

COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP EXECUTIVE GROUP - 12 NOVEMBER 2020

Present:

Nick John	Thames Valley Police (Chair)
Cllr Jason Brock	Leader, RBC
Cllr Tony Page	Deputy Leader, RBC
Cllr Adele Barnett-Ward (Chair)	Lead Councillor for Neighbourhoods and Communities
Cllr Raj Singh	Observer, RBC
Anthony Brain	Community Safety Manager, RBC
Kelly Reed	Thames Valley Police, Victim Reduction Unit
Zelda Wolfle	Assistant Director of Housing & Communities, RBC
Catherine Marriott	Office of the PCC
Jo Middlemass	Anti-Social Behaviour Team Manager, RBC
Vicky Rhodes	Strategic Lead for Early Help, Brighter Futures for Children
Joanne Anderson	Reading Borough Council
Jeanie Herbert	PACT
Nicola Bell	Manager, Willow Project
Lou Everatt	Thames Valley CRC
Julie Quarmby	Committee Services, RBC

Apologies:

Seona Douglas	Executive Director of Social Care and Health, RBC
David Munday	Consultant in Public Health, RBC
Dave Turton	Thames Valley Police
Kathryn Warner	PACT
Natausha VanVliet	PACT
Melanie Smith	Probation Service
Giles Allchurch	Brighter Futures for Children
Deborah Glassbrook	Director of Children's Services Brighter Futures for Children
Ash Smith	Thames Valley Police
Chris Juden	Reading Magistrates
Donna Gray	Safeguarding Children, Brighter Futures for Children
Sally Anderson	Senior Wellbeing Commissioning Manager for Drugs & Alcohol, RBC
Jen Grant	Thames Valley CRC

1. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 17 September 2020 were agreed as a correct record.

Further to Minute 2, Anthony Brain reported that the Hospital Navigators project had been added to the Action Plan. Kelly Reed added that the first meeting with staff at the Royal Berkshire Hospital had gone well. The Reading model would include social workers from Adult Services and Brighter Futures for Children. Further communications would be sent out later in the year and it was anticipated that regular update reports would be submitted to the Group.

Further to Minute 5, Anthony Brain reported that an update report on Prevent would be submitted to the meeting on 4 February 2021.

2. OXFORD ROAD UPDATE

Nick John, Thames Valley Police, gave an update on the work that was being carried out to address crime and disorder along the Oxford Road. Thames Valley Police had planned to issue a survey to residents but had decided to delay the launch whilst a multi-agency approach was put in place. He suggested that the best approach would be to form task and finish group for the thematic leads, which would feed into the Community Safety Partnership via an overarching strategic group. The Group discussed the update and the following points were raised:

- It would be important to identify stakeholders and ensure strong engagement using clear communication plans;
- Partner agencies had already carried out significant amounts of work in this area, and this could be shared to avoid duplication where possible;
- The latest survey by the Oxford Road Safer Neighbourhood Forum had been carried out during November 2019;
- Agencies would need to be clear about what could be delivered, to reduce unrealistic expectations within the community.

AGREED:

- (1) That the update be noted;
- (2) Nick John to circulate the briefing note prepared by Thames Valley Police to Group members for comments by 27 November 2020;
- (3) Kelly Reed to circulate the questions set out in the Thames Valley police Survey to the group;
- (4) A further report to be submitted to the next meeting on 4 February 2021.

3. PRIORITY SUB-GROUP ACTION PLANS

Anthony Brain, Community Safety Manager, RBC, reported that the Chairs group for the three strands had met with partner agencies and agreed plans for the next two quarters. These would have an emphasis on Prepare and Prevent, as Thames Valley police had carried out much of the Pursue element during lockdown. The actions included:

- Ten training events on the current position regarding Modern Slavery to be held before the end of March 2021 to include the wider partnership, voluntary sector and businesses.
- Two first responder events to be organised before the end of March 2021 to raise awareness of the roles played by Reading Borough Council and Thames Valley Police.
- A group had been set up to train staff to identify commonalities in people vulnerable to violent crime, Class A drugs and modern slavery.
- Production of communications on violent crime that gave communities a clear message whilst not increasing fear of crime, but which also did not make violent crime seem appealing to young people.
- A Drugs Related Deaths group would be set up by the end of November 2020, and a further report would be submitted in April 2021.

Anthony Brain explained that partnership working was improving intelligence across all three areas. Thames Valley Police had considerable data on violent crime and were looking at how this could be effectively reported and used to allocate resources. Vicky Rhodes reported that Kirsten Carr, from the Early Years Team, BFfC, would like to attend a future meeting of the Group to formalise the route by which the Young Persons Serious Violence Plan fed into the Community Safety Partnership.

AGREED: That the report be noted.

4. CRIME PERFORMANCE

Anthony Brain submitted the crime performance report as at the end of September 2020. He reported that there had continued to be an increase in crime although Reading was still about average in the Most Similar Group of Community Safety Partnerships.

For all British Crime Survey crimes there had been a 12% decrease compared to the same period last year, with Reading's performance remaining average for the Most Similar Group of CSPs (MSG). Burglary remained average within the MSG. There had been a decrease in violent crime during September 2020, which was probably due to work by Thames Valley Police over the summer, but it was not clear if this would be sustainable going forward. The Group noted that it would be helpful if there was some explanatory commentary with the crime figures.

Anthony also reported that the recent initiatives to tackle cycles crime in reading had been successful, and that there had been a number of arrests made. The number of cycle thefts had fallen since the end of August 2020, but remained high compared to the MSG. Councillor page reported that the Council was still waiting to hear if it had been successful in a bid for Government funding that could be used to improve cycle security and increase cycling within the Brough. Suggested initiatives included using vacant shops within the town centre to store and repair bikes.

AGREED:

- (1) That the position be noted.
- (2) Anthony Brain to circulate the full figures for cycle crime to the Group and add them to the crime figures for future meetings.

5. OPCC UPDATE

Catherine Marriot, OPCC, reported that there would be a meeting of Community Safety Managers on Thursday 19 November 2020.

Catherine also reported that she was about to start a strategic level review of the Community Safety Partnerships and that she would be inviting two or three representatives from each CSP to informal meetings. She added that Reading would be one of the later CSPs to be reviewed.

AGREED: That the position be noted.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

Anthony Brain reported that this would be his last meeting of the Community Safety Partnership. The Group thanked him for his hard work and dedication and wished him all the best for the future.

AGREED: That the position be noted.

DATES OF FUTURE MEETING

Future meetings for 2020/21 would take place on:
Thursday 4 February 2021;
Thursday 22 April 2021.

All meetings start at 9.30am, venue to be confirmed.

(The meeting commenced at 9.35 am and closed at 10.40 am)