

## COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP EXECUTIVE GROUP – 1 FEBRUARY 2024

### Present:

Cllr Karen Rowland	Lead Councillor for Environmental Services & Community Safety, RBC (Vice Chair in the Chair)
Jason Murphy	Community Safety, RBC
Melissa Wise	Executive Director of Social Care and Health
Zoe Hanim	Prevent/Channel Lead, RBC
Lara Patel	Executive Director, Brighter Futures for Children
Jill Marston	Senior Policy Officer, RBC
Carly Newman	No 5
Alastair Harsant	Partnership Co-ordinator (Business & Strategy) (RBC)
Giles Allchurch	Brighter Futures for Children
John Knight	Assistant Director for Housing & Communities (RBC)
Kathryn Warner	PACT
Mike Bridges	Public Health
Jonny Bradish	Brighter Futures for Children
Gail Muirhead	Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service
Jacob Nurdan	OPCC
Paul Brown	Reading Football Club
Kathy Kelly	TVP
Verity Barton	Probation Service
Jason Kew	Thames Valley Violence Reduction Unit
Julie Quarmby	Committee Services, RBC

### Apologies:

Steve Raffield	Thames Valley Police (Chair)
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
Zelda Wolfe	Assistant Director of Housing & Communities, RBC
Keith Townsend	Executive Director of Economic Growth & Neighbourhood Services (RBC)
Kirsten Willis-Drewett	South Central Ambulance Service
Sally Andersen	Senior Wellbeing Commissioning Manager for Drugs & Alcohol, RBC
Carly Dagg	Probation
Catherine Marriott	Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner
Stephen Czajewski	Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner
Emma Tompkins	Thames Valley Police
John Ashton	Interim Director of Public Health

### 1. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 8 November 2023 were agreed as a correct record.

### 2. TERMS OF REFERENCE AND FUTURE SELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

Jason Murphy submitted amended Terms of Reference for the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) for 2024-26. He explained that these had been amended to reflect the CSP's role in Domestic Homicide Reviews and refer to Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Right

to Review (also known as Community trigger). The CSP asked if the document could be amended to include reference to the membership of the Delivery Groups and provide a diagram setting out the links between the CSP, its Delivery Groups and other partners.

**AGREED: That Jason Murphy submit amended Terms of Reference with an organisational chart to the next meeting of the CSP for approval.**

Jason Murphy reported that it would be helpful if the CSP had a process for the appointment of the Chair and Vice Chair. He suggested that members submit nominations by 15 March 2024 and he and Jo Middlemass would then liaise with the nominees prior to the next meeting when the Chair and Vice Chair would be appointed by the Group. Jason added that if there were no nominees, Steve Raffield and Councillor Rowland would continue as Chair and Vice Chair respectively.

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

### **3. BRIEFING ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE BILL**

Jason Murphy gave a presentation setting out details of the Criminal Justice Bill, which aimed to:

- Ensure that criminals faced the consequences of their actions and spent longer behind bars;
- Give Probation Officers greater powers;
- Tackle violence against women and girls;
- Crackdown on crimes and ASB blighting neighbourhoods;
- Counter evolving threats and sophisticated technologies;
- Build a better justice system.

The presentation also set out details of the Government's proposals for tackling and reporting ASB and proposals around the relationship between the PCC and CSPs. There would be further legislation in the future that would introduce new statutory requirements for the CSP around the annual strategic assessment and how it had had due regard to the police and crime objectives set out in the PCC's police and crime plan. The CSP would also have to send a copy of the strategic assessment to the PCC and publish the executive summary of their strategic assessment.

The Group discussed the presentation and its effects on the CSP in future, particularly as Thames Valley Police (TVP) would be changing from 11 operational areas to five. The Group noted that there could be opportunities to work with other partners and CSPs, and to streamline information sharing. Jason Murphy also explained that this year's annual survey would be similar to 2023 as it would be only the second one, but future surveys could include wider alignment of messages with the PCC.

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

### **4. WATER SAFETY PARTNERSHIP - FEEDBACK FROM SCOPING MEETING**

Further to Minute 4 of the meeting held on 14 September 2023, Jason Murphy gave an update on progress towards the formation of a Reading Water Safety Partnership (WSP). The Group noted that Reading had had a higher number of incidents than the other Berkshire local authorities and was the only authority not to have a partnership. The first meeting had taken place on 29 January 2024, and had been well attended by the partners. The WSP had agreed to survey councillors and stakeholders on the areas that they felt were risks, then use the responses to identify risks and bring forward a risk plan. The WSP had

also considered possible Terms of Reference and agreed to submit an update report to the CSP on an annual basis, or more frequently if required. Further work would be needed to identify the resources needed to ensure that the WSP could improve water safety within Reading. The WSP had also agreed that, at this stage, it was appropriate to keep this as a separate Reading group, rather than join with a neighbouring WSP. The Group also noted that flooding came under the remit of resilience and emergency planning rather than the WSP.

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

## **5. PREVENT UPDATE**

Zoe Hanim gave a presentation on the new Prevent Guidance that would be introduced in February 2024, which covered:

- An independent review had led to 34 recommendations for improvements;
- New Channel guidance included a pilot for a framework for Police to assess cases and strengthen case closures;
- Clearer security threat checks;
- A new Prevent toolkit;
- Amended benchmarks;
- Details of the latest prevent data. There had been a slight increase in adopted cases for young people (aged 11-15), 10% of cases were adopted and the top three areas for radicalisation were extreme right-wing, Islamist and conflicted ideologies;
- The National Prevent Conference in November 2023 had covered radicalisation threats, the role of social media in spreading disinformation, the role of schools, a new standards and compliance unit and limited government funding;
- Last year's activities had included online safety campaigns, raising awareness of Prevent among local businesses and community engagement.

Zoe also explained that currently Prevent training for businesses was not covered by legislation. However, employers were often well placed to notice changes in a member of staff, and Zoe was liaising with the Home Office and had suggested that a pilot scheme could be set up. Zoe also explained that whilst only 10% of referrals were adopted, many of the other individuals would be referred to other providers, and others would not need to be referred.

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

## **6. DELIVERY GROUPS UPDATES**

### **Combatting Drugs:**

Jason Kew reported that activities had included developing a model for drug testing on arrest and assessing the most appropriate route for the individual going forward and a programme of intervention with parents and young people. Jason added that the latest statistics showed Reading had a relatively high number of drug-related deaths, with over 100 people needed urgent care, and the majority of the drug-related deaths in Berkshire. Partners were also working on communications warning the public about the risks around the use of nitazines. Jason also suggested that services could access naloxone kits which could help save lives in case of opioid overdoses.

Jason Murphy reported that the Community Safety team were drawing up templates to help Delivery Groups deliver their stated outcomes and he hoped to report further at the next meeting.

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

## **7. YOUNG VOICES - NEXT STEPS AND INVOLVEMENT IN THE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP**

Jason Murphy introduced the updated Young Persons Community Safety Strategy document and asked the Group to consider how this would now be used to increase involvement by young people. He suggested that the CSP could investigate the practicalities of including a young persons representative. The Group noted that a young person would not necessarily represent the views of all young people, but would be able to bring a fresh perspective to the meetings. It would be important to ensure that this was meaningful for the young person and the group rather than a tick box exercise. The Group also noted that recruitment would be ongoing because the representative would grow up. Paul Brown suggested that one of the young people who worked at RFC and had been involved in the various youth programmes could be interested. He and Jason Murphy would talk to the individual about possible involvement in the CSP. The Group also discussed what remuneration would be appropriate for a young people's representative. Lesley Patel explained that the corporate Parenting Panel were looking at remuneration for its young attendees and this could be adapted for the CSP. Carly Newman also reported that No 5 had carried out work looking at remuneration and she could provide feedback if required. She added that one benefit had been the production of a crib sheet for all of the acronyms which was useful for all attendees, not just the young person.

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

## **8. DATES OF FUTURE MEETING**

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

18 April 2024

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

(The meeting commenced at 2.00pm and closed at 4.00pm)