

## COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP EXECUTIVE GROUP – 20 APRIL 2023

### Present:

Steve Raffield	Thames Valley Police (Chair) (In the Chair)
Cllr Jason Brock	Leader, RBC
Jo Middlemass	Community Safety and Enablement Manager, RBC
Sarah Gardner	Community Safety Partnership, RBC
Frances Martin	Executive Director of Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services, RBC
Sally Andersen	Senior Wellbeing Commissioning Manager for Drugs & Alcohol, RBC
Joanne Anderson	Neighbourhood Initiatives Team Manager, RBC
Jill Marston	Senior Policy Officer, RBC
Jason Murphy	RBC
Trip Pannu	Thames Valley Police
Colin Paine	Thames Valley Police
Emma Tompkins	Thames Valley Police
Gail Muirhead	RBFRS
Giles Allchurch	Brighter Futures for Children
Catherine Marriott	Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner
Justin Thomas	Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner
Elizabeth Brown	Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner
Kathryn Warner	PACT
Julie Quarmby	Committee Services, RBC

### Apologies:

Cllr Karen Rowland	Lead Councillor for Environmental Services & Community Safety, RBC
Cllr Tony Page	Deputy Leader, RBC
Zelda Wolfle	Assistant Director of Housing & Communities, RBC
Brian Grady	Brighter Futures for Children
Donna Gray	Safeguarding Children, Brighter Futures for Children
Lynne Mason	Business Manager, Locality Team, RBC
Cllr Raj Singh	Observer
Cllr Clarence Mitchell	Observer

### 1. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 2 February 2023 were agreed as a correct record.

### 2. THAMES VALLEY POLICE FORCE REVIEW

Colin Paine (Thames Valley Police) gave a presentation on the ongoing Thames Valley Police Force Review. He explained that this had been required as the last review had been carried out during 2010 and the recent HMIC inspection had shown that TVP had been struggling with high public demand and the effects of current financial constraints.

Colin explained that the aim of the review had been to improve the way that the force worked, rather than as a cost-cutting exercise. Staff at all levels had been consulted and lessons had been learned from other forces. Several options had been considered and in February 2023, the preferred option had been to move towards a five-area command structure, although a final decision would be made following full consultation with partners and stakeholders. This would mean that Reading would be placed in the Berkshire West area together with Wokingham and West Berkshire.

Colin also explained that the new structure would have several benefits for the West Berkshire Area, including increased staff numbers across harm reduction units, neighbourhood policing and response teams amongst others. However, there were some areas of concern including the loss of a dedicated Reading Commander and a risk that the team would appear more remote to some partners. The changes were due to be finalised in June 2023, and if agreed, the roll out would be phased across the five command areas, with the West Berkshire area being the last one starting in late 2023 and finishing during 2024. This would allow for any teething problems experienced by the other areas to be resolved and would ensure a smoother roll-out.

Colin also noted that the new commander for the area would have three Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) within their remit and it would be necessary for them to agree attendance at meetings. TVP recognised the value added by the Partnerships, particularly as the proposed new area was complex, encompassing both urban and rural areas and the need for cross-boundary working.

**AGREED: That Colin Paine be thanked for his interesting and informative presentation.**

### **3. HOME OFFICE COMMUNITY SAFETY REVIEW & ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR POWERS CONSULTATION**

Jo Middlemass gave a presentation on a Home Office Review of Community Safety Partnerships and a consultation on Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) powers. The presentation covered an overview of the review and consultation which would run from 27 March 2023 to 22 May 2023.

Jo explained that the three key proposals aimed to improve the understanding of Crime & Disorder and ASB by area, strengthen CSP accountability and agree any changes needed to the current requirements. The consultation also asked if existing ASB powers were sufficient and appropriate.

Cath Marriott explained that other CSPs worked in different ways and some worked better with their PCCs than others. The balance between Local Authorities, their policies and other non-political partnership organisations could also have an effect on how CSPs operated. She added that it would be very helpful if all organisations could respond to the consultation.

**AGREED: That CSP member organisations complete the survey.**

### **4. COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP DELIVERY GROUPS - FINAL MODEL**

Jo Middlemass gave a presentation setting out the final model for the CSP Delivery Groups:

- Community Safety (Reducing Crime, Tackling ASB & Hate Crime and Reducing Community-Based Drug Activity)
- Serious Violence (Reducing Knife Crime, Improving the Safety of Women & Girls, Tackling Organised Crime Groups)

Jo explained that the next steps would be working with key partners to look at how the Delivery Groups would work, with a focus on communications. The Chairs of the Groups would meet during May then convene the Groups in June to draw up draft action plans for agreement at the next CSP meeting to be held in July 2023.

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

### **5. THAMES VALLEY POLICE RACE ACTION PLAN**

Trip Pannu, (TVP) updated the CSP on the development of the TVP Police Race Action Plan, which aimed to improve policing for BAME communities. He explained that, when surveyed, these communities generally showed the least confidence and trust in police. Reading was one of five areas surveyed during February and March 2023 and the Action Plan was still in the development stage. Trip added that TVP were committed to improve policing, employing a more representative workforce and engaging more

meaningfully with the local BAME communities. The plan would be split into four pillars: Represented, Respected, Involved and Protected and would have strong links to the CSP Communications plans.

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

## **6. THAMES VALLEY POLICE STRATEGIC PLAN**

Steve Raffield (TVP) gave a brief presentation updating the CSP on the 2023 Strategic Action Plan. He explained that this was a simplified plan which picked up on the matters that were of most concern to communities, including serving victims, building trust, fighting crime and valuing our people. He added that the Plan was available to the public.

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

## **7. SAFER STREETS 4 UPDATE**

Sarah Gardner gave an update on the Safer Streets 4 scheme. The Home Office had granted £429k in July 2022, with Phase 1 taking place from July 2022 to March 2023, and Phase 2 running from April to September 2023. The focus was on using the funding to build on the strategic priorities of addressing violence against women and girls and reducing crime in Reading town centre. Sarah set out the highlights of the first phase including new CCTV cameras and an upgrade to the CCTV wireless network, the Safe Hub, analysis of crime generating venues, the Safer Student Partnership, the My Way mobile app, increased public engagement (in particular youth involvement) and ASB problem solving. The key priorities for Phase 2 would be further work to address violence against women and girls via a communications campaign and information about personal safety tools, designing out crime and further work with the Safe Hub.

Jo Middlemass explained that as much of this work related to the Delivery Groups, she and Sarah would be sharing details of the Safer Streets 4 progress to reduce duplication. There had not yet been any announcements from the Home Office relating to Safer Streets 5, but any further funding for Reading would depend on the Home Offices themes.

**AGREED: That Sarah Gardner be thanked for her work in making Safer Streets a success.**

## **8. COMMUNITY SAFETY SURVEY - EARLY HEADLINES**

Jo Middlemass and Sarah Gardner gave an update on the results to date of the CSP survey, which would run until 30 April 2023. Key themes that were emerging included:

- 55% of respondents felt that Reading was not a safe place;
- 45% felt that the level of neighbourhood crime had increased;
- 53% felt that ASB had increased;
- 56% were unaware of hate crime in their community;
- 70% felt safe during the daytime, compared to 34% who felt safe at night;
- 29% had been a victim of crime, 41% had been affected by ASB;
- 69% had not heard of the Community Safety Partnership.

Jo and Sarah would submit a more detailed report to a future meeting of the CSP, once the survey had closed and the responses been analysed.

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

## **9. COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERHIP LOGO**

Sarah Gardner shared the final two proposed logo for the CSP, both of which were available in different colourways, and explained the reasoning behind the designs. She asked that members vote for their choice.

**AGREED: Sarah Gardner to email the CSP with the final logo choices with a request for members to cast their votes by Friday 28 April 2023.**

## **10. OTHER BUSINESS**

Steve Raffield reported that the Amnesty Art Project sculpture made from knives that had been handed in during the knife amnesty would be unveiled outside the Oracle on 15 May 2023. TVP would be holding knife crime awareness raising sessions linked to the artwork over the summer.

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

## **11. DATES OF FUTURE MEETING**

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

**13 July 2023**

**14 September 2023**

**9 November 2023**

**1 February 2024 and**

**18 April 2024**

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

(The meeting commenced at 9.30am and closed at 11.44am)