

## OVERVIEW OF PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITY

### Report Author:

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#### **Purpose of Report:**

To provide an update on partnership activity undertaken to support the delivery of the priorities of the Community Safety Partnership, and the allocation of the Community Safety Fund Grant.

**FOR INFORMATION**

### 1. Background

1.1 Members of the Community Safety Partnership agreed the following priorities for 2019/20:

- Violence (non-domestic)
- Domestic Abuse
- Hate Crime

### 2. Recommendations

2.1 The Safer MK Partnership is asked to note the following summary of activity undertaken to support the delivery of the above priorities.

### 3. Partnership Activity to Note

3.1 Violence

#### Boxing Clever

The Boxing Clever initiative, which aims to divert young people from gang activity, has been extended to include an additional school. Discussions are also ongoing with a number of other schools which could lead to the initiative operating in a total of nine schools in less than a year. Participation in the initiative continues to have a positive impact on the behaviour and attendance of the young people. A provisional date has been set for a Boxing Clever Exhibition evening in December. This will provide an opportunity for students to demonstrate their skills to an audience including parents.

### Gang Awareness Training

A second training workshop was held in conjunction with the PCC with a focus on gang awareness for frontline practitioners directly working with young people. The training is to be delivered 'Reach Every Generation'. In total, around 100 staff attended over two sessions. There was a high level of demand for places on this training which outstripped the available number of places.

### Operation Sceptre

Thames Valley Police have been carrying out awareness raising activities as part of Operation Sceptre at MK College including the use of knife arches and conversations about the dangers of carrying knives. This work will continue in schools across the area.

### Youth Cabinet

The Community Safety Team and Thames Valley Police will be taking part in workshops as part of 'The Big Debate' later this month. The workshops will focus on stop and search and carrying knives.

### Stop and Search Project with TVP

As a result of the Government policy to increase the use of stop and search, a project has been launched to increase awareness of the reasons for stop and search, and to understand young people's perceptions and worries. Young people and Police Officers will discuss their experiences which will inform the development of training for officers.

## 3.2 Domestic Abuse

### Re-procurement of Support for Victims of Domestic Abuse

Re-procurement of a strategic partner to work with the Council and partners to provide support for victims of domestic abuse is continuing. A short extension to the Council's contract with MK Act has been put into place to allow procurement processes to be completed.

### Domestic Abuse Spotlight Event

A spotlight event is planned in conjunction with MK Act. The event will take place on 27 November in Kents Hill. Further details will be circulated in due course.

## 3.3 Hate Crime

### Hate Crime Awareness Training

Student Anti Hate Crime Ambassadors will be trained alongside Parent Ambassadors for MK Secondary schools and MK College. This training will be delivered in December.

### National Hate Crime Awareness Week

National Hate Crime Awareness week is taking place between 12 and 19 October 2019. Members of the Community Safety Team and Community and Diversity Officers from TVP will be visiting different places of worship to raise awareness about hate crime and promote the online reporting mechanism.

### 3.4 Other Activities of Note

#### Environmental Visual Audits

The Community Safety Team recently undertook a partnership exercise alongside Thames Valley Police and Campbell Park Parish Council focussing on the playing area next to Newlyn Place, Fishermead. This was in response to reports of persistent anti-social behaviour and drug use by youths in the area.

Activity includes landscaping work, erection of signage in the area and home visits by the ASB Team and neighbourhood officers. Increased patrols are taking place and a number of arrests have already been made. The Somali Outreach Project has been engaging with the young people involved and this will be ongoing.

The impact will be monitored by the Thames Valley Police, Campbell Park Parish Council and BPHA housing association.

A further environmental audit was carried out in Shenley Church End where residents had raised concerns about ASB and drug use/drug dealing was being carried out in the area. Mobile CCTV was deployed in the area for two weeks, the area was cleared of litter and debris, and landscaping carried out. Street lighting in the area is also being updated.

#### Bite Back Week

The England Illegal Money Lending Team (IMLT), in partnership with the Community Safety Team and Thames Valley Police, delivered a week of action in Wolverton to raise awareness of the dangers of borrowing from loan sharks. 'Bite Back Week' involved targeted leaflet drops and awareness events highlighting the support available to victims of illegal money lending. There was also a scam awareness event during the week where MKC Trading Standards and Thames Valley Police's Cybercrime officer gave advice to members of the public.

Front line workers received specialist training on how to spot signs of loan shark activity, make referrals to the national team and support victims. During the course of this week the IMLT received intelligence from the community on where loan sharks may be operating within the area.

A further awareness raising event is being arranged in and around Wolverton next year.

#### **4. Community Safety Funding Update**

- 4.1** Updates are being sought from the projects which are in receipt of PCC funding to inform a mid-year progress report to the funder. The Community Safety Partnership was awarded £261,694 in funding from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for 2019/20. This update will be circulated to members of the partnership when complete.