
SUBJECT:	<i>Community Safety Update</i>
REPORT OF:	
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	<i>Martin Holt – Healthy Communities</i>
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WARD/S AFFECTED	<i>All</i>

1. Purpose of Report

To update members on the work undertaken by the Community Safety team.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Policy Advisory Group notes this report.

2. Reasons for Recommendations

N/A

3. Content of Report

- 3.1 The Community Safety team comprises of a Community Safety Manager, 1x FT Community Safety Officer, 1x 0.6 FTE Community Safety Officer, 1x 0.6 FTE Community Integration Officer and 1x 0.5 Community Safety Advisor. We are primarily based in the South Bucks District Council office although most of the time we are out and about in the community at various events.
- 3.2 The District Council is a key partner of the Chiltern and South Bucks Community Safety Partnership (CSP). Each year the CSP produces a Community Safety Partnership Plan that identifies the local priorities and action plans to address those needs.
- 3.3 Over the past year we have focused on the priorities identified in the Partnership Plan and undertaken a number of projects to address them.
- 3.4 The first priority was to: reduce house burglary, non-dwelling burglary, theft from vehicles and violent behaviour in our communities. In South Bucks, burglary dwelling reduced from 327 in 2013-14 to 210 in 2014-15. The Police focused on identifying potential perpetrators of crime and reducing their potential to offend. The Community Safety team supported the prevention of crime through information sharing, provision of advice and assistance. The team attended many events over the year giving out crime reduction advice, working with the Police to identify

potential burglary hotspots during the winter months and issuing timer switches to those more vulnerable. We also organised a number of events at garden centres to raise awareness of shed breaks over the spring months. These events will continue in hotspot areas over the coming year.

- 3.5 The second priority is: reduce anti-social behaviour (ASB) in our communities - in partnership with the police, L&Q Housing and the Youth Offending Service we carried out Operation Ghostbuster over Halloween and Guy Fawkes. This Operation included visits to potential young offenders to remind them of the consequences of their actions (including loss of tenancy) and visits to shopkeepers to remind them not to sell flour or eggs to under 18s over this period. The Operation was successful and there was not an increase in ASB offences as has been seen in previous years. The Operation will be repeated in 2015 and high-vis patrols will be focused on areas that are identified through the ASB analysis.
- 3.6 The third priority is to: protect vulnerable individuals and communities. This particularly focuses on child sexual exploitation (CSE), cyber crime and scams, preventing violent extremism and domestic violence (DV). Over the past year we have worked closely with schools to raise awareness of CSE. Every year 8 and 9 pupil watched a theatre production (Chelsea's Choice) to understand the signs of CSE. The team also supports the local CSE information sharing group and is currently supporting the County Safeguarding partnership review systems to tighten up controls to prevent CSE. We have also worked closely with the Police and local Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators to raise awareness of rogue traders and scams that are often aimed at the elderly or more vulnerable. We continually raise awareness of DV, particularly through GP surgeries and highlight the agencies that will support the victims. During 2015 the team will be working closely with Bucks County Council's dementia friendly team, particularly focusing on launching the Safe Place scheme in other towns and villages and raising awareness of rogue traders.
- 3.7 In addition, the team has recently launched Community Cards. This is focused on Year 6 pupils with the aim of improving community cohesion. Each pupil must work with their class to achieve the highest number of stickers to win a prize. Stickers are gained through a number of different ways but include undertaking an intergenerational activity, participating in recycling, having a CSE and substance misuse input from an expert, undertaking a lesson in multi-culturalism, attending two faith establishments, meeting their local PCSO and PC plus many others. Winners will be announced mid-June.
- 3.8 The final priority focuses on: reducing the fear of crime and perception of anti-social behaviour. There is a bi-monthly newsletter (CSi) that highlights the work of the team and offers crime reduction advice based on the theme at the time. This

newsletter is distributed via email to every Town/ Parish/ District and County Councillor and it is hoped that this is shared with local residents to show that crime is reducing and the Community Safety Partnership is working together to reduce crime and the fear of crime.

4. Consultation

Not applicable

5. Options

Not applicable

6. Corporate Implications

6.1 Financial

The Community Safety team is able to bid for Police and Crime Commissioner funding which has been passported to Bucks County Council for distribution. It is not envisaged that additional resources are required at this time.

6.2 Legal

None

6.3 And where appropriate; Crime and Disorder, Environmental Issues, ICT, Partnership, Procurement, Social Inclusion, Sustainability

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act states that the Council must consider crime and disorder activities when delivering its day to day activities.

6. Links to Council Policy Objectives

There are links to the Community Safety Partnership Plan.

Background Papers:	Chiltern and South Bucks Community Safety Partnership Plan – Year 2
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