



Aylesbury Community Board- 17th November 2020

Agenda Item 6: Community Matters

3 questions were received ahead of the Community Board meeting- the questions & responses can be found below:

1. Question, submitted by Aylesbury Resident:

'In Aylesbury we have seen a huge increase in serious crime committed by the youth and drastic decrease in youth services (apprenticeship, youth enterprise and youth clubs). These two factors are high correlated, what roadmap does the council to deal with these issues?'

Response provided by Buckinghamshire Family Support Service Team:

In Bucks we are fortunate that we have managed to hold on to our Youth Service where many Local Authorities across the country haven't been so lucky. Despite the decrease in the size of the service we are still able to provide a host of support to young people across the county. We have recently reviewed our Youth Work Offer for Bucks which includes;

- **One-One Support-** A series of weekly one to one sessions with a young person that are targeted to address specific, identified needs. The length of the intervention is dependent on the support required. An average intervention would be 8 sessions, but this can be extended dependent on engagement and level of need. Young people can be referred to the service for this support.
- **Targeted Group Work-** We now have Family Centres across Bucks, of which 3 are in Aylesbury; Berryfields, Southcourt and Elmhurst. Small group work programmes are provided of six to eight weeks for young people around specific topics/needs. These topics include:
 - Confidence and Self-esteem
 - Stress, Anxiety and Low Mood
 - Transitions (to secondary school)
 - School Engagement
 - Employability
 - Risk Taking behaviours
- **Weekly Drop Ins-** Weekly Youth Drop-In available in Aylesbury at Southcourt Family Centre Thursdays 3:30pm – 5:30pm where young people can access information, advice and guidance on a variety of issues. From here they can also be signposted to other organisations.

- **School Link Worker Support-** Each Secondary School has a Youth Worker who attends the school 1 morning a fortnight to offer information, guidance and signposting for young people and teachers.
- **VCS Groups/Centres-** There are a variety of youth groups, forums and activities in the local community that are accessible to young people in Bucks. These are predominantly delivered by charities or voluntary groups but BC Family Support Service work in partnership and provide support. In the Aylesbury area we have Quarrendon YC which we have been working hard to identify a new provider and am pleased that Aylesbury Youth Action will be taking on a lease in the next month to provide youth support sessions from the building. We also have The Grange Youth Centre which is still operated by BC directly and The Healthy Living Centre also provide Youth Clubs.
- **Traineeship Offer-** We run an education and training programme with work experience for young people (aged 16 – 24) who are not currently in Education, Employment or training that is focused on giving young people the skills and experience that employers are looking for. This is currently being delivered virtually (due to Covid) but has previously been delivered from The Grange Youth Centre.
- **Youth Voice-** We have an executive committee of young people who meet to discuss issues and priorities for young people across Bucks and ensure young people's voice is heard. We have recently began to link this in with local Youth Councils, of which Aylesbury is one of these. The idea being that a representative from the Youth Council in each area becomes part of the Executive Committee within Youthvoice giving us a broad range of issue to discuss from across the County.

Despite the above offer we recognise there is still a need to provide wider support to young people. The Community Board provides the opportunity for providers in the area, both from Local Authority and local voluntary providers and also importantly young people in the area- to address current issues specific to the area and respond with a wider community approach, recognising the Youth Service does not have the capacity or resource that it once had. It needs to be a community approach and the boards give us the ideal platform to address the issues raised via the original question with the key people around the table in each area.

We are also regularly working in partnership with TVP, Community Safety and The YOS and to identify gaps in the area as well, and YOS in particular are providing targeted work with young people involved or at risk of becoming involved in crime.

2. Question, Submitted by Aylesbury Resident:

'Elmhurst residences have on several occasions complained about groups of teenagers smoking illegal substances in the Alfred Rd memorial park next to the second children playing areas. What action has been taken to stop this?'

Response provided by the Community Safety Team- Buckinghamshire Council:

The Community Safety Team are working closely with our police partners to support the prevention and reduction of Crime and ASB. We have limitations in terms of powers and authority to deal with offences that are committed. Smoking drugs is clearly a crime and a matter for the police to comment on.

These young people are more likely to come from local communities and it is our belief that the community plays a huge part in resolving these problems. This type of activity, however, is not limited to Alfred Rose Park and is replicated in a variety of open spaces across Aylesbury. The answer is not straight-forward but the Community Safety Team would be happy to support Community Boards with advice and guidance as to how these issues can be tackled within communities in future.

Thames Valley Police Aylesbury Neighbourhood Team have also added that this area is patrolled frequently and that it is on their patrol plan as a community Anti-Social Behaviour issue.

3. Question, submitted by Aylesbury Resident for Thames Valley Police Response:

'What actions have you taken and would you like to see (other than from the drivers) as means to reduce speeding along the A41 Tring Road. Please feel free to split the road into different sections as appropriate'

Response, provided by Inspector Simon Lincoln, Thames Valley Police:

TVP Operate a road safety partnership where we work with partners to keep our roads safe. We do this in a variety of ways and speed enforcement is one tactic that we can use. To enable the Road Safety partnership to deploy resources effectively they rely on a variety of sources. This includes (but is not limited to) accident reporting, site surveys and community speed watch. This system is run by volunteers and allows our community to take part. It also provides reliable information on which we can base our decisions on where to carry out enforcement. Unfortunately, Covid-19 has resulted in the brief suspension of this activity.

TVP are still deploying mobile enforcement cameras in areas of concern and our Roads Policing officers frequently conduct speed detection specific areas of concern. I am aware that the Tring road in Aston Clinton has been subject to enforcement recently.

Enforcement is a legitimate tactic, but it is one of many. I have significant experience in this area given my previous role on Roads Policing. I know excess speed is a causation factor in too many collisions. I am happy to refer the community concerns to the Roads Safety Partnership and ask them to review deployment to this area. To do so I will need a specific area to focus on where and when. Enforcement of speed limits is the responsibility of the Police however I hope people can appreciate that deploying officers in one location for a

period of time is resource intensive and may not achieve the long-term outcome the community desires.

Resident with concerns about speeding are welcomed to join the Aylesbury Community Board's Road Safety, Highways and Infrastructure Action Subgroup to look at how the community can work together to help identify and tackle issues, along with other partners including Thames Valley Police. Please email aylesburycb@buckinghamshire.gov.uk to get involved.