

COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP EXECUTIVE GROUP - 6 FEBRUARY 2020

Present:

Bhupinder Rai (Chair)	Reading LPA Commander, Thames Valley Police
Cllr Jason Brock	Leader, RBC
Ash Smith	Thames Valley Police
Jason Kew	Thames Valley Police
Kate Stockdale	Commissioner, Drugs and Alcohol, RBC
Nicola Bell	Manager, Willow Project
Anthony Brain	Community Safety Manager, RBC
Jo Middlemass	Anti-Social Behaviour Team Manager, RBC
Vicky Rhodes	Strategic Lead for Early Help, Brighter Futures for Children (BFfC)
Andy Boyd	VRU
Vickie Pitchbrook	Change Grow Live
Hannah Powell	Thames Valley CRC
Carol Kelly	Chair, Berkshire Bench
Christine Rolls	TTG Aspire
Tracy Harrison	TTG Aspire
David Munday	Consultant in Public Health, RBC
Zelda Wolfle	Assistant Director of Housing & Communities, RBC
Julie Quarmby	Committee Services, RBC

Apologies:

Cllr Tony Page	Deputy Leader, RBC
Cllr Liz Terry	Lead Councillor for Children, RBC
Kathryn Warner	PACT
Natausha VanVliet	PACT
Catherine Marriott	OPCC
Geoff Davis	Reading CRC
Deborah Glassbrook	Director of Children's Services, BFfC
Donna Gray	Safeguarding Children, BFfC

1. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 19 September 2019 were agreed as a correct record.

2. VIOLENCE REDUCTION UNIT/SURGE FUNDING

Andy Boyd, Thames Valley Violence Reduction Unit, gave a presentation on the work that was being undertaken with young people to reduce violent crime. The presentation covered the reasons why young people might become involved in violent crime, and the Government's Serious Crime Strategy which set out four themes for tackling these causes: Tackling County Lines and Drugs; Early Intervention and Prevention; Supporting Communities and Partnerships and Effective Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Response. Andy reported that Thames Valley Police had received additional funding, which had been used for early intervention and diversion as well as additional police presence. He added that work with partner agencies was aimed at reducing adverse childhood experiences and producing positive outcomes for young people rather than specifically targeting violent crime and explained that the Thames Valley Strategic Unit was asking the Partnership how the partner agencies wanted to configure themselves to achieve this.

The Group discussed the presentation and the following points were raised:

- There was significant evidence to link mental health to potential involvement in violent crime;
- The three Partnership Sub-Groups covered most of the four Government themes;
- It would be necessary to agree the geographical areas to be covered by any smaller units, giving special regard to the different demographic in West Berkshire and Wokingham, which didn't have the same night-time economy and level of violent crime, whilst acknowledging the overlap in areas at the edges of Reading;
- Partner agencies would need to agree a suitable alignment with Health, who tended to work on a West of Berkshire level;
- It would be helpful to have a main point of contact in Brighter Futures for Children;
- The Serious Violence Policing Bill would be likely to place statutory duties on Community Safety Partnerships.

AGREED:

- (1) That Andy be thanked for his interesting and informative presentation;
- (2) That Ash Smith, in consultation with Andy Boyd, explore the current arrangements under the Community Safety Partnership, including Health, as a basis for the Violence Reduction Unit;
- (3) That Ash Smith circulate the latest violent crime data to the Group.

3. THE NEW DRUG SERVICE: CHANGE, GROW, LIVE

Vickie Pitchbrook gave a presentation on Change Grow Live, Reading's new drug service, which covered:

- The Change Grow Live Vision, Mission Statement and Values;
- Details of Change grow Live's offer in Reading;
- Details of the services provided by the Clinical Services Team, Treatment and Care Co-ordination and the Abstinence and Recovery Element;
- Positive news, quotes and feedback;
- Contact Information.

Vickie also reported that the service would be holding an Open Day on 25 March 2020.

AGREED:

- (1) That Vickie be thanked for her interesting and informative presentation;
- (2) That Vickie circulate success rates and monthly/quarterly data to the Group as appropriate;
- (3) That Vickie send invitations to the Open Day to members of the Community Safety Partnership.

4. ASPIRE - NEW EMPLOYMENT SERVICE FOR OFFENDERS

Christine Rolls and Tracy Harrison, Aspire, gave the Group an introduction to the work that was being carried out by Aspire, and in particular their Through the Prison Gate Service. This service had originally been set up in Oxford to assist offenders to return to work and had now been expanded to cover Slough and Reading, as well as other areas. Tracy explained that the service worked closely with Probation, to support offenders to find training and employment,

and with practical matters such as housing, ID, banking etc to enable them to cope following their release, starting before they were due to leave prison. The service also worked with employers and Christine explained that more employers were becoming open to employing ex-offenders, including Greene King, Taylor Wimpey and Pret a Manger. Tracy added that Aspire worked with both male and female offenders, and had close links with Alana House in Reading.

The Group discussed the work carried out by Aspire and the following points were noted:

- Aspire hoped to gain greater links with Reading via the Community Safety Partnership;
- Stan Gilmour, TVP, was investigating the best way to co-ordinate and use the various diversionary interventions that were available in the Reading area to ensure that there were no overlaps or gaps;
- The scheme covered all offenders, not just violent criminals, and offered a full service, even providing haircuts and suitable clothing for interviews;
- It would be helpful to have data for Aspire's work in Oxford.

AGREED:

- (1) That Christine and Tracy be thanked for their introduction to the services provided by Aspire;
- (2) That the Oxford data be submitted to a future meeting of the Group;
- (3) That Christine Rolls, Tracy Harrison, Ash Smith and Penny Jones (TVP) meet to discuss the role of Aspire in Reading.

5. PRIORITY SUB-GROUP ACTION PLANS

(A) Class A Drugs

David Munday, Consultant in Public Health, RBC, submitted a draft report on Class A Drug Harm Reduction Proposals for onward submission to the Health & Wellbeing Board in March 2020. The report explained that Public Health in Reading had an opportunity to obtain regional police funding and work with partners to deliver a work stream to support drug harm and death reduction in the following areas:

- Develop drug diversion schemes whereby anyone found in possession of controlled drugs would be diverted to a drug service for assessment and education rather than arrest.
- Extend the roll out of Naxolone to treat drug overdose. TVP were engaging clinical governance to enable officers to train and carry intra-nasal Naxolone, which could be used to treat users who had overdosed on heroin. Provision could potentially be widened further, to include Council services and community and business groups.
- Heroin Assisted Treatment which involved the prescription of diamorphine to a carefully selected group of hardened heroin users who were not currently engaged in any other Opiate Substitution Treatment Programmes. Jason Kew reported that currently the top 10% of heroin users consumed 50-60% of illicit heroin, and this programme would help to reduce the criminal market significantly. Previous trials had also shown that in the trial areas acquisitive crime had also significantly reduced. The set-up costs for prescribing diamorphine were similar to methadone, but trials had shown it to be more successful.
- Introduction of a Supervised Injection Room. This was a legally sanctioned facility where people could inject their pre-obtained drugs under medical supervision and access medical care, counselling services and referral to health and social care

services. Similar facilities elsewhere had been successful and had visibly reduced drugs harm on the street. This facility could be provided via Change Grow Live and would be an opportunity for Reading to lead the way in the UK. The Group noted that any such provision would need to be carefully located, and the local community would need to be carefully approached and consulted.

(B) Violent Crime

Ash Smith, Thames Valley Police, gave a presentation on work that TVP had carried out across Reading to address knife crime, which covered the following areas:

- The areas of Reading that had been identified as having higher levels of knife crime;
- Dedicated operations using Surge funding;
- Resources that had been used during these operations;
- Partnership working;
- Results of the Operations;
- Operations and Actions for the Future;
- Successes.

(C) Adult Exploitation and Modern Slavery

Nicola Bell, Willow Project, submitted the draft Reading Modern Slavery and Exploitation Plan 2019 for consideration. She reported that a new restorative justice partnership would be in place from 1 April 2020, which would provide a one-stop-shop for victims of exploitation. There would be continuity of service going forward. Nicola added that she would be responsible for managing the new service and would report further once the partnership had been set up.

Nicola also reported that she was working with housing providers, including private landlords, with regard to emergency accommodation.

AGREED:

- (1) That the Class A Drug Harm Reduction Proposals be submitted to the Health & Wellbeing Board in March 2020, and that Bhupinder Rai be invited to attend;
- (2) That the work to address Violent Crime and the changes to the Adult Exploitation & Modern Slavery support service be noted;
- (3) That Anthony Brain set up a meeting with the three leads to ensure that the three Priority Sub-Groups continued to work together strategically.

6. CRIME PERFORMANCE

Anthony Brain submitted the crime performance report as at the end of October 2019. For all British Crime Survey crimes there had been a 1% increase in the current year to date, with Reading's performance remaining average for the Most Similar Group of CSPs (MSG).

For burglary there had been a 25% year-on-year decrease which was a more rapid decrease than the MSG.

There had been a 10% increase in violent crime for the year to date, and Reading's performance remained average amongst the MSG.

AGREED: That the position be noted.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

David Munday raised concerns that certain ethnic groups might experience hate crime in relation to the current Coronavirus outbreak, and asked that if and when the Police received details of any incidents, they report them to the Group. Anthony Brain noted that it was possible that these communities might be reluctant to engage with the police if they were victims of hate crime.

AGREED: That the position be noted.

DATES OF FUTURE MEETING

Future meetings for 2019/20 would take place on:
Thursday 23 April 2020.

All meetings start at 9.30am in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices.

(The meeting commenced at 9.35 am and closed at 12.04 pm)