

## COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP EXECUTIVE GROUP – 14 SEPTEMBER 2023

### Present:

Steve Raffield	Thames Valley Police (Chair) (In the Chair)
Cllr Karen Rowland	Lead Councillor for Environmental Services & Community Safety, RBC
Cllr Liz Terry	Deputy Leader and Lead Councillor for Corporate Services and Resources
Sarah Gardner	Community Safety Partnership, RBC
Zelda Wolfe	Assistant Director of Housing & Communities, RBC
Jason Murphy	RBC
Graham Genoni	Project Director, Brighter Futures for Children
Sally Andersen	Senior Wellbeing Commissioning Manager for Drugs & Alcohol, RBC
Joanne Anderson	Neighbourhood Initiatives Team Manager, RBC
Giles Allchurch	Brighter Futures for Children
April Smith	Thames Valley Police
Praveen Liyanage	Prevention Lead, Brighter Futures for Children
Gail Muirhead	Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service
Neil Whiteman	Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service
Sabina	PACT
Verity Barton	Probation Service
Abi Harsant	Probation Service
Jason Kew	?
Kirsten Willis-Drewett	South Central Ambulance Service
Julie Quarmby	Committee Services, RBC

### Apologies:

Cllr Jason Brock	Leader, RBC
Jo Middlemass	Community Safety and Enablement Manager, RBC
Emma Gee	Executive Director of Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services, RBC
Lara Patel	Executive Director, Brighter Futures for Children
Melissa Wise	Executive Director of Social Care and Health
Carly Dagg	Probation
Donna Gray	Safeguarding Children, Brighter Futures for Children
Catherine Marriott	Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner
Kathryn Warner	PACT
Natausha Vanvliet	PACT
Zoe Hanim	RBC
Kelly Reed	Thames Valley Police
Stephen Leonard	Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service
Cllr Mitchell	RBC, Observer

### 1. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2023 were agreed as a correct record.

## 2. SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM REVIEW

Jason Murphy gave a presentation on the Safer Neighbourhood Forum Review which covered the following areas:

- The purpose of the review;
- Actions that had been taken to date;
- The current Forum set up;
- Constraints within the current format;
- What the Review hoped to achieve;
- Proposal for the new structure;

Jason explained that the new structure would be more flexible with a reformed Safer Reading Forum and Safer Reading Champions. Officers would be carrying out further work to clarify the role of the proposed new Street Champions, although it was anticipated that there would not need to be a Champion for every street in the Brough and the role was most likely to ensure good two-way communication for residents. Officers would also inform the Neighbourhood Forum Chairs of the new structure and the way that the Forums and the Community Safety Partnership worked together.

Jason also added that the new structure would enable the views of young people to be captured, mainly via their involvement in Safer Streets 4. The Group noted that it would also be essential to involve other harder to reach groups such as the elderly, vulnerable people and other traditionally harder to engage groups within the community. The Partnership stressed the need for a good communications strategy to encourage two-way information sharing.

**AGREED: That the Safer Neighbourhood Forum Review be endorsed for onward submission to the meeting of the Housing, Neighbourhoods and Leisure Committee meeting to be held on 8 November 2023.**

## 3. DELIVERY GROUP UPDATE

Jason Murphy gave a presentation setting out the progress to date made by the Safer Reading Delivery Groups:

- The Violence Against Women and Girls Group was developing an action plan, had met for a discussion of data with an analyst and the communications task and finish group was working to promote the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women to be held on 25 November 2023.
- The Knife Crime Delivery Group would hold its first meeting on 20 September 2023. There would be a focus on Young People and knife crime and this would be aligned with the recommendations from the CSPR Thematic Review of Serious Violence. The Knife Crime Amnesty sculpture at the Oracle would be renamed Olly's Work.
- The Anti-Social Behaviour and Hate Crime group were due to meet during October 2023 with a view to identifying ways to progress each area separately whilst ensuring the appropriate links between them were maintained. A Hate Crime task and finish group would be set up to look into barriers to reporting and how partner agencies dealt with knife crime.
- The Reducing Crime Delivery Group aimed to reduce high volume and high harm crimes by analysing the available data to design out crime, and to learn from other's successes. The first meeting would be held in October 2023.

Jason Murphy explained that the other delivery groups were making good progress and several cross-cutting areas had been identified, including the night-time economy, Reading Festival and the town centre. The Chairs of the Delivery Groups would meet in October 2023 to discuss these issues. Steve Raffield added that there would be a clear reporting structure for the Delivery Groups and there was support for creating an overarching communications group to update the public of the Community Safety Partnership's actions and achievements.

Sally Andersen informed the Group that a combatting drugs stakeholder day had been arranged for 29 September 2023 at the football stadium and invitations would be sent out shortly. The event had been planned to discuss desired outcomes and ways to achieve them.

**AGREED:**

- (1) That the presentation be noted;**
- (2) That Jason Murphy and/or Steve Raffield attend the combatting drugs stakeholder day and give an update at the next meeting of the CSP;**
- (3) That April Smith ask the OPCC analyst to provide figures on drugs in Reading.**

**4. WATER SAFETY PARTNERSHIP PROPOSAL - FOR APPROVAL**

Jason Murphy introduced Gail Muirhead and Neil Whiteman from Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service, who updated the Group on proposals for a Water Safety Partnership for Reading, aimed at preventing future accidental drowning deaths. They explained that a Water Safety Partnership should include relevant public bodies and emergency services, and the Canal and Rivers Trust and that all of the neighbouring local authorities in Berkshire and South Oxfordshire supported a Water Safety Partnership.

Gail and Neil reported that Reading had a considerable number of water ways which presented several risk factors meaning the potential for serious injury or fatality was high. The objectives for the proposed partnership could include promoting and developing water-safety education and initiatives' improving public awareness of water-related risks and ensuring a consistent message through campaigns and communications. The partnership could also share best practice and resources across the Borough (and beyond) highlighting a multi-agency approach to water safety. Some particular themes that could be considered included reaching communities that had been identified as less likely to be able to swim and access to water safety equipment. The group noted that throw lines could be used as an alternative to life rings, which were often just thrown into the water. Throw lines were more expensive to purchase, but were more cost effective in the longer term, and Reading Police officers had already been receiving training on using throw lines from vehicles. The Group noted that vehicle access to waterways was often at some distance and considered whether businesses along the waterways would be able to provide locations for throw lines.

Gail and Neil also set out details of the agencies that could be involved in the partnership and it was suggested that local bodies such as rowing clubs, the university of Reading and the football club might also be involved. The partnership's terms of reference and governance would also need to be agreed. It was also suggested that there was potential to combine with West Berkshire's Water Safety Partnership, although it was felt that it would be preferable to set up a Reading-based partnership first with a view to possibly combining the two at a later date.

**AGREED:**

- (1) That Royal Berkshire Fire and rescue circulate details of the Terms of Reference and membership of the West Berkshire Water Safety Partnership for information;**
- (2) That Councillor Rowland and Steve Raffield discuss membership and leadership of the partnership;**
- (3) That a further report be submitted to the next meeting of the Group.**

**5. YOUNG PEOPLE'S VERSION OF COMMUNITY SAFETY/SERIOUS VIOLENCE STRATEGY EVENT**

Carly Newman and Simon Ray updated the Group on actions that had been taken to embed young voices in decision making that would concern their safety. Project work had been set up with appropriate agencies and teams. The Safer Streets 4 project had demonstrated that young people could be fully involved and meant that their views and ideas could be used to shape their own Community Safety/Serious Violence Strategy. A young person's Community Safety event had been organised at the football stadium on 26 October 2023.

Simon Ray added that involvement in Community Safety also gave the young people opportunities to develop life skills. Although those involved were not always paid, they could receive awards such as AQA Public Speaking or Public Involvement, and this could also be seen as part of alternative provision by schools.

**AGREED:**

- (1) That the position be noted;**
- (2) That an update on the community Safety event be submitted to the next meeting of the Group.**

**6. DATES OF FUTURE MEETING**

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

**9 November 2023 - to be re-arranged.  
1 February 2024 and  
18 April 2024**

All meetings start at 9.30am, **in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices**

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