

COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP EXECUTIVE GROUP - 14 JULY 2022

Present:

Steve Raffield	Thames Valley Police (Chair)
Cllr Jason Brock	Leader, RBC
Cllr Karen Rowland	Lead Councillor for Environmental Services & Community Safety
Cllr Clarence Mitchell	Observer, RBC
Cllr Raj Singh	Observer, RBC
Jo Middlemass	Community Safety and Enablement Manager, RBC
Frances Martin	Executive Director, RBC
Bryan Grady	Director of Children's Services Brighter Futures for Children
Gina Carpenter	Service Manager (Early Help, CATs), BFfC
John Ennis	Probation Service
Catherine Marriott	Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner
April Smith	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
Aaron Cheung	Thames Valley Police
Daniel Gidman	Thames Valley Police
Jeremy Oldroyd	Thames Valley Police
Giles Allchurch	Brighter Futures for Children
Kathryn Warner	PACT
Julie Quarmby	Committee Services, RBC

Apologies:

Cllr Tony Page	Deputy Leader, RBC
Seona Douglas	Executive Director of Social Care and Health, 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
Jacqueline Markie	Probation
Sabina Cannell	PACT

1. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 21 April 2022 were agreed as a correct record.

2. COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY & PLAN - PROVISIONAL PRIORITIES

Jo Middlemass gave a presentation on the Community Safety Strategy and Plan which covered the following areas:

- Provisional priorities - these would need to be assessed before they could be finalised and covered Child Criminal Exploitation, Knife Crime and Female Offending;
- Child Criminal Exploitation - there was already a lot of work around this by other groups;
- Crime had decreased by 11% in 2021-22 although this was likely to be due to the effect of Covid lockdowns and restrictions;

- Public fear of crime had risen;
- What the Needs Assessment had told us so far;
- Suggested areas for CSP focus;
- Proposed priorities for the CSP - Drug related activity, town centre crime and disorder, Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), hate crime, female offending;
- Proposed priorities for the Serious Violence Strategy - Knife crime, night time economy, violence against women and girls;
- Improving communications and community engagement.

The CSP noted that it was useful to see that female offending was being considered, noted that many of the offenders were women who had complex issues and were already vulnerable or at risk and that the current economic situation could lead to an increase in the number of female offenders. The figures showed that whilst there was a relatively small number of female offenders, they were often re-offenders.

Jo Middlemass set out the proposed timeline for agreeing the Community Safety Strategy and Plan as follows:

Public Consultation on Priorities	25 July - 5 September 2022
Complete draft Strategy and Plan	25 July - 5 September 2022
Finalise Strategy and Plan following consultation responses and circulate to CSP	5 -8 September 2022
Agree Strategy Directions and responses, set deadline for final comments & amendments	15 September 2022
Extraordinary CSP meeting to agree the final Strategy and Plan	17 October 2022
Strategy and Plan submitted to Housing, Neighbourhoods & Leisure Committee for approval	9 November 2022
CSP Strategy launch 25 July to 5 September 2022	10 November 2022
Delivery Group starts	December 2022
Community Safety Conference	Early 2023

Sarah Gardner gave a brief presentation on the proposed consultation questions in which she explained that there would be an overview before the questions to give context and that there would be five questions relating to Community Safety and two for serious violence. She asked for any comments on the draft questions to be submitted to her by 21 July 2022.

AGREED:

- (1) That the presentations be noted;
- (2) That any comments on the consultation questions be submitted to Sarah Gardner by noon on 21 July 2022.

3. YOUTH OFFENDING SERVICE PLAN 2022-23 - OVERVIEW

Giles Allchurch submitted the Annual Youth Offending Service Plan, which had been considered by the multi-agency board, for information. He explained that annual plans tended to change incrementally rather than major changes. This year there was a new template for the Plan.

Giles explained that the Plan took a child-centric approach to ensure that all agencies saw and treated young offenders as children first and offenders second. He added that there was a

higher than average number of first time entrants to the Youth Offending Service in the Reading area and the Plan aimed to identify the causes and address them. The CSP noted that there had been problems engaging with appropriate representatives from health services and that the YOS was looking at ways to increase their involvement.

Giles added that the team was also considering changing the name from Youth Offending to something less stigmatising and more young person friendly, and would be looking at suitable alternatives over the coming months.

AGREED: That the Youth Offending Service Plan 2022-23 be noted.

4. CRIME DATA OVERVIEW

Jo Middlemass reported on the provision crime performance statistics as at 30 April 2022. She reported that there had been peaks and troughs in the figures, with the dips corresponding to the periods of Covid lockdowns and restrictions. There had been an increase of 22% across all crimes and this compared with the trends reported by Reading's Most Similar Group of CSPs (MSG). Steve Raffield explained that once the CSP had agreed its priorities going forward, the crime statistics could be tailored to reflect these, so that progress could be monitored effectively.

AGREED: That the position be noted.

5. HM GOVERNMENT DRUG STRATEGY - FROM HARM TO HOPE: A 10-YEAR DRUGS PLAN TO CUT CRIME AND SAVE LIVES

Becky Pollard gave a presentation on the Government's drug strategy - From Harm to Hope: a 10-year drug plan to cut crime and save lives, which covered the following areas:

- The Plan concentrated breaking down the supply chains, delivering world-class treatment and recovery systems and reducing the demand for recreational drugs.
- The National Combatting Drugs Strategy outcomes and framework;
- Combatting Drugs Partnerships (multi-agency single setting and with a named Senior Responsible officer);
- The Geographic Footprint of the Partnership - specifications set out by the Government;
- Combatting Drugs Partnerships - membership, including schools;
- Timescales for Delivery.

The CSP discussed the presentation and noted that although the timescale to set up the Partnership and agree the terms of reference and Plans was short, it was manageable. The CSP felt that the optimum size for the geographical area would probably be the Berkshire West area, although Reading had more commonalities with Slough than West Berkshire. Cath Marriott reported that the OPCC could offer some support.

AGREED: That the position be noted.

6. COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP COMMUNICATIONS AND BRANDING

Jo Middlemass asked the CSP to start thinking about branding and communications for the future. She reported that the current Community Safety brand and logo were dated, and that she would be circulating a questionnaire seeking views and ideas, particularly around how the members of the CSP communicated with each other and the CSP communicated with the public.

AGREED: That the position be noted.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Safer Streets Funding

Cath Marriott reported that Reading had been successful in the latest round of bids for Safer Streets funding. This had not yet been made public and further details would be made available in due course.

Crime in the Oxford Road/Russell Street Area

Daniel Gidman reported that the Violence Reduction Unit were planning a joint operation to look at crime in the Oxford Road/Russell Street area and asked CSP members to contact him if they were interested in being involved.

Future Agendas

Steve Raffield, Jo Middlemass and Councillor Rowland would be agreeing future agendas, and asked that any items be submitted to them for inclusion.

AGREED: That the position be noted.

8. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Future meetings for 2022/23 would take place on:

15 September 2022

10 November 2022

2 February 2023

20 April 2023

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

(The meeting commenced at 9.30am and closed at 11.36am)