

COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP EXECUTIVE GROUP – 3 APRIL 2025

Present:

Cllr Karen Rowland	Lead Councillor for Environmental Services & Community Safety, RBC (Vice Chair)
Cllr Terry	Leader, RBC
John Ennis	Probation
Colin Hudson	Thames Valley Police (Chair)
Melissa Wise	Executive Director of Social Care and Health
Jo Middlemass	Community Safety and Enablement Manager, RBC
Jason Murphy	Community Safety, RBC
Matt Golledge	RBC
Jonny Bradish	Brighter Futures for Children
Michael Greenway	TVP
Helen Hathaway	Safer Neighbourhoods Forum
Rachel Spencer	RVA
Sally Anderson	RBC
Kathy Kelly	NHS
James Tribe	TVP
Nick Haskins	Safer Neighbourhood Forum
Vicky Pitchforth	RBC
Julie Quarmby	Committee Services, RBC

Apologies:

Emma Gee	RBC
Alastair Harsant	Brighter Futures for Children
Bryony Hall	RBC
Zoe Hanim	Prevent/Channel Lead, RBC
Ollie Foxell	Brighter Futures for Children
Sabina Cannell	PACT
Carly Newman	Young Voices
Gail Muirhead	Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service
Stephen Leonard	Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service
Neil Whiteman	Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service
Emma Tompkins	TVP
Lynne Mason	RBC
Christine Lalley	

1. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 20 February 2025 were agreed as a correct record.

Councillor Rowland reported that agenda item 7 (Fire Hub Updates) would be deferred to the next meeting.

Councillor Rowland reminded partners to nominate representatives for the Closure Order Review Task and Finish Group and Sex Worker Action Group. Jason Murphy would send reminders to the partners that had yet to make nominations.

2. WHOLE YEAR DATA REPORT AND STATUS OF PERFORMANCE GROUP

Jason Murphy gave a presentation on the latest whole-year data, which was compared to statistical, rather than geographical, neighbours. The general trend was positive and the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) had risen in the England rankings. Jason explained

that while various programmes had led to improvements in areas such as shoplifting and drug related offences, this was not reflected in the public perception of crime in the area and further work would be needed to address this disconnect.

The CSP noted that a dedicated performance group would be set up to meet quarterly and discuss the data in depth before then reporting to the CSP meetings. Partners were asked to nominate appropriate representatives for the Performance Group. The CSP also asked the Performance Group to particularly analyse the data around hate crime and drug related crime, and members would put forward any other areas for in-depth consideration.

Colin Hudson added that the Serious Violence Working Group was in its early stages and would welcome the input of relevant data from the Performance Group, although he emphasised the need for the groups' Terms of Reference to be clearly defined to prevent duplication and confusion.

AGREED:

- (1) That the position be noted.**
- (2) That CSP Members provide an indication of what data was available and who would attend a performance group**
- (3) That CSP Members submit any comments on the Terms of Reference which would be circulated after the meeting**

3. PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER - PROPOSED

Jo Middlemass gave a presentation on proposals for Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) in Reading which covered:

- What is a PSPO?
- What is a breach of a PSPO?.
- The current position;
- The proposed focus of the proposed PSPOs;
- The proposed timetable.

Colin Hudson explained that PSPOs could be very useful and that enforcement could be anything from people surrendering alcohol when requested by the police to being taken to court. He added that new technology would assist in improving the accuracy of recording the use of PSPOs.

Rachel Spencer welcomed the proposals, with their emphasis on protecting the vulnerable in the community, but expressed concern that concentrating actions in the town centre could just push the problems into other parts of Reading. Jo Middlemass explained that it might be possible to add some of the PSPO functions to the BID wardens in the town centre.

Matt Golledge reported that there were currently no powers relating to dog fouling in the PSPO, and hoped that these functions could be added to the role of the Council's animal warden. He also noted that dog fouling was very difficult to enforce as someone had to be there when the owner failed to pick up and dispose of the waste responsibly.

AGREED: That the position be noted;

4. PREVENTION PARTNERSHIPS

Further to Minute 11 of the meeting held on 20 February 2025, Jason Murphy, gave an update on Prevention Partnerships, including:

- The Victim Referral Unit would be absorbed into the Berkshire Unitary Authorities and the definition would be expanded.
- There were still a significant number of unknowns including the timeline, budget and definitions.
- Many services were unaware of the proposals.
- PCC funding would continue, but there needed to be clarity to ensure the PCC and Home Office processes and activities were aligned.
- It would be essential for all partners to work together rather than in isolation.
- Funding and models were available for Delivering Safer Streets, Preventing Knife Crime and Young Futures.
- Key tasks included establishing a local Prevention Partnership which should meet on a fortnightly basis, identifying resources and identifying a data resource to track, monitor and evaluate the impact of support to children in receipt of transitional funding.

The CSP noted that this was a programme with very broad definitions and expressed concern that the Home Office had not worked closely with those who actually worked with children. There was a lack of clarity about how outcomes could be evidenced, given that the programme was aimed at preventing something from happening. Jason Murphy would be arranging a meeting of the senior leaders from the Partnership as soon as possible.

AGREED: That the position be noted.

5. PARTNERSHIP FUND

Jason Murphy reported on the CSP funding from the PCC which was allocated to bids for initiatives that were compatible with the PCC Crime and Police Plan. The funding was not intended to cover core role and all scheme bids would be evaluated by the Community Safety Manager before being submitted to the PCC via an online portal. Jo Middlemass gave some suggestions for bids. Jo added that the partnership would need to prioritise all funding bids and also plan for funding bids that continued in or started in future years.

AGREED: That the position be noted;

6. PREVENT

AGREED: That this item be deferred to the next meeting, to be held on 17 July 2025.

7. ANNUAL COMMUNITY SAFETY SURVEY AND ANNUAL REPORT

Jo Middlemass reported that the Annual Community Safety Survey and the public version of the CSP Annual Report would be launched together on Monday 2 June 2025. Jason Murphy had reminded all of the partners to submit their contributions to the Annual Report as quickly as possible. Once the report had been completed, it would be circulated to the CSP for review and comments. Jo also explained that the Annual Survey would contain the same questions as previous years as this would help in the analysis of the data and identification of trends.

AGREED: That the position be noted.

8. FIRE HUB UPDATES

AGREED: That this item be deferred to the next meeting, to be held on 17 July 2025.

9. STATUS OF PERFORMANCE GROUP

See Item 2 above.

10. ANNUAL REPORT

See Item 7 above.

11. DOMESTIC HOMICIDE REVIEW UPDATE

Jason Murphy reported that the Domestic Homicide Review was in its final stages of quality assurance following feedback. Once this had been completed appropriate officers could work with the impacted family and the review could be publicised.

AGREED: That a further update be submitted to a future meeting of the Community Safety Partnership.

12. YOUNG VOICES

Jason Murphy reported that Young Voices achievements since the last meeting of the CSP included a very useful meeting with Reading Buses to discuss safety when using buses to travel to and from school and a display in the Digital Reading Exhibition at Reading Museum. Young Voices were planning to hold another summit, following the success of the previous event in 2024.

AGREED: That representatives of Young Voices be invited to attend a future meeting of the Community Safety Partnership. Young Voices would be asking partners for updates on how Parks and Safety work was being progressed.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) Councillor Rowland noted that there would be occasions when the CSP would need to discuss confidential items and that certain attendees who were not members of the main partner organisations might be asked to leave the meeting whilst these items were discussed. Such items would generally be put last on the agenda and officers would ensure that the agenda order would reflect the need to exclude attendees who were not members of the main partner organisations.

AGREED: That the position be noted.

- (b) John Ennis reported that homelessness was often an issue to prison leavers and those on probation and asked if this could be added to a future agenda.

AGREED: That Jo Middlemass arrange a meeting of representatives from appropriate partner bodies to discuss homelessness in relation to prison leavers and people on probation before submitting a report to the Community Safety Partnership.

11. DATES OF FUTURE MEETING

The next meetings for 2025/26 would take place on:

17 July 2025 (via Microsoft Teams)
25 September 2025
27 November 20245
19 February 2026
16 April 2026

All meetings start at 9.30am, venue to be confirmed.

(The meeting closed at 11.58 am)