

COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP EXECUTIVE GROUP – 2 FEBRUARY 2023

Present:

Cllr Karen Rowland	Lead Councillor for Environmental Services & Community Safety, RBC (In the Chair)
Cllr Jason Brock	Leader, RBC
Zelda Wolfe	Assistant Director of Housing & Communities, RBC
Sarah Gardner	Community Safety Partnership, RBC
Joanne Anderson	Neighbourhood Initiatives Team Manager, RBC
Martin White	Consultant in Public Health, RBC
Elizabeth Brown	Thames Valley Police
Frances Martin	Executive Director of Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services, RBC
Sally Andersen	Senior Wellbeing Commissioning Manager for Drugs & Alcohol, RBC
Jackie Markie	Probation
Jo Middlemass	Community Safety and Enablement Manager, RBC
Giles Allchurch	Brighter Futures for Children
Catherine Marriott	Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner
Kathryn Warner	PACT
Jemma Durkan	Committee Services, RBC

Apologies:

Steve Raffield	Thames Valley Police (Chair)
Cllr Tony Page	Deputy Leader, RBC
Brian Grady	Brighter Futures for Children
Donna Gray	Safeguarding Children, Brighter Futures for Children
Carly Dagg	Probation
Dave Turton	Thames Valley Police
Andrew Pernith	Thames Valley Police

1. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 10 November 2022 were agreed as a correct record.

2. COMMUNITY SAFETY AND SERIOUS VIOLENCE STRATEGY – DELIVERY MECHANISMS

Further to minute 3 of the previous meeting Jo Middlemass provided an update on the Community Safety and Serious Violence Strategy 2022-25 delivery model. The delivery of the strategy would be undertaken over the next three years with six delivery focus groups. There would be three Serious Violence Focused Groups reporting to the Serious Violence Steering Group, and three Community Safety Focussed Groups reporting directly to the CSP Executive Group. A Communications Group would cross over all delivery groups as communication had been identified as an area that needed to be strengthened. A SharePoint site would be set up for the CSP Executive Group to share information and communicate with members more easily. Also, there would be standard terms of reference, action plans and Highlight Reporting format for all delivery groups.

The Community Safety Survey would be launched on 3 March 2023 and draft survey questions were being finalised. These would include perception questions and questions on engagement in relation to the Crime and Serious Violence Agenda. The survey would be available online, in paper copies and accessible in several languages. Face to face engagement would be undertaken in local communities through engagement events. Links to the survey would be shared with CSP members to publicise.

The Group discussed the Strategy, and it was suggested that questions and data from the Police Crime Commissioner survey be shared to help inform and support the Community Safety Survey.

The Group were also informed that Safer Streets 4 funding had been used to provide a platform for young people to share views and contribute towards how crime and serious violence would be dealt with in Reading. This would focus on Safer Streets Engagement, Community Safer Partnership re-brand, Community Safety and Serious Violence Strategy, and a Community Safety and Serious Violence Strategy Action Plan. Regarding the CSP rebrand the Group were provided with suggested new logos that had been designed by young people with new wording and artwork. Information would be circulated to CSP members outside of the meeting to provide feedback on the preferred options.

Berkshire Youth were undertaking a Young Peoples Survey in schools. It was suggested that data from this survey could also be used to support the Community Safety Survey. There was also an opportunity to use funding to help with the survey in schools. Jo confirmed that she would discuss this matter with Catherine Marriott outside of the meeting so that the relevant officers in Brighter Futures for Children could be contacted on how this could be taken to schools in Reading.

AGREED:

- (1) That information regarding the rebranding of the CSP logo by young people be circulated for feedback;
- (2) That information regarding funding for the survey to be circulated in schools be investigated.

3. COMBATING DRUGS PARTNERSHIP (CDP) UPDATE

Sally Anderson provided an update on the Combating Drugs Partnership (CDP) which was created following the 10-year Drugs Strategy 'From Harm to Hope' published in December 2021. This was a formal response to the Independent Review of Drugs led by Dame Carol Black providing a 10-year plan to reduce overall drug use towards a 30 year low. Funding for three years was being provided and had been secured for the first year.

The three core priorities were –

- Break drug supply chains,
- Deliver a world-class treatment and recovery system, and
- Achieve a shift in the demand for recreational drugs.

By the end of 2024/25 national ambition expectations from the strategy were as follows:

- Prevent nearly 1000 drug related deaths,
- 54,500 new high-quality treatment places,
- Preventions of 750,000 crimes through drug treatment,
- Closed over 2000 more county lines,
- Delivered 6400 major and moderate disruptions,
- Increased removal of criminal assets,
- Over the 10-year strategy reverse the rising trend in drug use.

It was noted there was a high level of pressure to achieve the outcomes.

The milestones achieved by the CDP in the first year included:

- Employment of a Senior Reporting Officer who would be the accountable officer and the Chair of the CDP.
- A CDP partnership with West Berkshire and Wokingham.
- Footprint.
- Needs Assessment.

- Strategic Delivery Action Plan to deliver the strategy.
- Progress Review (April 2023).

Next steps for the CDP would be to confirm a new Senior Reporting Officer, hold a stakeholder workshop to determine priorities for the Delivery Action Plan, confirm subgroups to deliver the plan, and agree the Outcomes Framework to link into the plan and to strategies.

It was noted that the stakeholder workshop was currently in the planning stage. Work would be undertaken with stakeholders across Thames Valley or Berkshire wide areas, but this had yet to be decided. Invites would be sent to all stakeholders and partners so that their strategic priorities could be shared, discussed, and aligned with current strategies.

The Chair thanked Sally for the update.

4. SOUTH CENTRAL REDUCTION RE-OFFENDING PLAN 2022 – 2025

Jackie Markie provided a presentation on the Probation Service and the South-Central Reduction Re-Offending Plan 2022-25. The Group noted the vision of the service:

‘Working together across the South-Central region to protect the public and help people to live law-abiding and positive lives.’

Scope of the service included supporting the courts, sentence management and working with criminal justice partners, interventions to reduce reoffending, working with victims of serious crime, and working in partnership with local prisons to reduce crime. Partnership working would be an important part of the service to help service users to engage in the community. Partners included prisons, police, youth offending teams, children’s/adult services, substance misuse services, MARAC/MATAC, local authority housing and voluntary organisations. The work of the service was undertaken across West Berkshire, Reading and Wokingham local authorities with service to Reading Crown Court and Reading Magistrates Court. The Group were provided with information on the Sentence Management Approach and Commissioned Rehabilitation Services.

The South-Central Reduction Re-Offending Plan set out four main objectives to deliver over the next three years: Training, skills and work; Drugs and alcohol addiction; Family Accommodation and Readjustment to society; and Public Security through Engagement and Compliance. A set of performance measures would be put in place to support the plan these would include:

- National Reconviction Dashboard.
- Outcome focussed Service Level Measures
- Needs Analysis every 12 months
- HMIP and Operational and Systems Assurance Group.

In response to questions, it was noted local delivery would include a memorandum of understanding signed between the service and treatment providers, working with Job Centres, utilising probation officers with specialist knowledge, working with prisons, and developing links with health services. To support people on probation there was a People in Probation Forum that met bi-monthly to discuss a collaborative agenda, a scheme for mentors which was looking to expand, and a Pathway to Work in the Probation Service.

Regarding work around ethnic minorities the Group were informed that the Forum would be providing feedback on how to improve in this area and data will be used to consider disproportionality.

It was noted that the CSP could consider where the Re-Offending Plan fitted into local priorities, share data, and consider how partners, communities and initiatives fitted into the plan.

Cath Marriott informed the Group that a pilot between the PCC and partners had been extended to support prison leavers. Some of the funding had been provided and a business case would be put forward to expand the project. Cath confirmed that an update would be provided to the Group with further information.

The Group also requested that an update on the Re-Offending Plan delivery phases also be provided to CSP members.

AGREED:

- (1) That an update on the delivery of the South-Central Reduction Re-Offending Plan 2022-25 be provided to a future meeting;
- (2) That an update from the PCC on the Supporting Prison Leavers project be provided to a future meeting.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

Giles Allchurch updated the Group on discussions to rebrand the Youth Offending Service. A name to better reflect the service had been considered and following a survey 79 responses had been received from service users and 200 votes had been cast via social media. The preferred name change chosen was Youth Justice Service. The logo and branding would be changed to reflect the change in the future.

AGREED: That the position be noted.

6. DATES OF FUTURE MEETING

The next meeting for 2022/23 would take place on:

20 April 2023

All meetings start at 9.30am, venue to be confirmed.
(The meeting commenced at 9.30am and closed at 11.00am)