

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, and the allocation of the Community Safety Fund Grant.

1. Background

1.1 At the last meeting, members of the Community Safety Partnership considered to revised Strategic Assessment and agreed the following priorities for 2019/20:

- Violence (non-domestic)
- Domestic Abuse
- Hate Crime

2. Recommendations

2.1 The Safer MK Partnership is asked to note the following summary of activity undertaken to support the delivery of the above priorities.

2.2 The Safer MK Partnership is also asked to note the allocation of the Community Safety Fund for 2019/20.

3. Partnership activity to note

3.1 Violence

Boxing Clever

'Boxing Clever' has been established to divert young people away from gang activity. The scheme identified a cohort of young people aged between 12-16 years who are most at risk of entering into gang culture and provides an effective diversionary scheme. It will help safeguard these youths who are likely to be vulnerable to exploitation and elements of modern slavery. This scheme has now been introduced in five Secondary Schools in Milton Keynes, and early indications are that there has been a positive impact on the attendance and behaviour of the young people who are involved.

Gang awareness training

Two training workshops are being held in conjunction with the PCC with a focus on gang awareness for frontline practitioners directly working with young people. The training is to be delivered 'Reach Every Generation'. The first day long, interactive training session was held on 13 June. 40 practitioners attended and a further session is planned for 12 July.

Knife Crime

Thames Valley Police have hosted two Knife Enabled Crime partnership problem solving sessions.

Choices Programme

Safer MK have funded a pilot project within primary education, focusing on early intervention in the areas of recognising vulnerability, positive choices and resilience. The programme features a highly engaging story, together with practical activities, designed to help young people develop a range of skills including the ability to make better informed decisions; develop problem-solving techniques, and build practical strategies to manage change and transition.

Youth Cabinet

The Community Safety Team and Children's Social Care have collaborated with colleagues in Youth Faculty to develop three Youth Cabinet workshops (YCAB) in line with the YVAB priority of 'Feeling Safe in Milton Keynes'.

3.2 Domestic Abuse

Re-procurement of support for victims of domestic abuse

The Council's contract with MK Act expires at the end of August. The Council is committed to funding domestic abuse services therefore a tender process will commence shortly for the procurement of a strategic partner to work with Milton Keynes Council, and other stakeholders, to develop support for victims of domestic abuse.

A contribution of £40k towards the cost of this contract has been allocated on behalf of Safer MK from PCC funding.

Domestic Abuse spotlight event

An awareness raising spotlight event is planned in conjunction with MK Act. The event will take place in November.

3.3 Hate Crime

101 conversations

The Community Safety Team and Thames Valley Police have been working closely with Milton Keynes College to highlight the importance of recognising and correctly reporting hate crime. As part of their course, students in the MK College digital media department designed posters for a visual and digital campaign for raising awareness of hate crime. A winning design will be chosen to be used for the Hidden Harm campaign on Hate Crime for Thames Valley Police.

Hate Crime awareness training

Workshops have been held at MK College for students who are newly arrived, or for whom English is a second language. There have also been workshops around hate crime, the law and working with clients with mental health issues for newly appointed staff at Chadwick Lodge. The next phase of this work will be to roll out the Hate Crime awareness training to practitioners/ community leaders, volunteers and the student ambassadors.

3.4 Other activities of note

Car cruising

The proposed Public Space Protection Order to tackle the anti-social use of vehicles associated with car cruising is now out for public consultation. The closing date for responses is 11th September 2019. The responses will be presented to the Council's Cabinet for consideration in making the final decision.

Environmental visual audit

The community safety team recently undertook a partnership exercise alongside Thames Valley Police and The Parks Trust focussing on the underpass linking CMK with Campbell Park. This was in response to reports of persistent anti-social behaviour and drug use. The area was cleared, Police signage has been erected in the area as a deterrent and dedicated patrols will continue. The impact will be monitored by the Parks Trust and Serco.

Bite back week

The England Illegal Money Lending Team (IMLT) in partnership with the Community Safety Team and Thames Valley Police, delivered a week of action in Bletchley to raise awareness of the dangers of borrowing from loan sharks. 'Bite Back Week' involved targeted leaflet drops and awareness events highlighting the support available to victims of illegal money lending.

Front line workers received specialist training on how to spot signs of loan shark activity, make referrals to the national team and support victims. During the course of this week the IMLT received intelligence from the community on possible loan sharks operating within the area.

A further awareness raising event is being arranged in and around Wolverton, commencing 5 August 2019.

4. Community Safety funding allocation

- 4.1 The Community Safety Partnership was awarded £261,694 in funding from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for 2019/20. The Annex of this report shows how this funding has been allocated for this year through the Community Safety Fund.

5. Attachments/Background Papers

Community Safety Fund – Agreed Spend Plan 2019/20 (Annex).