

COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP EXECUTIVE GROUP – 18 JULY 2024

Present:

Cllr Karen Rowland	Lead Councillor for Environmental Services & Community Safety, RBC (Vice Chair in the Chair)
Jo Middlemass	Community Safety and Enablement Manager, RBC
Jason Murphy	Community Safety, RBC
Martin White	Consultant in Public Health
Kathy Kelly	IC BOB
Zoe Hanim	Prevent/Channel Lead, RBC
Kirsten Willis-Dewett	South Central Ambulance Service
Sabina Cannell	PACT
Emma Nash	Thames Valley Police (TVP)
Lorraine Mansel	Berkshire Probation Service
Emma Tompkins	Thames Valley Police (TVP)
Gail Muirhead	Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service
Ollie Foxell	Brighter Futures for Children
Julie Quarmby	Committee Services, RBC

Apologies:

Cllr Terry	Leader, RBC
Cllr Leng	RBC
Sarah Gardner	Community Safety, RBC
Melissa Wise	Executive Director of Social Care and Health
Lara Patel	Brighter Futures for Children
Sally Andersen	Senior Wellbeing Commissioning Manager for Drugs & Alcohol, RBC
Max Scott	Young Voices and Reading Football Club
George Mathew	ACRE
Alastair Harsant	Brighter Futures for Children
Chantal Foster	Berkshire Probation Service
Cllr Moore	Observer

4. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18 April 2024 were agreed as a correct record.

Jason Murphy confirmed that the amended Terms of Reference had been finalised and would be circulated to the CSP.

2. YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN

Ollie Foxell gave a presentation on the Reading Youth Justice Plan 2024-25. The presentation covered:

- The Plan's vision and strategy;
- A child-first approach using the ABCD approach
 - **A**s children
 - **B**uilding prosocial identity
 - **C**ollaborating with children, and
 - **D**iverting from stigma;

- Seven Strategic priorities: reducing first time entrants, reducing reoffending, reducing the use of custody, positively addressing disproportionality, reducing serious youth violence, embedding child first and identity development practice as the practice model across the partnership, and improving outcomes for victims of youth crime;
- 21 actions to achieve the seven priorities.

CSP discussed the Plan and Ollie explained that there would be a regular reference group of children and adults to ensure full collaboration with children and young people. Ollie also reported that the service was due to have an inspection in October 2024, following which an action plan would be produced and the priorities would be included in this. CSP noted that this Plan would link into the remaining two years of the Serious Crime and Violence Plan and care would be taken to ensure that there was no duplication within the Plans.

AGREED: That the Reading Youth Justice Plan 2024-25 be endorsed for onward submission to the Adult Social Care, Children’s Services and Education Committee.

3. AREA LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

Jason Murphy reported that the Council was one of four Local Authorities that would be working with the Youth Endowment Fund (YEF) on an Area Leadership Programme pilot, that was intended to increase evidence-based decision making and commissioning and problem solving to reduce children and young people’s involvement in violence. The presentation covered the following areas:

- There would be a partnership approach, with governance sitting with the CSP and regular updates would be shared with the partners.
- The aim was to produce a theory of change around violence reduction and prevention and the identification and resolution of problems that prevented children from receiving the help that they needed, which could then be applied nationwide.
- The YEF’s starting hypothesis was that areas do three things well to effectively reduce children’s involvement in violence: evidence-based commissioning, effective case management and referrals, and problem solving.
- For each partnership, the YEF aimed to understand the main blockers, how children at risk of violence were currently identified and the responses from partners. Learning from the Year 1 pilot would be used to inform Year 2 of the programme and the YEF would continue to engage with the Pilot authorities.
- To date work had been carried out to review local procedures and processes, partnership interaction, access to data and preparedness to prioritise engagement with the programme.
- Ollie Foxell, Alistair Harsant and Jason Murphy would be the programme leads, with monthly working group meetings. There would be a 2-3 day site visit from YEF and senior and strategic leads would be expected to prioritise this in order to achieve the best outcomes.

AGREED:

- (1) That the presentation be noted;**
- (2) That Partners respond to requests for involvement with YEF as appropriate.**

4. COMMUNITY SAFETY SURVEY (LAUNCH)

Jo Middlemass reported that the Community Safety Survey had been launched on 18 July 2024. The Survey was in the same format as the previous year and was available both online and in paper version. Work had been undertaken to make the survey young person friendly and a significant number of responses had been received via Young Voices. A series of communications would be used to encourage responses and the survey would also be promoted at various community events. Jo explained that she would circulate the link to the survey to CSP members and asked that their respective organisations also encourage people to respond. The following text was shared for all partner organisations to use:

Share your views on crime and safety in Reading

Reading's annual safety survey is now live – it's a chance for you to share your views on how safe you feel and the crime issues affecting you in Reading.

Have Your Say: www.reading.gov.uk/communitysafetysurvey

Crime and safety in Reading is tackled by Reading's Community Safety Partnership (CSP). By law, every local authority (council), police force and other crime agencies must work in partnership to tackle community safety and serious violence issues in their local area. Over the last year we have invested in additional CCTV equipment and better lighting, improved safety for women at night-time and opened a new safe hub - the Reading Safe Space - in the town centre.

The feedback you give us this year will help us determine what other improvements we could make to improve safety. We want to hear from as wide a range of people as possible so please share with the people you work with and your friends and family.

Take part: www.reading.gov.uk/communitysafetysurvey

AGREED: That partners promote the Community Safety Survey.

5. DISC: ONLINE CRIME AND BUSINESS INFORMATION SHARING SYSTEM – UPDATE ON PCC PROPOSALS

Jason Murphy reported that the DISC online crime and business information sharing system had been available in the town centre BID district for some time and that TVP had proposed rolling it out across a wider area. He explained that this was an important tool to help retailers find out about crime and asked the CSP to encourage retailers that wanted to sign up to contact him.

AGREED: That the position be noted.

6. PREVENT ACTION PLAN

Zoe Hanim submitted the 2024-25 Prevent Action plan for information and gave a presentation on the Action Plan which covered the following areas:

- **Achievements during 2023-24.** These included a QR code linked to online safety advice, Facebook campaigns, attendance by a Counter Terrorism case officer at Reading College Freshers Week, various training sessions, promotion of the Safe Venue Hire Policy and a joint development with other Berkshire unitary authorities.
- **Key Messages from 2023.** The most likely form of attack in the UK continued to be self-initiated terrorism relating to either Islamist or Extreme Right Wing Terrorism (ERWT). 18% of prevent cases were ERWT compared to just 4% Islamist referrals,

with 26% being Mixed/Unclear/Unstable/Conflicted. 59% of referrals to Prevent in Berkshire were under 18. 75% of referrals were closed at the Initial Assessment Stage.

- **CTLP Key areas for consideration for action plans.** Prevent-related initiatives need to consider how to reach and engage most effectively with young people. Local, national and international concerns were being used as a vehicle to promote grievance narratives and racial, ethnic or religious hatred.
- **Reading Context.** These included community cohesion indicators, refugees and asylum seekers, hate crime data and the Hamas-Israel conflict.
- **Objectives and Key Actions.** The 2024-25 Action plan had two main objectives, each with appropriate key actions. Further planned and proposed actions included a focus on online safety, delivery of a Preventing Radicalisation Fund bid, plans to support refugees and asylum seekers, working with the Safer Neighbourhood Forums and daily monitoring of events that might have the potential to result in community tensions.

Zoe Hanim reported that she was working with the Coroner to identify lessons learned from the Forbury Gardens incident, and that all relevant agencies involved had been asked to submit their action plans. The Partnership noted that currently there was no national or local data relating to the socio-economic status of referred individuals.

AGREED: That the Prevent Action Plan 2024-25 be endorsed.

7. DATA DASHBOARD

Further to Minute 8 of the meeting held on 18 April 2024, Jason Murphy gave a demonstration of the new Data Dashboard platform to show Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) that brought together key data from various sources and presented it in a useful way. The slides showed different ways to present the data:

- Allowing comparison with other Berkshire Authorities, the South East and England;
- Using different thematics such as charts or graphs to present the data;
- Showing trends;
- Using different reporting periods such as monthly, quarterly and annually;
- Breakdown of offences;
- Presentation of narrative.

The Partnership noted that data was being pulled together from various sources and further work would be carried out to identify the best ways to access this. Jason also explained that narrative was important to put data into perspective, for example an increase in figures could mean that more crimes were being reported, or there was a targeted piece of work being carried out, rather than that there had been an increase in crime.

AGREED: That the position be noted.

8. UPDATE ON SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS FORUM REVIEW

Jason Murphy presented the Safer Neighbourhoods Forum review that had been approved by the Council's Housing Neighbourhoods & Leisure Committee at its meeting on 10 July 2024 (Minute 6 refers) and explained that details of the new structure would be circulated after the meeting.

- New Forums would be set up in those areas which currently did not have one;

- Thames Valley Police and Reading Borough Council had limited resources but were committed to supporting three meetings per year in each area;
- Officers would support the Forum meetings, which would be held during term time and earlier in the week were possible to maximise attendance;
- There would be an overarching meeting of the Forum Chairs, plus other relevant attendees;
- Representatives of the Forums to attend the CSP, possibly on a rota basis;
- An update report would be submitted to the Housing, Neighbourhoods & Leisure Committee in summer 2025.

AGREED: That the position be noted.

9. THAMES VALLEY TOGETHER

This item was not discussed at the meeting.

10. FUTURE OF KNIFE CRIME DELIVERY GROUP

Jason Murphy reported that the Knife Crime Delivery Group had experienced difficulty in collecting the relevant data need for the Group to function effectively. Jo Middlemass explained that the Community Safety Team and TVP would discuss the possibility of standing down the Group and integrating Knife Crime into the work carried out by the Serious Violence Steering Group with Colin Hudson and Senior Leaders.

AGREED: That the Safer Communities Team liaise with Colin Hudson, TVP, during August 2024 and then with Senior Leaders, regarding the standing down of the Knife Crime Delivery Group.

11. HATE CRIME FORUM UPDATE

Jason Murphy reported that there would be a meeting of the Hate Crime Forum at 6.30pm on 18 July 2024. The meeting would focus on all types of hate crime. Assistant Chief Constable, Dennis Murray and Gillian Ormiston, OPCC, would be attending the meeting and responding to questions.

AGREED: That the position be noted.

12. INFORMATION SHARING PROTOCOL SIGN-UPS

Jason Murphy reported that, whilst not a legal requirement, it was good practice for all partners to sign up to an Information Sharing Protocol. A sufficiently senior officer would be required to sign for each organisation, and Jason would circulate an electronic document shortly. Partners could ask their legal teams to check the document before signing, if necessary.

AGREED: That members confirm that their organisations have signed up to the Information Sharing Protocol at the next meeting of the CSP to be held on 19 September 2024.

13. NOMINATIONS FOR CHAIR/VICE CHAIR

Jason Murphy reported that the Chair and Vice Chair of the Partnership would be reviewed annually. He explained that although the TVP representative had chaired the meeting for several years, it could not be assumed that this would be the case going forward. Jason asked that anyone interested in taking on the role contact him directly.

AGREED: That anyone interested in being the Chair or Vice Chair of the Partnership contact Jason Murphy.

14. PROPOSAL TO INVITE RVA TO ATTEND CSP

Jason Murphy suggested that Reading Voluntary Action (RVA) be invited to send a senior representative to future meetings of the CSP. He explained that RVA would be able to act as a voice for the independent sector on a range of issues.

AGREED: That Rachel Spencer, Chief Executive Officer of Reading Voluntary Action, be invited to attend future CSP meetings.

15 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Probation Update

Lorraine Mansell reported that national measures to reduce the pressures on the Probation Services, including the removal of the need for supervision for the final third of the licence/ community service period for most people with a few exceptions. The new Government had also proposed amendments to prison release dates which could have a knock-on effect for Probation and other services. Some prisoners, numbering in the tens in the West of Berkshire rather than the higher figures quoted in the media, were likely to be released in September and October 2024.

AGREED: That the position be noted.

Combatting Drugs

Jason Murphy reported that there had been a number of heroin related overdoses in the Reading area that had been tied to one particular batch. Kirsten Willis-Dewett explained that these overdoses had required significantly larger doses of Naloxone than usual and stated that the Ambulance Service, Police and RBC were monitoring the situation. Kirsten added that event plans were in place for Reading Festival in case this was an ongoing issue on site or in the town centre.

AGREED: That the position be noted.

Feedback from Young Voice

Jason Murphy reported that the Young Voices group had continued to expand, with links to the Youth Council, and had worked to encourage young people to respond to the YP survey. A Summit was planned for November 2024 to ask what do adults need to know about and ask young people. Jason added that young people said that they felt safer online, whilst adults had concerns about safety, and this could be investigated at the Summit.

AGREED: That the position be noted.

OPCC

Emma Nash reported that the OPCC was currently undergoing a restructure.

AGREED: That the position be noted.

16. DATES OF FUTURE MEETING

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

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 11.45am)