



RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITIES GROUP (RAG)

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 20 September 2012
in Room 2, at Milton Keynes Council Civic Offices @ 14.00hrs**

PRESENT:

Councillor Peter Geary (Chair)

Representatives of Responsible Authorities with Voting Rights:

Jane Reed (on behalf of David Hill)	Milton Keynes Council
Richard Jones (Independent Member)	Thames Valley Police Authority
Chief Inspector Ed McLean (on behalf of Supt. Barry Halliday)	Thames Valley Police
Greg Smith	Bucks Fire and Rescue Service
Denise Butt (on behalf of Kilvinder Vigurs)	Thames Valley Probation

Co-opted members to the Responsible Authorities Group without Voting Rights:

Councillor H O'Neill	Community Safety, Crime and Policing Select Committee
Councillor D Eastman	Community Safety, Crime and Policing Select Committee
Parish Councillor David Livingstone	Representing Urban Parish Councils
Parish Councillor Philip Ayles	Representing Rural Parish Councils

Officers:

Richard Solly	Head of Community Safety, Milton Keynes Council
Lee Westlake	Youth Offending Team Manager, Milton Keynes Council
Chief Inspector Ed McLean	Thames Valley Police
Neil Coolman	Thames Valley Police
Colin Wilderspin	SaferMK, Milton Keynes Council
Tina Milner (Committee Manager)	Milton Keynes Council

OTHERS PRESENT:

Councillor N Miles	Milton Keynes Council
Neil Dodds	MK Act, Milton Keynes Council

APOLOGIES:

David Hill	Milton Keynes Council
Supt. Barry Halliday	Thames Valley Police
Mick Osborne	Bucks Fire and Rescue Service
Kelly Allen	SaferMK
Will Spurgeon	Assistant Director Targeted Services
Kilvinder Vigurs	Thames Valley Probation

RAG18 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

1. That the Chair and Group thanked Mr Solly on his impending retirement, for devoting his life and service to the community.
2. That the Group asked that their condolences be sent to Greater Manchester Police in respect of the recent deaths of two officers.

RAG19 MINUTES

RESOLVED –

That the Minutes of the meetings of the Group held on 19 March 2012 and 21 June 2012, be approved and signed by the Chair as correct records.

RAG20 PERFORMANCE GROUP REPORT

The Group heard that as at the end of August 2012 there was a continued reduction year to date on all crime, although month on month there had been an increase of 10.7%. There had been significant increases in the overall serious acquisitive crime from May to July, however, data for year to date still showed a positive reduction. There was also positive news on all hate crime and for drugs and alcohol related crime by adults, although some centres were struggling to meet targets for the young people.

The Group heard that there was still insufficient data analysis with member organisations to conduct certain work, to support SaferMK Support Team, the Assistant Director (Housing and Communities) would investigate this to enable future provision of analysis.

It was noted that the Fire and Rescue Service was planning to organise a further emergency services operation, with a terrorist attack scenario, based along the successful 'Operation Shakespeare' that was arranged recently in Milton Keynes.

RESOLVED –

That the updated Performance Group Report for August 2012 be noted.

RAG21 COMMUNITY SAFETY LEAD FOR MILTON KEYNES COUNCIL

The Group heard that discussions had been held within Milton Keynes Council during the summer of 2012, concerning the Council's options for supporting the SaferMK Partnership, following the election of the Police and Crime Commissioner, and the retirement of the Head of Community Safety on 30 November 2012.

The Group was informed by the Assistant Director (Housing and Communities) that the Council were not looking to make savings by the removal of a Head of Service post. The Council was, however, looking at new ways of working and to provide a service that was fit for purpose, and recognised changes brought about by the forthcoming election of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

The Group heard that Mr L Westlake, Head of Youth Offending Services, would be responsible for strategic oversight of the SaferMK Support Team functions and that Mr C Wilderspin was to be the lead officer on the co-ordination and tasking functions of the Partnership. Within his strategic brief, Mr Westlake would also lead on re-shaping the partnership according to the wishes and requirements of members.

RESOLVED –

That the report be noted.

RAG22 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE 'STANDING TOGETHER' REPORT

The Group considered a report on Domestic Violence 'Standing Together' from the Domestic and Sexual Violence Reduction Co-ordinator. It was agreed that it would be good opportunity for Milton Keynes Council to take a strategic lead in this area and implement the changes appropriately.

The Group heard that the Home Office has announced that the minimum age for being registered as a domestic abuse victim is to be reduced from 18 to 16.

RESOLVED –

1. That the strategic lead be from Milton Keynes Council and shared by the Assistant Director (Housing and Communities) and the Assistant Director (Integrated Support and Social Care) to represent all matters involving domestic abuse.
2. That the Domestic and Sexual Violence Delivery Group be requested to formulate a strategic action plan that would be presented to RAG at a later date in order to tackle the issues in the report.

RAG23 COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

The Group considered a report on and an event agenda for the Community Safety Forum to be held on 5 October 2012. The emphasis of the event was to explore how SaferMK moved forward and expand its partnership working.

The Group heard that SaferMK was planning to host a Community Safety Practitioner event during spring 2013.

RESOLVED –

1. That the final agenda for the SaferMK's Community Safety Forum to be held on 5 October 2012 be agreed.
2. That a Community Safety Practitioner event be held in spring 2013.

RAG24 POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONERS (PCC) UPDATE

The Group considered a presentation in respect of the Police and Crime Commissioners (PCC), and noted that the PCC would work alongside the full range of criminal justice and community safety partnerships.

The Group heard that a Chief Executive Group meeting was due to be held at Thames Valley Police HQ on 18 October 2012, and requested that the combined strategic over-arching views of Milton Keynes and surrounding areas be represented by the Chief Executive. The specific concerns expressed by the SaferMK partnership might not be sufficiently represented in the new structure.

RESOLVED –

1. That a statement be prepared for the Police and Crime Commissioner on the work of SaferMK.
2. That the Chief Executive be asked to take forward the Group's concerns and to look at a strategic over-arching view.

RAG25 AGREEMENT OF TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Group considered a report on the revised Terms of Reference.

RESOLVED –

That the Terms of Reference be noted.

RAG26 UPDATE FROM MEMBERS

RESOLVED –

That the Group noted the Police Authority had prepared its own report to the new Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Thames Valley. The Group was also informed that there would be 41 individual PCCs, one representing each force area.

INFORMATION ITEMS

RAG27 REVISED COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY

The Group received an information report in respect of the revised Community Safety Strategy and heard that that Milton Keynes Council had taken a strategic lead on Domestic Violence, and that a report be submitted to a future meeting of this Committee.

RESOLVED –

That the report be noted.

RAG28 SCRUTINY AND OVERVIEW WORK PROGRAMME

The Group received an update on the work programme of the Community Safety, Crime and Policing Select Committee for 2012/13, and heard that a review was being conducted about the future of Neighbourhood Action Groups and their role in Community Safety in Milton Keynes. The review was expected to be completed by February 2013, which it was expected to be presented to RAG for any necessary decisions.

RESOLVED –

That the report be noted.

RAG29 CRIMINAL JUSTICE AGENCIES AND HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

The Group heard an update on the Health and Wellbeing Board, and noted that enquiries had been made with a view to formalising links between the Board and the various criminal justice agencies. An update would be submitted to the next meeting of this Group.

RESOLVED –

That the update be noted.

RAG30 STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

The Group received an information report on Strengthening Families programme 2012-15, as part of the Government's Troubled Families Initiative.

The Group heard that 425 Troubled Families had been identified in the demographic area of Milton Keynes and that a further update would be submitted to the Group at a later date on the project outcomes.

RESOLVED –

That the report be noted.

RAG31 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting of the Responsible Authorities Group would be held on Thursday 20 December 2012 at 2.00pm.

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 3.40 PM