

Tabled Documents

3.0

Report to Community Safety Partnership (September 2006)

Following the review of the Safer Communities Unit earlier in the year, a project team was established, as recommended, to consider the report and implement any necessary recommendations. This group consists of representation from Milton Keynes Council, Thames Valley Police and Bucks Fire & Rescue. Invitations for representation by the Primary Care Trust have been sent but to date no meetings have been attended.

The report suggested a number of recommendations some easier to address than others. Some of these issues have been addressed some are still to be; a forward plan of action has been agreed by the project group and is attached.

An interim manager was appointed on a 3 month fast track vacancy in March, that person has now been successful in securing the post on a 1 year fixed term contract that will expire in July 2007. Issues of dysfunctional relationships amongst the management team have been addressed and there appears to now be good strong rejuvenated operational team.

The original mandate for the flare system was raised to enable only two (2) sections of the unit to access and record data, this coupled with the project officer in IT being on long term sick leave left some confusion as to what the system would entail.

Both the enforcement section and the anti social behaviour section is now using the Flare data base. The gathering of useful data that can be analysed can not take place until there is a sufficient data recorded.

There is a consultation to take place in the near future with the providers of flare to establish if there are any adjustments needed to the existing system.

We are looking to see if it is feasible for the Abandoned vehicle data to be incorporated into the flare system, there will be some costs to achieve this and it is debateable if this is cost affective given that this section already have a very good data base that can produce accurate statistical information.

The team now has monthly team meeting on a regular date with clear instructions that all should attend. The meeting that have taken place to date have allowed all sections in the team to deliver a presentation on their area of work. This has allowed other to have a greater understanding of what is happening within the team and how partnering agencies are involved. These meeting are attending by the Chief Waste Management Engineer who line manages the SCU manager.

The SCU manager attends all Joint Agency tasking and Co-ordination meetings and frequently chairs these meetings.

The management of partnership staff is being addressed and the level of abstractions has not been an issue that has been experienced this year. There is a clear abstraction policy in the secondment agreement with the Fire Service and issues in relation to the Police have been discussed and agreed. A signed agreement relating to seconded Police officers needs to be completed. Both the SCU manager and the Chief Inspector are aware and supportive of the need to formalise the agreement.

As previously mentioned there is a move towards a single data base that will provide statistical data giving some indication as to where and how we should focus our resources. There is a data group within the Anti Social Behaviour Delivery Group that is looking at how data can be collated between partnering agencies and it would make sense for this to be linked to the SCU so that issues and successes were neither being repeated or missed.

The development of Safer Neighbourhood Policing is something that will greatly influence how some of the unit will operate and will itself assist in the teams overall team plan and performance indicators.

The issue that surrounded the graffiti busters being financed within the SCU and managed from within waste services has been addressed and all funds that relate to the day to day operation of the contractual arrangement for the removal of graffiti have been transferred. A small amount of funds have been retained so that issues that result in some form of project work in relation to graffiti can be addressed from within the SCU where a degree of expertise lies.

It is noticeable that morale within the unit has grown over the past few months and that sickness levels have declined and a level of enthusiasm has developed. Staffs are now having regular one-to one meetings with their manager and personal development reviews are underway. There is still understandably some confusion as to how the unit will move forward and this is to be expected given that both the current unit review and warden review are not finalised.

It has been suggested that the unit seek a new name for the SCU so as to avoid confusion and identity to the Community Safety Team, I feel that should this recommendation be implemented that it may serve more in that it could break down some of the silo working and re-establish a more together culture.

It was discovered that the unit was operating on two (2) telephone systems, this did not allow for calls to be diverted or taken by another handset. This has been rectified to a degree; however a small number of personal desk numbers are still affected. This is being addressed. As the report highlights a number of staff work away from their desk for periods of time and are unable to take calls, not all staff have a desk or direct contact desk telephone number, all staff are however issued with a mobile phone.

A new ghost number has been established that callers can access. This is manned by all administrative staff, two (2) senior members of staff and the unit manager. This number to date has only been issued to the environmental help line who receives all referrals and officers who need to contact the office. A decision needs to be taken as

to how widely this number is advertised bearing in mind that we are not a direct referral unit and do not have the capacity to take calls from the general public.

This could be decided at the same stage as the possible new name for the unit and incorporated in any new branding.

The environmental helpline have now had their knowledge base data base up dated giving them a far better understanding of the issues that the unit are able to deal with. There is still some confusion especially with the new enforcement section and a number of inappropriate referrals are still being made, this is however improving and a new manager appointed within the helpline structure is proving to be an asset.

The new Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act 2005 have led to improved relationships with Parish Councils. It allows Parishes certain powers to tackle environmental issues following training and we have been actively running workshops over the past six (6) months ensuring that Parish Councils have been kept informed of how we can best work together. Agreed protocols have been established and working groups are currently being set up to agree ways forward.

The community warden scheme review has been presented both to the project team and portfolio holders, it is a priority for the group to implement the necessary recommendations and as the attached plan suggests finalise this in October.

Overall the unit has begun to deliver a far improved service and is starting to stake its name within all the partnering agencies and the public domain. There have recently been a number of good news stories in the media relating to enforcement action taken both by the enforcement section and the Anti Social Behaviour section.

There are plans to look at new ventures within the Abandon Vehicle section and a new policy to effectively deal with disregarded shopping trolleys. The Anti Social Behaviour section has developed a training package that is to be delivered across the city to a large number of people from a variety of agencies starting in early October. These courses are planned to run fortnightly with mixed agency groups with up to 50 participates taking part at any one time.

Figures for year to date and month of August.

	Amount
Number of Abandoned Vehicles removed. Annual projection	1235
Number of Abandoned Vehicles removed in Year to date	362
Number of Abandoned Vehicles removed in month of August	48
Amount of abandoned vehicles in tonnes removed in year to date	298.4

Amount of abandoned vehicles in tonnes removed in month of August	60.980
Amount of abandoned vehicles recycled in tonnes in year to date	223.77
Amount of abandoned vehicles recycled in tonnes in month of August	42.735
Average time for removal of abandon vehicles in days to date	2.62
Number of Dial-a-wreck requests in month of August	10
Number of Interim ASBOs issued in year to date	2
Number of full ASBOs issued in year to date	2
Number of interim ASBO's issued in month of August	1
Number of full ASBO's issued in month of August	0
Number of FPN's issued in year to date	44
Number of FPN's issued in month of August	5
Number of FPN's paid to date	38
Number of FPN's unpaid and prosecuted (at various stages)	2
Number of FPN'S unpaid and void	1
Number of FPN's outstanding	3
Number of prosecutions at various stages	9
Number of unauthorised encampments in year to date	63
Number of new unauthorised encampments in month of August	22
Number of unauthorised encampments at end of August	4
Unauthorised encampments - average stay in days	6

**Community Safety Partnership
SCU Project Team**

Forward Plan

September	Warden review Action plan/targets – possibly set-up sub group and provide brief
October	Finalise warden review Action plan/targets – sub group report Rebranding SCU – set up working group and provide brief?
November	Finalise action plan/targets Report on SCU rebranding Budgets – set up working group and provide brief
December	Finalise SCU rebranding Budgets – working group report Final report to Partnership – identify owner to draft it
January	Finalise budgets Consider draft final report
February	Finalise report to Partnership

Pete Roberts
Safer Communities Manager

**Community Safety Partnership
Partnership Management Group Meeting
11th September 2006**

Anti-social Behaviour Delivery Group

Strategic Objective – Tackling anti-social behaviour

Target – Reduce fear of being a victim of anti social behaviour by 10% throughout the population as measured by annual surveys.

Target - to reduce reported anti social behaviour by 10% per thousand population

Target – To reduce deliberate fire setting by 10% per thousand population.

Chair – Brian Sandom (MKC)

Vice Chair - Peter Jones (Bucks Fire)

Summary of Agreed Action Plan

As detailed in the Community Safety Strategy, we will seek to achieve the above targets through a range of proposed actions including working with young people through education and the Safety Centre. Improved consultation with communities to identify local priorities will be achieved through the development of locality based Neighbourhood Policing schemes. We will further develop the effectiveness of the ascending range of resolutions to anti-social behaviour utilised by the Anti Social Behaviour Working Group culminating in the formal proceedings of which the anti social behaviour order is one option.

Proactive measures to prevent, deter and prosecute individuals committing acts of graffiti, vandalism, litter and fly-tipping will continue to be developed. The issue of deliberate fire setting will be addressed using Fire Service data to identify localities most at risk, and develop solutions to these problems.

Completed by:	Robin Vitiello	2:	
Report for meeting Date	11 th September 2006		

<i>Provide summary of best achievements and most challenging barriers to progress.</i>	
Achievement 1	Successful imposition of 10 ASB orders on CMK drunks following a protracted investigation. High profile and positive publicity.
Achievement 2	Top three priorities for ASB now identified from Fear of crime survey. These are parking and other vehicle related issues, groups of people gathering in public places, and rowdy and drunken behaviour. Some work already undertaken by Bucks Fire re parking issues.

Achievement 3	Recent assignment of dispersal zone in Bletchley area to tackle ongoing ASB involving damage, drinking and intimidation.
Barrier 1	Critical staffing shortage in The Community Safety Team is a major barrier to helping to continue development of all Delivery Groups, and in specific a dedicated resource for the ASB Delivery Team.
Barrier 2	Flare database now installed and being populated, but still issues surrounding merging of different data sources are outstanding.

(Additional achievements/barriers may be added if necessary)

Provide summary of progress towards agreed actions.			
ACTIONS	LOCAL TARGET	STATUS ¹	SUMMARY OF (i) PROGRESS TO DATE, AND (ii) PLANS FOR NEXT 2 MONTHS.
Establish timeline for fear of ASB survey	Reduce Fear of being a victim of ASB by 10% throughout the population of Milton Keynes as measured by annual surveys by March 2008.	Green	The 2005 survey has shown that 74% of respondents were concerned about ASB in their locality. This is to be used as the base line from which to measure subsequent activity. Of the differing types of ASB recognised, between 60% and 66% of respondents felt that ASB had reduced in their localities. Of those that felt it had worsened, the new concerns relate to vehicle parking and speeding, people hanging around, drunkenness, graffiti and litter. This is an early indication that concern over ASB is starting to reduce. In addition the survey showed an overall 5.6% reduction in fear of being a victim of crime when walking alone. The greatest reduction related to being alone in the day.
Identify top priorities in Parishes		Green	Top three identified as parking, groups of people gathering in public places and drunken/rowdy behaviour.
Develop a multi-agency training programme to equip ground workers to more effectively deal with ASB at an earlier stage.		Amber	Training package now complete and venues identified. Invoicing for charges in progress and first training sessions being planned for end of September. Once roll out commences the status will be Green.
Develop practical database	Reduce reported anti social behaviour by 10% per 1000 population by March 2008	Amber	FLARE database now established and being populated. There still remain issues of merging data from various sources and work continues to evaluate the capability of Mki to achieve this.
Continue to support the development of multi-agency Neighbourhood Action Groups		Amber	Reducing both ASB and the fear of crime and ASB will be aided by Multi-agency work. This involvement permits more co-ordinated use of resources to achieve improvements. The merging of the Neighbourhood policing and

¹ Status should be indicated as follows:

- Red - Overall target is unlikely to be achieved
- Amber - Overall target is in some danger, requires remedial action
- Green - Overall target is on course to be achieved

across Milton Keynes.			LMCS will aid in the delivery of ASB targets, and continued roll out of neighbourhoods will continue to be supported. (Now re-named safer neighbourhoods) In support of Safer neighbourhoods, assistance in a programme of visits to Parishes to inform them of current developments. Eight areas have now been visited.
Continue to operate the ASB Working Group		Green	The Multi-agency ASBWG continues to meet monthly and take appropriate referrals to which the resolution pyramid is applied. See below for latest results.
Develop the new JATAC fortnightly tasking meeting.		Green	Now running
Base-line data to be collated	Reduce deliberate fire setting by 10% per 1000 population by March 2008	Green	Latest figures show a 34% reduction in deliberate fire-setting compared to the baseline year.

It has been recognised within the ASB Group that the Target to reduce reported ASB by 10 per cent is an inappropriate target, because it is expected that as this issue is more effectively tackled, reporting of incidents will increase. This has been the case in other areas historically. The Group has tasked itself with identifying a more meaningful target and presenting it to the partnership at a future date.

Processes and systems.

An additional ASB case-worker, seconded from Bucks Fire has been in post for some months now and has significantly increased the capacity of the team to deal with referrals. The admin. post supporting the caseworkers has further maximised the capacity of the team.

An ASB database is now established on the FLARE system and being populated. There remain issues of merging of data from varying sources and importantly capacity for data analysis.

The fortnightly Joint Agency Tasking and Co-ordinating Group (JATAC) has been meeting for three months and is developing. The meeting date has been changed at TVP request to permit improved Sector attendance. This group brings together a range of partner agencies to identify and address priority localities suffering from a range of ASB related issues including lower end crime such as criminal damage, graffiti and vandalism as well as rowdy, drunken or intimidating groups, under age drinking etc. Such a group will become a legal requirement once the review of the Crime and Disorder Act is completed and enabled. It will run independently of, but in partnership with the police tasking process.

The Fear of crime and anti-social behaviour survey is now in the process of commencement with Priority research undertaking this on behalf of the Community Safety Team.

Specific actions/initiatives identified to date.

The top three priorities for anti-social behaviour have been identified for some time. The ASB Delivery Group now has been focussed on establishing adequate processes. It is now moving into a clear Action Planning phase focussing on the top ASB priorities. These Actions should be focussed around the three Targets that the Group has responsibility for and be able to demonstrate contribution to achieving these targets.

The ASB training package is now complete and training sessions should be commencing by end September 2006. This will skill ground workers from a range of agencies in different methods and resources available to tackle ASB at earlier stages.

Two dispersal zones have been authorised and are now in operation in the Bletchley area. These will last for six months to April 2007. This locality has been the subject of continuing disruptive ASB activity involving drunkenness, damage and intimidation.

Two further areas in Milton Keynes are under evaluation in accordance with the agreed authorisation protocol.

Bucks Fire and Rescue have led and run a series of awareness raising days on the dangers of fire setting. Supported by various agencies the series of demonstrations was run in various locations through Milton Keynes, and supported by active media coverage.

There remains an issue of dumped batches of free local newspapers. These have in the past been subject to fire-setting. The Safer Communities Unit is issuing warning notices to the relevant firms who have a duty of care.