



Milton Keynes Community Safety Partnership

**Responsible Authorities Group (RAG)
20 December 2012**

Discussion Paper

Subject: Shaping the Future of SaferMK

Reason for report

To provide further information on the arrangements for the interim support to Safer MK and to outline the process for considering the future shape of Safer MK to take place between January and July 2013.

Items for consideration

1. Partners are asked to note the arrangements that have been made by the Council for the interim support to Safer MK.
2. Partners are asked to comment on and approve the arrangements for shaping the future of Safer MK as set out below.

Background

1. On 15 November 2012 elections took place for the first Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC). Mr Anthony Stansfeld was elected and took up his new office on 22 November. On 30 November the Head of Community Safety, Richard Solly retired.
2. As reported elsewhere the Strategic Assessment has been completed and along with the results of the qualitative survey and the outcomes of the Community Safety Forum will influence the revision of the Community Safety Plan due to be completed by March 2013.
3. The PCC will be finalising his initial Policing and Crime Plan and there is a statutory duty for the PCC and Community Safety Partnerships to have due regard to each others priorities.

Support to Safer MK

4. At the RAG on 20/9/12 the Council reported that from 3/12/12 the current Head of Service Youth Justice (Lee Westlake) would take on the lead for supporting Safer MK through the next phase of development and will be its first point of contact for the PCC. The Deputy Head of Service for Community Safety (Colin Wilderspin) would be asked to take up the operational management and become the immediate point of contact for day to day issues and activity.
5. The arrangements set out above have been implemented and the opportunity was taken before Mr. Solly retired to arrange a comprehensive handover of responsibilities. Colin Wilderspin has assumed responsibility for the budget and will supervise the Partnership Data and Information Officer and he and Lee Westlake have divided oversight of the delivery groups between them. Lee Westlake will provide one to one support to Colin Wilderspin.
6. The arrangements have been overseen by Jane Reed and Will Spurgeon as sponsoring Assistant Directors. Members of the wider Safer MK support team and delivery group members have been kept informed of developments.
7. Since September Ms. Kelly Allen, the Data and Information Manager has tendered her resignation and will leave in early January 2013. The recruitment process to replace her has commenced and pending appointment an interim Data and Information Assistant has been recruited and has commenced his handover with Ms Allen.
8. The Council has agreed to appoint a Community Safety Officer to be supervised by Colin Wilderspin. This will add some additional capacity particularly in taking on some of the tasks formerly carried out by Colin. This will include review and development of the partnerships web site and use of social media.
9. The above are an interim set of arrangements for the next 12-18 months to ensure as far as possible delivery of the Safer MK strategy with the longer term future being subject to the outcomes of the strategic review outlined below.

Shaping the Future

10. The landscape for community safety (and youth justice) will change in response to the PCC, the potential impact of the Localism Act and new legislation due for implementation in the next year or so. For example it is likely that 'the market' will be opened up to a wider range of providers. This indicates the need for Safer MK and other local partnerships to carry out in depth analysis and review in order to maximise the positive effects of these changes and minimise any negative potential. By March a refresh of the Community Safety Plan is required taking into account the revised strategic assessment.

11. The two pieces of work are interrelated and will also need to take into account the review of the NAGs currently underway. To bring this together the following activities are proposed:

- Semi structured interviews with key partners and stakeholders from RAG, Performance Group and the wider network.
- A seminar to follow up the results of the Strategic Assessment, Qualitative Survey and Community Safety Forum (see paper on Strategic Assessment).
- Structured discussions/seminars with all current delivery groups (already undertaken by the DV Group and one planned for the Reducing Offending Group in January 2013).
- A series of Focus Groups with the business sector, community and voluntary groups and the NAGS/Parish Councils.
- Developing a discussion with the PCC (details to be confirmed).

12. It is intended that the bulk of this work will be carried out between January and March 2013 with a further report to RAG for its next meeting on 21 March 2013. That report will set out the emerging themes and issues and subject to progress will aim to identify and appraise options for further investigation.

13. Simultaneously, the refreshed Community Safety Plan will be presented to RAG for approval and agreement.

14. It is anticipated that by the summer of 2013 a set of proposals for the future shape and direction of Safer MK will be ready for consideration. This is an ambitious timescale for what will be a significant piece of work but it is considered achievable if partners and stakeholders commit the necessary time and staffing contribution over the coming months.

Attachments

None

Date of report:

December 2012

Author:

Lee Westlake, Head of Service Youth Justice