



**SaferMK Partnership
Discussion and Decision Report**

Subject: Safer Neighbourhood Group Update

**Report Author:
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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 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.
- 2.2 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.

- 2.3 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 presentation from the Chair of the Safer Neighbourhood Group be noted.
- 3.2 That the presentation and supporting document that outlines the current opportunities available in Milton Keynes and a number of proposals be explored by the Safer Neighbourhood Group, and that the process and support for a wider coordination of activity be endorsed.
- 3.3 That suitable and appropriate support be provided to both the Safer Neighbourhoods Group and its delivery be agreed.
- 3.4 That the Safer Neighbourhoods Group be requested to report into the Business Management Group.
- 3.5 That the draft Terms of Reference be agreed and suitable membership of attendees be proposed.

4. Comments/Recommendations from the Scrutiny Management Committee

- 4.1 There are no specific comments in relation to this report. However it is a statutory obligation for the Committee to hold the activities and performance of the Partnership to account.
- 4.2 Elected Members frequently represent the community on community groups including Neighbourhood Action Groups, Resident Associations etc. which aim to reduce crime and improve community safety issues.

5. Background

- 5.1 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.

5.2 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.

5.3 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.

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 (Annex)