

Community Safety Strategy 2022-26**Report Author:**

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Purpose of Report:

The Partnership is asked to note the findings of the annual community safety survey, and to adopt a new Community Safety Strategy for 2022-26.

FOR AGREEMENT

1. Background

It is a statutory requirement for Community Safety Partnerships to agree and publish a strategy for reducing crime and disorder. After refreshing our existing strategy for 2021/22, a full review of the strategy has now taken place. The process for developing a new strategy was agreed by the MK Together Management Board and was overseen by Risk Board on behalf of the partnership.

The development of the strategy has been informed by the annual strategic assessment. The Community Safety Partnership considered and agreed the recommendations of the strategic assessment at a previous meeting.

2. Stakeholder engagement

Consultation on priority areas for the strategy was incorporated into the partnership's annual consultation on crime and community safety issues. Every effort has been made to maximise the response to the consultation within the constraints of Covid-19 Plan B restrictions including:

- Widespread promotion through partnership networks, social media, and electronic alerts by partners including Milton Keynes Council, Thames Valley Police and Bucks Fire and Rescue.
 - Promotion to young people through schools, college, youth workers, healthy young people's network and youth cabinet. Link also shared with supplementary schools and young people accessing Youth Offending Team services.
 - Outreach events in Bletchley, Olney and Newport Pagnell town centres, and promotion at events including the Lakes Christmas Fair.
 - Promotion through newsletters and bulletins.
 - Discussions at various forums including E-Scooter Forum and the Police Independent Advisory Group.
 - Distribution of leaflets on estates through residents' associations and through neighbourhood services, and also through community groups and initiatives such as Community Larder.
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- A number of focus groups were held including with voluntary sector groups, parish councils and students at MK College.

This year saw an increase in the number of responses received to the survey. Encouragingly, a significant proportion of response were received from young people aged 18 and under.

The recommendations of the strategic assessment were also considered by the Community and Housing Scrutiny Committee, Youth Offending Strategic Board, and the Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership.

The consultation found that consistent support for the proposed priorities. The widespread impact of substance misuse was highlighted through the consultation. Multiple groups, both professional and public, highlighted this as a key issue and potential cause of anti-social behaviour and criminality. As a result, substance misuse is a consistent theme that is addressed throughout the strategy.

3. Draft Community Safety Strategy

A draft Community Safety Strategy is attached for consideration by the Partnership. The strategy acts as a commitment by community safety partners to work together on priority areas. The content of draft strategy has been agreed by the MK Together Management Board. The Community Safety Partnership is now being asked to adopt the strategy. A final designed version of the strategy will be published once adopted by the Partnership.

4. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Community Safety Partnership notes the findings of the annual community safety survey.

It is recommended that the partnership adopts the draft Community Safety Strategy for 2022-2026
