

COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP EXECUTIVE GROUP – 8 NOVEMBER 2023

Present:

Steve Raffield	Thames Valley Police (Chair) (In the Chair)
Cllr Karen Rowland	Lead Councillor for Environmental Services & Community Safety, RBC
Cllr Jason Brock	Leader, RBC
Cllr Liz Terry	Deputy Leader and Lead Councillor for Corporate Services and Resources
Jo Middlemass	Community Safety and Enablement Manager, RBC
Sarah Gardner	Community Safety Partnership, RBC
Jason Murphy	RBC
Zelda Wolfe	Assistant Director of Housing & Communities, RBC
Melissa Wise	Executive Director of Social Care and Health
Zoe Hanim	RBC
Graham Genoni	Project Director, Brighter Futures for Children
Sally Andersen	Senior Wellbeing Commissioning Manager for Drugs & Alcohol, RBC
Giles Allchurch	Brighter Futures for Children
Matthew George	ACRE Reading
Chelsea Piggott	Streetgames
Mike Bridges	Public Health
Amanda Nyoke	Public Health
Sabina	PACT
Verity Barton	Probation Service
Jason Kew	Thames Valley Violence Reduction Unit
Kirsten Willis-Drewett	South Central Ambulance Service
Julie Quarmby	Committee Services, RBC

Apologies:

Lara Patel	Executive Director, Brighter Futures for Children
Carly Dagg	Probation
Catherine Marriott	Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner
Kathryn Warner	PACT
Emma Tompkins	Thames Valley Police
Martin White	Public Health
John Ashton	Interim Director of Public Health
Keith Townsend	Executive Director for Economic Growth & Neighbourhood Services
Cllr Moore	RBC, Observer
April Smith	Thames Valley Police

1. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 14 September 2023 were agreed as a correct record.

Jo Middlemass confirmed that the Safer Neighbourhoods Review would now be considered at the Housing, Neighbourhoods & Leisure Committee meeting to be held on 1 February 2024.

Jason Murphy reported that he had attended the recent Combatting Drugs event, which had been very useful. He added that the event had highlighted the need for partners to work together and ensure that their strategies aligned to achieve efficiency and best results. Jo Middlemass explained that she would invite Sally Andresen to attend the CSP Chairs Group meeting to discuss communications around the drug-based work being undertaken by the partner organisations. Sally Anderson added that the OPCC dashboard held a considerable amount of helpful data that partner organisations could use.

Agreed: That Jo Middlemass invite Aaron Cheung to a future CSP meeting to present an update on the latest drug-related data.

Jason Murphy reported that he had worked with Gail Muirhead to identify the next steps in setting up a Water Safety Partnership. These included an audit of Reading's Waterways and ownership, and a meeting with Parks and Highways officers on 9 November 2023.

Agreed: That the draft Terms of Reference and Membership for a Reading Water Safety Partnership be submitted to the next meeting of the CSP.

2. YOUNG PEOPLE'S VERSION OF CS/SV STRATEGY DEBRIEF AND ASKS FROM YOUNG PEOPLE

Further to Minute 5 of the meeting held on 14 September 2023, Jo Middlemass and Sarah Gardner updated the CSP on the Young People's version of the Community Safety/Serious Violence Strategy that had recently been launched. The feedback and concerns had included:

- The need for appropriate, regular communications;
- Preventative police presence;
- Improved streetlighting;
- Use of social media to promote the good things and provide help with the bad ones;
- Education;
- Community had been mentioned in the title, but had not been referred to in the text of the Strategy;
- The perception that Reading was known for knife crime.

The CSP members that had attended the launch reported that it had been a very successful event. The Group noted that there was a need to harness the energy from the event and continue to build on this work with young people.

Young people reported that they felt invisible and were not heard, and it was important to ensure young people knew that they were being listened to whilst still being aware that theirs were not the only voices and opinions to be taken into consideration. Quick visible wins would help to keep young people engaged and ensure that there was not a loss of momentum.

CSP agreed that partners could make better use of social media to involve young people and officers were looking at setting up a working group with young people, who would be responsible for information gathering about issues and problems and suggesting solutions. It was also agreed that it would be helpful to collaborate with young people when preparing communications to ensure that they were relevant to all age groups.

The Knife Crime Delivery Group could use targeted communications and work with schools to inform young people of reality versus perception of knife crime in Reading and work with them to reduce the level going forward.

The young people had set out questions for the partners about how they would ensure that young people continued to be engaged in Community Safety:

1. What commitments will you make now?
2. How will you communicate them?
3. How can young people be involved?
4. How will you make sure you follow through with what you've said you will do?

AGREED: That the Young People's version of the Community Safety/Serious Violence Strategy be noted;

That the partners consider their responses to the four questions set by young people and report to a future CSP meeting.

3. DELIVERY GROUP UPDATE

Jo Middlemass 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 its action plan and finalising priorities. A communications campaign was being finalised for this month to raise awareness and encourage reporting to coincide with White Ribbon day. A Task and Finish Group would be established to focus on the Thematic Review priority to understand the links with VAWG. A Domestic Abuse Operational Group was being established to work across this group and the Domestic Abuse Partnership Board.
- The Knife Crime Delivery Group had held its first meeting on 20 September 2023. The Refreshed Needs Assessment had identified that of the 1388 serious violence offences that occurred between Jan 2018 and April 2023, 78% were knife related with ABH, Robbery and GBH being the top three crimes involving a knife. The delivery group had been tasked with picking up the Thematic Review priority to jointly develop and produce a 'problem profile' summarising key statistical information about risk and vulnerability in relation to serious youth violence, knife crime and child exploitation.
- The Organised Crime Delivery Group had identified a number of areas of focus for partnership activity. The Group would work with Private Landlords to raise awareness in terms of spotting the signs of activity and how to report it. CSP comms plan would include organised crime messaging on a more frequent basis. A Stronghold meeting was already in existence and was predominantly operationally focussed. A regular programme of annual training would be set up. Brighter Futures for Children and other organisations supporting Young People would ensure that workers were aware of the issues and what support was available; this could be delegated to the Adolescent Risk Group to take forward. A review needed to be undertaken to determine if the partnership approach to supporting vulnerable adults who were being cuckooed was working. A Task and Finish Group had been proposed to review cuckooing cases and the impact of interventions.
- The Anti-Social Behaviour and Hate Crime group had now met, and work was being undertaken to focus on priorities. Key areas included agreeing the partnership approach to reporting ASB and how this was communicated, working across the revised problem-solving meetings to strategically respond to Borough wide ASB issues and improve responses to Hate Crime and the support provided to victims. The Community Right to Review process would be overseen by this delivery group.

- The Reducing Crime Delivery Group had met during October 2023. Initial crime data dashboard (data from Jan 2022 – Sept 2023) had been released and further analysis would be undertaken. The Group proposed to focus on Abbey Ward and Borough wide shoplifting for the first year of the plan and a Comms Campaign that would focus on crime prevention messaging throughout the year across the partnership and set out a programme of Love Your Neighbourhood Events.

Jo Middlemass also updated the Group on the Strategic Needs Assessment Refresh. She explained that the Serious Violence SNA Refresh had been undertaken and some additional data requests had been made by the delivery groups. The overarching Community Safety SNA refresh was underway and partners were being asked to provide updated data to include in the refresh. Jo also asked that the Group members ensure their agency fed into the data collation activity. Jo added that the first Delivery Group highlight reports would be due in February 2024 and she would be investigating the best way for these to be presented to the Group.

AGREED: That the presentation be noted.

4. PARTNERSHIP FUND BIDS

Jo Middlemass reported that funding for 2024-25 had reduced significantly and that allocations would have to change to reflect this decrease. The new priority areas for funding included:

- Project Support for key deliverables including Serious Violence Duty, Communication strategies, Community Engagement, Safe Space, potential funding bids, Safer Students Partnership, awareness raising campaigns.
- Drug and alcohol support for young people
- Qualified crime prevention support
- Business crime support outside of Town Centre
- Prevention activity resulting from Thematic Review activities.

AGREED:

- (1) That the changes in funding allocation be supported;
- (2) That Partners put forward bids based on the new approach to allocations.

5. YOUNG PEOPLE'S ACTIVITIES & PROGRAMMES GROUP AND STREET GAMES SHOWCASE

Chelsea Piggott and Jason Murphy gave a presentation on the provision of activities that could benefit young people both in terms of health and fitness and how they could be involved with and give back to their local community. They explained that Activities and Programme Group was a subgroup of the Knife Crime Delivery Group incorporating representatives of agencies from sport, culture, youth work and education settings whose primary goal was to work with young people most at risk. The group had started as part of the 'Armoured Heart' installation and associated programmes of work and had maintained a connection with the Reading Cultural Education Partnership, which was invested in ensuring that young people's experiences of arts and culture grew, was inclusive and was inspiring. The presentation covered the new website, strategic programmes and future activity programmes. Chelsea Piggott explained that the aim was to deliver sports in such a way that young people would be encouraged to do more than just play by providing

opportunities to assist with the organisation of the activities, volunteer and mentor other young people.

Chelsea Piggott also explained that there would be local sport and inclusion boards, with strong and formal referral pathways. Providers could share best practice and there would be regional community events in spring 2024. Chelsea added that, to date, 13 organisations had accessed funding and 190 young people identified as being at risk had been referred to the programmes. There were lots of contact hours and one-to-one support. It was noted that, at present there were significantly more male than female participants and work was underway to include female focused support. The Group noted that other activities such as dance, music and media could be offered in the future for those young people who did not want to engage with sport.

AGREED: That the presentation be noted.

6. COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMS PLAN & COMMUNITY SAFETY SURVEY

Jo Middlemass proposed that the next Community Safety Survey be carried out during June and July 2024 to maximise reach and engagement and to tie-in with the Love Your Neighbourhoods events and Anti-Social Behaviour Awareness Week. Officers were planning for a considerable amount of face to face engagement and hoped that these dates would reduce the risk of lack of response due to the summer holiday period. Further details would be submitted to the next meeting of the Group for discussion.

AGREED:

- (1) That the next Community Safety Survey be carried out during June and July 2024;**
- (2) That further details be submitted to the CSP meeting to be held on 1 February 2024.**

7. PREVENT UPDATE - CTLP RISK ASSESSMENT/READING'S PREVENT ACTION PLAN

Zoe Hanim gave a presentation updating the Group on the Counter Terrorism Local Profile (CTLP) including the key objectives of the recently agreed Action Plan and progress against the key actions for 2023. These key actions included, an online safety campaign, a prevent survey, a resource pack, a Hate Crime Awareness week, conferences, community engagement work and a venue hire policy. Zoe explained that the Prevent Training and Communications Plans 2023-24 had been drawn up to support the Action Plan. The Prevent Duty set out 10 benchmarks and there was a tiered approach to training depending on whether the participants' responsibilities were operational, managerial or strategic and based on the nature of their role and level of contact with vulnerable people.

Zoe Hanim also reported that the draft Communications Plan aimed to raise awareness to reduce the risk of people being influenced by extremist views. The key actions that would help to achieve this aim included raising awareness of the increasing threat of extremist influence on social media and gaming platforms, promoting the ACT Early advice and support website and the Prevent and Channel Process to professionals, the voluntary sector and business community. Activities over summer 2023 had included an online safety campaign and attending Reading College freshers week, the Reading Voluntary Action AGM and the Hate Crime Awareness Week in October 2023. Future communications would be

linked to the Safer Internet Day during February 2024 and a funding bid to the Home Office would be developed to raise awareness across the Business Sector.

AGREED: That the presentation be noted.

8. DATES OF FUTURE MEETING

The next meeting for 2023/24 would take place on:

1 February 2024
18 April 2024

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

(The meeting commenced at 9.30am and closed at 11.52am)