

**ACCOUNTING FOR THE ABSENCE OF GANGS IN MILTON KEYNES**

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**1. Executive Summary**

- 1.1 At the March 2013 Community Safety Police and Crime Select Committee, the Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police (TVP) Sara Thornton gave a presentation to Milton Keynes Councillors regarding the apparent absence of gangs in the city. Ms Thornton mentioned that Milton Keynes was unique in being the only large metropolitan area in Thames Valley to have no identified gang activity.
- 1.2 Following this presentation, the issue of gangs was discussed at the SaferMK Partnership. SaferMK also received several enquiries from elected members regarding Community Safety knowledge of gangs. Further attention to this issue has been expressed by the Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner, as well as in the form of questions raised at the Milton Keynes Council Select Committee. Research into the issue of gangs in Milton Keynes was highlighted as a recommendation in the 2013 SaferMK Strategic Assessment.
- 1.3 This piece of work (**Annexed**) formed a work stream as part of the Strategic Assessment 2013, and was presented at the SaferMK Partnership in June 2014.

**2. Content**

- 2.1 As Milton Keynes continues to grow, there is a greater likelihood of the type of crime and community safety issues which concern larger metropolitan areas.
- 2.2 Once established, gang animosities, territories and allegiances are extremely difficult to tackle.
- 2.3 A prevention plan was agreed to be developed following the SaferMK meeting that will look to prevent a rise in criminal activity associated with gangs.
- 2.4 The document and its subsequent outcomes will help deliver a safer Milton Keynes which forms part of the Corporate Plan to reduce crime and fear of crime, additionally it supports the work of the SaferMK Partnership.
- 2.5 The document will impact on future activities and priorities of the SaferMK Partnership to prevent a rise in criminal activity associated with gangs. Additionally this document should be used to support future expansion of Milton Keynes to ensure the findings within the document are considered in future policy and planning.
- 2.6 This research formed part of the Strategic Assessment 2013 work streams and was explored in part due to requests of the Community Safety, Crime and Policing Committee.

Background Paper: SaferMK Gangs research document – ‘Accounting for the Absence of Gangs in Milton Keynes’ (attached as Annex)