



Report to Cabinet

Date: 9th May 2023

Title: Safer Buckinghamshire Strategy 2023-26

Cabinet Member(s): Cllr Steve Bowles, Cllr A Hussain

Contact officer: Gideon Springer

Ward(s) affected: All

Recommendations:

- *That the priorities and key actions for the Safer Buckinghamshire Strategy 2023-26 be endorsed*
- *That the next steps be noted, which include*
 - *Publication of the Safer Buckinghamshire Strategy 2023-26 by 15th May 2023*
 - *Development of detailed delivery plans for each priority area*
 - *Development of measures to track and demonstrate progress and impact*

1. Executive summary

1.1 The 2020-2023 Safer Buckinghamshire Strategy ends on 31st March 2023. Following the completion of the Community Safety Strategic Assessment and public consultation, the 2023-26 Safer Buckinghamshire Strategy has been produced ready for publication on 15th May 2023.

2. Background

2.1 The Crime and Disorder Act (1998) (as revised by the Police and Justice Act 2006, and the Policing and Crime Act 2009) places a duty on the Safer Buckinghamshire Board (SBB) to undertake a strategic assessment of community safety in its area and produce a three-year community safety strategy.

2.2 The Safer Buckinghamshire Board considered the findings and recommendations of the Strategic Assessment at its meeting on 5th December 2022. The Strategic Assessment was circulated in the papers for the meeting of 5th December, and is also available from communitysafety@buckinghamshire.gov.uk.

- 2.3 As part of developing the strategic priorities for the Safer Buckinghamshire Board it is also a legislative requirement that there be public engagement. During September and October, through a survey and extensive communications plan, we asked people in Buckinghamshire what their community safety concerns and priorities were. The survey, which included multiple choice questions and the opportunity to make additional comments, was also promoted to Councillors and Town and Parish Councils in Buckinghamshire. An analysis of the public engagement was also presented to the Safer Buckinghamshire Board on 5th December 2022.
- 2.4 Taking the Strategic Assessment, the public engagement findings and other known insights into account, the Community Safety Team developed proposed priorities and key actions. Engagement for the priorities has included:
- A discussion with the SBB Chair, Chief Supt for Buckinghamshire
 - Sharing with the LPA Commanders for South Bucks and Aylesbury
 - Sharing with Service and Corporate Director
 - A partnership workshop at the SBB meeting on 5th December 2022

3. Proposed Priorities

- 3.1 The 5 proposed priorities, outlined in more detail within the Safer Buckinghamshire Strategy 2023-26, are:

- **Neighbourhood crime**
- **Anti-social behaviour**
- **Serious violence**
- **Violence against women and girls**
- **Exploitation of vulnerable people**

- 3.2 The Council's Communications team will assist in the production of this document, ensuring the Plan document meets accessibility standards. As a consequence, some of the detailed wording in the proposed priorities and key actions may need to be amended to meet these requirements. We will work closely with the Communications Team to make sure that accuracy and intended meaning is not lost in this process.

4. Delivery Plans

- 4.1 In line with the new priorities, five Priority Sponsors from different organisations will work with identified multi-agency subgroups to develop Delivery Plans.
- 4.2 The Delivery Plans will be taken to the Safer Buckinghamshire Board for approval, and updates on all actions will be provided at each meeting of the Board. A key action for the Neighbourhood Crime Priority will be to establish a multi-agency operational group who will direct partnership activity, resources and communications in hotspot locations. The Serious Violence subgroup will support early intervention for vulnerable young people and those becoming at risk, and the Exploitation of Vulnerable People Priority will include actions relating to providing training for professionals to improve understanding of exploitation and contextual safeguarding.
- 4.3 The Strategic Assessment identified the top 5 wards which experience the highest crime rates for each crime type. When collated, 13 wards were found to be in the top five for all crime types. Of these 13, 6 are wards that the Opportunity Bucks programme will initially be focusing on.
- 4.4 One of the priorities with the Quality of the Public Realm theme is Reducing crime and Anti-Social Behaviour. The Delivery Plans that will be developed for the Safer Buckinghamshire Plan 2023-26 Priority 1 - Neighbourhood Crime and Priority 2 - Anti-Social Behaviour will ensure there is a focus on the areas with highest crime and disorder rates, including these particular wards.
- 4.5 The attached table provides an update on the work the Council's Community Safety Team are already undertaking within some of these wards. We will explore opportunities to expand appropriate projects into these wards, working with the Priority Sponsors, to help with the levelling up agenda.
- 4.6 A query has been raised in relation to Domestic Abuse (DA) training for Buckinghamshire Council staff. In December 2022 a multi-agency DA and Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) training strategy was produced and a fully funded training catalogue launched to internal colleagues and partners. In total there are 15 types of course, which include DA Act, Coercive Control, Adolescent to Parent Abuse and a course on the impact of domestic abuse on children and families. Since the launch last month, 184 people have attended training. Attendees are from Buckinghamshire Council, DA and VAWG specialist services, Police, OPCC, NHS, education, housing associations, solicitors and many more. In addition, two Domestic Abuse Triage Workers have been funded by the Community Safety team, and they work within the Adult Social Care and Children Social Care, in order to provide expertise and guidance on how to deal with domestic abuse cases.

5. Legal and financial implications

- 5.1 The Crime and Disorder Act (1998) (as revised by the Police and Justice Act 2006, and the Policing and Crime Act 2009) places a duty on all Community Safety Partnership to produce a three-year community safety strategy. Within Buckinghamshire the partnership is called the Safer Buckinghamshire Board, and the community safety strategy is called the Safer Buckinghamshire Strategy. The current plan ends on the 31st March 2023, so the Safer Buckinghamshire Strategy 2023-24 needs to be published by 1st April 2023.
- 5.2 At present, all Community Safety Partnerships receive a Community Safety Grant from the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) which is to be used to fund projects which will assist with the delivery of the community safety strategy. The Safer Buckinghamshire Board in conjunction with the office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC), manage the Community Safety Grant. Bids for the funding are reviewed by the Priority Sponsors, and the Board, to ensure the projects meet the requirements of the Safer Buckinghamshire strategy.
- 5.3 If the decision was made by the PCC that the funding for the Community Safety Partnership was to be reduced, or managed differently by the OPCC, this could impact on the delivery of the Safer Buckinghamshire Strategy 2023-26 and the Delivery Plans.
- 5.4 Over the last 5 years the volume of crime has increased by 14% and it is likely that the demand on community safety partners will continue to increase due to the significant challenges facing the community currently. It may be that economic hardship increases crime levels including fraud even further.
- 5.5 This/These projects can be delivered within the existing funding received and expected in budgetary terms. However, there are continued resource constraints on both the Council and our community safety partners which could see an impact on our delivery.

6. Corporate implications

- 6.1 The Safer Buckinghamshire Strategy 2023-26 and the implementation of the Delivery Plan will contribute towards the Buckinghamshire Council Corporate Plan through the following key priorities:
- Strengthening our communities
 - Protecting the vulnerable

7. Local councillors and community boards

- 7.1 The public consultation was shared with the Community Board and Councillors as part of the communications plan.

8. Communication, engagement and further consultation

- 8.1 During September and October a community safety residents survey was posted on Your Voice asking people in Buckinghamshire what their community safety concerns and priorities were. The survey, which included multiple choice questions and the opportunity to make additional comments, generated 1,264 responses, which was an increase of 21% when compared to the previous survey

9. Next steps and review

- 9.1 The Safer Buckinghamshire Strategy will be published on the Buckinghamshire Council website.
- 9.2 The Safer Buckinghamshire Board Managers will work with the relevant Priority Sponsors to:
- Ensure that detailed delivery plans are developed for the delivery of the priorities;
 - Ensure mobilisation and delivery of the Strategy, commissioning task and finish groups etc. as required;
 - Develop a dashboard that will include delivery impact measure for the plans.
- 9.3 The Annual report on the work of the Safer Buckinghamshire Board will be produced in February/March 2024.

10. Background papers

- 10.1 None

Your questions and views (for key decisions)

If you have any questions about the matters contained in this report please get in touch with the author of this report. If you have any views that you would like the cabinet member to consider please inform the democratic services team. This can be done by email to democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk.

Opportunity Bucks – Community Safety projects currently underway

Current project/activity (with brief detail)		Lead	Timescale
Aylesbury North West			
Aylesbury serious violence open spaces project- aiming to increase confidence of park users whilst decreasing crime, ASB and serious violence. Various initiatives fall under this umbrella.		Chris Geen	Ongoing
Aylesbury North			
Aylesbury serious violence open spaces project- aiming to increase confidence of park users whilst decreasing crime, ASB and serious violence. Various initiatives fall under this umbrella.		Chris Geen	Ongoing
Aylesbury South West			
South Court	Redeeming Our Communities led by local Baptist Church Mentoring for families and young people, Boxing activities Club, Community Café/drop in centre	Chris Geen/Rachel Robinson	Project running for last 12 months and is ongoing
Chesham			
Chesham Town	Chesham multi agency tasking group – Following information from MACE in relation to a group of young people vulnerable to drug and ASB issues engagement with schools and local N/Hood policing, parent safeguarding sessions were conducted for a core vulnerable group who were engaged with, and safeguarding conversations conducted, Youth out-reach work is in action to reach young people in known areas where they gather to sign post them to diversionary activities and support.	Chris Geen/Eve Chason	Project running last 9 months and is ongoing



	Community Safety Officer has recently linked in with the Job Centre, and will be planning drop in sessions which will involve other partners	Eve Chason	Unknown at present
West Wycombe			
Booker, Cressex and Castlefield			
Castlefield	Castlefield problem solving group. A group currently comprising of Community Safety, NHPT, CADO & Bucks Council ASB team. Looks at issues which can be addressed by partnership working such as littering, broken fencing, school engagement, traffic calming issues, family centre engagement etc. Meets every 8 weeks.	Alyss Ord/ Chris Geen	Currently ongoing as actions arise organically.
Abbey			
Dovecot Road Underpass	Knife amnesty bin looking to be installed. Location agreed by highways who own the land. Installation being discussed and banner to advertise being designed.	Alyss Ord/ PCSO Bennett.	April 2023
Terriers and Amersham Hill			
Ryemead and Micklefield			
Totteridge and Bowerdean			