

**REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL****SAFER NOTTINGHAMSHIRE BOARD UPDATE****Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of the report is to provide an update on the work of the Safer Nottinghamshire Board so the Policy Committee can consider whether there are any actions they subsequently require.

**Information**

2. Since an update was last provided to the Policy Committee in July 2018 the Safer Nottinghamshire Board has continued to provide leadership and set the strategic direction for community safety in Nottinghamshire. Community safety and cohesion is a topical issue that requires the Board to be cognisant of emerging areas of concern, as well as more established priorities. Exploitation, serious violence and County Lines are areas where work is underway to fully understand the local issues and respond in an informed, evidence based way.
3. This work is considered alongside more established priorities for the Board, which include people with complex needs, Modern Slavery, Domestic Abuse, Hate Crime, crime in rural areas and youth crime reduction.
4. The work with people with multiple and complex needs links closely with the multi-agency case management panels in each District and Borough area. In cases where homelessness is a presenting need the outreach provision funded through the successful partnership bid for Rough Sleeper Initiative funding from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government will be accessed.
5. It has been recognised that further work needs to be undertaken in the County to continue to raise awareness of the signs of exploitation and the pathways to support for victims of modern slavery. This will be a significant focus of the work during this year.
6. The Nottinghamshire Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Executive, which reports to the Board, is continuing to support prevention and early intervention provision in a number of schools across the County as well as ensuring that education and awareness campaigns are delivered so people know where to access support.
7. As part of a commitment to continue to improve the partnership response to preventing Hate Crime, raising public awareness and supporting victims, further training will be delivered.

There will also be a media campaign ensuring that residents are informed about what Hate Crime is, and encouraging people to challenge and report such behaviour.

8. Building on the success of previous events held there will be further rural crime events to raise awareness of what partners are doing to keep rural communities safe and to consider what people can also do to help themselves and each other.
9. £109,000 of the funding which the Police and Crime Commissioner grants the Safer Nottinghamshire Board contributes to the delivery of the County Council's Youth Justice Service. This contribution allows the Youth Justice Service to continue to provide a robust crime prevention offer. This is achieved through packages of interventions with young people with complex needs as well as programmes of diversionary activities targeted in areas where there are groups of young people at risk of offending or antisocial behaviour.
10. During the last year the Board has been working with Community Safety Partnerships to develop new ways of working, through a project led by the Chief Executive of Mansfield District Council. Crime volume has long been an indicator of interest to residents in relation to community safety. The approach being developed recognises this but also places an emphasis on the severity of individual crimes, i.e. their impact on the individual and local communities. Crimes such as violence are then weighted accordingly.
11. The approach that is building up will provide a better understanding to Community Safety Partnerships of what is happening, and why. It will also provide information that will be drawn up into a core data set for the Board as part of a developing performance management framework.
12. The work at Community Safety Partnership level will closely interact with the work taking place within Nottinghamshire Police to further strengthen the Neighbourhood Policing offer. The subsequent action planning will adopt a place based problem solving approach. This project will also manage the development of the new Community Safety Agreement.
13. It was initially intended to have the new Community Safety Agreement in place in April 2019, however, additional time has been required to secure the appropriate analytical and project support to drive this work. The Agreement will identify;
  - The county-wide community safety priorities that arise from the strategic assessment and that require escalating to the county level.
  - Ways of co-ordinating activity across the county to address priorities.
  - How the responsible authorities might otherwise contribute to reducing crime, disorder and substance misuse through closer joint working across the county.
14. Each year the Police and Crime Commissioner provides a grant to the Safer Nottinghamshire Board. For 2019-2020 the grant amount is £625,118. This is allocated as follows:

<b>Initiative</b>	<b>£</b>
Integrated Offender Management Independent Domestic Abuse Advisor	20,000
Neighbourhood Working Problem Solving in the focus areas	270,750
Project Officer – Neighbourhood Problem Solving and Severity	60,000
Integrated Offender Management Knife Crime Non Statutory Probation Assistant (Over 18yrs)	35,000
Youth Crime Reduction – confirmed for six months pending review	109,000
Safer Nottinghamshire Board / Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner Joint Commissioning Budget – supports the work of the Board priority theme groups	130,368
<b>Total</b>	<b>625,118</b>

15. The work well underway with more emergent issues such as serious violence, exploitation and County Lines includes work with schools, multi-agency training and awareness raising, targeted youth work, monthly case conference panels for serious youth violence and criminal exploitation and more recently the establishment of a Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) for Nottinghamshire. The VRU will have its own governance and performance management arrangements but is committed to working closely with the Safer Nottinghamshire Board to understand, and address, these significant issues.

### **Violence Reduction Unit (VRU)**

16. In April 2018, the Government published its Serious Violence Strategy setting out a programme of work to respond to increases in knife crime, gun crime and homicide across England and Wales. The strategy places an emphasis on early intervention and prevention and aims to tackle the root causes of violence and prevent young people from getting involved in violent crime in the first place.
17. In March 2019, the Chancellor announced a £100m Serious Violence Fund for use in the 2019/20 financial year. £35m from the Fund has been assigned to establish, or build on existing, Violence Reduction Units across 18 areas of the UK, including Nottinghamshire.
18. In June the Nottinghamshire Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner received notification of an £880,000 funding allocation and submitted an application in July to secure the provisional allocation.
19. The VRU brings together specialists from public health, clinical commissioning, police, local authorities and community organisations with a shared goal to reduce serious violent crime and the underlying causes countywide. The focus of the VRU will be on a whole system, public health approach to violence reduction, providing strategic leadership, coordination and interventions.
20. The VRU will be governed by a two tier approach with the core members convening a governing Board; the VRU Strategic Board. The role of the VRU Board will be to provide strategic direction, oversee delivery of the mandatory products, including the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and Problem Profile and resulting VRU Strategy and Response Plan. It

will provide check and challenge to the VRU and will receive regular updates on performance and on evaluations of the individual projects and initiatives ensuring the robust delivery of outcomes.

21. The VRU Board is chaired by the Police and Crime Commissioner, who heads up the governance, and membership includes the Chief Constable and a Major Trauma Surgeon from the Nottingham University Hospitals. Nottinghamshire County Council is represented by the Nottinghamshire County Council Corporate Director, Children's, Families and Cultural Services and the Director of Public Health.
22. Recognising that partnership working shouldn't just take place at a strategic level but should extend to joint working, communication and practice sharing between senior managers, practitioner experts and the community, a Violence Reduction Stakeholder Reference Group will be convened, reporting into the Strategic Board.
23. It is acknowledged that the core requirements of the VRU will add significant value to, and be dependent on, existing multi-agency arrangements, including the Safer Nottinghamshire Board.
24. The key deliverables of the VRU during 2019/20 will be:
  - A dedicated **Violence Reduction Unit** to lead and coordinate the design and implementation of system wide violence reduction interventions.
  - A comprehensive countywide **Problem Profile** and **Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)**, to identify the drivers of serious violence in the local area and identify those cohorts of people most affected.
  - The **Violence Reduction Response Strategy** to communicate the direction of the VRU to key stakeholders, defining the problem, setting out the approach to tackle it and identifying how success will be governed and measured. The strategy will set out **how** and **why** the action being taken by the VRU will enhance and complement existing local arrangements to achieve the collective goal of reducing serious violence.
  - This will be accompanied by the **Response Plan** which will provide a mechanism to track and manage **what** specific interventions will be undertaken, **when, where** and by **who**.
  - A **Community and Stakeholder Engagement Plan** which will provide a comprehensive approach to ensuring that the voice of the community are at the heart of influencing VRU activity.
  - An **evaluation and review framework** which will be developed alongside the response strategy and reported to the Violence Reduction Strategic Board on a regular basis.
25. Following completion of the Serious Violence JSNA and Problem Profile, a public health modelled strategy will be developed that will build on the current Nottinghamshire Knife Crime Strategy. The strategy and associated activity will be developed in two phases:

- **Phase 1:** Whilst forming the problem profile, JSNA and strategy to deliver a long term approach to reducing violence, the VRU will coordinate existing knife crime interventions and activity to be funded by the Early Intervention Youth Fund.
- **Phase 2:** The VRU will design and implement a long term systematic ‘public health’ approach to interrupting and preventing the cycle of violence in response to issues identified in the problem profile and JSNA.

26. Initial planned activity includes:

- Expanding trauma informed approaches across the County, including training and evaluation
- Investing in a media campaign to drive behavioural change to divert young people away from serious violence
- Investing in opportunities to engage with those at risk to better understand their needs and drivers in order to equip targeted support and communications
- Mapping available parenting interventions for young people; enabling parents to raise and appropriately respond to emergent risks to ensure children are appropriately safeguarded.
- Analysis to identify vulnerable children (14-18 year olds) at risk of being drawn into county lines, gang activity and criminal exploitation using data from Troubled Families Programme.

27. The VRU activities will closely interrelate to the activities being delivered through two other grant funds awarded to Nottinghamshire. These are the £1.5 million allocated to Nottinghamshire Police for “surge activity”, proactive work by the Force, and the £690K Early Intervention Youth Fund, awarded to the Police and Crime Commissioner, that is for tackling the root causes of serious violence amongst children and young people. £170k of this Early Intervention Youth Fund has been allocated to Nottinghamshire County Council to support detached and assertive outreach for young people at risk, transition into employment work and personalised budget planning.

### **Other Options Considered**

28. None – the Committee has previously requested regular updates from the Safer Nottinghamshire Board.

### **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

29. To provide the Policy Committee with information on the Safer Nottinghamshire Board and to raise awareness of current development activity.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

30. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty,

safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

### **Crime and Disorder Implications**

31. The work of the Safer Nottinghamshire Board is driven by legislation to reduce crime and disorder across the County area.

### **Financial Implications**

32. There are no specific financial implications from the recommendations of this report.

### **Human Resources Implications**

33. The Charing and programme management of the Safer Nottinghamshire Board are provided by Nottinghamshire County Council.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

That Policy Committee considers whether there are any actions they require in relation to the issues contained within this report.

**ANTHONY MAY**

**Chief Executive of Nottinghamshire County Council**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact:** Vicky Cropley, Safer Nottinghamshire Board Programme Manager ext. 72040

### **Constitutional Comments (EP 20/08/2019)**

34. The Policy Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of the report. If Committee resolves that any actions are required, it must be satisfied that such actions are within the Committee's terms of reference.

### **Financial Comments (RWK - 04/09/2018)**

35. There are no specific financial implications arising directly from the report.

### **Background Papers and Published Documents**

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

None

### **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All