

COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP EXECUTIVE GROUP - 22 SEPTEMBER 2016

Present:

Cllr Liz Terry (Chair)	Lead Councillor for Neighbourhoods, RBC
Steve Beard	Prevention Manager, Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service
Nicola Bell	Manager, Rahab Project
Anthony Brain	Community Safety Manager, RBC
Geoff Davis	Head of Operations, Thames Valley CRC
Cllr Jan Gavin	Lead Councillor for Children's Services and Families, RBC
Sarah Gee	Head of Housing & Neighbourhoods, RBC
Stan Gilmour	Reading Police, TVP
Tina Heaford	Area Team Leader, Youth, RBC
Cllr Tony Page	Deputy Leader and Police & Crime Panel representative, RBC
Bindy Shah	Service Manager, Early Help, RBC
Lisa Wilkins	Troubled Families Project Manager, RBC
Peter Driver	Committee Services, RBC

Apologies:

Gabrielle Alford	Berkshire West CCGs
Ann-Marie Dodds	Head of Governance & Business Support, DCEEHS, RBC
Jo Middlemass	Anti-Social Behaviour Team Manager, RBC
Natausha van Vliet	Director of Business Development, PACT
Kathryn Warner	Communities Manager, PACT
Nicola Webb	Asst. Chief Officer, National Probation Service

1. MINUTES AND MATTER ARISING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 13 April 2016 were agreed as a correct record. The following matters of arising were discussed:

Governance Structure for Troubled Families Programme

Further to Minute 1, the CSP discussed the strategic governance oversight for the Troubled Families Programme. CSP was receiving 6-monthly updates on the programme, which was also reporting to the Borough Council's ACE Committee for democratic oversight. There continued to be a need for strategic multi-agency oversight. It was noted that the post-Ofsted review of early intervention would raise questions about the strategic oversight of the Programme.

AGREED: That it remains appropriate for the Community Safety Partnership to act as governing body for the Troubled Families Programme but it is recognised that this position may need to be revisited in the future.

Prevent Programme in Schools

Further to Minute 4, the CSP agreed that the report on operation of the Prevent programme in schools should come to the next meeting, on 10 November 2016.

2. DELIVERY GROUP ACTION PLANS AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES

The four Delivery Groups presented their action plans and performance measure as follows:

a) Domestic Abuse Strategy Group

Sarah Gee reported that the group had met and agreed a set of six priorities, with measures for CSP and output measures for the strategy group over the next year. These were set out within the report.

Jan Gavin reported that Domestic Violence and neglect were the two largest single causes of referral to Children's Services. The Ofsted inspection of Children's Services had required the Council to review almost 1,000 cases where Domestic Abuse and neglect were involved. An external team had been commissioned to undertake this work, to check that the Council had dealt with cases appropriately. The work would highlight common factors which could feed into future practice. There would be a report back on this in the New Year.

Stan Gilmour reminded the group that a key function of the MASH was to identify hidden harm. A lot of assessments might lead to 'no further action' being required but this was an appropriate outcome and referrals should continue to be made.

The group was advised that Berkshire Women's Aid had seen a 46% increase in referrals in the first quarter of 2016-17 compared to the previous year's figures. This was in line with national trends due to improved training and awareness-raising through high profile media coverage.

Sarah Gee highlighted two important pieces of work

- Changing the focus of the Integrated Offender Management programme onto high risk cases
- Looking at how to engage schools - which was being progressed by the Local Safeguarding Children Board

It was noted that the PCC had recently consulted on matters including funding structures and the overwhelming response had been to support the status quo with some attention to changes in the formula. Decisions were expected at the end of October and could be reported to the next meeting if necessary.

b) Violent Crime Delivery Group

The group received the schedule of priorities and related tasks identified by the Violent Crime Delivery Group.

It was noted that the incidence of violent crime was down 2% in Reading, year on year and the figure for the last four weeks was 25% down on the same period the previous year. This positive trend was attributed to strong partnership working.

c) Modern Day Slavery and Adult Exploitation Delivery Group

Nicola Bell introduced the Objectives and Actions identified by the Modern Day Slavery and Adult Exploitation Delivery Group. She explained that target dates and a progress column would be added to the schedule for the next review. The Adult Exploitation group had been amalgamated with the Vulnerable Adult group, resulting in wider representation of agencies. The strategic group was due to meet in early October. The group was establishing good practice, working on how to collect data and with the Police on how to capture information on outcomes - for example that the Police were credited with a successful outcome when vulnerable people were released from an exploitative situation, even when this did not result in a prosecution.

It was recognised that this work had links to agencies working on Child Sexual Exploitation, since a proportion of those children remained at risk when they moved into adulthood. That interface was being investigated and also the wider picture of other forms of exploitation and the cross-overs with other Delivery Group areas.

There was ongoing and positive liaison with the Council's Taxi licensing, trading standards and environmental health staff about how to identify the signs of exploitation of adults.

It was stressed that all cases of vulnerable children identified through the various agencies' activities should be referred into MASH in the first instance.

In conclusion, Nicola Bell advised that there was a lot of work still to do but the groundwork was in place for a productive partnership response to the issues.

d) Vulnerable Communities Delivery Group

Anthony Brain submitted the schedule of priorities and tasks identified by the Vulnerable Communities Delivery Group.

It was noted that a 25% year-on-year increase in the levels of reported Hate Crime could be caused by increased awareness and reporting or the anecdotal change in behaviour patterns since the Brexit referendum.

The priorities under the 'Radical Extremism' heading were linked to the priorities and oversight of the Prevent Management Board.

It was noted that ACRE was currently bidding to the Home Office in respect of funding for community response to Hate Crime and Counter-terrorism.

AGREED: That the Delivery Group Action Plans be received.

3. OTHER AREA UPDATES - Integrated Offender Management

Geoff Davis reported on current developments in Integrated Offender Management. Work was in hand to consider what was available to perpetrators and offenders through the IOM programme. Beneath the IOM partnership group there was a panel convened to consider the individual cases of c40 perpetrators. This tended to be led by the Police and Probation Services as those with operational involvement in the cases. To date the programme had been focused on recidivist burglary and robbery

but the focus was shifting towards domestic abuse and vulnerable groups. This would not be an easy ship to turn round. The IOM group was hoping to demonstrate what value it could add to domestic abuse responses, where current work did not necessarily address perpetrators' behaviour to avoid the resource-intensive need for prosecution and court hearings.

The group welcomed the development of valuable links with the Troubled Families programme, recognising that the IOM programme's data and weightings of offences would need to be expanded beyond serious acquisitive crime into vulnerability, abuse and exploitation. It was also noted that it would be beneficial for IOM programme to link in with the work Berkshire Women's Aid was doing with perpetrators.

AGREED: That it would be valuable for the four chairs of the Delivery Groups to meet with the Troubled Families and Integrated Offended Management programmes to co-ordinate what each group was expected to deliver.

4. CRIME PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

The group received the most recent crime report. Stan Gilmour noted that a year ago the main problem areas in Reading had been drug-related violent crime, with six stabbings per week. This situation had been turned around and there had been no such incidents for several weeks. On-street violence as part of the night-time economy had reduced considerably. Youth Crime was also on a downward trend.

This improved situation was attributed to joined-up inter-agency working and targeting, which underlined the importance of the Partnership.

AGREED: That the report and the successes of partnership working be noted.

6. DATES OF FUTURE MEETING

Future meeting dates were confirmed as:

Thursday 10 November 2016, 9.30am
Thursday 2 February 2016, 9.30am
Thursday 27 April 2016, 9.30am

(The meeting commenced at 9.30 am and closed at 11.07 am)