

30 June 2021

OVERVIEW OF PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITY

Report Author:

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Purpose of Report

To provide an update on partnership activity undertaken to support the delivery of the priorities of the Community Safety Partnership since the previous meeting.

FOR INFORMATION

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 The Community Safety Partnership is asked to note the following highlights of activity undertaken to improve community safety. This update covers the period since the last meeting in March.

2. Partnership Activity to Note

2.1 Vulnerable Communities and Individuals

(a) **Modern Day Slavery**

Tasking Board is overseeing work to improve multi-agency pathways for people who have been victims of modern-day slavery. A small working group is updating our National Referral Mechanism process. A local communications plan will focus on raising awareness of appropriate referral processes amongst front line staff.

(b) **Domestic Violence and Abuse**

The Domestic Abuse Bill received Royal Assent on April 2021. The measures contained in the new Act include new protection and support for victims ensuring that abusers will no longer be allowed to directly cross-examine their victims in the family and civil courts, and giving victims better access to special measures in the courtroom to help prevent intimidation, such as protective screens and giving evidence via video link.

Police will also be given new powers including Domestic Abuse Protection Notices providing victims with immediate protection from abusers, while courts will be able to hand out new Domestic Abuse Protection Orders to help prevent offending by forcing perpetrators to take steps to change their behaviour, including seeking mental health support or drug and alcohol rehabilitation.

Funding received in relation to the delivery of the new Act has been allocated by the Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership to support the delivery of the Domestic Abuse Strategy. The funding will support a number of initiatives including an extension to the pilot dispersed housing programme which provides support to victims of domestic abuse in self-contained accommodation, a sanctuary scheme that provides additional security that can enable victims to safely stay in their homes and a healthy relationships programme .

(c) Prevention and Reduction of Serious Violence

A draft violence reduction strategy is being finalised by Tasking Board for consideration by the MK Together Management Board at its next meeting in July. Funding has been secured via the Thames Valley Violence Reduction Unit to appoint a Violence Reduction Co-ordinator for one year. The postholder will support the delivery of the strategy.

In addition to the projects funded by last year's knife crime Task and Finish Group which are at various stages of implementation, Tasking Board has funded MK Dons Sports and Education Trust to deliver accredited youth work training to people working with young people in the community. The aim is to ensure volunteers have the skills they need to competently and safely work with children who are at risk of engaging in youth violence.

Tasking Board is overseeing the allocation of further knife crime and violence prevention funds allocated by Milton Keynes Council, led by the Director of Children's Services. Voluntary organisations working with Redeeming our Communities have been engaged to best understand where investment will have the most impact.

(d) Rough Sleepers

Risk Board is monitoring the implementation of a specialist drug and alcohol service for people who are rough sleeping. The service is run by CNWL.

(e) **Prevent**

The annual Channel Duty Assurance Statement was submitted in April. A new business assurance process is being rolled out nationally and a regional review will take place in June. Work continues on the development of a new Prevent training package for Council staff and it is expected that a train the trainer model will launch in the Autumn.

2.2 Neighbourhoods

(a) **Anti-social Behaviour**

A public consultation on the extension and variation of the Alcohol PSPO for a further three years will launch in June. The option to vary the order to cover the whole of Bletchley, and potentially the whole of the Stantonbury Parish is being considered. To comply with the legislation, evidence of alcohol related anti-social behaviour must be obtained. Due to the impact of the Covid-19 lockdown, data from the last year may not give a true reflection of alcohol related ASB in Milton Keynes.

Improvements have been made to the process for requesting and assessing the need for a community trigger. A Community Trigger gives victims of ASB the ability to request a review of their case where a locally defined threshold is met. Requests are now assessed against the criteria by a new multi-agency triage meeting which ensures that all options for resolving the issue have been exhausted prior to escalating to a statutory community trigger

(b) **SafeHub**

Tasking Board funded the SafeHub initiative that was jointly run by TVP and St Johns Ambulance. The SafeHub provides support to people who are vulnerable during a night out due to alcohol consumption, giving them somewhere safe to sober up and so they can get home safely. The SafeHub has been launched to coincide with the reopening of hospitality venues.

(c) **Serpentine Court Improvements**

A schedule of works agreed to improve safety for residents of Serpentine Court. This work will continue to be progressed, and on-site work should start soon.