



Minutes of the meeting of the SAFERMK PARTNERSHIP held on THURSDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2020 at 2.00 pm

Present: Councillor Townsend (Chair)
 M Bracey (Chief Executive [Milton Keynes Council]),
 R Alsop (Chief Operating Officer [Milton Keynes Clinical Commissioning Group]), J Pejatta (Joint Head of Operations [Thames Valley Community Rehabilitation Company]), P Scanes (Group Commander for Fire [MK North, Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service]), Supt M Tarbit (Local Police Area Commander [Thames Valley Police])

Observers: Councillors R Bradburn (representative for Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel), Ferrans and McLean (Milton Keynes Council) and J Held (Independent Safeguarding Scrutineer)

Co-opted members without Voting Rights:

Parish Councillor P Ayles (Representative for the Rural Parish Councils) and Parish Councillor M Cato (Representative for the Urban Parish Councils)

Officers: **Milton Keynes Council:** S Gonsalves (Director of Policy, Insight and Communications), M Heath (Director - Children's Services), G Sandmann (Head of Youth and Community), M Marshman (Head of Partnership and Resilience) and J Crighton (Committee Manager)

Also Present: S Green (Chief Executive [YMCA MK]), M Smith (Chief Executive [MK Dons SET]) and Y Hitch (Thames Valley Police)

Apologies: Dr N Barrett (Executive Principal [Stephenson [MK] Trust]), C Walton (Community Action MK) C Marriott (Policy Adviser [Representative for the Police and Crime Commissioner]) and D Johnson (Senior Operational Support Manager [National Probation Service (Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire LDU)]) and O Mytton (Deputy Director of Public Health [Milton Keynes Council])

SMK01 MINUTES

RESOLVED -

That the Minutes of the SaferMK Partnership held on 30 January 2020 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

SMK02 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

None disclosed.

SMK03 APPOINTMENT OF VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL ENTERPRISE SECTOR REPRESENTATIVE

It was noted that the Community Safety Partnership had recently commissioned Community Action:MK to facilitate a recruitment process for a new Voluntary and Community Sector representative and deputy.

The Partnership considered the outcome of the recruitment process.

RESOLVED -

1. That Maralyn Smith (Chief Executive [MK Dons SET]) be appointed as the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector representative.
2. That Simon Green (Chief Executive [YMCA MK]) be appointed as the Deputy Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector representative.

SMK04 COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT

The Partnership received a presentation from Y Hitch (Thames Valley Police) on the Community Safety Strategic Assessment 2020.

The Partnership noted there had been an increase in crimes involving violence against a person in Milton Keynes, however, it was also noted that levels of this crime had also risen nationally.

It was reported that robbery and theft from a person had also increased, together with a rise in people found to be carrying a weapon.

It was reported that there had been an increase in 'postcode' gangs activity in Milton Keynes and, as a result, a multi-agency sub-group had been established to implement a Violent Crime Reduction Plan which would assist in the prevention and intervention of gang violence.

The Partnership noted there had been an unmet need for treatment for those with alcohol and drug issues and it was recognised that a greater understanding was required as to the nature of treatments to assist in early intervention.

It was reported that domestic abuse referrals to MARAC had increased by 89% in the last year and, during lockdown restrictions, there had been a 68% increase in use of the MKAct website.

The Partnership noted that anti-social behaviour in Milton Keynes had reduced in the last year, although data on abandoned vehicles had risen slightly, and fly-tipping was a cause of concern.

It was reported that hate crime had increased in Milton Keynes and a number of racist incidents had taken place on public transport.

The Partnership noted there had been a significant reduction in serious road traffic collisions, together with the number of fatalities and those who had sustained serious injury.

It was noted that there was a well-established Sub-Group in respect of Female Genital Mutilation which had identified more women who had been subjected to such an act, and that postcode data would allow targeted campaigns to seek to reduce the number of incidents.

The Partnership noted the four key areas of crime priorities, as detailed below:

- (a) non-domestic violence;
- (b) domestic abuse;
- (c) vehicle crime; and
- (d) burglary.

It was noted the Strategic Assessment would be updated in April 2021. The draft Strategic Assessment would be circulated for comment once this had been finalised.

The Partnership expressed concern regarding the gaps in the early intervention of gang related crime, the unmet needs of those with drug related issues and those who suffered harassment.

Supt M Tarbit (Local Police Area Commander [Thames Valley Police]) advised the Partnership that early intervention was a priority for the Police, and this had allowed Officers to identify offenders who were involved in drug dealing and harassment.

RESOLVED -

1. That the presentation be noted.
2. That an updated report be presented to a future meeting of the Partnership.

SMK05

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE KNIFE CRIME TASK AND FINISH GROUP

The Partnership received a report from Councillor Townsend on the recommendations from the Knife Crime Task and Finish Group.

The Partnership noted that, in January 2020, the Council had committed £100,000 to the prevention of youth violence and knife crime in Milton Keynes, and a Task and Finish Group had been established to recommend how the money would be allocated.

It was reported that Hazard Alley had agreed, as part of its programme, to educate and engage children about county drug lines, knife crime and gang violence. A programme of education would be developed by qualified staff to deliver age appropriate preventative interventions to pupils of primary age and Years 7 and 8.

The Partnership was informed that the Task and Finish Group recommended a contribution of £40,000 towards the Hazard Alley project, however, the total cost was expected to be in the region of £70-80,000, therefore additional funding would be required from other sources.

RESOLVED -

That £40,000 be provided to Hazard Alley Safety Centre to educate children about the dangers of knife crime and gang violence.

SMK06

OVERVIEW OF PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITY

The Partnership received an update on partnership activity undertaken to support the delivery of its priorities.

The Partnership noted that the Public Space Protection Order for car cruising had been introduced and relevant signage had been situated in key locations in Central Milton Keynes. There had been in excess of 18 Fixed Penalty Notices issued with the majority of recipients not residing in Milton Keynes.

RESOLVED -

1. That the updates on the projects undertaken to improve community safety be noted.
2. That the Head of Youth and Community be requested to make a presentation on early intervention initiatives to a future meeting of the Partnership.

SMK07

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting of the SaferMK Partnership would be held on Wednesday 10 March 2021 at 2.00 pm.

SMK08 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED -

That the public and press be excluded from the meeting by virtue of Paragraphs 1 and 2 (Information Relating to an Individual or to Reveal the Identity of any Individual) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, in order that the Partnership may consider an oral update on Domestic Homicide Reviews.

SMK09 DOMESTIC HOMICIDE REVIEWS - UPDATE

The Partnership received an update from the Head of Partnerships and Resilience on the outstanding Domestic Homicide Reviews.

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 3.42 PM