



Buckinghamshire County Council Select Committee

Transport, Environment and Communities Select Committee

Report to the Transport, Environment and Communities Select Committee

Title: Community Safety Partnership Plan- 1 Year Progress Review

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Cabinet Member sign-off: Noel Brown

Purpose of Agenda Item:

This report updates TEC Select Committee on the progress made in addressing the community safety priorities in the 2017-20 Safer Bucks Plan by Buckinghamshire County Council's (BCC) services, the BCC Community Safety Team and the Safer and Stronger Bucks Partnership Board (SSBPB).

Background:

Crime and disorder remain one of our residents' highest priorities, as reflected in the annual Residents' Survey. Buckinghamshire County Council are one of the "responsible authorities" under the Crime & Disorder Act and have a duty to work in partnership to reduce crime, tackle disorder, reduce re-offending and tackle substance misuse.

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 (with our partners) to address them. In Bucks it is called the Safer Bucks Plan and we reference local, district priorities as the plans will complement each other. The current Safer Bucks



Plan is a 3 year plan and so only requires an annual review of performance and priorities. These are summarised in this report.

Current Priorities:

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.

Performance Highlights:

Safeguarding against Vulnerability and Exploitation

Partners across the county have been working with the Office of the PCC to deliver **an Independent Trauma Advisory Service** in Bucks to provide bespoke support to identified victims of Modern Slavery and exploitation. They will primarily work with adults but will be open to any individual who, for whatever reason, is not able to access existing services or does not meet eligibility criterion. The pilot is due to start in spring 2018 and will be reviewed after the first year. The Bucks CC Community Safety Team has worked tirelessly in the last year to ensure that key agencies and individuals are well prepared to benefit from this service and have trained over 500 people with more training being scheduled every month.

Tackling Violence and Abuse (including Domestic)

There has been a positive outcome from the bid to the Thames Valley wide VAWG (Violence Against Women & Girls) Service Transformation Fund submitted for **BAMER** (Black and Minority Ethnic & Refugee) work. This complements the funding already awarded for the Asian Women's Refuge, strategic post and Forced Marriage/Honour Based Violence operational post. Not all funding was awarded, however what we have been granted will allow us to make some amendments to current provision.

Funding has been secured from the Office of the PCC for joint work with Oxford for the provision of specialist support to **DVA victims** who are additionally vulnerable through "**complex needs**". It will bring together both DVA and mental health expertise into one service within an evidence based therapeutic framework. Provision will include 121 and group work, with support to engage with appropriate DVA and mental health services. The service is due to commence in April 2018 for 3 years.

Also related to DVA and funded by the Office of the PCC is the **Positive Relationship Programme**. This comprises of group work sessions designed to support individuals who have evidenced aggression within their intimate partner relationships. The programme is an educational, strength-based programme that supports individuals who want to find healthier, safer solutions to relationship-based problems and conflict. Eligibility includes repeat offending against the same or multiple partners, standard or medium risk, the victim is supportive of the PRP and willingly engages with specialist support services. It is being provided by the Thames Valley Community Rehabilitation Company on Saturdays at one of 6 venues across the Thames Valley (Bicester, Reading, Milton Keynes, High Wycombe, Oxford and Slough). The first group programme started in January 2018 and there will be an evaluation conducted on the project.

The Bucks Domestic Abuse Champion's Network serves to provide the county with an increasing number of professionals trained in recognising DVA and to safely signpost to support agencies. There are now over 300 trained champions and a survey reflected that 88.5% of respondents (from a sample of 70), said that their role as a DVA Champion has made a difference to victims. As one respondent said, "*We need to keep spreading the word, keep informing people and sharing appropriate information. This network is a fantastic platform to support victims*".

The new **LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) DVA E-learning package** is the only product of its kind on this subject nationally. It has been highly praised by domestic abuse coordinators around the Thames Valley and it has also been reviewed by the leading LGBT organisation Stonewall. It has recently been purchased by the Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner for the mandatory use of police officers around the Thames Valley and also under the agreement covers the other Thames Valley councils to use with their staff as they see fit. It is also primarily aimed towards social workers and over the next year it is hoped social workers within BCC will be able to complete the package and gain

their certification. The package itself takes around 45 minutes and is broken down into bite sized individual modules that can be accessed one by one at different time periods if there is a time restraint. We have had commercial interest from other police forces and county councils outside of the Thames Valley and will be meeting with them in the next few months to show them the package.

Reducing Re-offending

Thames Valley Police (TVP), in partnership with the National Probation Service (NPS) and the Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC) are leading an improvement plan on the work that is targeted at the most prolific and high risk of harm offenders. This is known as **Integrated Offender Management**. The aims of this work will be to ensure that offenders are correctly brought onto the programme, carefully monitored and worked with. This should include, not just offenders of burglary and other acquisitive crime, but include violence and organised crime. The scheme aims to actively engage with offenders who wish to take positive steps to change their behaviour and deliver criminal consequences to those who do not. Performance management of outcomes will be reviewed over the next few months.

Helping our Communities to be Resilient

In October 2017 the **Safe Place Scheme Relaunch** was delivered. It was relaunched in 4 library locations around the county and had a total of 132 visitors coming to find out more about the scheme. Many of these were potential service users. There were also 5 shops/businesses/organisations that came to find out more in order to sign up. The work of the partnership has been exceptional regarding Safe Places throughout the launch week and also through the recruitment of new businesses on the scheme. The amount of Safe Place locations across Buckinghamshire has increased to over 271 which is excellent.

We have been working with Bucks New University students to produce a **Safe Place App** for the shops and businesses joined up to the scheme. The app will be used to gather an evidence base as to the effectiveness of the scheme. It will help us to see how many people have been helped over the course of a year and the most common issue that service users presented with. This would enable us to have an evidence base of the scheme on a county wide basis for the first time. There is an incident record feature which would store the following basic information: "What happened?" "How was it resolved?" "Date" "Location". The app will also have all of the information which is in the paper welcome packs (which encloses guidance on the best way to run a Safe Place). The app is near completion and expected to "go live" within the next few months.

Buckinghamshire has led the way in the development of a single **Cyber Crime Strategy** for



Thames Valley. The Strategy was written and approved by the three District Community Safety Partnerships and the Partnership Board. One of the positive consequences of doing this work in collaboration across the Thames Valley was a successful bid to the PCC for funding to deliver theatre performances to primary schools about safe behaviour online. The company who delivered *Chelsea's Choice* (the CSE production) will deliver this in Buckinghamshire in September 2018.

Consultation ahead of year 2

We are currently consulting with residents and key stakeholders about the four priorities that were identified last year as a result of analysis of crime and public consultation. We are asking whether these priorities are still important or if there should be new/changed priorities. Obtaining views and feedback from our members is crucial to this process and, to that end, please use this link below to answer a very short online survey about our current crime and disorder priorities for the upcoming year. If you are able to send the link out to your networks that will help us to broaden the reach of the consultation.

The survey can be found here: <https://www.research.net/r/safeinbucks>

Resource implications & next steps:

The Safer & Stronger Bucks Partnership Board is responsible for identifying the key work areas for 2018/19 and this will influence the decisions that are made around the PCC grant funding (which is at the same level as last year).

The BCC budget for Safer Communities is not affected by this and no changes in funding levels are being suggested through this process.