

## COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP EXECUTIVE GROUP - 21 APRIL 2022

### Present:

Steve Raffield	Thames Valley Police (Chair)
Cllr Jason Brock	Leader, RBC
Cllr Tony Page	Deputy Leader, RBC
Cllr Adele Barnett-Ward	Lead Councillor for Neighbourhoods and Communities
Cllr Raj Singh	Observer, RBC
Jo Middlemass	Community Safety and Enablement Manager, RBC
Deborah Glassbrook	Director of Children's Services Brighter Futures for Children
Clare Muir	Policy & Voluntary Sector Manager, RBC
Catherine Marriott	Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner
Sarah Gardner	Community Safety Partnership, RBC
Joanne Anderson	Neighbourhood Initiatives Team Manager, RBC
Becky Pollard	Public Health Consultant, RBC
Andrew Penrith	Thames Valley Police
Kathryn Warner	PACT
Michael Popham	Committee Services, RBC

### Apologies:

Seona Douglas	Executive Director of Social Care and Health, RBC
Frances Martin	Executive Director etc, RBC
Lynne Mason	Locality Team, RBC
Natausha Van Vliet	PACT
Zelda Wolfle	Assistant Director of Housing & Communities, RBC
Vicky Rhodes	Director of Early Help, Brighter Futures for Children
Donna Gray	Safeguarding Children, Brighter Futures for Children
Tracey Daszkiewicz	Director of Public Health, RBC
Gina Carpenter	Service Manager (Early Help, CATs), BFFC
Zoe Hanim	Reading Channel Panel, RBC

### 1. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 2 February 2022 were agreed as a correct record.

### 2. PREVENT UPDATE

Further to Minute 6 of the meeting held on 11 November 2021, Clare Muir, Policy & Voluntary Sector Manager, presented a report providing an update on the implementation of the Prevent duty in Reading including key developments in the delivery of Prevent and the statutory Channel Process. The report also set out the latest available national and regional data about Prevent. The local risks and key messages identified in the Counter Terrorism local profile for 2021 produced by the Counter Terrorism Police South - East had been shared in confidential format with Thames Valley Prevent Boards, but this was not yet available in a format for sharing more widely. This information would be shared with the Partners when it became available.

The report stated that since March 2021, there had been a requirement to submit an annual assurance statement. This year's assessment had been submitted following consultation with Channel Panel members and tested local Channel delivery against five key areas of control as follows: Legal Requirements under the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015; Strategic Governance; Chairing Skills and Core Competencies; Panel Function and Form; and Data

Protection. All the control areas had been rated 'Green' except Charing skills, which was rated as 'Amber' due to the need to appoint a Deputy Chair for the Panel and complete training requirements.

The CSP was advised that Prevent Advisers had been appointed to areas without specific Prevent funding, which included Reading, in recognition that no areas could be free of the threat of terrorism. The report also provided information on training; Counter Terrorism Local Profile; national threat level; and national and local Prevent data for 2020/21.

The meeting discussed the link between vulnerability and radicalisation and in particular the likelihood of people with autism being drawn into extreme behaviour. It was suggested that the Prevent agenda should be linked to development of the Autism Strategy to improve knowledge and understanding in this area.

#### **AGREED:**

- (1) That the recent developments for the delivery of Prevent and the statutory Channel Process be noted;
- (2) That the latest information and data about Prevent be noted;
- (3) That the local risks and key messages identified in the Counter Terrorism local profile for 2021 produced by the Counter Terrorism Police South-East be shared with the Partners when it became available;
- (4) That the Channel Panel Chair and the Policy & Voluntary Sector Manager be encouraged to liaise with BFfC representatives in relation to the work being carried out to produce the Berkshire Autism Strategy, which would be relevant to the Prevent agenda and the statutory Channel Process.

### **3. STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT - EMERGING HEADLINES**

Jo Middlemass gave a presentation on the emerging headlines from the Strategic Assessment of crime and anti-social behaviour in Reading. Overall crime had decreased, which could be attributed to restrictions related to the coronavirus lockdown periods. Violence against the person was now the highest volume crime type in Reading, following significant reductions in occurrences of acquisitive crime. Despite the overall fall in crime rates, public order and drugs offences had increased during the period of the coronavirus pandemic. In terms of place, Reading town centre remained the top location for recorded crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB). Detection rates in Reading were disappointing at just 27%, although this may not be particularly low in comparison with other areas, and a significant proportion of crimes were closed with 'No Further Action'. While offenders were more likely to be male, there were higher proportions of female suspects in Shoplifting, Theft, Non-Domestic Violence, and increasingly Vehicle Theft. In terms of age profiling, there had been an increase in suspected offenders aged 13-21 and the 19-23 age group was increasing again following a temporary reduction during covid-19. Knife crime was increasing, against the trend, and predominantly affected young males, with minority ethnic groups disproportionately represented as both victims and suspects. Domestic violence continued to increase and cause considerable concern. Anti-social behaviour continued to decrease, with neighbour disputes and vehicle-related disturbances featuring most frequently. Hate crime remained relatively constant over the past 3 years with 80% recorded as crimes, Transgender, Black, and White British victims were most likely to experience violence. Road safety and water safety were also of concern and would benefit from a formal partnership response to minimise risk to life.

The Business Improvement District TownSafe Radio Scheme and associated DISC system had logged an increase in reported incidents in the town centre. Violence and drug or alcohol related ASB reported to the DISC system had decreased, while begging related ASB had increased contributing to 96% of reported town centre ASB incidents. Street pastors provided support for the night-time economy looking after people who were vulnerable to becoming victims of crime or involved in crime as well as supporting the sex workers that operated in Reading town centre alongside Rahab.

Fear of crime was continuing to increase from 23% to 49%, in line with the perception that crime had increased from 34% to 50%, despite little change in the proportion of respondents reporting to be victims of crime. There was a suggestion that more communication about the action being taken to tackle crime could alleviate some of this fear of crime and more transparency in the work of the CSP could also assist this aim.

Brighter Futures had identified a strong correlation between young people at risk of Criminal Exploitation and special educational needs and disabilities, single parent households, school exclusions. The information being collected for the Strategic Assessment and the preparation of the Strategy and Delivery Plan could assist the Prevent agenda (see Minute 2 above). Young people of Mixed Black Caribbean and White dual heritage were over-represented in fixed term school exclusions and in the cohort identified as at risk of exploitation by Brighter Futures when compared with the entire pupil population. There was potential work to be explored with schools following a therapeutic approach to manage behaviour, which appeared to be successful in reducing the number of fixed-terms and permanent exclusions.

#### **AGREED:**

- (1) That the initial findings of the Strategic Assessment be noted;
- (2) That further information be sought on the following headlines:
  - Comparison with detection rates in Reading compared with other local areas;
  - Clarification of the nature of crime and ASB being perpetrated by offenders from outside the Reading Borough area;
  - Deeper dive into violence against women and girls;
- (3) That the initial draft Strategic Assessment be circulated to members for comment; and Jo Middlemass be authorised to convene a small group of Partners to review the draft paper and determine whether there were any gaps;
- (4) That Deborah Glassbrook be authorised to nominate education representatives to join the CSP membership, which could include the Director of Education and a School representative;
- (5) That a meeting of the CSP be convened in early June 2022 to approve the Strategy and Delivery Plan based on the findings of the Strategic Assessment and Jo Middlemass, in consultation with the Chair, be authorised to select a suitable date to hold the meeting;
- (6) That Partners be encouraged to respond promptly to requests for information in relation to the Strategic Assessment to avoid delays to producing the CSP's Strategy and Delivery Plan;

- (7) That the following items related to the Strategic Assessment be considered for inclusion on the next scheduled CSP meeting on 13 July 2022:

- Thames Valley Police and Crime Plan Update;
- Update from the Serious Violence Group.

#### **4. SAFER STREETS**

Jo Middlemass gave a presentation on the schemes that had been funded through Safer Streets 2 (SS2) and the preparation to bid for Safer Streets 4 (SS4) funding. The presentation highlighted the successes of the SS2, which included the Coley Participatory Budget; the Town Safe Radio Scheme; improved CCTV and lighting; crime prevention training; burglary packs for victims of burglary and those living nearby; and Love Your Neighbourhood events.

In relation to SS4, the bids would run across 2022/23 and 2023/24 financial years, but funds could not be transferred between financial years. The delivery deadline for successful schemes was 30 September 2023. PCCs were allowed four prioritised bids per region and could delegate any of their bids to Local Authorities. The maximum bid amount was £750k over entire delivery period or for up to £500k in 2022/23, which must be spent by 31 March 2023. Bidders could also bid for up to £250k to spend between April & September 2023. The bid would be dependent on identifying 50% of match funding. The bids would need to target Neighbourhood Crimes, ASB, Violence against Women & Girls (VAWG) in public places, Improving feelings of Safety from VAWG or ASB or a combination of these types of offences and issues. Proposals must set out interventions intended to prevent the primary crime and issue types outlined, with the aim of showing some impact within the delivery timeline.

The Partnership was advised that the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner (OPCC) had approved Reading's expression of interest to submit a bid for SS4 Funding, which would focus on Town Centre areas, particularly in relation to night-time economy, Violence Against Women and Girls and ASB. At this stage, it was anticipated that the bid would include proposals for a centralised safe hub, which would accommodate the First Stop provision and be utilised as a multi-agency hub during the day, which could be used for crime prevention initiatives. There would be focus on designing out crime, particularly improving safety of routes out of town centre and CCTV. The crime prevention training that was delivered as part of SS2 would be consolidated with more emphasis on use of ASB powers, including ASB Training and developing an ASB Schools Project.

#### **AGREED:**

- (1) That the Safer Streets 4 bid would need to be submitted to the Home Office in May 2022 and the successful bids would be announced in June 2022 be noted;
- (2) That the Project Group established by Jo Middlemass, in consultation with the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner, be authorised to submit the bid to the Home Office by the May 2022 deadline;
- (3) That the membership of the Project Group be expanded to include representatives from Education (Deborah Glassbrook to identify suitable nominees) and the Voluntary Sector to assist with the preparation of the bid.

#### **5. COMMUNITY SAFETY FUND 2022 BIDS UPDATE**

Jo Middlemass reported that the latest round of Community Safety Fund Bids were being prepared for consideration by the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner.

**AGREED:** That the position be noted.

## **6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Informal Review of the Community Safety Partnership**

Further to Minute 5 of the previous meeting held on 3 February 2022, the Partnership discussed the informal review of the Partnership, which the Chair had asked Cath Marriott of the OPCC to carry out.

### **Health & Wellbeing Board - Strategic Assessment Presentation**

Becky Pollard asked whether it would be possible for a presentation on the Strategic Assessment and Delivery Plan to be given to the Health & Wellbeing Board. The Chair of the Health & Wellbeing Board was keen to coordinate the Health & Wellbeing Strategy with the findings of the Strategic Assessment.

### **Meeting Arrangements**

The Partners were asked for their views regarding the future arrangements for meetings and whether they would prefer to continue meeting online, return to in person meetings or have hybrid meetings. Alternatively, the Partnership could use a variety of formats depending on the business of the meetings.

### **AGREED:**

- (1) That the informal review of the Community Safety Partnership be carried out by Cath Marriott (OPCC) in the early summer 2022, to avoid detracting from the work to prepare the Strategic Assessment and Safer Streets 4 bid;
- (2) That Jo Middlemass and Steve Raffield give a presentation to a future meeting of the Health & Wellbeing Board on the Strategic Assessment and Delivery Plan;
- (3) That any comments/ views about preferences for how meetings should be held in the future be submitted to Jo Middlemass.

## **7. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

Future meetings for 2022/23 would take place on:

**13 July 2022**

**15 September 2022**

**10 November 2022**

**2 February 2023**

**20 April 2023**

There would also be an extra meeting in the first week of June 2022 to agree the Strategic Assessment Delivery Plan.

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

(The meeting commenced at 9.30am and closed at 11.06am)