

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC GROWTH AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

TO:	POLICY COMMITTEE		
DATE:	18 NOVEMBER 2019		
TITLE:	COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP PLAN 2019 - 2022		
LEAD COUNCILLOR:	CLLR JAMES	PORTFOLIO:	HOUSING AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES
SERVICE:	STRONGER AND SAFER COMMUNITIES	WARDS:	BOROUGH WIDE
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1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report summarises the Community Safety Plan for Reading, 2019-22 as agreed by the Community Safety Partnership on the 25th April 2019.
- 1.2 Appendix 1 - Community Safety Plan 2019-22
- 1.3 Appendix 2 - Equality Impact Assessment

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That Policy Committee note and agree the Community Safety Plan 2019 - 2022.

3. POLICY CONTEXT

- 3.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 placed statutory obligations on Local Authorities and the Police to work in co-operation with Health Authorities and other relevant agencies. The objective is to develop and implement a Partnership Plan which would tackle crime and disorder in their area.
- 3.2 Section 97 of the Police Reform Act 2002 amended the above Act and included the Fire Service and Primary Care Trusts¹ as responsible authorities. Further reforms now include Probation Services² as a responsible authority and the Environment Agency and Registered Social Landlords as 'participatory bodies' within a Community Safety Partnership (CSP).

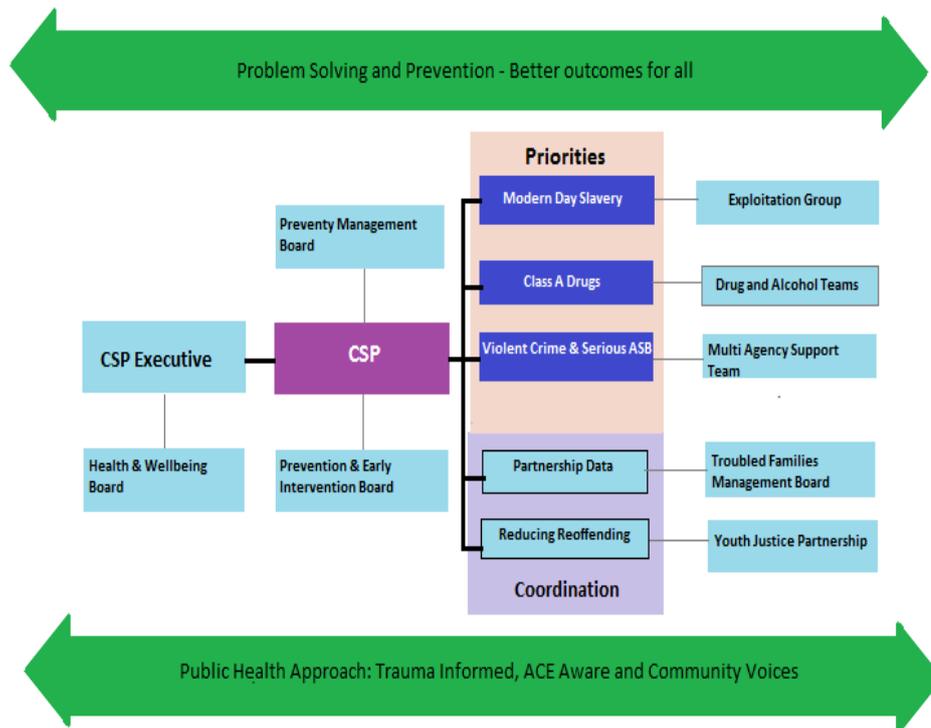
¹ In 2013 the Clinical commissioning groups took over from the PCT as the statutory health partner on the CSP.

² National Probation Service and the Community Rehabilitation Company

- 3.3 This legislation requires the Partnership to produce a three year plan detailing how it intends to tackle crime and disorder. This allows for the development of strategies to tackle short, medium and long term priorities.
- 3.4 Reading's latest Community Safety Plan will run until the end of March 2022. The Plan identifies three overarching priorities: Violent Crime, Exploitative Crime and Class A Drug Use.
- 3.5 Other Partners adopt the new plan based on the decision made at the CSP Executive Group.
- 3.6 The CSP is required to carry out a strategic assessment of crime for its area. This was carried out towards the end of 2018. A similar approach was taken as was used in the previous assessment and reflected the changing nature of crime. Rather than scanning crime types within the area to identify how the CSP is performing in relation to these, it identified priorities by an assessment against Threat, Harm and Risk to individuals and to Reading as whole.
- 3.7 The terrain in which the CSP is working has changed over recent years. New demands and changing circumstances against a backdrop of reducing resources has meant focusing on providing the best possible outcome for those most at risk of harm or causing harm. This approach is in line with Reading Borough Council's Corporate Plan Priority 2 - "Protecting and enhancing the lives of vulnerable adults and children" and Priority 3 - "Keeping Reading's environment clean, green and safe". This also reflects how Thames Valley Police prioritise their resources locally.

4. THE PROPOSAL

- 4.1 Priorities: The strategic assessment identified and proposed new priorities for the CSP. These were linked to high Threat, Harm and Risk. The priorities agreed by the CSP on the 25th April 2019 are:
 - **Exploitation** - incorporating both Adult Exploitation and Modern Slavery
 - **Violent Crime and Serious Anti-Social Behaviour** - incorporating increasing violence against the person, knife possession and high level anti-social behaviour that has a significant impact on communities
 - **Class A Drugs** - incorporating drug visibility, drug dealing activity from within and outside Reading, and drug related anti-social behaviour
- 4.2 Resource re-alignment: The change in priorities may require a refocus of resources. The main area identified is the Integrated Offender Management programme (offender profile).
- 4.3 The diagram below shows the governance structure of the Community Safety Partnership and its sub-groups, with two key areas to help coordinate the work of the CSP.



4.4 The coordination groups, shown in the purple are in the diagram above will ensure:

- The CSP makes better use of the wider partnership data to inform its decision making.
- The CSP will ensure a Reading owned Reducing Reoffending strategy supports the work of the delivery group

4.5 The Partnership will embed problem solving into all of its work ensuring that this has a focus on early intervention and prevention. All of the plans will be assessed against the Four “Ps”:

- Prevent
- Prepare
- Pursue
- Protect

4.6 The Partnership will promote and work to a Public Health approach ensuring the plans and work are trauma informed and provide intervention that impact on Adverse Childhood Experiences and Adverse Community Environments, (ACE) that are known to be drivers for offending associated with the priority areas identified by the CSP.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION

- 5.1 The CSP is committed to supporting and working alongside communities in reducing the impact of crime and disorder that concern them locally. The partnership knows that there are different needs and challenges across Reading.
- 5.2 Safer Neighbourhood Forums (SNF) are one of the key routes to engaging and assisting communities in tackling those issues that are of most concern to them. The Local Authority, working with the Safer Neighbourhood Forums will carry out a survey to establish new neighbourhood priorities.
- 5.3 The successful reduction of “traditional” crime types across Reading has meant that the previous CSP Plan for the first time had priorities that did not directly reflect neighbourhood priorities. However, the CSP will continue to strive for safer, better and cleaner neighbourhoods for Reading. Much of this work was considered ‘business as usual’. The Police and Local Authority will continue to work in partnership to reduce the impact of those priorities identified by the new survey and:
- Deliver awareness training linked to the statutory duty around modern day slavery
 - Setup and oversee an operational case management group to protect high risk vulnerable adults.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 6.1 No environmental impacts have been identified.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The CSP has a statutory duty to produce an Annual Strategic Assessment and three year rolling plan.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 No additional resources are required to deliver this plan.

9. EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 9.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed (appendix 3) in respect to the draft strategy. It is considered that the priorities within the strategy could have a positive differential impact on groups with the following protected characteristics:
- Racial
 - Disability
 - Gender
 - Sexuality
 - Religious belief
- 9.2 No Negative impact was recorded on any group.