

Agenda Item 83.1

TITLE	Community Safety Partnership update March 2019
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	Wokingham Borough Wellbeing Board on Thursday, 11 April 2019
WARD	None Specific;
DIRECTOR/ KEY OFFICER	Graham Ebers Deputy Chief Executive

Health and Wellbeing Strategy priority/priorities most progressed through the report	Creating resilient communities and preventing isolation.
Key outcomes achieved against the Strategy priority/priorities	Early intervention to prevent crime.

Reason for consideration by Wokingham Borough Wellbeing Board	Update to the Borough Wellbeing Board from the Community Safety Partnership
What (if any) public engagement has been carried out?	None specific to this report.
State the financial implications of the decision	No additional financial implications.

RECOMMENDATION

That the update on the work of the Community Safety Partnership be noted.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

Partnership work to progress the priorities of the Community Safety Partnership in regard to current issues in Wokingham and progress to early intervention work.

Background

The aim of the Wokingham Community Safety Partnership is to reduce crime, substance misuse, and anti-social behaviour, raising awareness and increasing reporting of hidden crime. This strategy will guide the partnership in delivering its vision during 2018 to 2021.

The partnership's statutory bodies include the Police, the Local Authority, the Probation Service and Health Services. These organisations work together to progress the work of the strategy and respond to emerging themes.

Analysis of Issues, including any financial implications

Superintendent Sean Virtue the Local Police Commander for Wokingham and Bracknell has retired from Thames Valley Police (TVP) and we look forward to welcoming the new co-Chair of the CSP will be Felicity Parker who has a background in protecting vulnerable people with the Police force.

The Anti-social Behaviour Panel and CSP Problem Solving Task Group will amalgamate in April 2019 as an efficiency to improve partner working and intelligence sharing.

Anti-social behaviour is an ongoing theme in Wokingham. The CSP has supported the request to explore and consult with Members and the general public in regard to the implementation of a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO); which would specifically give Police powers to remove alcohol from persons in public places across the Borough to reduce and respond to the instances of crime and ASB.

There would be a period of discussion and consultation to agree to the Order being implemented by the Local Authority. It was stressed that Police would use their discretion and only enforce where Officers are called to incidents or public disturbances. The Order would not affect the general public enjoying i.e. picnics or public events and would be in place for a maximum of 3 years if agreed.

A workshop with schools and multi-agency partners has been arranged in April 2019 to focus on a partnership approach to prevent school exclusion. Early intervention is key as exclusion and non- school attendance has strong links to child exploitation and anti-social behaviour.

Early Intervention work

Early Intervention work is being supported by a successful bid from the Police Crime Commissioners (PCC) Office for Berkshire. A third of Wokingham secondary schools will receive an Alter Ego performance of County Lines in 2019 to raise awareness and prevent children at risk of becoming involved in County Lines which is an increasing concern nationally.

The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) has awarded £800,000 to 14 organisations across the Thames Valley to deliver projects to tackle youth violence, knife crime and exploitation.

In November the Office of the PCC was awarded £822,000 from the Home Office Early Intervention Fund and is now leading on rolling out a programme of activities across Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire.

The work will be delivered in partnership with a range of organisations including Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs), Youth Offending Teams (YOTs), Youth Service providers, Local Authorities and Secondary Schools, as well as community and voluntary groups.

The programme includes a range of interventions, from raising awareness of youth violence and exploitation across secondary schools to targeted intervention with young people already involved in gangs and knife crime.

To successfully deliver this work the PCC made available grant funding opportunities to organisations who can provide these interventions.

Organisations who have been successful in their bids for funding from the programme to deliver activity across the Thames Valley include:

- AlterEgo Creative Solutions – to deliver a ‘County Lines’ theatre performance to secondary schools, raising awareness of this issue and signposting young people to advice and support
- Crimestoppers – to deliver workshop sessions via their youth service Fearless, educating young people on gangs, knife crime, and county lines to reduce the risk of them becoming involved in criminality
- Reach Every Generation – to deliver training sessions about gangs to professionals that work with young people, sharing real life experiences to raise awareness and upskill staff

Funding has also been awarded to a number of organisations to deliver local activity, such as working with schools to tackle youth exclusion, youth outreach work and one-to-one or group programmes with young people involved in gangs or crime.

Given the recent increase in knife crime, we need to look at what more we can do to protect young people from violence and exploitation and how we can work even more closely in partnership with both statutory and community organisations to try to reverse this trend and hope the [project tackles these issues.

Police Tasking meetings

Police hold fortnightly tasking meetings to discuss how they will respond to current crime in the Bracknell and Wokingham area; crime themes from the Tasking Group will be a standing agenda item for the CSP in order to engage partners in problem solving and to work together to prevent crime across the Borough.

This work links with contextual safeguarding awareness raising across Council services; the CSP will present to the Customer & Localities Team to start the conversation to consider how services within the Local Authority work with agencies to prevent crime.

Partner Implications
A collective partnership approach is essential.

Reasons for considering the report in Part 2
N/A

List of Background Papers
N/A

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