



SaferMK Partnership Discussion and Decision Report

Subject: Areas of Common Interest – Discussion with the Milton Keynes Safeguarding Children Board

Report Author:

Colin Wilderspin Head of Community Safety, Tel: (01908) 254533

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The landscape of crime has traditionally consisted of acquisitive offences such as burglary and theft, damage to property and violence to others, both in the public and domestic context.
- 1.2 In recent times global and national issues, such as the radicalisation of young people and adults into domestic and international extremism; the migration crisis with its accompanying rise in exploitation through Human Trafficking; the increased awareness and understanding of Female Genital Mutilation; the Bullfinch inquiry in Oxfordshire and Child Sexual Exploitation revelations in Rotherham; have all provided a shift of emphasis for local Community Safety Partnerships.
- 1.3 Legislation places a duty on the responsible authorities to do “all they reasonably can to reduce crime and disorder, and to tackle substance misuse and Anti- social behaviour” (Crime & Disorder Act 1998).
- 1.4 Responsibility is also placed on all SaferMK statutory agencies to safeguard adults and children, with the Adult Safeguarding Board being placed on a statutory footing as a result of the Care Act 2014.
- 1.5 Legislation provides for the Safeguarding Boards to hold others to account to promote the safeguarding of children and adults within their areas of jurisdiction. Community Safety Partnership Boards do not share this authority, though there is a duty to mainstream and coordinate the reduction of crime and disorder throughout its respective organisations and services.
- 1.6 The new areas of vulnerability do not fall conveniently under specific crime types and the overarching safeguarding needs open up the scope beyond the traditional crime reduction partnership approaches. This creates a potential overlap with the Adult and Children

Safeguarding Boards and with this a risk of 'underlap' through lack of effective communication across service areas.

- 1.7 1.6 was highlighted in the Louise Casey report and is reinforced in the recent Local Government Association publication, 2014 , "Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation where it states, "governance arrangements should be clear between the Health and Wellbeing Board, the Community Safety Board and the Local Safeguarding Board, to ensure a coordinated approach and ownership of the local response."
- 1.8 At the last SaferMK meeting it was agreed that the Chair would engage with the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board to review the agreement between the two partnerships.
- 1.9 Areas of common interest that can be identified as overlapping both the Safeguarding Children and Adult Boards, Health and Wellbeing and SaferMK are:
- i) Modern Slavery, which includes;
 - Human Trafficking
 - Domestic Servitude
 - Employment Exploitation
 - ii) Radicalisation into extremism (Prevent)
 - iii) Female Genital Mutilation
 - iv) Cyber crime
 - iv) Neglect
 - v) Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)
- 1.10 Both the CSE and Prevent agendas carry high risks to adult and child victims, as well as organisations. As a result of legislation and national security interests, they attract greater emphasis. Prevent is lead through SaferMK but links closely with safeguarding when a Channel Panel is initiated.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the presentation on Areas of Common Interest with the Milton Keynes Safeguarding Children Board be noted.
- 2.2 That the agreement between SaferMK Partnership and Milton Keynes Safeguarding Children Board be agreed.
- 2.3 That the agreement between SaferMK Partnership and Milton Keynes Safeguarding Children Board be reviewed annually by both Chairs.
- 2.4 That the Partnership and Head of Community Safety be requested to support the Chair in proposing a Joint Partnership protocol across all statutory partnerships outlining the relationships between each other,

Governance and responsibilities for delivery of Areas of Common Interest.

3. Comments from the Scrutiny Management Committee

3.1 None at this time

4. Background

4.1 In previous years the SaferMK Partnership has agreed an annual partnership agreement with Milton Keynes Safeguarding Children Board (MKSCB). These agreements are suitable for individual arrangements but are not fit for purpose for cross partnership working.

5. Implications to SaferMK Partnership

5.1 There are a number of implications both for the Partnership and individual organisations including potential reputational damage if not implemented and potential uncoordinated responses to safeguarding matters and concerns.

5.2 Neither the Milton Keynes Safeguarding Children Board nor The SaferMK Partnership would be performing at a 'good' Ofsted level without clear and strong links between partnership boards. Ofsted; Single Inspection Framework (SIF) will inspect the nature, quality, strength and depth of the relationships, protocols and joint approaches.

6. Other considerations / Key Partnership Involvement

6.1 All statutory Partnerships will be required to sign up to a mutually produced and developed joint protocol. The proposal will include a Joint Chair workshop to draft the agreement.

6.2 There is a need to reduce the potential for duplication, and to improve clarity of responsibilities across all partnerships.

7. Attachments/Background Papers

7.1 MKSCB/SaferMK Partnership Agreement (Annex)