



Minutes of the meeting of the SAFERMK PARTNERSHIP held on THURSDAY 24 OCTOBER 2019 in Room 1.02, Civic, at Milton Keynes Council at 2.00 pm

Present: Supt T Metcalfe (LPA Commander, Thames Valley Police) (Vice-Chair in the Chair)
R Alsop (Milton Keynes Clinical Commissioning Group),
M Bracey (Chief Executive - Milton Keynes Council), C Clairmont (Thames Valley Community Rehabilitation Company),
D Johnson (National Probation Service), P Scanes (Group Commander for Fire (MK North, Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service))

Observers: Councillors Ferrans and McLean (Milton Keynes Council)

Co-opted members without Voting Rights:

Parish Councillor P Ayles (Representative for the Rural Parish Councils), Councillor R Bradburn (Milton Keynes Council), J Held (Independent Safeguarding Scrutineer), Parish Councillor A Hussain (Representative for the Urban Parish Councils) and E Watkins (Deputy Director of Public Health (Milton Keynes Council))

Officers: **Milton Keynes Council:** S Gonsalves (Director of Policy of Policy, Insight and Communications), M Heath (Director Children's Services), N Hannon (Head of Environment and Waste), N Allen (Head of Regulatory Services), G Sandmann (Head of Youth and Community), K Hulatt (Principal Solicitor – Litigation), M Marshman (MK Together Strategic Partnership and Business Manager), Kamran Hussain, (Senior Communication and Engagement Officer), J Forster (Community Safety Officer) and S Heap (Committee Services and Scrutiny Manager)

Also Present: Councillor Miles, C Wohlers (LIAISE Manager), PC L Brace and 3 members of the public

Apologies: Dr N Barrett (Executive Principal (Stephenson [MK] Trust)), L Everett (Head of Operations (North), Thames Valley Community Rehabilitation Company)), G Freer (Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service), C Marriott (Policy Adviser (Representative for the Police and Crime Commissioner)), Councillor O'Neill (Non-Voting Chair), C Walton (Community Action MK) and N Webb (Head of National Probation Service (Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Thames Valley Lead for Courts and Prisons))

The Partnership took a moment to remember the victims of the recent stabbings in Emerson Valley.

The Partnership recognised the need to make every effort to make Milton Keynes safer for its residents and that one of its roles was to make policing easier.

The Partnership noted actions that were being taken in an attempt to divert young people away from crime, which included funding police officers to work with schools.

SMK13 MINUTES

When considering the draft minutes the Partnership recognised the need for the SaferMK Partnership to have a Communications Plan.

The Partnership noted that:

Minute SMK07 – Alignment of Key Strategic Partnerships

- (a) a single management board had been established to support the work of the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Community Safety Partnership;
- (b) Jane Held had agreed to act as an Independent Safeguarding Scrutineer to work across Boards ;
- (c) affiliated Boards had been created and each had met at least once.

Minute SMK08 - Youth Justice Developments

- (a) the Youth Justice challenges and priorities as agreed by the Partnership had also been endorsed by the Youth Justice Board and published;
- (b) work was continuing on developing how the Council, Partners and other appropriate organisations engaged with the local Youth Justice system; and
- (c) work was progressing to help understand the impact on young people's mental health of substance misuse within the Youth Justice system.

Minute SMK09 - Overview of Partnership Activity

- (a) work had commenced to map the various types of underpasses and to ascertain where crime was being committed in Milton Keynes; and
- (b) work was underway to look at the future allocation of funding and funding opportunities to ensure the best possible outcomes for the community.

RESOLVED -

That the Minutes of the SaferMK Partnership held on 18 July 2019 be approved and signed by the Vice-Chair as a correct record.

SMK14 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

None disclosed.

SMK15 PREVENTION OF FINANCIAL CRIME

The Partnership received a presentation setting out the role of the Illegal Money Lending Team for England, its various initiatives and the support the Team could give to the work of the Partnership.

The Partnership noted that the Illegal Money Lending Team worked with individuals liable to be vulnerable to loan sharks, identified loan sharks and took whatever measures it could to minimise their impact, whether it was publicity campaigns, community based awareness campaigns, or prosecution.

It was stressed that both vulnerable individuals and loan sharks were in all social groups.

It was reported that a number of initiatives had been undertaken by the Team in Milton Keynes, which included a week of action in Wolverton and various events across Milton Keynes. The events did not only focus on awareness raising, they also included money advice and the promotion of the likes of Credit Unions as an alternative to loan sharks.

The role of the Illegal Money Lending Team in educating statutory agencies, including the Council and Thames Valley Police, together with voluntary agencies to enable them to give advice was emphasised. The Team also provided education packs to school, tailored to specific year groups.

It was suggested that the use of loan sharks would tend to be influenced by national economic conditions, therefore there was likely to be peaks and troughs.

It was also suggested that the Council should be aware of triggers, such as increasing rent arrears, which would make persons more vulnerable to loan sharks.

In response to questions the Partnership noted that:

- (a) the Illegal Money Lending Team worked with women's refugees, but the representative of the Team was unsure whether this included any in Milton Keynes at this time;
- (b) person having involvement with loan sharks, were unlikely to be able to produce any supporting paperwork and would

typically have a series of loans with more than one loan shark, so if trying to help the individual it was important to understand both the number of loans and the value of the loans;

- (c) information about loan sharks was available from the Illegal Money Lending Team in a number of languages and there were videos on You Tube; and
- (d) the Illegal Money Lending Team was will to work with community groups to raise awareness and provide advice and this could include holding sessions at Children and Family Centres.

The representative of the Illegal Money Lending Team indicated that the Team was available to provide what support it could, including training, publicity material and Education packs.

The Partnership was advised that the presentation on Scamming from the Council's Trading Standards Team would be made to a future meeting of the Partnership.

SMK16

CAR CRUISING PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER

The Partnership considered a summary of the results of the recent consultation on implementing a Public Space Protection Order to tackle the anti-social use of vehicles associated with car cruising.

It was reported that a consultation had been held between 5 June 2019 and 11 September 2019, to which 2,647 responses were received, with the majority of respondents stating that they were resident or working in Milton Keynes, however responses were also received from car cruising groups and from across the country.

The Partnership noted that the consultation revealed a significant level of support for the proposed Order and more than 1000 respondents reported that they had experienced, or been affected by, anti-social use of vehicles in Milton Keynes in the last 12 months, with more than half of the respondents from Central Milton Keynes having been affected. However, 58% of all of respondents were against the implementation of an Order, but a quarter of all objections were received from respondents who were not resident in Milton Keynes.

It was also reported that:

- (a) during the consultation period, a number of people were seriously injured as a result of a 'racing' incident in Stevenage and a 5 year old was hit by a driver participating in a car cruise in central Milton Keynes and taken to hospital; and

- (b) work had been undertaken by the Council, in partnership with Milton Keynes Development Partnership and Thames Valley Police, to fit a gate to the South Second Street car park which was the centre of some of the more serious and persistent Anti-Social Behaviour resulting from car cruising.

It was suggested that a Public Space Protection Order for the whole of Milton Keynes was considered the most effective approach to further reducing car cruising activity, although it was recognised that the activity was more widespread in Central Milton Keynes.

However, should an Order only apply to Central Milton Keynes it was likely the car cruising activity would be displaced to another part of Milton Keynes.

It was noted that a Public Space Protection Order had been successfully used in Birmingham.

In response to questions it was noted that:

- (a) it was the Council's responsibility to prepare a Public Space Protection Order;
- (b) income from any fixed penalty fines levied would be retained by the Council, but if there was a prosecution in the Courts, the fine income would be retained by the Crown, however, the Council could apply for costs;
- (c) officers would whether a Public Space Protection Order could be used to restrict the cars being left with their engines running in a public place;
- (d) the Council was looking at what additional physical measures it could install to help reduce the anti-social impacts of car cruising;
- (e) the Police would consider how the use of Camera Vans could help deter car cruising;
- (f) it was possible that the Public Space Protection Order could also apply to Emberton Park;
- (g) promoting properly organised events in appropriate locations could potentially reduce anti-social behaviour.

The Partnership heard from two members of the public who thanked the Partnership for the actions taken to reduce the anti-social impact of car cruising, particularly in Oldbrook, however, they were of the view that increased enforcement was necessary to reduce further the impacts.

RESOLVED -

That, taking into account the results of the consultation and the impact of the activity on residents and businesses, the Cabinet member for Health and Wellbeing be requested to introduce a Borough-Wide Public Space Protection Order to tackle the anti-social use of vehicles associated with car cruising.

SMK17

APPROACHES TO ENFORCEMENT

The Partnership received a presentation setting out the various enforcement powers available to the Council and how they were and could potentially be used to enhance community safety.

It was reported that the main measures available to the Council were Community Protection Notices, Public Space Protection Orders and Closure Orders

The Partnership noted that:

- (a) Public Space Protection Orders would be used for activities carried on in a public place which had a detrimental effect on the quality of life;
- (b) A Community Protection Notice could be used if an activity was having a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the area; and
- (c) Closure Orders would be used for dealing with general anti-social behaviour and cuckooing as examples.

The Partnership was advised, as a demonstration of how the Council used its powers, of actions which would be taken to deal with unlawful encampments created by rough sleepers and help fulfil its commitment to getting rough sleepers into safer, more secure accommodation as quickly as it could.

The Partnership was reminded of the importance of not just getting rough sleepers into safer, more secure accommodation, but also ensuring the necessary services were available to support them.

The Partnership also noted, in response to a question that four closure orders had been issued during 2018/19 and additional details would be available from either the Housing Department or the Anti-Social Behaviour Team;

SMK18

PROPOSAL FOR VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR REPRESENTATION ON SAFERMK

The Partnership considered whether a Voluntary and Community Sector representative should be invited to become a member of the Partnership.

RESOLVED -

1. That the recruitment of a Voluntary and Community Sector representative be approved.
2. That a role description for the Voluntary and Community Sector representative be developed, setting out the skills, and knowledge required.

SMK19

OVERVIEW PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITY

The Partnership received an update on partnership activity undertaken to support the delivery of its priorities (Violence, Domestic Abuse and Hate Crime) and the allocation of the Community Safety Fund Grant.

The Partnership was advised of the following actions / initiatives which had been undertaken in respect of each Priority:

Violence

- (a) Boxing Clever – aimed at diverting young people from gang activity
- (b) Gang Awareness Training
- (c) Operation Sceptre - awareness raising activities about the dangers of carrying knives
- (d) The Big Debate – organised by the Youth Cabinet, workshops focussing on stop and search and carrying knives
- (e) Stop and Search Project with Thames Valley Police - increasing awareness of the reasons for stop and search

Domestic Abuse

- (a) Re-procurement of Support for Victims of Domestic Abuse
- (b) Domestic Abuse Spotlight Event – Details still to be finalised

Hate Crime

- (a) Hate Crime Awareness Training
- (b) National Hate Crime Awareness Week

The Partnership was also advised of other actions which had been undertaken, which included Environmental Visual Audits undertaken in Newlyn Place, Fishermead and Shenley Church End to improve the appearance of areas to discourage anti-social behaviour and 'Bite Back Week' which saw the Illegal Money Lending Team for England, in partnership with the Community Safety Team and Thames Valley Police, deliver a week of action in Wolverton.

With regard to the Community Safety Funding, it was reported that Community Safety Partnership was awarded £261,694 in funding from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for 2019/20. Updates were currently being sought from the projects which were in receipt of funding to inform a mid-year progress report. The update would be circulated to members of the Partnership when complete.

The Partnership recognised the importance of creating supportive environments for young people, coupled with early intervention to help them avoid crime.

The Partnership discussed what constitutes a Gang and their apparent growth in Milton Keynes. It was suggested that an analysis should be undertaken to identify what has changed to make Gang membership more prevalent.

The Council's Director of Policy of Policy, Insight and Communications undertook to circulate to members the Partnership's previous report into Gang Activity.

RESOLVED -

1. That the Partnership be provided with an evaluation of work undertaken under the Early Intervention Fund by the Police and Crime Commissioner's representative.
2. That an analysis be undertaken to enable the Partnership to understand likely reasons for the increase in Gang activity over recent years.

SMK20

RURAL CRIME ACTION WEEK

Councillor McLean expressed his appreciation to the Thames Valley Police for participating, along with the Bedfordshire and Northamptonshire Forces during Rural Crime Action Week.

Councillor McLean particularly referred to the collaborated way in which the three Forces worked together.

In response to a question Councillor McLean was advised that Police Officers being based in Newport Pagnell was still a few months away, but he would be informed once a date was finalised.

SMK21

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting of the SaferMK Partnership would be held on Thursday 30 January 2020 at 2.00 pm.

SMK22 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED -

That the public and press be excluded from the meeting by virtue of Paragraph 1 and 2 (Information Relating to an Individual or to Reveal the Identity of any Individual) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, in order that the Partnership may consider the oral updates on Domestic Homicide Reviews and the recent Emerson Valley Stabbings Investigation.

SMK23 DOMESTIC HOMICIDE REVIEWS - UPDATE

The Partnership received an update from the MK Together Strategic Partnership and Business Manager on the outstanding Domestic Homicide Reviews.

SMK24 EMERSON VALLEY STABBINGS INVESTIGATION

The Partnership received an update from the Local Police Area Commander on the ongoing investigation into the recent Emerson Valley stabbings.

The Partnership discussed the general issue of knife crime levels across Milton Keynes.

In response to a question, Councillor Ferrans was informed that ward councillors were generally advised of the more serious incidents.

The issue of whether there should be an Alcohol Prevention Order in place in Campbell Park during the Fairs visit and whether such an Order would help prevent knife crime was also discussed. The Partnership noted that such measures were considered by the Safety Advisory Group?

However, to date crime levels at the Fair were low. It was suggested the use of an Alcohol Prevention Order in future years should be considered as part of the review of this years' event.

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 3.54 PM