading was now ranked 7 of 15 in the most similar group of local authority areas. There had been a reduction in burglary but an increase in shoplifting. The overall number of offences for violence against the person (GBH) was very low, and this would no longer be monitored. If the CSP Delivery Groups set targets to reduce specific crimes these would be added to the group of crime types that were being monitored.

AGREED: That the presentation be noted.

3. CSP DELIVERY GROUP ACTION PLANS

The Delivery Groups presented their draft action plans as follows:

(a) Domestic Violence

Bernadette Adams presented the action plan on behalf of Group Chair Sarah Gee. The Group's priorities were:

- Breaking the cycle of abuse by intervention work with children and young people;
- To protect and support victims of domestic abuse through the effective use of the MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference) and Court processes;
- Ensure safeguarding measures were in place for victims of domestic abuse and their families;
- Improve awareness of domestic abuse and the support services available, including in relation to forced marriage, honour based violence, female genital mutilation and vulnerable groups;
- Ensure support services reflected local need.

Lindsey Bass raised the issue of incidents of abuse by a young person against a vulnerable parent. It was noted that support for people in this situation was provided by local services including Berkshire Women's Aid and Crossing Bridges, and that the Children's Action Teams worked with abusive young people. Bernadette agreed to report back to the Delivery Group.

AGREED: That the delivery plan be endorsed and that the issue of abuse against a vulnerable parent be considered by the Delivery Group.

(b) Integrated Offender Management (IOM)

Group Chair Gabriel Amahwe presented the action plan. The Group's priorities were:

- To prepare for the changes to Probation to ensure the smooth transition from the current position to the new structure;
- Further expansion of the IOM arrangement to manage and accommodate a significant variation in offender cohorts;
- Sustaining and enhancing the multi agency partnership arrangements and contributions made to effective IOM arrangements in Reading;
- Improve future capability and capacity of Reading IOM;
- Continue to reduce the rate of re-offending of the IOM cohort.

With regard to the expansion of IOM, Gabriel noted that there had been an emphasis on acquisitive crime, and that it was now intended to be more responsive to other priorities such as domestic abuse and other violent crimes. Improving the future capability of IOM would include increasing the focus on victims and restorative practice. The plan included measures of the reduction in reoffending within the IOM cohort and it was suggested that these be monitored by the Executive Group in the crime figures overview.

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The Group noted that the new probation arrangements would be introduced on 1 June 2014 and discussed some of the potential effects and risks of the changes.

AGREED: That the delivery plan be endorsed and that the measures of reductions in re-offending be added to the crimes monitored by the Executive Group.

(c) Town Centre

Group Chair Keith Stacy presented the action plan. The Group's priorities were:

- Shoplifting - Target main stores with detection driven policies to change working practices;
- Shoplifting - Crime reduction initiatives;
- Violence against the person.

With regard to town centre violence, Keith reported that offences of violence against the person in the town centre had reduced. Fewer licensing reviews were being requested as the police were working with premises associated with disorder through performance reviews and minor variations to licences. Although the Pubwatch scheme had slipped due to a lack of funding, new funding would be allocated by the Business Improvement District (BID) if its re-election was confirmed. It was suggested that the BID be invited to give an update on their plans to the next meeting.

Keith noted that the SOS bus was proving successful, but that more volunteers were needed. It was suggested that those serving community sentences for alcohol-related offences could be used, and that this could be linked with VCS mentoring. The Group expressed support for publicising the bus more widely.

With regard to shoplifting Keith reported that he had met representatives of a national security company as part of the ongoing effort to explain best practice and encourage a prevention rather than detection approach. If re-elected this work would be progressed through the BID, who would also be increasing the number of PCSOs in the town centre. The 'Kent Act' aimed at second hand stores and their control, would require an Act of Parliament and would therefore require significant time and expenditure. It was agreed to refer this to the PCC's office.

AGREED:

- (1) That the Group record their support for wider publicising of the SOS bus, and that the Chair be invited to the press visit;
- (2) That Jo Middlemass report the suggestion of using community sentencing and VCS mentoring to provide staffing for the SOS bus to the project group;
- (3) That the BID be invited to present their plans to the next meeting of the Executive Group;

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- (4) That the PCC's office be informed that the 'Kent Act' would require an Act of Parliament, and that funding would therefore be required.

(d) Drug & Alcohol

Group Chair Suzanne Westhead presented the action plan. The Group's priorities were:

- Tendering of Adult Drug and Alcohol Treatment
- Strengthening the management and monitoring of harm reduction issues
- Understanding Alcohol Needs and Prevalence in Reading

Suzanne noted that the tender process was continuing and that it was expected to award the contract in May 2014. She explained that funding would now come through the public health budget, but that the crime and disorder focus needed to be maintained alongside health issues. The Chair suggested that a multi-agency approach such as the IOM model would be suitable. The need for health representation on the Executive Group was noted.

AGREED: That the delivery plan be endorsed and that Anthony Brain and Sarah Gee discuss health representation on the Executive Group.

(e) Community-Based Crime

Anthony Brain, on behalf of the Group Chair James Hahn, explained that this was a new group and that an action plan based on the emerging priorities was still being developed.

Jo Middlemass and Keith Stacy gave an update on work to tackle on- and off-street prostitution and street population issues (street drinking and begging), which would be priorities in the community-based crime action plan and also a wider Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) strategy that was being drafted. Lorraine Briffit noted that stronger partnership working was needed to build on recent improvements to policing of on-street prostitution, and the Chair asked whether more could be done to communicate with local councillors and the public about the work being done to tackle this issue.

The action plan would also cover hate crime, with a focus on increasing the reporting of incidents, case management, and the victims' voice. Tina Heaford asked to be included in the Delivery Group.

AGREED:

- (1) That Tina Heaford represent the Youth Service on the Delivery Group;
- (2) That the Community-based crime action plan be presented at the next meeting.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

The Chair noted that it was Lindsey Bass's last meeting before leaving the Council and thanked her for her work on the Partnership. Lindsey noted some of the positive feedback from a recent inspection of the Youth Offending Service and thanked partners for their assistance in the improvements that had been achieved in recent years.

5. DATES OF FUTURE MEETING

The meetings for 2014/15 would be held on:

Wednesday 9 July 2014

Wednesday 24 September 2014

Wednesday 3 December 2014

Wednesday 11 March 2015

(The meeting commenced at 9.32 am and closed at 10.52 am)