

Community Board – North West Chilterns
Crime and Antisocial Behaviour
Briefing Report – 11th March 2021

Purpose of the report:

This report provides a brief update on the scope and content of the work undertaken by the Crime and Antisocial Behaviour subgroup since the last Community Board meeting held on 19th November 2020.

Progress to date:

The subgroup has met three times since the last Community Board meeting. Local residents have participated in these meetings, as well as Transitions UK, 7Roadlight, Thames Valley Police, Hughenden Street Association, Thames Valley Neighbourhood Watch Association (TVNHWA) and Hughenden Neighbourhood Action Group (HNAG). The following is a summary of the key matters arising:

- Transitions UK presented their Mentoring and Support proposal to the subgroup on 25th November 2020, which combines the services of 7Roadlight. This is a joint board pilot scheme which helps young people (13 to 17 age) at risk of offending/criminal exploitation or who have offended and are choosing a better future.

Since the November meeting, presentations were also carried out for the Head of Youth Services, Managers in the Youth Service Provision and the Community Safety Manager in Buckinghamshire Council (BC), who as a result confirmed that they fully supported this project.

A funding application was subsequently received from Transitions UK on 10th December 2020 and was reviewed during a subgroup meeting on 18th January 2021. It was agreed that this application should be recommended for funding to the Community Board. As the launch of this service was in February 2021, the application was presented to BC Councillors on 4th February where it was formally approved.

- Community Cop Cards (sticker collecting scheme for young people): Due to Covid restrictions, Thames Valley Police have decided to pull back the scheme and rescheduled to 2022.
- Traveller Incursion: One of the objectives of this subgroup was to implement a county wide Traveller Incursion, the same as what was held in the Wycombe area. However, the subgroup have been informed of a recent but significant change in the law due to a Court of Appeal decision which was followed by the High Court in a recent Bromley case, which effectively ruled against the continuation of such 'Persons Unknown' Injunctions and other technical legal reasons.

<https://www.travellerstimes.org.uk/index.php/news/2020/01/victory-gypsies-and-travellers-anti-camping-injunctions-court-case>

Buckinghamshire as a Unitary authority does not therefore currently have requisite measures in place to support a proportionate response to Travellers at present – in order to obtain an injunction in the current climate, BC would need to be able to justify and evidence suitable measures to support their needs and lifestyle through the needs assessment and planning process.

Going forward, BC will be looking to develop an Unauthorised Encampments Policy & Strategy which will be subject to member consultation and approval. This will ensure that we manage our Travellers in a proportionate and consistent way across the county.

Actions going forward:

1. Now the Mentoring and Support project has been launched by Transitions UK, the subgroup have agreed next steps to progress this priority. The following objectives have been included:
 - to evaluate solutions around dog theft and cons and scams.
 - to continue with the theme of training and educating young people who are at risk of offending/reoffending (for example, to consider a programme of school visits [5-11 year olds] and BC Community Card/Thames Valley Police Community Cop Card initiatives).

(note: existing objectives are drug issues within County lines, exploitation [including domestic violence] and young person's grooming and road safety around antisocial behaviour).

2. Consider other partners/stakeholders to potentially join the subgroup.

David Carroll
Chair of the Subgroup
11th March 2021