

COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP EXECUTIVE GROUP – 18 APRIL 2024

Present:

Steve Raffield	Thames Valley Police (Chair)
Cllr Karen Rowland	Lead Councillor for Environmental Services & Community Safety, RBC (Vice Chair)
Cllr Jason Brock	Leader, RBC
Cllr Liz Terry	Deputy Leader and Lead Councillor for Corporate Services and Resources
Jason Murphy	Community Safety, RBC
Sarah Gardner	Community Safety, RBC
Sally Andersen	Senior Wellbeing Commissioning Manager for Drugs & Alcohol, RBC
Emma Tompkins	Thames Valley Police
John Knight	Assistant Director for Housing & Communities (RBC)
Kathy Kelly	TVP
Max Scott	Young Voices and Reading Football Club
Jason Kew	Thames Valley Violence Reduction Unit
George Mathew	ACRE
Sabina Cannell	PACT
Neil Whiteman	Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service
Deborah Jeremiah	Chair of Domestic Homicide Review
Julie Quarmby	Committee Services, RBC

Apologies:

Jo Middlemass	Community Safety and Enablement Manager, RBC
Melissa Wise	Executive Director of Social Care and Health
Lara Patel	Brighter Futures for Children
Zoe Hanim	Prevent/Channel Lead, RBC
Jill Marston	Senior Policy Officer, RBC
Giles Allchurch	Brighter Futures for Children
Kirsten Willis-Dewett	South Central Ambulance Service
Kathryn Warner	PACT
Carly Dagg	Probation
Catherine Marriott	Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner
Umi Abdulmutwalib	Domestic Abuse Partnership Officer, RBC
Martin White	Consultant in Public Health, RBC
John Ashton	Interim Director of Public Health
Amanda Nyeke	Public Health & Wellbeing Manager, RBC
Kelly Reed	Thames Valley Police
Cllr Moore	Observer

1. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 1 February 2024 were agreed as a correct record.

Jason Murphy confirmed that the amended Terms of Reference would be submitted to the Group at the meeting to be held on 18 July 2024.

2. OUTCOME OF DOMESTIC HOMICIDE REVIEW

Deborah Jeremiah submitted a report on a recent DHR. The report explained the circumstances of the case, the review findings and set out the recommendations arising

from the review. The report would be submitted to the Home Office Quality Assurance Panel and it would take eight to ten months to be signed off. The Group noted that agencies would need to work together to make third party reporting easier and that this would be easier(?) if there were to be greater support from the Home Office.

AGREED: That the report and its recommendations be agreed for submission to the Home Office and that Deborah Jeremiah be thanked for her work chairing the review.

3. HATE CRIME

Jason Murphy and George Mathew (ACRE) gave a presentation updating the Group on Hate Crime. The presentation set out:

- the current context, including the diverse nature of Reading's population which had the potential for higher risk of community tensions that could lead to hate crime; international events; and the need for the CSP to focus on all types of hate crime, not just race and religion;
- local support mechanisms for support. ACRE had maintained the Hate Crime portfolio for some time, held a Hate Crime Forum and ran scrutiny panels. However, there had been limited funding which had impacted the ability to reach all communities affected by Hate Crime;
- Themes raised by the ACRE Scrutiny Panel included correlation between offences reported as Hate Crime and mental health, delays in prosecutions could diminish victims' experiences and confidence, victims could be reluctant to be interviewed, outcomes for victims was often poor and there was a need to analyse demographic changes within Reading;
- Illustrative Hate Crime data showed a decrease in reported crimes, although honour-based violence had seen a significant increase. There could be several reasons for this decrease including a lack of confidence in reporting, not knowing what was or was not a Hate Crime, spikes following national or international events and inconsistent recording;
- A lack of funding meant that services were unable to address Hate Crime effectively within the community;
- It was recommended that the CSP receive a quarterly report on Hate Crime, that a representative from the core members of the partnership attend Reading's twice-yearly Hate Crime Forum and that the Community Safety Team develop local alliances to explore funding opportunities.

The CSP was keen to support work to both reduce Hate Crime and help its victims. Thames Valley Police (TVP) had a good working relationship with ACRE and PCSOs attended the centre regularly to build trust within the community. The annual Community Safety Survey would also ask questions relating to Hate Crime which would help services to gain a greater understanding of the situation within Reading. Partners could also add links to ACRE's website from their appropriate web pages to make it easier for the community to learn about Hate Crime and how to report it.

The Group noted that all crimes were likely to be under-reported as some victims were likely to fear repercussions, although further work could be done to identify ways to address these barriers. Victims needed safe places and spaces to be encouraged to report Hate Crime and feel that they were being taken seriously. Whilst members of the targeted communities wanted to see that perpetrators were prosecuted for Hate Crime, many of them expressed a desire to be accepted as they were and for hate to be eradicated.

AGREED:

- (1) That the presentation be noted;**
- (2) That Partners discuss appropriate ways to support ACRE and identify funding streams;**
- (3) That CSP receive a quarterly update on Hate Crime.**

4. END OF CUSTODY SUPERVISION

AGREED: That Jason Murphy circulate further information following the meeting.

5. COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT PLAN

Sarah Gardner reported the priorities for the CSP Communications Group. These included creating a Key Narrative Document which would include key messaging around each of the strategic priorities, for example reducing knife crime, and would help create consistent and joined up messaging across the CSP, creating a calendar of all local, national and international crime and safety initiatives, investigating ways to increase engagement with the annual survey, especially amongst younger people and launching the survey to tie-in with events being held during Anti-Social Behaviour Awareness Week. The Group suggested that rather than creating a single CSP website, which would have hosting, resource and cost implications, Partners should each have links to the relevant pages of each other's websites, as this would help members of the public to find the information that they needed quickly and easily without duplication. The Group also felt that the Comms Team could look at different ways to engage with the public such as polls and social media.

The Group also discussed engagement with young people, with suggestions including a young persons' day during the ASB Awareness week, and feeding into the Stay True to You initiative using the young people's version of the Community Safety Strategy as an anchor.

AGREED: That the position be noted.

6. BERKSHIRE STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT AND CSP DATA DASHBOARD

Jason Murphy submitted a report which set out recommendations to create a Data Dashboard for the CSP and provided an update on the most recent Strategic Assessment for Berkshire. The report explained that a Dashboard would enable the CSP to track its progress against key metrics that supported its strategic priorities.

The report added that further work would be undertaken to track the impact of the Reading CSP, particularly into years two and three of the current strategy. The proposed data dashboard could be understood as a long list of data KPI's (attached as Appendix A to the report) and a shortlist of priority themes, which the CSP should review quarterly, where the data was available. Jason explained that some elements of the long list were reviewed at other strategic fora such as the Youth Justice Management Board, Domestic Abuse Strategic Board or Combatting Drugs Partnership, as well as numerous operational and tactical meetings such as Op Stronghold, VAWG Delivery Group or Knife Crime Delivery Group. The proposed Headline Dashboard KPI's for the Reading CSP were as follows:

- All Crime per 1000 population
- Shoplifting rate per 1000 population
- Reduce offending of top twenty most persistent offenders
- Domestic Abuse All Occurrences

- Domestic Abuse Repeat Victimization
- Violence and Sexual Offences rate per 1000
- Deaths relating to poisoning (Drugs)
- Drug related offences.
- Anti-social behaviour rolling rate (Police)
- Serious Violence
- Possession of weapons rate
- Reduction in water related deaths on Readings water ways.
- Reduction in FTE.
- Reduction in Re-offending (under 18)
- Reduction in Hate Crimes
- Percentage of Residents who consider "Reading to be a safe place to live".

Most of the proposed KPI's had a data source, although not all were presented in a format that was accessible and more work would need to be done with data leads across a range of service areas to enable this change.

This report provided a selection of highlights derived from the proposed Data Dashboard KPI's for illustrative purposes only. Further work would be needed to cross reference these with other data sets and sources. The example targets showed a sample of how a CSP Dashboard would be configured, highlighting indicative trends and performance trajectory. Targets had been informed by the current available baseline of December 2023 in most cases, but the full end of year data would be needed before the CSP could set a baseline for 24/25.

AGREED: That a further report be submitted to the CSP meeting to be held on 18 July 2024.

7. NOMINATIONS FOR CHAIR/VICE CHAIR

AGREED: Jason Murphy to progress this following the meeting.

8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Feedback from Young Voices

Max Scott (Young Voices) reported that the main challenge would be to raise young people's awareness of what the CSP is and how it related to them. He suggested that Partners could visit Young Voices to explain what they did and how this would impact on young people. This would increase awareness and help to build trust in high-risk areas of the community. Max also noted that there was a tendency to use acronyms, which could be off-putting to all members of the public not just young people.

AGREED: That the position be noted.

Delivery Groups

Steve Raffield reported that the CSP Delivery Groups structure had not worked as well as had been hoped. He explained that proposals were being worked up for changes to the structure making the priority leads responsible to a Performance Group. This would also help to reduce the number of meetings that partners had to attend.

AGREED: That a report on proposed changes to the Delivery Groups be submitted to a future meeting.

Combatting Drugs

Jason Kew reported that the Combatting Drugs Team could provide accredited Drug & Alcohol Awareness courses.

AGREED: That a report on the work of the Combatting Drugs Team be submitted to a future meeting.

Steve Raffield reported that this would be his last meeting of the CSP and that a new TVP Commander for Reading would be replacing him.

AGREED: That Steve Raffield be thanked for his work as Chair of the CSP.

9. DATES OF FUTURE MEETING

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

18 July 2024
19 September 2024
28 November 2024
20 February 2025
3 April 2025

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

(The meeting commenced at 9.30am and closed at 11.37am)