



Milton Keynes Community Safety Police and Crime Commissioner Briefing Document



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Introduction

The CSP within Milton Keynes is known locally as SaferMK and has had a relatively successful history with multi-agency approaches in the reduction of crime, anti social behaviour and the fear of crime in Milton Keynes. This has been achieved through the coordination of initiatives, using a strong local network of both partners, stakeholders and the community themselves.

Milton Keynes Council is a unitary authority and has a varying landscape both environmentally and demographically. The Borough itself comprises of approximately 60% rural and 40% urban geography and boasts a population of 248,800. Unlike many other areas nationally Milton Keynes has a continual commitment to expand and construction of new properties; currently Milton Keynes has 98,800 households.

- Milton Keynes population in 2011 was 248,800 which represent approximately 10% of the overall population of the Thames Valley area.
- Milton Keynes had the 7th highest population growth between 2001 and 2011, only 5 London Boroughs and Manchester had higher
- 21% of the Milton Keynes population are aged under 15 compared with 17.5% in England
- 7.5% of Milton Keynes population are aged 70 and over compared with 11.6% in England

Milton Keynes as a whole is relatively affluent and most of its population enjoy a good quality of life, however a significant number of residents experience disadvantage at some point in their lives.

- Out of the 326 local authority areas in the 'Index of Multiple Deprivation' Milton Keynes is ranked 211th (1 being the most deprived).
- There are 139 Lower Super Output Areas in Milton Keynes; of those, 17 are within the least deprived 10% LSOAs in England, and 7 are within the 10% most deprived LSOAs in England.

With regards to crime; levels of Burglary, Criminal Damage and Violent Crime have all decreased considerably over the last year. Violent Crime experienced the largest decrease falling from 23.9 per 1000 population to 17.5. SaferMK recognises the risks and future challenges in continuing to reduce overall crime rates within Milton Keynes and will continue to work alongside the police and other stakeholders with the intention of sustaining and increasing this reduction.

Our Priorities

SaferMK acknowledges the statutory requirement of producing an annual strategic assessment; and adopt a collaborative independent assessment specifically for Milton Keynes, alongside our partners, the strategic assessment is crucial to ensuring we get our priorities right and we annually refresh our partnership plan to reflect its findings, whilst also incorporating feedback from our partner forum and public consultation.

SaferMK currently has 6 priorities, each having a minimum of 1 qualitative and 1 quantitative set of performance data. Each priority has a multi agency delivery group to achieve its outcomes.

- Tackling Domestic Abuse
- Promoting Social Behaviour
- Tackling Drug & Alcohol Misuse
- Reducing Re-offending
- Preventing Violent Extremism
- Reducing violence in public places

In addition to these priorities, SaferMK assists in the coordination of:

- Public Safety – promoting safety in the built up and natural environment.
- Hate Crime reduction
- Public Place CCTV where we have recently completed a capital project enhancing the partnership CCTV suite equipment and environment
- Safer Neighbourhoods Delivery Group

Partners and Networks:

The statutory partnership consists of the five RAG members who have voting rights:

- Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire and Rescue Service
- Milton Keynes Council
- NHS Milton Keynes
- Thames Valley Police
- Thames Valley Probation

In addition to these Members, RAG is represented by a number of individuals in advisory roles including urban and rural parishes, business and voluntary sector, elected Members and other officers from the statutory organisations. RAG is chaired by the Cabinet Lead for Community Safety.

SaferMK firmly believes the ethos that the reduction of crime requires effective partnership working and that it is not solely the responsibility of one agency. With this in mind SaferMK has established a detailed network of other organisations including the business and retail sector, voluntary organisations and local community groups.

The partnership coordinates multi agency solutions to community safety issues through the Joint Agency Tasking and Coordination Group (JATAC). This is held monthly and where appropriate individual task and finish groups are established who report back to JATAC.

Within the past 12 months, we have maintained a good working relationship with a host of agencies; from Thames Valley wide organisations including crime stoppers, victim support and other CSPs; local agency working with mental health agencies and housing associations for example.

Summary of useful MK networks:

Parishes and Town Councils

Milton Keynes is unique in the sense that it is a fully parished Borough, with a total of 45 Town and Parish Councils that serve the residents of Milton Keynes. Milton Keynes Council and SaferMK are fully committed to working in partnership with Parishes to achieve greater community participation and local involvement in service delivery.

Neighbourhood Action Groups:

SaferMK has a Safer Neighbourhoods Delivery Group (SNDG) which is made up of key partners and representatives from the parish councils and statutory partners.

The SNDG assists with 28 Neighbourhood Action Groups (NAGs) across Milton Keynes to enable local people to address local issues within their area. NAGs are volunteer working groups made up of representatives from the community: they include; residents, the police, parish and local authority representatives and other organisations, such as businesses and schools. NAGs generally meet at least once a month to tackle the top three priorities identified by the community through a range of consultation methods.

Whilst in the last few years NAGs have been a very successful mechanism to engage with communities and promote community safety issues, the delivery group has recognised that there is some inconsistency across the NAGs regarding effectiveness, and this with other factors including future funding has initiated a review both from the delivery group and the Council's Scrutiny Committee on the future coordination and delivery of NAGs.

Partners Against Crime (PAC)

PAC aims to provide a safe and non-threatening environment for people who visit, live and work in Milton Keynes. This is delivered by linking the retail and business communities with Thames Valley Police, co-ordinating activity to reduce crime and disorder in the area.

PAC is a non profit making, self funding scheme that is run and directed by a cross-representative steering group from major business sectors in Milton Keynes.

After 8 Group.

The After8 Group was formed to promote and improve the experience for visitors and people living in the City in the evening. Through the Central Milton Keynes Partnership (now MKCCM), a group of individuals from a diverse range of businesses and organisations have formed the After8 Group – dedicated to promoting the vibrancy of Central Milton Keynes' evening entertainment and facilities.

There are two After8 working groups already established to focus on transport and operational issues and communications. Members' of the groups include the Theatre District, Xscape, The Hub, Barwatch, Ward and Parish Councillors, MK Council, Thames Valley Police plus many other professional individuals and organisations.

Community/Stakeholder Engagement:

Engagement with all communities within Milton Keynes, and a strong communication system is the underpinning of SaferMK and the work it promotes. SaferMK maintains and updates an annual communication and engagement plan which includes a plethora of communication techniques including social media, regular slots in community newsletters, our own website www.safermk.com and other resources, including local networks and community events.

We are currently in the process of reviewing how we can improve effective and responsive communication and engagement with young people and families, as this has been identified as a gap following a partnership review.

In addition to this we coordinate a bi-annual survey for all communities, the recent survey finished on the 26th October 2012 this year and we are currently compiling the results and data to share with our partners in order that we can ensure we meet the demand and needs of Milton Keynes.

Community Safety Forum:

Once a year SaferMK aims to bring the wider networks of partners and stakeholders together to analyse the year's performance, and work together to forge a new vision for the year, build on best practice and adapt practices to be ready for the forthcoming challenges in respect of the changing landscapes. This year the focus was heavily on Police and Crime Commissioners and exploring the future delivery of the partnership both with potential opportunities and a number of challenges faced by the SaferMK core team.

The outcomes of the forums have influenced SaferMK's strategic and operational practices of how we can improve; indicating challenges and opportunities to capitalise on during the forthcoming year; as well as addressing the improvement of collaborative working with partners.

Recent Activity

In the past 12 months SaferMK has coordinated a vast array of activity, a snapshot of examples are detailed below:

- Following two Dispersal Orders this year, multi-agency task and finish groups were established to develop successful exit plans to reduce the risk of similar issues occurring again and ultimately to implement strategies to reduce the issue.
- We initially set-up the Safe Hut scheme a few years ago and this continues through the After 8 group during Christmas and other busy periods for the night time economy in partnership with St Johns Ambulance. Ideally this should be an all year round scheme but funding restricts operation. During the Christmas period of 2011 the scheme was responsible for saving a life and helping many more.
- Following a double murder in Fishermead in 2011 SaferMK has supported a number of initiatives to help support the local community. This has included a multi-agency task and finish group. In the build up and during the trial SaferMK contributed to Somali Community work involving the deployment of two community workers to work with the Somali and wider community.

- Freshstart is a programme working with other Councils across Buckinghamshire. The service seeks to engage with those individuals identified as a high risk of committing further violence towards partners and ex-partners it aims to provide a flexible model of work responsive to the spectrum of individual needs of the perpetrators and their families.

Funding:

The current SaferMK support team is funded through Milton Keynes Council. However other statutory organisations within Milton Keynes provide partnership support including personnel who are based with their parent organisation.

In recent years much of the work and coordination of activities from SaferMK has been assisted by the Community Safety Grant provided by the Home Office. Below is a summary of the use of this fund for 2012/13. In addition to this grant; partner organisations match fund where appropriate.

DV Co-ordinator (with TVP)	£25,000
Tasking Co-ordinator (with TVP)	£25,000

Both posts have been joint funded with Thames Valley Police.

Tasking:

JATAC activities	£10,000
Communications	£10,000
Local Community Support fund	£10,000

Delivery Group areas:

Fresh Start contribution (DV)	£15,000
Domestic Homicide Reviews (est costs)	£15,000
Mediation (ASB)	£10,000
ASB Victim Counselling Service	£10,000
Support for the IOM scheme	£10,000
Support for Prevent Agenda in schools	£5,000
Hospital Data Project (PPV)	£10,000

Other initiatives:

CSP development fund	£5000
Events (Forum, Engagement)	£5000
Surveys (for strategic assessment)	£750

Summary:

SaferMK has set out a directive to ensure we can establish a good relationship with you, and look forward to discussing the opportunities to work together to deliver both our local priorities and tasking initiatives and the priorities you establish for the Thames Valley area.

We welcome the opportunity to meet and discuss how we can support and enhance your aims and objectives through our local knowledge and support the implementation within Milton Keynes and across the Thames Valley area.

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