



**SaferMK Partnership
Discussion and Decision Report**

Subject: Safer Neighbourhoods Group Review

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1. Purpose of report – Please mark (X) the boxes that are relevant to the report

SAFERMK PRIORITIES

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Improving road safety by reducing the number of accidents and the severity of the collisions to individuals. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Reducing the number of violent incidences | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Tackling and enforcing substance misuse | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Enhance community engagement to reduce fear of crime | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

OTHER STATUTORY RESPONSIBILITIES

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Anti-Social Behaviour | <input type="checkbox"/> | Reducing Reoffending | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Prevent | <input type="checkbox"/> | Police and Crime Commissioner | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| An item under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 that supports the delivery of crime reduction and addressing community safety concerns (please state below) | | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

To reduce crime and the fear of crime under Section 17 by engaging with our communities.

2. Brief introduction

2.1 Everybody wants to live in a place where they feel safe. Crime and the fear of crime are still big concerns for a lot for people. Although reported crime in Milton Keynes is comparable to other areas of a similar size. However there is still a lot of crime related concerns for the residents of Milton Keynes, and communities themselves can play a vital role in addressing these problems and helping their local neighbourhoods to feel safer.

- 2.2 The way we encourage resident engagement and promote the use of public space can play a vital role in reducing criminal or anti-social behaviour and improving residents health and wellbeing. Schemes such as Neighbourhood Watch, Safer Places, and various environmental and community initiative days can deter crime and help people to feel safe. The way we educate, involve and communicate issues about crime are also an important and effective way in its prevention.
- 2.3 Sustainable communities are places that we all want to live in. Safe and secure neighbourhoods are an essential component to achieving this. By working in partnership through SaferMK; communities can greatly reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and community safety concerns; whilst making their neighbourhoods a nicer place to live for everyone.
- 2.4 Many agencies work together through the Milton Keynes SaferMK Partnership to tackle crime, anti-social behaviour and other community safety issues. Our partners in the community and voluntary sector also play an important role.
- 2.5 However it is our local residents who are pivotal in making their area safer and that partners work with them to address the need most important them to make them feel safer. It is important that at a local level SaferMK provides a process of enabling the participation of residents and communities in crime and community safety at their chosen level, ranging from providing information and reassurance, to empowering them to identify and work with partners to implement solutions to local problems and influence strategic priorities and decisions.
- 2.6 The Safer Neighbourhoods Group will be responsible on behalf of the SaferMK Partnership to ensure appropriate coordination of activities deemed to be part of improving neighbourhoods and escalating issues to the SaferMK Partnership Board via the SaferMK Business Management Group.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 That the supporting document that outlines the current opportunities available in Milton Keynes and the proposals put forward be explored by the Safer Neighbourhood Group.
- 3.2 That the Partnership be requested to endorse the process and support for a wider coordination of activity by the Safer Neighbourhood Group.
- 3.3 That the revised Terms of Reference for the Safer Neighbourhood Delivery Group be agreed.

4. Comments/Recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Management Group

- 4.1 An item looking at Neighbourhood Policing and Safer Neighbourhoods review is due to be discussed at the Committee meeting on the 25 January. An update from this meeting will be presented at the SaferMK Partnership meeting.

5. Background

- 5.1 In 2016, the SaferMK Partnership agreed to conduct a review on supporting the coordination and delivery of crime prevention in the local community, due to resources the review was requested to commence in January 2017.
- 5.2 A particular focus was cited as facilitating the involvement of residents and business in reducing community safety issues locally. The SaferMK Partnership additionally recognised the need to reflect the changing landscape of the community safety agenda and its partners and their challenges.
- 5.3 The Safer Neighbourhood Delivery Group (SNDG) was created in 2008 to help support the introduction and development of Neighbourhood Action Groups in Milton Keynes. This group has not met since April 2016. The proposed vehicle for this review will be led by the SNDG with revised Terms of Reference (see Annex A).
- 5.4 The Safer Neighbourhoods Discussion Report is conceived to deliver two specific outcomes in preventing crime and improving community safety issues across Milton Keynes. Firstly, to provide a platform for discussion and exploration of opportunities; and secondly to develop proposals to deliver a sustainable approach for communities and partners.
- 5.5 The report outlines the current activities in Milton Keynes and proposes areas to be explored by the SNDG as part of the review. The final report and any proposals will be presented to the SaferMK Partnership in July 2017, with an interim report at the April Partnership meeting. The report has 6 initial actions for the SNDG to explore (see Annex B).
- 5.6 The Safer Neighbourhoods Group will have three key themes it will address during the review, which aim to support three of the four Thames Valley Police elements of Neighbourhood Policing:
- 5.7 Community engagement.
- 5.8 Community participation and involvement.
- 5.9 Sustainable community support.

6. Implications to SaferMK Partnership

- 6.1 Community Engagement is a priority for SaferMK in 2015-17 Strategy.
- 6.2 There are currently a number of themes and activities to reduce crime and community safety concerns that are operating in silo or have minimum support from the SaferMK Partnership. It is thought that by better supporting residents and community groups in a coordinated way will enhance community engagement and reduce crime.

7. Other considerations / Key Partnership Involvement

- 7.1 The Business Management Group recognises the need for the wider partnership and the communities of Milton Keynes to support the delivery of the Strategy.
- 7.2 A balance is required with regards to empowering communities and crime reduction and this needs to be defined by the Safer Neighbourhoods Group moving forward. However there is a need to ensure that appropriate empowerment and support is provided to enhance community involvement in crime prevention and making Milton Keynes a safer place to live, work and play.

8. Attachments/Background Papers

- 8.1 Draft Terms of Reference - revised October 2016 (**Annex A**)
- 8.2 Safer Neighbourhoods Discussion Paper - December 2016 (**Annex B**)