

20 November 2012**Agenda Item: 6****REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR, POLICY, PLANNING AND CORPORATE
SERVICES****COMMUNITY SAFETY UPDATE****Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to inform Members of the Committee about current work being undertaken by the Community Safety Team.

Information and Advice**2. 'I Belong, You Belong' / 'In Our Hands' Project**

- 2.1 This project is an innovative and ground breaking initiative which aims to tackle areas with high levels of hate crime and low levels of community engagement by working with schools and the wider community to change attitudes and behaviours. The project supports the Safer Nottinghamshire Board Hate Crime Delivery Plan and fits well with the Government's Hate Crime Plan.
- 2.2 The project is continuing to make good progress in both the pilot area of Ravensdale, Mansfield and in the second chosen area of Worksop North. To better reflect the project's aims to engage the whole community in changing attitudes and behaviours it has adopted the title 'In our hands.' The project has diversified in its approach in Bassetlaw and will be working with children's centres in addition to the work in primary and secondary schools.
- 2.3 An agreement to evaluate the pilot and its impact on local communities has been made with a comprehensive review to be undertaken by Nottingham Trent University's School of Psychology. This will be a groundbreaking piece of research and the pilot has also been adopted by the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) as a national pilot. It is also a mark of the project's success to date and the anticipated benefits of its activities that it continues to draw significant support from major charitable funders including the Pears Foundation and the Association of Jewish Refugees.

Tackling Violent Extremism Nottinghamshire (Prevent)

3. Background

- 3.1 The Prevent Strategy is an integral part of the Government's counter terrorism programme. Prevent is designed to stop people becoming or supporting terrorists and violent extremists. The UK, as do many other countries, faces a challenge from terrorism and violent extremism. A very small minority seek to harm innocent people in the name of an ideology which causes division, hatred and violence. It is the role of Government to take robust security measures needed to keep people safe. But the Government recognise that a security response alone is not enough; a response led and driven by local authorities and their partners is also vital. Local authorities are uniquely placed to engage with local communities and to work with partners to stop people from being drawn into activities associated with violent extremism.

Prevent in Nottinghamshire

- 3.2 In Nottinghamshire the threat from violent extremism has consistently remained extremely low over several years. Advice from Government is that local work on Prevent must remain proportionate to the threat. The response to Prevent in Nottinghamshire is led and co-ordinated by the County Council, from within the Community Safety Team. Working

with Notts Police and Nottingham City Council, Prevent in Nottinghamshire has three areas of emphasis with associated objectives:

1. The Ideological Challenge

Objective: Respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and threat from those that promote it

2. Support Vulnerable People

Objective: Prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure that they are given appropriate advice and support

3. Working with Key Sectors

Objective: Work with sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation that we need to address.

- 3.3 A range of actions have been identified to tackle each of the three areas. These include work to;

- **identify** any areas or individuals of concern within local communities
- **improve** relationships and information sharing with local Mosques
- **protect** young people at risk of violent extremism
- **offer** support and guidance to individuals identified as being "at risk"
- **alert** Community Safety Partnerships to individuals deemed to be vulnerable
- **raise** staff awareness in key locations (e.g. schools, colleges, universities, prisons)
- **develop** offender management for extremist offenders

Operating Procedures

- 3.4 A member of the County Council Community Safety Team holds the lead responsibility for Prevent in Nottinghamshire. Working with the Special Branch of Notts Police and each of the district based Community Safety Partnerships information is shared quickly and effectively regarding any individuals, communities or locations of concern. If the problem cannot be resolved locally, the issue will be escalated to a pan City/County group that deals specifically with the more complex and serious cases. The representative from the Community Safety Team is a member of this group (titled the Channel Team). This ensures consistency of approach and a rapid response to issues. To date in 2012, only three cases from the county have been referred to this group and both, after investigation, have been discharged without the need for further action. However, this structure ensures that procedures are in place should any immediate problem emerge.
- 3.5 This approach, in reflection of the low threat from violent extremism in the County, has the advantage of utilising existing resources, staffing and structures, facilitating responsive inter agency involvement, promoting effective information sharing, whilst incurring no additional costs to any agency.

4 Bassetlaw Partnership Plus Bike Project

- 4.1 A key part of the work in the Partnership Plus areas has been the development and introduction of targeted schemes delivering Anti Social Behaviour diversionary activities aimed at young people. In the Partnership Plus areas of Bassetlaw residents had raised their concerns that individuals were using mini motos and quad bikes without valid insurance, tax or MOT driving at excessive speeds in residential areas causing harassment, alarm and distress. A particular initiative which has addressed this and related ASB issues amongst young people has been the Bassetlaw Bike Project. This was first introduced in Harworth and has now been extended into Worksop. The project involves encouraging young people to carry out bike maintenance and repairs as well as working on basic mechanical skills. Twenty bikes were originally donated by Nottinghamshire Police for use in Harworth and funding for tools was provided by a local district Councillor. Fire Service staff have also been working alongside Youth Services with 60 young people a night attending a local youth club. The scheme is being rolled out to Worksop with 15 additional bikes being provided. Money for additional tools is coming from Partnership Plus for the rollout. This funding will also include training for Fire and Rescue Service staff at Sherwood Pines to work on the scheme.

5. Car Cruising

- 5.1 The successful partnership approach to tackling car cruising at Netherfield has been recognised by Nottinghamshire Police's County Divisional Commander, who has awarded a commendation to the Chairman of the Committee, together with members of the Community Safety Team and Legal Services. The divisional commander's commendations were awarded to County Council and partner agency staff at a special ceremony in the Civic Suite on 24th September 2012.
- 5.2 Car cruising remains an issue for some local communities, however, and recent coverage of the problem in Birmingham serves as a stark reminder of how quickly it can

escalate into something which is not only a great nuisance to residents but is also highly dangerous to the public at large. As Birmingham addresses its problem, local partners in Nottinghamshire will have to be vigilant to ensure that the car cruisers are not allowed to move back into the county to cause more disturbances.

Financial details

6. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Statutory and Policy Implications

7. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Recommendation

8. Members are asked to note the report.

Martin Done, Service Director Communications and Marketing

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Yvette Armstrong, Community Safety Officer, Safer and Engaged Communities x73058.

Background Papers

9. None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

10. All