



Buckinghamshire County Council Select Committee

Transport, Environment and Communities Select Committee

Report to the Transport, Environment and Communities Select Committee

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| Title: | Safer Stronger Bucks Partnership Plan |
| Committee date: | Tuesday 5 March 2019 |
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| Cabinet Member sign-off: | Cllr Noel Brown |

Purpose of Agenda Item

This report updates the Committee on the progress made in addressing the community safety priorities in the 2017-20 Safer Bucks Plan.

Background

Funding for Community Safety work (in partnership) comes from the Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) and the work of the PCC is scrutinised by the Police & Crime Panel. Each agency also contributes resources, time and investment into this work, relevant to the agency's capacity and remit.

There is a statutory duty in two-tier areas to produce an annual Community Safety Agreement. This should identify what our priorities are and how we will work in partnership to address them. In Bucks it is called the Safer Bucks Plan and is for 3 years and so only requires an annual review of performance and priorities. These are summarised in this report.

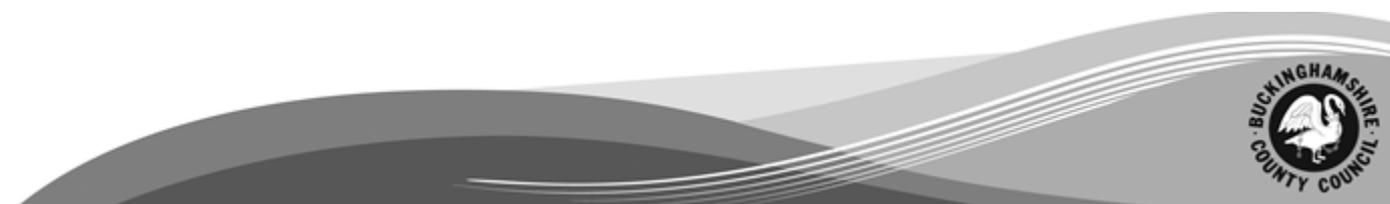
Summary

The Safer Bucks Plan 2017-20 priorities are:

Safeguarding against Vulnerability and Exploitation

Including child sexual exploitation (CSE), children and adults being targeted over the internet (e.g. grooming, harassment, fraud) and people being targeted for scams.

Tackling Violence and Abuse (including Domestic)



Including abuse of children and young people, abuse of older people and domestic violence and abuse (DVA).

Reducing Re-offending

Including ways to keep offenders and ex-offenders off the streets, enabling them to change their behaviour, reducing the misuse of drugs and alcohol, and preventative work with families of those at risk of and involved in offending.

Helping our Communities to be Resilient

Including information on how to keep yourself safe online, having safe places for people to go when they feel vulnerable and support for those who are social isolated.

Other issues such as anti-social behaviour and burglary are not specifically referenced as one of the four priorities but activity is delivered at a district level.

Key issues

Performance Highlights:

Safeguarding against Vulnerability and Exploitation

TEC Select Committee Inquiry into Modern Slavery

The emerging topic of modern slavery and exploitation was a work area chosen by the TEC Select Committee to be under inquiry. As part of the inquiry there were 8 recommendations that the Committee chose to focus on, progress and then action feedback at the 6 and 12 month update meetings. This included devising a multiagency training strategy, making progress in the delivery of training to county and multiagency staff, having nominated Single Points of Contact (SPOCs), campaigning to public and staff and having readily available guidance for staff on how to complete a NRM form (National Referral Mechanism)/MS1 (Modern Slavery) forms. This inquiry required significant work to be undertaken by county and multiagency partners. The Bucks Community Safety Team presented the progress made at the 6 month TEC Select Committee on the 6th November 2018. The Chair, Cllr Carroll said that this was one of the best progress briefings delivered to the committee in his time chairing it.

Exploitation and Modern Slavery Training

The BCC Community Safety Team are working alongside Willow Project (the new exploitation and modern slavery victim service which also provides training) to provide training dates for BCC staff and external organisations. To date over 650 professionals have been trained of which 99 are from BCC with a further 50 (as of 11th Oct) BCC staff

primarily from ASC and CSC booked on to attend a specified future date. 13 new training dates are available to be booked onto running up to Easter 2019.

The BCC Community Safety Team is leading the compilation of an e-learning package for non-frontline staff which is currently being finalised and will be ready this spring. It is 20 minutes long and covers the basic information such as what exploitation and modern slavery is, what the indicators are, information about Willow Project and how to get in contact with them. This e-learning will be used within BCC as well as externally by our partners. Other Councils within the Thames Valley have expressed an interest in using the package for training their staff.

Willow Project and Operation Ravine

The exploitation Thames Valley wide pilot service (RAHAB) was due to start in Spring 2018 but due to contractual issues with the PCC this was delayed. These issues have been resolved and a new service (Willow Project) headed up by the same service lead launched in September 2018. There is one coordinator and two support workers based in Bucks providing this service. Willow Project is in place until March 2020 with the possibility to extend. Touch down points for the staff are spread around the county and the Programme Lead works at BCC every other Friday to discuss progress and any issues we can assist with.

The pilot is moving well and is proven by the success of Operation Ravine. In total 11 individuals attended the Reception Centre between 11th-12th September 2018; 6 of whom have now been referred into the National Referral Mechanism to access further support.

Feedback from the Reception Centre reflected the fantastic level of engagement and support from multi agency partners, both from those who were in attendance on the day and for those who were on call as a point of contact. Thames Valley Police have arrested 3 individuals for Modern Slavery offences as part of Operation Ravine.

“Click” Production

A new play entitled “Click” aimed at year 6 pupils that teaches them about online risk and healthy online behaviour has been delivered to over 5500 pupils across the county in September/October 2018. Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire County Councils were awarded money as part of the Cybercrime grant from the Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner to tackle the issue. They commissioned “Alter Ego” the drama school specialists who previously produced Chelsea’s Choice, to develop the play with input from year 7 pupils and a number of agencies across the Thames Valley area. The production was well received and one school in particular said, “our year 6 children were so impressed by what they saw and experienced, they are now getting together to have a performance ready to share with the rest of the school, as appropriate, what they have learnt”. The play

is being followed up in the classroom with a number of resources addressing cyber bullying, digital resilience and healthy/unhealthy relationships.

Preventing Extremism

The Government published its **new Counter Terrorism Strategy (CONTEST)** in June 2018 and sets out 3 key factors that terrorists exploit:

- The proliferation of extremist attitudes, which fragment and divide communities.
- Conflict, instability and poor governance which can create environments where terrorists can thrive.
- Developments in technology, which provide the means for terrorists to operate undetected, together with the global reach to inspire their atrocities.

The 4 P's (Prevent, Pursue, Protect and Prepare) continue to feature in CONTEST but there is a new emphasis on the Pursue and Prevent elements working more closely together.

In September 2018 the Home Office published the **Prevent Duty Toolkit for Local Authorities and Partner Agencies** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-toolkit-for-local-authorities-and-partner-agencies>. The Home Office have held workshops around the country to promote the toolkit and Buckinghamshire was well represented in January with colleagues from health, local government and the further education sector participating.

Work continued across partners to improve the robustness of information about the local threat and risk picture to inform the counter terrorism local profile and the local assessment of risk (which continues to be reflective of the national picture). The risk and progress against actions to tackle those risks continue to be reviewed quarterly through the Prevent Network.

The Channel Panel continues to receive referrals and has ongoing cases. The County Council was notified that proposed phased changes to Channel (Dovetail) which were expected to be implemented by early 2019 will not now take place until 2020/21. A training needs survey of the Channel panel will see an annual development day to ensure all members are suitably skilled to ensure the continued effective operation.

The Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board Section 11 Audit in 2017 identified the need for a more robust approach to training and development on Prevent across a wide range of partners. The proposed approach was reported to the Safer Stronger Buckinghamshire Partnership Board in July 2018. It builds on the model developed by the Health sector for safeguarding training and provides guidelines for content, learning

outcomes, delivery methods and performance measures. Individual organisations are responsible for implementing the training and development framework within their own agency including the delivery, recording and maintenance of their own evidence that staff meet the required outcomes.

The County Council and Wycombe District Council jointly developed and delivered a training and development workshop for existing WRAP (Prevent) trainers. This was very well received with requests for further workshops every 6 months.

Tackling Violence and Abuse (including Domestic)

Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA)

The IDVA service has seen some changes over the year which are reported to be working well and which have helped improve the service by ensuring clients are offered help earlier. Following the challenges with referrals from the police, the IDVA started working in the DAIU in October 2017 to manage the referrals and carry out safety planning on behalf of the police. This has led to a 26% increase in referrals from the police to the IDVA service when comparing the figures of the first six months of the year to the last six months. There have also been good examples of interagency working. There have been no formal complaints but good feedback has been collected from both stakeholders and clients. The service supported 311 clients (293 women/18 men) in 2017/2018, against an engagement rate of 69% in women and 78% in men. 71% of women had an improvement in risk, safety and management. Of those who completed outcome monitoring forms at both the start and finish of engagement, 72.90% reported improved outcomes.

Domestic Violence & Abuse Youth Worker

Following a 6 month gap in service, the DVA Youth Worker restarted in the south of Buckinghamshire in April 2017. A new worker was appointed and training and coaching was put in place during her induction period to help her understand the dynamics of DVA and take this learning into her work. The worker initially worked to re-establish links with individuals, schools and other agencies. The Youth Worker has also delivered training and awareness raising to help educate young people and enable them to make informed choices about their present and future relationships, as well as encouraging conversations between peers. During 2017/2018 the DVA Youth Worker worked with 19 young people in 1:1 sessions. All were experiencing DVA in the family home, with 4 also experiencing DVA in an intimate relationship. Outcomes include safety plans and measures put in place including 4 for safer contact arrangements, 3 improved their relationship with the non-abusing parent, 4 improved their coping and managing challenges. Awareness raising sessions have been delivered to 10 schools/youth settings which have reached 370 young

people and to professionals, e.g social care, MASH, which have reached 82 adults. Reduction in risk was achieved for all the young people who were worked with.

DVA Strategy 2018-2021

Multiagency partners were invited to 2 stakeholder workshops in November 2017 in order to conclude the outward going 2015-2018 Domestic Violence and Abuse (DVA) Strategy and to highlight priorities for the new strategy. The strategy was produced and ratified by partners prior to its approval and sign off at the July 2018 Safer & Stronger Bucks Partnership Board. The vision of the strategy is “*everyone in Buckinghamshire lives a life free from domestic abuse*”. This strategy will be delivered by working in partnership with all agencies to deliver against 5 strategic aims:

- 1) Prevent domestic abuse from happening by raising awareness and challenging attitudes and behaviours which foster or tolerate it.
- 2) Reduce the impact of domestic abuse on children and adults by intervening early.
- 3) Provide support to victims.
- 4) Ensure perpetrators are held to account.
- 5) Reduce the risk of people becoming victims again.

The DVA Delivery Plan has also since been compiled with various stakeholder workshops to ensure multiagency buy-in across the Community Safety Partnership. This was approved at the October 2018 Safer & Stronger Bucks Partnership Board.

Early Intervention Youth Fund

The Home Office has awarded Thames Valley Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) £822,000 from its Early Intervention Youth Fund to help tackle youth violence, vulnerability and exploitation.

Running until March 2020, the funds will pay for four tiers of intervention:

1. Raising awareness in all secondary schools across the Thames Valley. This may include knife crime/youth violence workshop sessions for young people and training for teachers and other professionals.
2. Support for teachers and schools in tackling school exclusions, providing specialist support such as youth workers, YOT (Youth Offending Team) workers and Speech and Language Therapists within approximately a third of secondary schools.
3. Detached youth work to support and provide opportunities for young people who are not in education or employment and who are not engaging in mainstream services.

4. Targeted engagement with young people already involved in gangs and knife crime, providing intensive support including access to therapies and skills training¹.

The work will be delivered in partnership with Thames Valley Youth Offending Services, substance misuse services, local authorities and secondary schools.

Reducing Re-offending

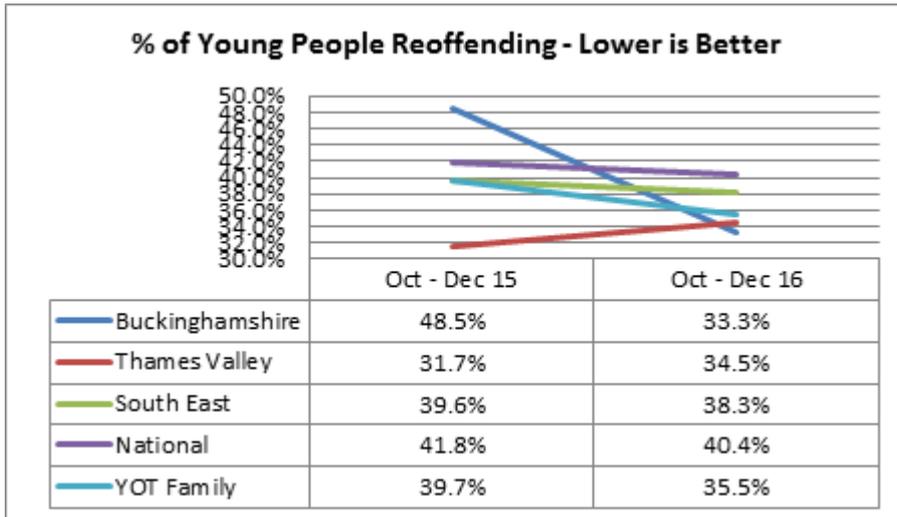
IOM (Integrated Offender Management)

IOM has three officers across Chiltern & South Bucks, Aylesbury and High Wycombe. During 1st January 2018 to 30th September 2018 they've worked with 66 persons (increase of 65% engaged with compared to the previous year). The cohort still features serious acquisitive crime offenders but the shift is a move towards "*threat risk and harm*" (risk assessment process) and therefore low level serious acquisitive crime offenders have been removed (shoplifters, theft from motor vehicle etc). There has been a drive to increase domestic abuse perpetrators to 25% of the cohort, which at this time we are achieving. The female cohort has been expanded (to 15% from 7%) in line with the Ministry of Justice female offender strategy. As you'd expect with more emphasis on threat, risk and harm there has been a shift from predominately Community Rehabilitation Company managed offenders on the cohort to a more balanced National Probation Service/Community Rehabilitation Company split. Over the next year IOM are looking to increase the number of organised crime group named persons on the cohort, whilst maintaining the number of female and domestic abuse perpetrators on the cohort. There has been a reduction in the offending across all three districts (Aylesbury -29%, High Wycombe -33% and Chiltern & South Bucks -54%) when comparing charges in the six months prior to being adopted onto the scheme and the first six months on the scheme. This reduces further still when comparing to the last six months (Aylesbury -56%, High Wycombe -42% and Chiltern & South Bucks -68%).

Youth Offending Service

Latest figures released from Youth Justice Board continue to show a dip in repeat offending (48.5% in Oct – Dec 2015, to 33.3% in Oct – Dec 2016). The Youth Offending Service (YOS) are due to train staff in Trauma Informed Approaches as it is recognised the cohort of children who continue to repeat offend are recognised as the most complex thus needing a therapeutic approach to intervention delivery.

¹ <https://www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk/news-and-events/thamesvalley-pcc-news/2018/11/police-and-crime-commissioner-awarded-home-office-funding-to-help-tackle-youth-violence,-vulnerability-and-exploitation/>



**Re-offending data has to have a time lag on it to ensure the young people do not re-emerge at a later date. This is usually a 2 year period.*

The YOS Board has been relaunched to ensure a partnership approach is in place to tackle youth violence across the county and this includes representatives from Education, Youth Services and Early Help.

The Front Door service now has access to the YOS database. YOS are in the process of training staff to navigate their way around the system. There are a number of benefits to this, one of which is to ensure that where young people were previously known to YOS they are identified at the earliest opportunity, so any context in terms of criminal exploitation can be explored at the earliest opportunity.

Helping our Communities to be Resilient

Street Association

Street Association brings together local residents who want to make their community stronger, friendlier and more supportive. Street Association members achieve this by acting as the eyes and ears on their street, learning to spot those who may need some help, and point them in the direction of support.

In July 2018 the fifth Street Association pilot launched in Princes Risborough and currently has 22 members covering 20 streets looking out for their neighbours and signposting them to existing referral routes. The initiative is backed by 8 local businesses and residents have attended 15 presentations and workshops. A strong Neighbourhood Watch in the area is working well alongside the Street Association and the initiative has already spread to Askett, a small hamlet bordering Princes Risborough. The sixth Street Association launched in Walton Court, Aylesbury in October 2018 with 10 residents signed up as members and a

series of workshops and engagement are scheduled for the New Year which will include a community safety event with VAHT.

Countywide, the initiative has attracted 260 street members covering 178 streets. 141 presentations, workshops and engagement events have taken place in the six pilot areas with the backing of 75 local businesses and 215 residents trained on community safety issues. The referral materials are also now being used by other Neighbourhood Watch and good neighbour schemes and to avoid duplication of effort, the Street Association movement has allied itself with other programmes designed to improve the safety and wellbeing of vulnerable people, notably the e-safety project and dementia-friendly communities.

Members are continuing to signpost their neighbours to Prevention Matters and referrals have increased by an average of 20% across the pilot areas, including an almost 50% increase in one pilot area. Members are also identifying and directing scam victims to support at the earliest opportunity, including a vulnerable couple in Burnham referred to Trading Standards after losing £1500 of their savings and a multi-agency approach is now in place to protect the couple.

A programme of workshops is being planned for each pilot area to continue to raise awareness of scams and doorstep crime, while providing an opportunity to gather feedback from street members and understand how the initiative can be improved.

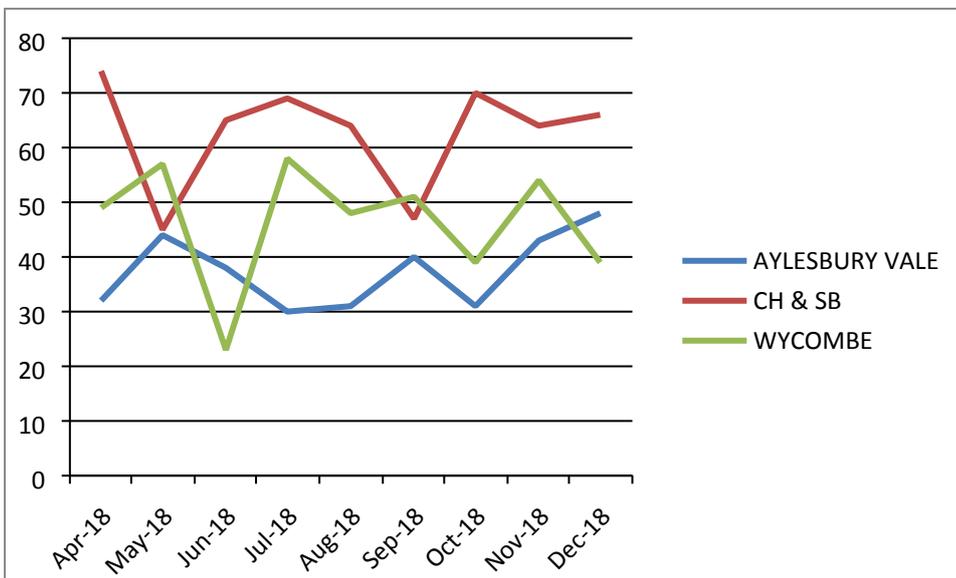
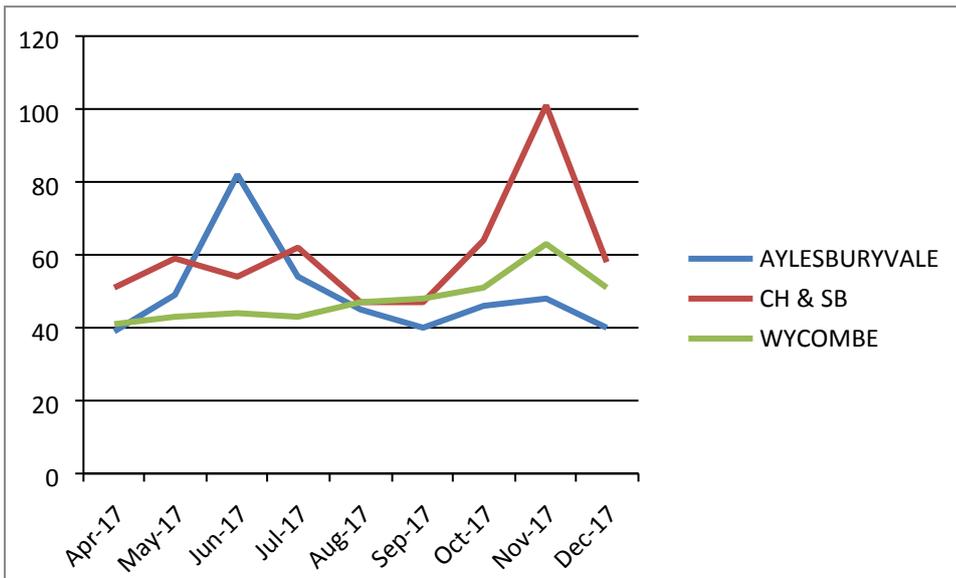
Burglary

Thames Valley Police (TVP) has continued to work in partnership to prevent those in the community from becoming victims of burglaries over the last year. TVP have increased contact with the community and generated crime prevention advice through new digital forums on social media.

Media campaigns have been focussed around darker nights and protecting resident's houses, visible patrols have been targeted in areas at an increased risk based on evidence based policing methods.

TVP have continued to monitor & react to crime series offending and work with Police forces they border to share intelligence and target those committing these crimes.

As a result TVP have seen a countywide reduction in the number of burglary from dwelling offences compared to the previous year. Over April 2018-December 2018 there were 1319 burglaries in comparison to 1417 from the same period the previous year equating to a 7% decrease. January to March data is unavailable from 2017 due to classification and recording changes.



Resource implications

Transition to a unitary council

Secretary of State, James Brokenshire announced a single unitary council for Buckinghamshire on 1st November 2018. Details are not yet clear regarding the structure of departments (e.g Community Safety) going into the unitary council between district and county. Future proofing crime and disorder actions and responsibilities will need to be discussed during the transition. Activities based at a local district level, for example, Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs), housing and homelessness and anti-social behaviour will need to be dovetailed with topics currently covered at county level, such as exploitation

and domestic violence. Exploring how to create a single Community Safety partnership (CSP) to replace the current three could be agreed during transition for implementation in 2020. Crucial topics such as Prevent Board and its governance will need to be agreed. The Safer & Stronger Bucks Coordinating Group can function as the starting point for discussions if tasked to do so by the Transitional team and Safer & Stronger Bucks Partnership Board (the Board consists of representatives from Thames Valley Police, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Adult's and Children's Services, Probation, District Community Safety, Bucks Fire and Rescue, and the Clinical Commissioning Group).

The Safer & Stronger Bucks Partnership Board is responsible for identifying the key work areas for 2019/2020 and this will influence the decisions that are made around the PCC grant funding (which for 2019/20 is at the same level as 2018/19 = £441,082).

The BCC budget for Safer Communities is not affected by this.

Next steps

A consultation was delivered in February 2019 with residents and key stakeholders about the four priorities that were identified in 2017 as a result of crime analysis and public consultation. We asked whether these priorities are still important or if there should be new or changed priorities.

The results of the Consultation and the priority areas were ratified by the Safer & Stronger Bucks Partnership Board on the 5th May 2019.