

**COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP EXECUTIVE GROUP MINUTES - 3 DECEMBER
2014**

Present:

Councillor Terry (Chair)	Lead Councillor for Neighbourhoods, Reading Borough Council (RBC)
Ann Manning	Magistrates
Anthony Brain	Community Safety Manager, RBC
Gabriel Amahwe	Probation Director, Thames Valley Probation
James Hahn	Local Police Area Deputy Commander, TVP
Jo Middlemass	Anti Social Behaviour Team Manager, RBC
Kay French	DAAT Manager, RBC
Keith Stacey	Inspector, TVP
Lorraine Briffitt	Voluntary and Community Sector representative
Natasha Van Vliet	Alana House
Nigel Denning	Youth Offending Service, RBC
Pete Farmer	RBFRS
Robin Rickard	Local Police Area Commander, Thames Valley Police (TVP)
Sarah Gee	Head of Housing & Neighbourhoods, RBC
Simon Hill	Committee Services, RBC
Vicki Lawson	Head of Children's Services, RBC
Wendy Walker	Police & Crime Commissioner's Office

Apologies:

Councillor Page	Deputy Leader and Police & Crime Panel representative, RBC
Councillor Lovelock	Leader, RBC
Councillor Ed Hopper	RBC
Tina Heaford	Youth Engagement Service, RBC
Suzanne Westhead	Head of Adult Services, RBC

1. MINUTES AND MATTER ARISING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 24 September 2014 were agreed as a correct record.

Further to Minute 2 of the previous meeting the Chair reported that she had written to the PCC on behalf of the CSP to highlight the issues raised regarding the process for accessing funding, and had received a response.

2. DRUG AND ALCOHOL DELIVERY GROUP PRESENTATION

Kay French submitted a report on the work of the Drug and Alcohol Team (DAAT) directed by the Drug and Alcohol Delivery Group which gave an update on the transition to the new Integrated Drug & Alcohol Treatment & Recovery Services in Reading provided by IRIS (Integrating Recovery in Services) Reading, identified other major work streams that the DAAT were focusing on, and sought to raise awareness of the challenges within the partnership regarding drug and alcohol issues.

Kay introduced herself as the Interim DAAT Manager, with a remit to help the new Drug & Alcohol Treatment & Recovery Service settle in and to put partnership and performance management arrangements in place. She explained that the new service was integrated and had a recovery focus on building the 'recovery capital' of service users. Some of the key factors included sustainable housing, employment,

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and 'sober' friends and support networks. Community assets also needed to be used to help create an environment for recovery and a visible recovery community.

Kay noted that there was good work on alcohol issues in Reading but that currently there was no overall strategy. The DAAT had agreed to co-ordinate work on developing a strategy, drawing on existing work done by other services, identifying best practice and then running a consultation exercise to investigate which areas services could focus existing resources on to achieve the best results.

Kay reported that Reading had had a relatively high rate of drug related deaths for a number of years and was currently ranked 9th nationally. The DAAT had re-launched a Berkshire West Drug-related Death Forum which had met to identify four priorities. These were reporting systems and information sharing protocols, confidential enquiry systems, near-fatal overdoses and training in the identification and management of overdose and the use of 'take home' naloxone. The training was expected to be rolled out in December 2014, with a number of treatment workers being 'cascade trainers' to work with target groups.

Kay also gave a presentation which explained the services available at the three facilities provided by IRIS Reading, covering Health & Engagement, Recovery & Reintegration and Change & Recovery. She also gave details of IRIS Reading's staffing structure and referral process.

The Group discussed the presentation and report and the points raised included the following:

- When courts were informed of drug users progress it was often only reported as positive or negative, without details of the level of use. It was noted that there should be some narrative detail with the report, and Kay French would investigate;
- Work was in progress on better joining up services for users on release from prison;
- Users who went back to live independently after release from prison were a high fire risk group, and Pete Farmer and Kay French would liaise over identifying these users to the Fire Service;
- Any parenting responsibilities of clients were logged at the assessment stage and a check with the MASH was carried out - it was standard procedure to carry out an audit check with services including Children's Safeguarding, Adult Safeguarding and Domestic Violence;
- Discussions were taking place across Berkshire on a family drug and alcohol court, and two years of records were being reviewed to identify where such a facility would have been useful;
- There were currently around 550 users in treatment, the majority of whom were longstanding opiate users. Issues that would be looked at closely included street drinkers and how to engage with the young user cohort at an early stage before they began offending;

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- The DAAT were not encountering extensive abuse of legal highs but cases were appearing at A&E. Keith Stacey noted problem arising from a legal highs shop on Oxford Road being located near a children's home;
- Local champions were needed for Dry January.

AGREED:

- (1) That the CSP raise awareness of the new drug and alcohol recovery system and endorse its philosophy in supporting the building of community recovery capital through partnership working and the harnessing of community assets;
- (2) That the CSP engage with the development of the Alcohol Strategy and provide Strategic Lead on the recommendations for matching resources to where the evidence suggests the biggest impact could be made;
- (3) That the CSP endorse and champion the work of the Drug Related Death Forum;
- (4) That Pete Farmer and Kay French liaise regarding identifying to the Fire Service drug and alcohol users who were returning to independent living after release from prison.

3. DELIVERY GROUP UPDATES

Community-based Crime

James Hahn reported that the Group were working on aligning processes for Anti-Social Behaviour, to better understand and assess risks. Three criminal behaviour orders were being prepared for street population issues and male clients of sex workers were continuing to be put through the change course.

James reported that case monitoring infrastructure for hate crimes was now in place but that further work was needed to establish a forum. Anthony Brain outlined some of the concerns raised in discussions with ACRE.

Integrated Offender Management

Gabriel Amahwe reported that the Group were working on a better system to show outcomes of IOM, and that a new performance scorecard could be submitted to future meetings.

Town Centre

Keith Stacey reported that there had been a slight increase in town centre violence, and that this would be analysed and reported in more detail to the next meeting. The Group's target relating to shoplifting had been to reduce the rate of increase, but there had actually been an overall decrease of 21%.

Domestic Abuse

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Sarah Gee reported that a timetable was being developed for agreeing the draft domestic abuse strategy, which had been presented to the previous meeting. The draft would be circulated for comment to members of the CSP.

A fast-track court process for domestic abuse cases was being rolled out in December 2014, following a successful pilot project in Buckinghamshire, and it was agreed that Anthony Brain should investigate this further. The Chair noted that changes in the law relating to domestic abuse had been announced, which would make it easier for services supporting victims of domestic abuse to provide relevant evidence.

AGREED:

- (1) That the updates be noted;
- (2) That Anthony Brain investigate and report back on the new court process for domestic abuse cases;
- (3) That the Domestic Abuse delivery group arrange a discussion about putting evidence together for domestic abuse court cases.

4. NEW ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR LEGISLATION

Jo Middlemiss gave a presentation on new powers under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, including civil injunctions, dispersal powers, community protection notices, public space protection orders, closure powers and absolute grounds for possession. For each power Jo explained who had the power to use it, the test that would apply and any important changes from current powers.

The Group noted concerns at the strengthened eviction powers and the possible consequences especially for families of these powers being used.

AGREED:

- (1) That the presentation be circulated with a link to the relevant guidance;
- (20) That partners seek a briefing from J Middlemiss if required.

5. COMMUNITY REHABILITATION COMPANY UPDATE

Gabriel Amahwe tabled a briefing note on the changes to probation. The note set out information on MTCnovo who were the preferred bidder for the Thames Valley Community Rehabilitation Company and on contract management arrangements. The note also gave a summary of the Offender Rehabilitation Act 2014 and 'Through the Gate' provision.

The CSP noted that it would be useful to have an update from the National Probation Service (NPS) at the next meeting, and if possible a representative of NPS regularly attending the meeting.

AGREED:

- (1) That the position be noted;

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- (2) That Anthony Brain liaise with the NPS regarding an update and attending CSP meetings.

6. CRIME FIGURES PRESENTATION

Anthony Brain submitted presentation slides showing the year-on-year figures for the BCS crime types. He noted that burglary continued to fall and that there had been a recent reduction in shoplifting.

The Chair congratulated the good work of Thames Valley Police and partners in reducing crime during an economic recession. It was noted that there were emerging crime types such as online fraud that were currently difficult to act against or monitor locally.

AGREED: That the position be noted.

7. TROUBLED FAMILIES GOVERNANCE

Nigel Denning submitted a report seeking agreement that the Partnership become the governing body for phase two of the Troubled Families (TF) programme.

The report explained that the government's aim for phase two of the TF programme was to transform local partnership delivery across local authorities, with a specific focus of implementing a 'whole family' approach. Having conducted a review of performance of phase one in Reading it was evident that, in order to deliver the phase two targets, a collaborative partnership approach and clearer and more dynamic pathways for earlier identification and intervention were needed. This would not only help deliver the payment by results, but also provide opportunities for further cost savings to the public purse and support meeting the budget deficit.

The report explained that in order for Reading to deliver the phase two targets of the TF programme it was considered that a formal governance structure and a stronger partnership approach was required. In addition it was recognised that a key challenge for phase two would be gaining strategic and operational buy-in and creating a momentum for delivery from partner organisations. The CSP was a mature multi-agency partnership whose membership included all appropriate stakeholders, and it was therefore proposed that the CSP become the strategic management board responsible for the strategic oversight of the TF programme.

AGREED:

- (1) That the Partnership agree in principle to becoming the governing body for Reading Troubled Families Programme;
- (2) That full Terms of Reference and Governance Structure be submitted to the next meeting;
- (3) That the Youth Offending Service performance report be discussed at the next meeting.

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8. OTHER BUSINESS

Nigel Denning reported that a draft Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy would be submitted for approval to the Local Safeguarding Children Board on 17 December 2014. It was noted that there should be a reporting link to the CSP and that the Strategy should complement the Thames Valley Adult Sexual Exploitation strategy that was being developed.

Pete Farmer reported on a research project led by the University of Greenwich called LIFEVID (Lessons in Fire & Evacuation Behaviour in Dwellings), and agreed to share the findings with partners.

AGREED: That the position be noted.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The remaining meeting for 2014/15 would be held on Wednesday 11 March 2015.

(The meeting commenced at 9.32 am and closed at 11.00 am)