



Strategic Assessment 2012 Key findings and recommendations



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Executive Summary

The Strategic Assessment is produced by SaferMK on behalf of the Responsible Authorities Group (RAG). It aims to look at Crime and Disorder across the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) looking strategically at emerging threats that will impact on the area.

Over the past 18 months all agencies within the partnership have undergone a number of changes due to resource constraints, and this has led to a number of restructures.

Most crucial to the partnership have been the reduction within the SaferMK support team and other losses such as Thames Valley Police (TVP) local performance team and the restructuring of the Area Intelligence Unit, changes to the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) service with a reduction of 2 full time posts have all had an impact on partnership working. The biggest change is upcoming and is the introduction of the Police and Crime Commissioner. This is sure to change the way not only the police work but also how we work as a partnership and is a good opportunity to review our working practices and make sure we are providing the best services for the best value.

The document is structured in a similar format to previous years. However, throughout the document considerations have been given to how working, funding and the partnership as a whole may work going forward. The priority areas for this years assessment are;

- ◇ Reducing Crime – Led by Thames Valley Police (TVP).
- ◇ Reducing Reoffending – Led by Probation.
- ◇ Drugs and Alcohol – Led by Milton Keynes PCT.
- ◇ Reducing Anti-Social Behaviour – Led by Milton Keynes Council
- ◇ Reducing Public Place Violence – Led by Thames Valley Police
- ◇ CONTEST (Counter Terrorism) – Led by Milton Keynes Council and Thames Valley Police.

A new performance reporting system was designed last year after the national indicator set was abolished; this gave partnerships the ability to set their own targets based on the issues most important to them. In Milton Keynes we decided to do this based on our priority areas and where possible we wanted to set one qualitative and quantitative target, to get a sense of outputs and outcomes to measure if the services we are delivering really are effective. The work flow from the operational issues at Joint Agency and Tasking Coordination (JATAC) meeting, to medium term issues and any unresolved issues being dealt with at Performance Group and finally strategic issues and matters arising from performance group being dealt with at Responsible Authorities Group (RAG) has worked well throughout the year and the escalation process is well utilised.

Stakeholder forums are held annually to engage with the Community Safety Partnerships' (CSP) key stakeholders and review the work ongoing within SaferMK and also get feedback on what is being missed. It is important to continue this engagement so that information is fed top down but also bottom up. The next forum is scheduled for October 2012.

Reducing Domestic and Sexual Violence

Key findings

- We need to develop our information and intelligence around sexual offences.
- The delivery group needs to be provided with a coordinated data set that gives more than just performance figures.
- There still isn't a direct and working link to education and local schools, which is complicated by schools that now have academy status and are no longer under the remit of the council.
- Some work has been started over the period to look at where the gaps are in our multi agency dealing with children, young people and families that are witnessing or involved in domestic violence.

Recommendations

- Develop data sharing links with the Sexual Assault Referral clinic and also look into better links with health, looking at the link with the health and well being board when implemented.
- A coordinated data set needs to be agreed and the resource to collate and analyse this on a monthly basis for the delivery group needs to be established.
- Look at how we can develop links with different education providers to work on early interventions, prevention and general communications messages.
- Continue to work on the links to children's services to establish any gaps in services or processes that can be strengthened.

Reducing Anti-social behaviour

Key findings

- There have been continued problems at Bletchley Youth Centre and the Melrose Avenue shops for a number of years which sporadically become an issue at JATAC and TTCG, longer term plans need to be implemented here not just from community safety but also from the Youth Service to ensure there are actions that can be taken to prevent further escalations.
- The management of high/medium risk cases has improved, however we are still not systematically cross referencing our data between agencies, which is compounded by the use of an additional system being used in the council.
- The previous assessment identified that we have a number of estates that suffer from medium-high levels of ASB and crime and therefore come to our attention sporadically; however work is not carried out in a full multi agency way until the problems escalate to a critical point.
- There are a number of strategic issues arising with play spaces for young people and the responses from partner agencies.

Recommendations

- A strategic plan needs to be implemented to deal with the Bletchley Youth Centre/Melrose Avenue area, the community safety issues are one strand of this so they will contribute but not lead in this area.
- The data issue must be addressed, both within the council internally and then between agencies to systematically share data and information on ASB incidents and victims.

- There needs to be a process of identifying estates that are at risk of escalating problems (similar to those in Fishermead/Coffee Hall etc), using a template, adapted from previous works, problems in the area need to be tackled before they become resource intensive because they have reached a critical point.
- We need to ensure there is full multi agency consultation in the pre planning stages to try and avoid these issues arising. There will also need to be a protocol or policy as to how we respond to these issues in the future, where the evidence does not support the complaints.

Reducing reoffending

Key Findings

- There are high levels of alcohol and cannabis use in young offenders, over 50% of all 18-20 year olds had issues with drugs misuse. This may indicate escalation of use.
- The majority of young offenders have experienced some disruption in their home lives; factors such as domestic abuse and bereavement are particularly prevalent.

Recommendations

- Ensure links to Compass and CRI are working well, and also scope to look at the substance misuse messages that are being delivered to young people.
- This is an area that could be picked up within strengthening families initially, to look at the identification and support for young people facing these issues before criminality becomes a factor.

Reducing drug and alcohol misuse

Key findings

- More females than men were admitted to hospital for drug specific conditions, this is happening alongside more female offenders.
- We have no gender specific information from the ambulance service or the drug treatment services, so we are unable to measure any trends or changes for different genders.
- There is currently no multi agency operational group for Drugs and Alcohol.

Recommendations

- Analysis into the higher levels of female admissions for drug specific conditions, in conjunction with looking at female drug taking/treatment/offending.
- It would be useful to receive gender information from both the ambulance service and CRI/Compass to determine if there are difference between males and females and if we need to tailor services to different needs.
- Research needs to be conducted into the use and need for a multi agency drug and alcohol group.

Next Steps

The final draft of the Strategic Assessment will be completed by 21st December. We propose RAG to sign off the document week commencing 21st January 2013.



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