

Community Safety Committee

Tuesday, 14 July 2015 at 14:00

County Hall, County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 7QP

AGENDA

- | | | |
|----|--|---------|
| 1 | Minutes of last meeting held on 2 June 2015 | 3 - 6 |
| 2 | Apologies for Absence | |
| 3 | Declarations of Interests by Members and Officers:- (see note below)
(a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests
(b) Private Interests (pecuniary and non-pecuniary) | |
| 4 | Overview of Registration Service Property | 7 - 12 |
| 5 | Update on Emergency Planning and Registration Services | 13 - 18 |
| 6 | Community Safety Budget Update - Request for Funding | 19 - 26 |
| 7 | Community Safety Update | 27 - 34 |
| 8 | Illegal Money Lenders Operating Within Nottinghamshire | 35 - 46 |
| 9 | Update on Key Trading Standards Matters | 47 - 54 |
| 10 | Work Programme | 55 - 58 |

Notes

- (1) Councillors are advised to contact their Research Officer for details of any Group Meetings which are planned for this meeting.
- (2) Members of the public wishing to inspect "Background Papers" referred to in the reports on the agenda or Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act should contact:-

Customer Services Centre 0300 500 80 80

- (3) Persons making a declaration of interest should have regard to the Code of Conduct and the Council's Procedure Rules. Those declaring must indicate the nature of their interest and the reasons for the declaration.

Councillors or Officers requiring clarification on whether to make a declaration of interest are invited to contact Keith Ford (Tel. 0115 977 2590) or a colleague in Democratic Services prior to the meeting.

- (4) Councillors are reminded that Committee and Sub-Committee papers, with the exception of those which contain Exempt or Confidential Information, may be recycled.
- (5) This agenda and its associated reports are available to view online via an online calendar - <http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/dms/Meetings.aspx>

Meeting **COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Date **Tuesday 2 June 2015 at 2.00 pm**

membership

Persons absent are marked with 'A'

COUNCILLORS

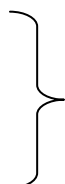
Glynn Gilfoyle (Chairman)
Alice Grice (Vice-Chairman)

Chris Barnfather
John Clarke
Kay Cutts
Maureen Dobson

Keith Longdon **A**
Darrel Pulk
Stuart Wallace

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Rob Fisher
Sarah Houlton
Sharon May
Paul McKay
Mark Walker



Adult Social Care, Health & Public Protection

Pete Barker
Sally Gill



Policy, Planning and Corporate Services

CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**RESOLVED: 2015/32**

That the appointment by the County Council on 14 May 2015 of Councillor Glynn Gilfoyle as Chair of the Committee and Councillor Alice Grice as Vice-Chair be noted.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

The Clerk to the Committee reported orally that Councillor Darrel Pulk replaced Councillor John Wilmott on a permanent basis and Councillor Kay Cutts replaced Councillor Bruce Laughton for this meeting only.

RESOLVED: 2015/33

That the membership of the Committee be noted.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting held on 21 April 2015 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Keith Longdon (other County Council business).

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

None.

ORDER OF AGENDA

In order to better facilitate the business of the Committee, the Chairman agreed that the order of the agenda could be amended to enable agenda item 7 – Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Adults Board Update to be taken before agenda item 6.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD.

Allan Breeton, Independent Chair of the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Board, introduced the report. Mr Breeton praised the support received from the various agencies involved in this area of work and explained how successful partnership working had been, underlining that now that the Board's work had a statutory basis it would be easier to hold people and partners to account.

RESOLVED 2015/034

That the update on the work and progress of the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Adults Board be noted.

NATIONAL SCAMS HUB LIST – JOINT WORK WITH NOTTINGHAMSHIRE POLICE

Sharon May, Trading Standards Officer, gave a presentation detailing the work undertaken by the team, in conjunction with PCSO Lucy Smith, to assist those vulnerable people who had been the subject of various scams.

RESOLVED 2015/035

That the contents of the presentation be noted.

COMMUNITY SAFETY BUDGET UPDATE – REQUEST FOR FUNDING

RESOLVED 2015/036

That the following contributions be made from the Community Safety Initiatives Budget for 2015/16:

- £2,000 for legal advice in relation to how current Gating Orders will be superseded by new Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs)
- £3,118 for the continuation of a yearly maintenance contract for cameras located at Junction 27, needed to support a court injunction to control vehicle nuisance

COMMUNITY SAFETY UPDATE

Sarah Houlton introduced the report and brought the Committee's attention to the fact that rural crime was at an all time high.

RESOLVED 2015/037

That the various developments in the areas of work as contained in the report be noted.

UPDATE ON KEY TRADING STANDARDS MATTERS

Mark Walker introduced the report and detailed the progress being made by the Trading Services team. The Committee thanked the officers involved, especially for their work regarding the misuse of investments around care homes and welcomed the fact that prison sentences had been passed.

RESOLVED 2015/038

That the updates from the previous meeting and the various developments in the areas of work contained in the report be noted.

UPDATE ON EMERGENCY PLANNING AND REGISTRATION & CELEBRATORY SERVICES

RESOLVED 2015/039

That the update on recent key activities and events in the work of the Emergency Planning Team and of Registration and Celebratory Services be noted.

WORK PROGRAMME

Committee asked that a report be brought to a future meeting regarding the effects of the reduction in PCSOs.

RESOLVED 2015/040

That the work programme be noted.

The meeting closed at 3.05pm

CHAIRMAN

14 July 2015**Agenda Item: 4**

REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR, ACCESS AND PUBLIC PROTECTION

OVERVIEW OF REGISTRATION SERVICE PROPERTY

Purpose of the Report

1. To give an overview of Registration Offices across Nottinghamshire.

Information and Advice

Background

2. The County Council's Registration Service is utilised by customers at some of the most significant and memorable points in their lives. Some are joyous occasions, associated with the birth of a child or the marriage of a couple, while other occasions are sombre such as registering the death of a close family member. In all, some 20,000 appointments take place each year in Nottinghamshire Registration Offices, plus around 1,200 wedding ceremonies (other venues for civil marriages are the subject of a separate 'Approved Premises' report each year to Planning and Licensing Committee and to Community Safety Committee).
3. Registration Offices are generally placed at easily accessible locations, within all large communities, and where there are good public transport links to surrounding smaller communities. This is in consideration that many customers are elderly widows or widowers, or are parents with young children, who may not have their own means of transport. The larger offices include ceremony rooms that offer a range of options for civil marriages and other ceremonies, from a very simple, small-scale marriage, at a national statutory fee, through to the opportunity to pay more for a larger scale wedding with dozens of guests. The income from these contributes to the Service being cost neutral overall for the people of Nottinghamshire.

Registration Offices in Nottinghamshire

4. There are eighteen Registration Offices across the County. Their locations are listed in the table at Appendix A, together with general information and statistics relating to the services provided from each site. Most are part of a County Office or are within a County Library; others are in other public buildings or are in rented rooms.
5. The whole of Nottinghamshire is one 'Registration District', and has one principal 'Register Office'. This is within the office in Worksop where there are facilities for the full range of registration services including birth and death registration, notice of marriage

and civil partnership, and all types of registration service ceremonies. The north of the County is also served by offices in Retford and Newark (each of which have ceremony rooms) and at Ollerton.

6. The main registration office serving the Central area of Nottinghamshire is in Mansfield. Other offices in this area are at Sutton-in-Ashfield, Southwell, Eastwood and Hucknall, plus an office within Kings Mill Hospital (mainly for death registration appointments). Ceremonies are available at the Mansfield office and at Eastwood where services have recently been re-located to the D H Lawrence Heritage Centre.
7. There is currently no main office in the south of the County, pending completion of refurbishment work at The Hall in West Bridgford. Main office functions are carried out from temporary offices within County Hall and at West Bridgford Library, while ceremonies are provided from the Welbeck Banqueting Suite. Birth and Death appointments, and services other than ceremonies are provided from offices in Carlton, Bingham, Beeston, Stapleford and East Leake.
8. In addition to the services discussed above, the County Council is also the custodian of legal records of births, deaths, marriages and civil partnerships occurring in Nottinghamshire since 1837. These records are stored in secure, fire proof accommodation within the registration offices in Mansfield and Retford, and at the Basford Registration Office in Bulwell. The public have access to these to obtain copy certificates for family history research and for key activities within society throughout their lives. Work is in progress to bring all records together into one location.

Statutory and Policy Implications

9. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

10. There are no financial implications as the report is for noting only. The Registration Service operates on a full cost recovery basis, and therefore all property costs are covered by income.

Implications for Service Users

11. The report is for noting and so there are no implications for the users of registration services. The distribution of offices, and the availability of public transport, ensures there is good access to services throughout the County.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) It is recommended that the Committee notes the number and location of Registration Offices across the County, and the services offered from these.

PAUL MCKAY

Service Director, Access and Public Protection

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Robert Fisher, Group Manager, Emergency Management and Registration

Tel: 0115 977 3681, Email: Robert.fisher@nottsc.gov.uk

Constitutional Comments

22. As this report is for noting only, no Constitutional Comments are required.

Financial Comments

23. There are no financial implications.

Background Papers

None

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All

Registration Office Information

Key to Principal Services:

- B and D = Birth and Death Registrations
- B, D and N = Births and Deaths, and notices of marriage
- All = the full spectrum of services identified to the committee in annual fees reports

(N.B. appointment statistics do not include ceremonies. The total number of appointments was **19,778** in 2013 – 2014 and **20,762** in 2014 – 2015)

North Area						
Office	Location	Principal Services	Ceremony Room	Opening hours for appointments	Appointments 2013 – 2014 (and average per week)	Appointments 2014 – 2015 (and average per week)
Worksop	Worksop Library	All	Yes	Monday to Friday 0900 to 1630	2072 (40)	2122 (41)
Retford	Chancery Lane	All	Yes	Monday to Friday 0900 to 1630	1559 (30)	1470 (28)
Newark	The Gilstrap	All	Yes	Monday to Friday 0900 to 1630	1691 (33)	1756 (34)
Ollerton	The Dukeries Complex	B and D	No	Tues and Thurs 0900 to 1200 and 1300 to 1630	370 (7)	330 (6)

Central Area						
Office	Location	Principal Services	Ceremony Room	Opening hours for appointments	Appointments 2013 – 2014 (and average per week)	Appointments 2014 – 2015 (and average per week)
Mansfield	County House	All	Yes	Monday to Friday 0900 to 1630	4493 (86)	3943 (76)
Sutton-in-Ashfield	Sutton Library	B, D and N	No	Monday to Friday 0900 to 1230 and 1330 to 1630	2211 (43)	2241 (43)
Southwell	The Bramley Centre	B, D and N	No	Mon and Tues 0930 to 1230 and 1330 to 1700	258 (5)	247 (5)
Eastwood	Now at the DH Lawrence Centre	B, D and N	Yes	Tues and Wed 0900 to 1230 and 1330 to 1630	742 (14)	564 (11)
Hucknall	Now at ADC Offices, Watnall Road	B, D and N	No	Thurs and Fri 0900 to 1230 and 1330 to 1630	766 (15)	802 (15)
Kings Mill	Kings Mill Hospital	Mainly death registrations	No	Tues to Thurs 0900 to 1630	No full year data	872 (17)

South Area						
Office	Location	Principal Services	Ceremony Room	Opening hours for appointments	Appointments 2013 – 2014 (and average per week)	Appointments 2014 – 2015 (and average per week)
County Hall / Welbeck	Main Reception	All	Yes	Mon to Thursday 0900 to 1630 Fri 0900 to 1600	826 (16)	716 (14)
West Bridgford	West Bridgford Library	B and D	No	Monday to Friday variable times	1525 (29)	1400 (27)
Carlton	Fairdale House	All	No	Mon, Tues, Wed 0900 to 1200 and 1300 to 1630 Fri 0900 to 1200 and 1300 to 1600	1532 (29)	2338 (45)
Bingham	Court House	B and D	No	Wed 0900 to 1230 and 1330 to 1630	283 (5)	292 (6)
Beeston	Beeston Library	B and D	No	Mon, Tues and Fri 0900 to 1230 and 1330 to 1600 Wed 0900 to 1215 to 1600	1281 (25)	1240 (24)
Stapleford	Stapleford Library	B and D	No	Thurs 0900 to 1630 (when booked)	83 (2)	319 (6)
East Leake	Parish Council Offices	B and D	No	Thurs 1000 to 1200 (when booked)	86 (2)	110 (2)
Basford	Bulwell	Records repository	No	N/A	N/A	N/A

14 July 2015**Agenda Item: 5****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR FOR ACCESS AND PUBLIC
PROTECTION****UPDATE ON EMERGENCY PLANNING AND REGISTRATION SERVICES****Purpose of the Report**

1. To provide an update on recent key activities and events in the work of the Emergency Planning Team and of Registration and Celebratory Services.

Information and Advice**Emergency Planning**Changes to the regulations governing the control of major accident hazards

2. The Control of Major Accident Hazard (COMAH) regulations have been in force since 1999. Their purpose is to prevent major accidents involving dangerous substances and to limit the consequences of any accidents which do occur. The regulations define a major accident as any emission, fire or explosion leading to serious danger to human health or the environment. The regulations apply to any establishment holding dangerous substances at or above specified threshold quantities, and each will be subject to either 'lower tier' or 'upper tier' requirements under the legislation. Upper tier COMAH sites must have internal emergency plans, prepared by the company, and external plans (to deal with off-site effects) that are prepared by the local authority. For the purposes of the regulations, all internal and external emergency plans are required to have the following objectives:
 - Containing and controlling incidents so as to minimise the consequences, and to limit damage to human health, the environment and property
 - Implementing the necessary measures to protect human health and the environment from the consequences of major accidents
 - Communicating the necessary information to the public and to the services or authorities concerned in the area
 - Providing for the restoration and clean-up of the environment following a major accident.
3. Guidance accompanying the regulations specifies that 'Human health' includes the health of all those people who may be on-site at any time, such as operators, supervisors, managers, staff, contractors and visitors; and includes people off-site, working in the neighbourhood and the public. The environment includes built features as well as air, water, groundwater, soil, flora and fauna.

4. The local authority for the area where an upper tier establishment is located must prepare a suitable emergency plan for dealing with the off-site consequences of possible major accidents. There are two such sites in Nottinghamshire, the Misterton Petroleum Storage Depot (which receives, stores and distributes aviation fuel) and DHL Supply Chain in Harworth (which stores and distributes household and healthcare products).
5. From 1st June 2015, a revised version of the regulations came into force, and is known as The Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations 2015 (Statutory Instrument 2015 No. 483). The main changes involve:
 - Emergency planning arrangements for lower tier sites;
 - A duty on designated authorities to co-operate in plan testing
 - Improved public information
 - Local authorities to give information to people concerned after an accident
 - New duties for warning and informing placed on lower tier sites.
6. The new requirement for co-operation by “designated authorities” refers to Category 1 responders, as defined in the Civil Contingencies Act 2004. This will apply to forthcoming tests of the external emergency plan for the sites in Nottinghamshire. The DHL & Misterton sites are due for their off-site emergency plans to be tested by 11 October this year to comply with the three year deadline stipulated in the regulations. However, Misterton Petroleum Storage Depot is currently in the process of transition to new site owners, and as a consequence of this, they have requested that the exercise is postponed until spring 2016 when new owners are in place. Since, for efficiency purposes, both Nottinghamshire COMAH site plans are tested on the same day, it is necessary to delay the DHL exercise also.
7. The emergency planning team have consulted the Health and Safety Executive Hazardous Installations Directorate, on this issue, and have gained consent to delay the exercises. However, both will take place before the end of the current financial year.

Progress in Business Continuity Management

8. A key role of the emergency planning team is to support and assist critical County Council services to be resilient to potential business interruptions. This includes facilitating the preparation of ‘Business Impact Analyses’ and Business Continuity Plans. This work now benefits from the introduction of a Business Continuity ‘OneSpace’ electronic document store that is accessible to all relevant managers across the authority. The site is intended to be the ‘one stop shop’ for business continuity information for the County Council, to make it easier for managers to find up-to-date information, and enable better monitoring of progress across the authority. The managers of business critical services will use the OneSpace to find corporate business continuity documents including a plan template and guidance that have been prepared by the emergency planning team. They will also upload a copy of their own service business continuity plan and business impact analyses into their own departmental document library.
9. The OneSpace includes

- Key working documents currently in development
- The NCC Corporate Business Continuity Plan
- The Corporate Business Continuity Strategy
- Critical Services list
- Business continuity plan templates and guidance
- A document library for each department,
- Other useful documents, such as slides from events

Emergency Planning Support for Schools

10. The Emergency Planning Team has long taken pride in the emergency planning guidance and support that has been offered to schools in Nottinghamshire. In previous years this work was recognised and acknowledged nationally, and the team was a major contributor to the guidance available to school across the UK. The current service offer to schools is detailed in the County Council's prospectus of services available to schools on a cost recovery basis, and the team receives occasional requests for services. Most recently, this has included support to Bispham Drive Junior School in Toton to provide support in reviewing their emergency plan, and providing feedback on the emergency plan for St Augustine's School in Worksop. Currently the team is following up with requests from two primary schools and one academy, which includes providing a review of their existing emergency plans.
11. A member of the team also attended and contributed to a workshop for independent schools on Thursday 2 July. This was one of a national series that was requested by the Independent Schools Bursars Association (ISBA). The County Council's contribution was to outline key external risks that affect schools. Schools need to consider not only what might happen within their school, such as fires in their own buildings, fallen trees, or explosions in the school chemistry laboratories, but there are numerous risks that they need to be aware of which are in their wider environment and which could affect them. Examples include: flood risk areas, industrial sites, transport routes, as well as wider risks of pandemic and severe weather. The event also provided the opportunity to highlight the national resources available for them to use, and the further services the emergency planning team has to offer.

Emergency temporary mortuaries training and exercises

12. A training event for Mass Fatalities Forward Liaison team training was held at Kelham Hall, Newark on 18 June. The training was for local authority staff from the two District Council areas that have emergency temporary mortuary sites. These staff would be involved in the construction of an emergency mortuary within a 72 hour time frame. The training focussed on the Site Specific Implementation section of the Local Resilience Forum (LRF) Mass Fatalities emergency plan. This was the first time this training had been run and the focus was on understanding the complex detail of the plan and on participants being able to contribute to review the existing material in the plan so that it works for them on the ground should they ever find themselves at an emergency mortuary.
13. The event took the form of presentations with two-way discussions followed by a scenario exercise based on a supposed incident at a football ground. The trainers were the four local authority representatives from the LRF Mass Fatalities group

(Nottinghamshire County Council, Nottingham City Council, Newark and Sherwood District Council, Ashfield District Council), joined by a representative of Nottinghamshire Police. Members of the emergency mortuary forward liaison team were approached based on the skills required of the team and on transferrable skills from their normal work in fields such as community development, community protection and environmental health. Ten people attended the training and all were given the option to reflect on the training and decided if they still felt they wanted to be part of the team.

Safety at Sports Grounds

14. Pre-match and during-performance safety inspections highlighted no concerns of significance for spectators attending the One-Day International cricket match between England and New Zealand that took place at Trent Bridge Cricket Ground on 17 June. Attention has turned now to the Ashes Test Match against Australia, which takes place at the ground from 6 to 10 August.
15. A Special Safety Certificate was issued for a Film Festival event held at the Cricket Ground on 21 June. The club provided fully satisfactory plans for the event, which involved admission by pre-purchased ticket or cash sales on the day, with the audience accommodated in three stands plus a designated grass area.
16. The emergency planning team has noted the recent announcement that Glasgow Celtic Football Club has gained approval from Glasgow City Council to trial a safe standing area at their ground during the 2016-17 season. Ground adaptations to accommodate 2,600 standing spectators will include the introduction of new crowd barriers and widened gangways, along with the type of rail seating found at grounds elsewhere in Europe. The initiative will be monitored closely by football clubs and supporters throughout the UK, many of whom have expressed an interest in a move away from fully all-seater stadia. Terraces were prohibited following the Hillsborough disaster in 1989 and all-seater grounds became compulsory in England in 1994.

Mansfield Town Football Club – Exercise ‘Oklahoma’

17. On 29 June, the emergency planning team facilitated an exercise of the Major Incident Plan for Mansfield Town Football Club. The small scale, table top exercise at the One Call Stadium, was called ‘Exercise Oklahoma’. The aim of the exercise was to validate the Plan, and provide an opportunity for the club to exercise some of their own contingency plans.
18. The exercise focussed on the initial response at the stadium to a series of incidents on a match day, culminating in a serious major incident requiring multi-agency response. Participants were drawn mostly from Mansfield Town Football Club and Protouch UK (as the provider of stewarding and security staff at the club), plus representatives from the Emergency Services. Participants were given a match day briefing document on arrival at the event, setting out the background to the scenario. They were then guided through the various stages of the incidents, and asked at each point to discuss their response and decision making with others on the table. The exercise was designed to explore the issues arising from a major incident at the ground, in order to determine whether any changes need to be made to the Major Incident Plan. It provided a good opportunity for participants to increase familiarity with the roles that they have in an emergency, and to

discuss these with colleagues. A post-exercise report will be produced, identifying learning points and improvements which can be made to the Major Incident Plan when it is next reviewed.

Registration and Celebratory Services

Annual Assurance Statement to the General Register Office

19. Each year The County Council's Registration Service is required to provide an Annual Performance Report to the General Register Office (GRO), regarding achievements in the previous financial year, plus a Service Delivery Plan for the year ahead. Feedback from the GRO Account Manager this year noted that although it had been a challenging year for the service, with office moves, IT system issues and turnover of staff impacting on service delivery, it was worthy of note that the service achieved high customer satisfaction ratings. He also welcomed attainment against the majority of statutory and operational standards.
20. He noted the issues we had raised around the timely registration of deaths, including delays that are outside the control of the County Council, that have impacted on these standards. He also noted the improvements made to customer access, both in terms of appointment booking and availability but also in choice of location, including the continued success of your partnership working with Nottingham City, which again serves to increase customer options and improve their experience of the service. Looking ahead, he noted our focus on improving the customer experience, developing staff, greater use of IT and enhancing communication and marketing of the service. In closing he expressed congratulations on service performance and achievements in 2014-15.

Other Options Considered

21. None.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

22. To update the Committee on this area of work contained within its remit.

Statutory and Policy Implications

23. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) It is recommended that the Committee notes the update on recent key activities and events in the work of the Emergency Planning Team and of Registration and Celebratory Services.

PAUL MCKAY
Service Director, Access and Public Protection

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Robert Fisher, Group Manager, Emergency Planning and Registration

Tel: 0115 977 3681, Email: robert.fisher@nottsc.gov.uk

Constitutional Comments

24. As this report is for noting only, no Constitutional Comments are required.

Financial Comments

25. There are no financial implications

Background Papers and Published Documents

- None

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All

14th July 2015**Agenda Item: 6****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR FOR ACCESS AND PUBLIC
PROTECTION.****COMMUNITY SAFETY BUDGET UPDATE: REQUEST FOR FUNDING.****Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek approval for committing a total of **£89,500** funding from the Community Safety Initiatives Budget for 2015/16 to:
 - a) Fund the “Virtual Justice” pilot project to work with secondary school students from the priority areas of Nottinghamshire to tackle cyber bullying, e-safety and child sexual exploitation (**£12,500**).
 - b) Contribute to the funding of a county wide co-ordinated “Respect and Tolerance” programme of children and young people participation to combat low level hate crime and bullying and to promote emotional well-being and academic resilience (**£7,000**).
 - c) Contribute to the funding of a project to work with young people in Newark, Sherwood and Bassetlaw to raise awareness of and tackle child sexual exploitation and its link to social media (**£10,000**).
 - d) Contribute to funding the development and launch of a “Crime in Rural Areas” strategy and associated partnership action plan for the County (**up to £5,000**).
 - e) To fund further joint work with Nottinghamshire Police to protect vulnerable Nottinghamshire residents from becoming repeat victims of mass marketing scams (**up to £20,000**).
 - f) Contribute to the funding of work to strengthen the county’s Vulnerable Person Panels’ capability in responding to cases involving a mental health dimension. (**£20,000**).
 - g) To fund a public awareness campaign to reduce the fear of crime associated with violent incidents across the County, promoting Nottinghamshire as a safe and vibrant location that will not tolerate violence (**up to £5,000**).
 - h) To support a range of projects and activities specifically designed to promote integrated and cohesive communities in Nottinghamshire, recognising diversity and focusing on strong, positive relationships between people from different backgrounds,

empowering local people to take an active role in the development of their local area.
(£10,000)

Information and Advice

Community Safety Budget.

- Each year, a proportion of the Community Safety Budget is allocated to initiatives across the County that are designed to reduce crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour, reduce the fear of crime and increase levels of community safety and confidence within our communities. Initiatives are targeted at vulnerable communities, and are designed to tackle the issues that are causing the most harm to communities and individuals.
- Funding proposals approved to date from the “initiatives” element of the Community Safety Budget for 2015-16 are summarised in the following table:

Total Community Safety “Initiatives” budget for 2015/16:	£262,380
Income from Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC)*	£25,000
Total budget available for initiatives	£287,380
Total committed so far:	
Contribution to the work of the Safer Nottinghamshire Board (SNB)	£140,000
Year 2 of the Best Bar None scheme	£15,000
Contribution to Police led Hate Crime campaign	£5,000
Gating Orders: Legal Advice	£2,000
Vehicle Nuisance: Junction 27 CCTV camera maintenance	£3,118
Remaining balance for other initiatives	£122,262

(*Additional income received for the contribution made by the Community Safety team to managing the PCC budget, including the administration of payments and the production, monitoring and evaluation of costed delivery plans)

“Virtual Justice” project: Cyber-crime (£12,500).

- Cyber-crime is on the increase particularly for many young people who frequently access social media sites. £12,500 funding is sought for this project to raise awareness of the dangers of cyber-crime such as cyber-bullying and online child sexual exploitation (Including sexting) and to teach students and their parents about e-safety to protect themselves.
- The “Virtual Justice” project is based on the nationally recognised National Centre for Citizenship and Law’s (NCCL) and Nottinghamshire County Council’s “I Pledge to Keep on Track” Youth Crime Prevention programme, which has been previously funded by this committee. The programme will be delivered directly to over 960 young people aged 11-14 from the priority areas of Nottinghamshire. The related learning resources for teachers and pupils and lesson plans will also be shared more widely with other schools across the county at the conclusion of the pilot project.

6. The NCCL will produce an end of project evaluation report to provide quantitative and qualitative data to evidence the change in awareness, understanding and attitudes by the pupils involved about the consequences and dangers of cybercrime.

“Respect and Tolerance” programme: Dragons Den 7 (£7,000)

7. The aim of the “Respect and Tolerance” programme is to engage children and young people through creative and active participation to raise awareness and build resilience to prevent hate crime, bullying, youth violence and to promote respect and tolerance. More information about the programme is given in the Community Safety Update report (14th July 2015).
8. One project within this programme is the Dragon’s Den Style 7 project being delivered within schools within the Ashfield partnership plus areas, which is funded by the Mansfield and Ashfield community safety partnership. The project invites year 10 students to design a creative campaign to challenge prejudice and promote respect and tolerance amongst their peer group. They in turn share their knowledge and understanding around prejudice, respect and tolerance with year 5 & 6 students in their local primary schools. The project also raises the confidence levels and knowledge base of teaching staff to address issues around all forms of prejudice.
9. A contribution of £7,000 from the Community Safety initiatives budget is requested to fund further work using the Dragons Den Style 7 model to deliver respect and tolerance awareness raising and resilience building to benefit a further 1000+ pupils across the County. This work would link in with other related youth crime prevention work within the County.

Child Sexual Exploitation via Social Media (Bassetlaw and Newark & Sherwood) (£10,000)

10. Child sexual exploitation is high on the national agenda and within the county the issue has been raised as a matter of concern by schools and police within the Newark area.
11. A contribution of £10,000 funding is requested for a Dragons Den Style 6 project to work with year 10 students (4 schools in Bassetlaw and up to 4 schools in Newark & Sherwood) to raise awareness of child sexual exploitation and its links to social media. A further £10,000 match funding will be provided from the Bassetlaw and Newark & Sherwood Community Safety partnership.
12. Year 10 students will be invited to produce and communicate an awareness raising campaign for other young people aged 11-13 years old about the risks involved with child sexual exploitation and its links to social media. The campaign will also promote healthy relationships with a view to the campaign being adopted, promoted and disseminated by providers of domestic abuse services across the county.
13. Part of the project will also be work to encourage parents to be more aware of social media and how it can be used and to advise parents how they can become more technologically aware to protect their children. The resources produced by the young people will be shared locally via school networks and via the national Lifeskills education web-site.

Crime in Rural Areas strategy and action plan (up to £5,000)

14. Survey work undertaken by the Office of the Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner has highlighted the need to tackle crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour (ASB) in rural areas, with a recognised challenge for partner organisations to narrow the gap in knowledge and understanding of crime taking place in rural areas. The National Farmers Union Rural Crime Survey (2014) indicated that as high as 60% of all rural crimes are not currently reported. The Annual Satisfaction Survey indicates that the more isolated locations present a heightened risk of crime and the fear of crime.
15. Nottinghamshire does not currently have a strategy or action plan for tackling crime and anti-social behaviour that takes place in rural locations in the county. This proposal is to support the development and launch of a strategy and associated partnership action plan to reduce crime, disorder and ASB in rural areas. The proposal involves an initial scoping exercise to explore priority issues and actions needed to address them. Subject to the outcome of the scoping exercise, this work could include awareness raising, target hardening and focussed project work.
16. A contribution of £5,000 is requested from the Community Safety initiatives budget to support this work. Further contributions could also be sought from other partner organisations with an interest in reducing crime in rural communities.

Mass Marketing Scams: Further joint work with Nottinghamshire Police (up to £20,000)

17. Nationally Mass marketing scams cause around £3.5 billion of detriment annually to consumers. Vulnerable and disadvantaged residents are deliberately and repeatedly targeted causing significant harm to their health, well-being and independence. As previously reported, as part of our joint working with the National Scams Hub, we regularly receive lists of Nottinghamshire residents whose names are on scam mailing lists seized during raids on mailing houses. The lists are shared with the relevant local authorities so that officers can make contact with the vulnerable residents on the list to assess their detriment to date and the level of intervention needed to protect them from future scams.
18. At the Community Safety Committee meeting on 30th September 2014 £20,000 funding was agreed to fund the secondment of a Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) (salary and related costs) to work jointly with Trading Standards Officers to tackle this problem. During the 6 month secondment (December 2014-May 2015) the PCSO carried out the initial visits to vulnerable residents and then worked with Trading Standards Officers to prevent future victimisation. A presentation at the 2nd June 2015 Community Safety Committee highlighted the progress to date with this work. At that date 236 cases had been investigated.
19. A further £20,000 from the community safety initiatives budget is requested to fund a second 6 months PCSO secondment to continue this work with Trading Standards Officers to protect vulnerable residents from losing their life savings to mass marketing scams and suffering financially and emotionally as a result.

Vulnerable Person Panels: Mental Health representation (£20,000)

20. For some years now each district has had in place, under the umbrella of the Community Safety Partnership, multi-agency panel based arrangements for dealing with vulnerable people. These are generally known as Vulnerable Person Panels (VPP). The VPP consider individual cases involving people identified as vulnerable to, for example, antisocial behaviour, hate crime or domestic violence, as determined by each VPP. The purpose of these meetings is to share relevant information about a case and then to ensure that appropriate interventions and problem solving plans are in place and being delivered.
21. A contribution of £20,000 from the Community Safety initiatives budget is requested to strengthen the county's Vulnerable Person Panels' capability in responding to cases involving a mental health dimension. This will supplement a contribution of £13,300 from the Nottinghamshire Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner. Match funding will also be sought from other partner organisations. This work will include ensuring that there are representatives at these multi-agency meetings with the appropriate skills and experience to identify where a mental health issue is evident and support work with the individual to reduce their risk from, for example, antisocial behaviour.
22. To achieve this outcome joint working will be initiated with the Nottinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Board, which own the 'No Health without Mental Health, Nottinghamshire's Mental Health Framework for Action, 2014-17'. In support of the delivery of this strategy services are being commissioned by the Clinical Commissioning Groups across the county which include prevention and community development elements relevant to the work not just of the Vulnerable Person Panels but the wider Community Safety Partnerships.
23. The intended outputs of this work are the development of a Pathway to Provision document which will complement that already in existence through the Adult Safeguarding Board. However the new document will explore the pathways below the threshold for Adult Social Care. This work will be supported by a programme of training for practitioners in using the new document and working with mental health and wellbeing in relation to individuals and communities.

Alliance Against Violence campaign (up to £5,000)

24. The number of violent crimes recorded in Nottinghamshire (and across the U.K.) is predicted to rise over the next few months. Whilst it is not anticipated that there will be any significant change in the actual number of violent incidents, the predicted increase will be in part due to a change in recording practices, where less serious incidents that may not in the past have been recorded as a violent crime now will be. Whilst the County Council welcomes any improvement in recording, since this will assist partners in assessing and improving their responses to violence, it is important that our communities remain reassured and confident about their local area. This is essential not only to ensure that the fear of crime amongst our residents remains proportionate, but also that the County is viewed and promoted as a safe and vibrant destination for both visitors and businesses.
25. This work will promote Nottinghamshire as a County with zero tolerance for violence. There will be a high profile information and awareness campaign targeted at priority, "hot-spot" areas of the County, giving reassurance messages and information on where and

how to report crime. There will also be a focus of this work with vulnerable people. Elected members will be asked to pledge/refresh their support to the Nottinghamshire Alliance Against Violence initiative. Work will also be undertaken to ensure that work with young people is undertaken in locations or situations where they are at risk of experiencing violence.

Community Cohesion (£10,000)

26. Nottinghamshire has a strong and proud history of recognising and valuing diversity. The demographics of our communities are constantly changing, and this proposal seeks to work with new and emerging communities in relevant areas to create a common shared vision, and shared sense of belonging. New and emerging communities often suffer a disproportional level of crime and anti-social behaviour. It builds on the projects delivered in 2014/15, detailed below.
27. This work will seek to ensure that people from different backgrounds have similar life opportunities, understand and know their rights and responsibilities, and encourage the local involvement of people from all backgrounds in a sustainable development of their area and community.
28. At its April meeting, the Committee noted that a key contributor to community cohesion is integration, which is key to enabling new and existing residents to adjust to one another, and secure equal participation in wider society. The Council's role in fostering integration is an important element of a cohesive community, which is a priority.
29. £7,000 was ring-fenced from the 2014/15 budget to support such activities across the County. The Community & Voluntary Sector Team worked closely with communities to develop projects and activities encouraging residents to take a positive stance towards integration within their own communities. It is proposed a similar approach is taken this year.
30. The activities and projects promoted integrated and cohesive communities, to enable people from different backgrounds to have similar life opportunities, to know and understand their rights and responsibilities, as well as trusting one another and trusting local institutions to act fairly. The activities and projects promoted: A shared future vision and sense of belonging; a focus on what new and existing communities have in common, alongside a recognition of the value of diversity, and the promotion of strong and positive relationships between people from different backgrounds.
31. The projects delivered included:
 - an Eastern European / British intergeneration celebration;
 - a programme of sessions, linking with 'Mind the Gap', which enables parents to read with children in primary schools about different backgrounds and getting to know and understand different cultures;
 - a Gypsy and Traveller event to celebrate GRT history through a variety of events during Gypsy, Roma Traveller History Month; and
 - a Photo Booth Project to bring together students from Alderman White School and young adults who have Learning Disabilities, with members of the Age UK 'Men in

Sheds' project, to build a Photo Booth to be used to interview people to capture get their thoughts on activities and events attended.

Other Options Considered

32. There will be other options for use of the community safety initiatives budget, and the proposed spends of the remaining **£32,762** balance will be the subject of future reports to the Community Safety Committee.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

33. Community Safety remains one of the key concerns for the residents of Nottinghamshire. The recommendations contained within this report will enable funding to action a range of targeted projects, specifically designed to combat issues of crime and disorder, anti-social behaviour and fear of crime. Any reductions in these issues will encourage the development of strong, healthy and vibrant communities thus reducing risks to those deemed as vulnerable within those communities.

Statutory and Policy Implications

34. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

35. The requests totalling £89,500 can all be met from within the Community Safety Initiatives budget.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the following contributions (totalling £89,500) be made from the Community Safety Initiatives Budget for 2015/16:
 - a) "Virtual Justice" pilot project: **£12,500**.
 - b) "Respect and Tolerance" programme: **£7,000**.
 - c) Newark, Sherwood and Bassetlaw project: child sexual exploitation and its link to social media: **£10,000**.
 - d) "Crime in Rural Areas" strategy and associated partnership action plan: **up to £5,000**.
 - e) Joint work with Nottinghamshire Police: mass marketing scams: **up to £20,000**.
 - f) Vulnerable Person Panels: mental health dimension. **£20,000**

g) Alliance Against Violence campaign: **up to £5,000.**

h) Community Cohesion: **£10,000**

PAUL MCKAY

Service Director, Access & Public Protection

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Sarah Houlton, Team Manager Trading Standards & Community Safety x 72460 or Tony Shardlow, Community Safety Officer, Trading Standards & Community Safety x 73846.

Constitutional Comments (LM 25/06/15)

The Community Safety Committee has delegated authority within the Constitution to approve the recommendations in the report.

Financial Comments (KAS 25/06/15)

The financial implications are contained within paragraph 35 of 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)

- All

14th July 2015**Agenda Item: 7****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR FOR ACCESS AND PUBLIC
PROTECTION.****COMMUNITY SAFETY UPDATE****Purpose of the Report**

1. To update the Community Safety Committee about key Community Safety matters.

Information and Advice**The Control of Horses Act 2015.**

2. The Control of Horses Act 2015 received Royal Assent on 26 March 2015. This bill has been supported by a coalition of animal welfare charities and rural organisations, made up of the British Horse Society, Redwings Horse Sanctuary, RSPCA, World Horse Welfare, Blue Cross, CLA, Countryside Alliance, HorseWorld, Local Government Association and NFU.
3. The new law aims to tackle the increasing incidents of fly-grazing, where horses are left on private and public land without permission.
4. As with the Control of Horses Act (Wales), which came into effect in January 2014, the bill gives English authorities greater powers to seize horses grazing illegally. They will now be able to take action after four days rather than a minimum of two weeks, as previously.
5. In response to this new legislation an officer from the community safety team is working with district council officers to create a cross local authority protocol for dealing with fly grazing incidents, with a short term goal to identify key people within districts as a single point of contact for fly-grazing incidents.

Gypsy & Traveller Liaison Update

6. **Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month** - takes place every year in June and highlights the collective history, experiences and culture of the various Traveller communities. The event also aims to offset the negative stereotyping and prejudices that have led to the situation where The Children's Society reported (Nov 2007) that nearly 9 out of every 10 children and young people from a Gypsy background had suffered racial abuse and nearly

two thirds had also been bullied or physically attacked. Unfortunately, travelling communities still suffer from being subjected to racism.

7. In partnership with various schools the County Council is undertaking a pilot project with the following aims:
 - To challenge negative perceptions of the Gypsy Traveller communities
 - To support schools in the development of their spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development and British Values agenda
 - To promote tolerance of and respect for people of other cultures and lifestyles
 - To use Gypsy Traveller culture as a stimulus for creative writing (poetry competition)
 - To contribute to the Closing the Gap agenda (raising attainment in writing)
8. The project will be high profile, as it is the first of such for Nottinghamshire. We will be hosting a celebration event on 16th July, to include all participating schools.
9. Funding was agreed via the Safer Nottinghamshire Board Hate Crime Steering Group to show four performances of the play 'Crystals Vardo' performed by a drama company from Friends and Families and Travellers – (Brighton). These performances took place in schools in the Ollerton areas, and included secondary and feeder primary schools.
10. Funding was also accessed via the Community & Voluntary Sector team to support two other events during the month:
 - Renowned, Traveller Story teller, Richard O'Neill visited schools to stimulate creative writing, particularly poetry, supporting raising attainment.
 - A visiting traditional Gypsy wagon from Gordon Boswell's Romany Museum to stimulate creative writing and discussion about Gypsy Traveller culture.

“Respect & Tolerance” campaign

11. A Community Safety Officer is currently co-ordinating the “Respect and Tolerance” campaign across the county, which is scheduled to go live in September 2015. The aim is to have a co-ordinated response to engage children and young people in creative participation and give them a real voice and say in preventing bullying, hate crime and prejudice and promoting respect and tolerance across the county.
12. The work will contribute towards this year's national “Make a Noise about Bullying” campaign and provide the participation mechanism for children and young people to engage with the County Hate Crime campaign. The campaign will also link in to the Nottinghamshire High Sheriff's focus on Health and Emotional Well-being. The High Sheriff will help to champion these best practice projects at a local and national level.
13. Working with colleagues across other NCC departments (including Targeted Support, Supporting Families, Youth Arts and Achievement and Equality) and external partners, including the National Crime Beat winners from Merseyside MD Productions, this campaign, which is currently under development, will include a number of showcasing events and

projects over the next year. The first of which was the work with schools during Gypsy Traveller Month, outlined above. I will keep you updated as this campaign develops.

Review of Partnership Plus Areas and Improved Integrated Locality Working.

14. The Community Safety Team have been an integral part of the review team examining the impact of Partnership Plus Areas in the County and the associated project to look at how services can be improved by better integration between agencies and with communities.
15. The team has recommended, that for Partnership Plus Areas to be as effective as possible in the future they must be able to evidence robust partnership action plans, giving clear information on the problems/issues occurring in the area, the problems that are underlying these issues, good practice from elsewhere that could be used, and measurable actions and inputs that will be adopted to tackle the problems. They must also demonstrate how communities and local people have been part of the process, both in identifying the issues but also forming part of the solution.
16. Specifically this will include an approach that:-
 - Is local by default
 - Enables agencies to work together to solve problems
 - Promotes early intervention
 - Enables community engagement and empowerment
 - Develops a shared definition of neighbourhoods
 - Adopts a problem solving approach
 - Shares data and intelligence
 - Aligns budgets and resources
 - Offers a medium to long term commitment
17. The Team has been working with partners in the Community Safety Partnerships, via a series of workshops, to offer advice and guidance on the key elements of Retail/business crime, Performance and Evaluation and Consultation and Engagement. The workshops were designed to improve working methods within Partnership Plus Areas and to offer guidance to agencies on how to better integrate work in these key areas. As a result Partnership Plus Areas will now, better utilise local information and awareness, offer training to relevant Chairs and improve their reporting and accounting procedures, both to their Community safety partnership but also to the Police and Crime Commissioner, the County Council and their local communities.
18. Partnership Plus outcomes will now promote an approach that enables:-
 - Services that are designed around citizens
 - Early intervention
 - Joined up problem solving that highlights the real, rather than the perceived problem
 - Improved trust confidence and satisfaction by service users
 - A seamless service
 - Community empowerment
 - Reduced demand

- Increased efficiency and effectiveness
- Reduced threat, harm and risk

19. The Police and Crime Commissioner for Nottinghamshire has confirmed that funding from his office for Partnership Plus Areas (£300k) will remain in place until 31st March 2015. This committee has allocated £140k for Partnership Plus Areas during 2015/16. This review will ensure the most effective use of this funding. Further reports will be brought to this committee as the work develops further.

The National Rural Crime Network website and Crime Survey.

20. The National Rural Crime Network (NRCN) champions a better understanding of crime in rural areas, and new, effective ways to help to keep rural communities safer. The National Rural Crime website went live in May 2015 and can be accessed via: <http://www.nationalruralcrimenetwork.net>

21. The National Rural Crime Network (NRCN) is concerned with all crime and anti-social behaviour occurring in rural areas. This includes problems typically associated with the countryside such as wildlife and heritage crime, farm equipment and animal thefts. However, there have been very substantial increases in fraud and other scams, with criminals deliberately targeting isolated, vulnerable people.

22. This year the NRCN commissioned the biggest ever survey to uncover the true impact of policing and crime in rural areas. The survey, which closed on 24th June 2015, called for people who work or live in rural areas to come forward and give their views on policing in their community, the impact crime and ASB has on them and their neighbours and to ultimately help shape the future of crime prevention and rural policing.

23. An officer from the community safety team will be monitoring the NRCN website to help collate and implement good practice across the County, as well as monitoring the results of the crime survey.

Impact of the County Council Car Cruising Injunction

24. As previously reported, the Community Safety Team has taken a lead role in the development and implementation of a multi-site injunction to prevent car cruising in Nottinghamshire. This came into force in January 2015, and built on the success of an earlier injunction (2014) in Netherfield and Colwick.

25. Car cruising can be dangerous to both participants and spectators, and causes much annoyance and inconvenience for local communities. Car cruising can also have a substantial call on the staff and resources of the Council and partner agencies including the police, ambulance, and the fire and rescue service. The injunction, regarded as a model of good practice around the UK, prevents car cruising activity from taking place at known hot spot locations, namely:-

- Roads in and around Victoria Retail Park, Netherfield
- Roads in and around Junction 27 of the M1
- Roads in and around Chilwell Retail Park, Chilwell

26. The injunction has given out a clear message that car cruising, including racing, riding in convoy, driving at excessive speed and drifting (driving sideways around traffic islands etc.), will not be tolerated in Nottinghamshire. The Community Safety Team have been working collaboratively with Nottinghamshire Police and the Community Safety Partnerships to ensure that car cruising does not re-emerge across the County.
27. An example of the success of this approach, and the ongoing positive impact of the injunction has recently been seen in the locality of Junction 27, where more than 50 drivers were stopped by Police during a recent operation. Most of those stopped were reminded about the injunction in place in the area, and no further action was required.
28. However several motorists, who were driving in an anti-social manner, were issued with first breach injunctions – a final warning that their details were being recorded, and that they would face charges if they were found to be in breach of the injunction in the future. Once issued with the warnings, those motorists amended their behaviour.
29. In another example, a car enthusiast group organised an event on the 8 June 2015 in Chilwell for car owners to display their vehicles, inviting interested members of the public to come and view the vehicles. The event was organised to be held in the car park of a public house. As a result of the injunction, the organisers knew exactly how this event had to be organised to keep the public safe and to keep the event within the law.
30. The injunction also meant that partner organisations were clear about both their individual and collective roles and responsibilities. Approximately 60 vehicles were displayed and attracted good public attendance (an estimated 250 people). Nottinghamshire Police reported no significant incidents related to the event, and used the event as an opportunity to liaise and share relevant information with car enthusiasts.
31. The injunction continues to have a very positive impact on the prevention of car cruising within Nottinghamshire. Partners are keen to express their thanks to the County Council and the Community Safety Team for tackling this issue. The injunction remains in place until January 2018. The Community Safety Team will continue to ensure that it is utilised to maximum effect.

Connecting Communities (C2) Update

32. The Connecting Communities Partnership Steering group that is taking forward the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) funded approach to working with communities is holding a Listening Event on Saturday 11 July to hear from local residents in New Cross in Ashfield about what it is like to live in this area.
33. The Connecting Communities Steering Group is made up of local residents and partner organisations, including the Nottinghamshire County Council (Community Safety Team), Ashfield District Council and Nottinghamshire Police. On Saturday 18 July the Feedback Event will be held so that residents can hear the findings of the collated views expressed at the initial event and start to look at how best to work together on the issues raised.
34. This is the third area of the County where the Connecting Communities approach is being implemented; Hucknall and Daybrook have already held their events and are now

progressing the action plans that have been subsequently developed. For example the Steering Group in Hucknall have three action plans which cover highway issues, environmental issues and antisocial behaviour. Activities undertaken include litter picks and gardening tidying involving residents and organisations.

35. As previously reported C2 connects communities in 3 different ways:

- Within themselves – networks and co-operation amongst residents
- With local service providers – building a parallel ‘community’ amongst front-line workers
- With other C2 communities – getting and giving inspiration directly from one place to another

36. C2 works by harnessing the collective strengths of the people who live in a neighbourhood, the residents, together with the people who work there, the service providers, police officers, teachers, nurses, housing officers and others.

37. C2 is described as a cost effective way of reconnecting both local residents and frontline service providers to jointly improve health, well-being and local conditions in disadvantaged areas via the creation of a ‘People and Services Partnership’.

Other Options Considered

38. None

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

39. This report is a regular update to the Community Safety Committee to keep them abreast of local and national developments and our community safety work.

Statutory and Policy Implications

40. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) It is recommended that the Community Safety Committee notes the various development's in the areas of work contained within this report.

PAUL MCKAY
Service Director, Access & Public Protection

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Sarah Houlton, Team Manager Trading Standards & Community Safety x 72460 or Yvette Armstrong, Community Safety Officer, Trading Standards & Community Safety x 73058.

Constitutional Comments

As this report is for noting only, no constitutional comments are required.

Financial Comments

There are no financial implications contained within this 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:

- The Control of Horses Act 2015.
- National Rural Crime Network Survey (NRCN) 2015

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All

14 July 2015**Agenda Item: 8****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR FOR ACCESS AND PUBLIC
PROTECTION****ILLEGAL MONEY LENDERS OPERATING WITHIN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE****Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of the report is :
 - a. To update Committee on the County Council's existing arrangement with Birmingham City Council in respect of the England Illegal Money Lending Team.
 - b. To agree the attached "Protocol for Illegal Money Lending Team Investigations", and that authority be delegated to the Group Manager, Trading Standards and Community Safety to sign the agreement on behalf of Nottinghamshire County Council and approve minor alterations if required.

Information and Advice

2. The primary legislation governing the consumer credit industry is the Consumer Credit Act 1974 and the Financial Services Act 2012 in respect of matters concerned with the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000. The Trading Standards Service enforces this in each Local Authority area.
3. The Act is based on a licensing system and all consumer credit and consumer hire businesses operating in the UK (with certain exemptions) must possess an appropriate licence issued by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA). The FCA must be satisfied that an applicant for a Consumer Credit Licence is a fit and proper person before issuing that person with a licence to trade.
4. To operate a consumer credit business without being licensed is a criminal offence and carries a maximum penalty of £5,000 and/or up to two years imprisonment. Licences can be revoked where it can be established that the licensee has acted inappropriately. Warnings and conditions can be added to the licence where necessary. Illegal money lending covers a range of activities, from persons that are actually licensed but are acting unlawfully, to the extreme of a person offering cash loans without being licensed at all (Loan Sharks).
5. Loan Shark activity is characterised by deliberate criminal fraud and theft, with extortionate rates of interest on loans that mean borrowers face demands for payment of thousands of pounds more than they borrowed and can often never pay off the loans. Borrowers who fail

to pay or refuse to pay are subject to intimidation, theft, forced prostitution and other, extreme physical violence.

6. An Illegal Money Lending Team was established within Birmingham Trading Standards as a pilot project in England, one of only two in Great Britain; the other pilot area being Glasgow – covering Scotland. The remit of the team is to investigate illegal money lending activity, establish if a problem exists and, if so, bring to justice those persons carrying on this activity. The team is made up of highly experienced investigators with a broad range of backgrounds and investigative skills.
7. Research, funded by the Department of Business Innovation and Skills (BIS) and using information gathered by the Birmingham pilot project, has been published which identifies the extent of this type of activity as well as the reasons that people use illegal money lenders.
8. Funding for the project is provided from the Financial Inclusion Fund administered by the Treasury, and managed and governed by the National Trading Standards Board (NTSB). The Group Manager for Trading Standards and Community Safety is currently the East Midlands Board Member.
9. The team now covering England is hosted by Birmingham City Council and continues to provide a resource to investigate illegal money lending across England.
10. Birmingham was chosen to lead the new England team due to the perceived efficiencies associated with having just one national team. The team, although based in Birmingham, continues to operate the “parachute in and out model”, with a local presence through regional officers, this being the recommended option by research commissioned through Policis.
11. The benefit that this team can bring to Nottinghamshire is significant. The Trading Standards & Community Safety Service, although better placed than many, is not able to provide the level of specialist resource to provide this function. The existing arrangement is an excellent example of how sharing resources on specific issues can bring benefits otherwise unavailable in providing support to vulnerable consumers and tackling rogues.
12. **Key Statistics** - the Key statistics for the project up to March 2015:
 - Written off over **£64 million** of illegal debts (money victims would have paid back to illegal lenders if the Department had not acted)
 - Taken over **329** prosecutions.
 - Secured prison sentencing totalling over **214** years and also one sentence of indefinite length.
 - Assisted over **25** thousand victims, including showing them other sources of financial support.
 - Trained over **24** thousand front line staff to spot the signs of illegal lenders.
13. In addition to exceeding the expectations of the Government the project has also achieved significant added value, including partnership working with the Police, the Department of

Work and Pensions, Post Office Counter Fraud Unit, H M Revenue and Customs to facilitate a coordinated approach to tackling crime and disorder.

14. Objectives of the Project

15. Objective 1 - To obtain a clear understanding of the scale and impact of illegal money lending as well as learning lessons on the best way to enforce.

16. Evidence indicates that illegal moneylenders are widespread and prevalent. They operate in areas that have a high proportion of rented accommodation, and target the most vulnerable members of society. High rise flats are common premises targeted by loan sharks as legitimate lenders do not lend to people residing in this type of accommodation due to the health and safety risks for their collectors.
17. Evidence shows illegal moneylenders vary from those who lend £10 over a few days and demand £12 on repayment, to those who provide substantial loans to those looking to set up businesses. Interest rates range from 100% up to 117,000% APR in some instances.
18. Information gathered so far suggests that illegal money lending is being operated across all sectors of the community. The majority of people using moneylenders are in receipt of income support or benefits and are introduced through word of mouth. However evidence also suggests that money lenders operate within the wider community and the pilot has identified illegal money lending within the business community.
19. In many of the investigations it has been established that the moneylenders resort to intimidation and violence in order to secure payment. Other common traits include: adding indiscriminate charges, targeting single mothers and introducing payment through sexual favours.
20. Moneylenders often use victims of money lending to assist them with maintaining their criminal lifestyle and anonymity, for example illegal money lenders' vehicles are often registered at a clients' address.
21. There is also anecdotal evidence which suggests that illegal moneylenders have an impact on the wider community in which they operate, with victims resorting to petty crime to enable them to meet payments. Reducing the activities of illegal moneylenders or removing them altogether may therefore help to reduce levels of other criminal activity within a community.
22. With regard to enforcement activity the investigation of illegal money lending has proven to be very resource intensive. Target individuals need to be observed and monitored to determine their activity, to identify them and if possible establish their address. A significant proportion of targets are also what are termed "life style criminals", which means that evidence of other illegal activity can surface during the course of an investigation. This may not only involve other agencies but can also extend the life of an investigation, thereby adding to the pressure on resources.
23. **Objective 2 - To create a climate where victims can come forward – confident that prosecutions will be undertaken, and convictions obtained, without fear of reprisals.**

24. Effective branding and publicity of the pilot project has meant extensive promotion of the aims of the project and work of the team, within both the local and wider community. Evidence suggests that this has been achieved because it can be evidenced that victims are willing to contact the hotlines, and to provide further evidence to help achieve prosecutions.
25. The team has used injunctions, backed by the power of arrest under the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003, to remove lenders from their area of operation. Injunctions are reinforced with an agreement from the local police to flag the matter on their system and respond immediately if they receive a call from one of the victims.
26. **Objective 3 – To change the perception amongst those lending that illegal money lending is rarely prosecuted.**
27. A proactive media campaign is ongoing in those areas that have successfully targeted criminals. Engaging the media promotes the work of the team and raises public awareness.
28. **Objective 4 – To develop ways of replacing the removed lenders with more support for their victims.**
29. The Illegal Money Lending Team (IMLT) will help victims of illegal moneylenders with practical help and support through and in conjunction with the services of local Debt Advice Teams and the National Debtline. It has been noted that victims often need more than simple money advice and so face-to-face advice is considered the most helpful way forward and is the route normally adopted.
30. Links are also established with credit unions and their associations and where practicable these agencies are also called upon to provide help and advice. The IMLT offers money management to all victims of moneylenders who contact them for advice and assistance. Partnership working in this area is recognised as being essential in this area of service provision. This will be the key role of the LIAISE officers (Leads in awareness, intelligence, support and education).
31. **Delegation** - In order for Nottinghamshire to fully benefit from the project, Birmingham City Council requires formal delegation of functions to carry out the investigations etc. under the Act, and to prosecute any matters in the area.
32. The Authority has previously delegated the functions to Birmingham City Council, delegation being made by the Cabinet on 27th July 2011 - 2011/063.
33. In order to ensure clarity in respect of the operation of these arrangements, the attached draft protocol in **appendix one** sets out the processes and practices to enable Birmingham City Council and its officers to undertake investigations and legal procedures.
34. The delegation does not prevent Nottinghamshire Trading Standards and Community Safety Service from undertaking the function. Further the Authority can withdraw the Delegated Power at any time during the Term if it has good reason to do so.
35. **Other Options Considered**

36. To withdraw from the arrangement and carry out the work from resource within the Authority. A further option considered would be for Nottinghamshire Trading Standards Officers to accompany IMLT officers on operations within the area, and to prosecute the cases using County Council resources.

37. Reason/s for Recommendation/s

38. The continuing arrangement adds to the County Council's resources, and enables the Authority to have access to a team of highly trained experts from the IMLT.

39. This area of law enforcement requires specialist resource, expertise, techniques and facilities that the IMLT has in this distinct area.

40. Members of the IMLT include officers with high-level training and expertise in surveillance techniques as well as security operations. The team includes, amongst others, ex-police officers and security services personnel.

41. The approval of the draft protocol will support performance of the Authority's duty in relation to enforcement of the provisions of the Consumer Credit Act 1974 and the Financial Services Act 2012 in respect of matters concerned with the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 by Birmingham City Council.

Statutory and Policy Implications

42. 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.

Crime and Disorder Implications

43. Illegal moneylenders target low-income households and the most vulnerable members of society. This can mean that their activities have disproportionate implications for more deprived areas, and action taken against them supports priorities on tackling crime and disorder and protecting the more vulnerable members of the community. Illegal money lending has a serious detrimental effect on both individuals and the community. Tackling the root causes and providing legitimate alternative sources of credit will contribute to reducing stress and pressures on individuals and communities. Marginalising rogue traders creates an environment which supports and encourages legitimate credit providers and reduces the fear of crime.

Financial Implications

44. There are no financial implications for Nottinghamshire County Council as a result of this arrangement. All major costs will be funded by the Treasury. Any prosecutions will be undertaken by Birmingham City Council with no liability for costs to the Nottinghamshire.

Public Sector Equality Duty implications

45. It is often the poorer and more vulnerable members of society who become victims of illegal moneylenders and find it difficult to access appropriate support and help.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the committee:

- a. Notes the content of the report and the benefits of the existing arrangement with Birmingham City Council in respect of the investigation and prosecution of illegal money lending activity.
- b. Agrees the attached “Protocol for Illegal Money Lending Team Investigations”, and further delegates the authority to the Group Manager Trading Standards and Community Safety to sign the agreement on behalf of Nottinghamshire County Council, and approve minor alterations if required.

PAUL MCKAY

Service Director, Access and Public Protection

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments (SLB 29/06/2015)

46. Community Safety Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report.

Financial Comments (KAS 25/06/15)

47. The financial implications are contained within paragraph 44 of 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’

**DEPARTMENT FOR BUSINESS INNOVATION AND SKILLS (BIS)
ENGLAND ILLEGAL MONEY LENDING PROJECT**

**PROTOCOL FOR ENGLAND ILLEGAL MONEY LENDING SECTION
INVESTIGATIONS**

Interpretation

For the purposes of this Protocol –

“BCC” means Birmingham City Council

“NCC” means Nottinghamshire County Council Trading Standards

“IMLS” means the Illegal Money Lending Section

“Delegated Power” means the discharge of the function of the Enforcement of the Consumer Credit Act 1974, the enabling provisions within the Financial Services Act 2012 in respect of matters concerned with the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 granted to BCC by NCC in pursuance of section 101 and 222 of the Local Government Act 1972, Regulation 7 of the Local Authorities (Arrangements for Discharge of Functions) (England) Regulations 2012, sections 13 to 19 of the Local Government Act 2000 and any other legislation enabling the discharge

“Commencement Date” means the date the Delegated Power is granted

“Term” means from the date of signing of this protocol to 31st March 2018

“Birmingham Trading Standards” means Regulatory Services of BCC

“Nottinghamshire Contact Officer (NCCCO)” means the relevant person appointed by the Group Manager Trading Standards and Community Safety of NCC to liaise with the Head of Illegal Money Lending Section on matters relating to and in connection with the Illegal Money Lending Project

“Appropriate Contact Officer” means The Director of Regulation and Enforcement or the Head of Illegal Money Lending of Birmingham Regulation and Enforcement or any person nominated by the Council or authorised by them

1. Application

1.1 This Protocol applies to the DBIS / NTSB / HM Treasury funded 'Illegal Money Lending Project' and covers the following issues:-

- The conduct of investigations and associated working practices for the IMLS officers when conducting investigations or operating in Nottinghamshire County Council
- The mechanisms whereby Nottinghamshire County Council is updated on the progress of the project and any significant issue relating thereto.
- The exchange of intelligence and information between the IMLS and NCC
- The institution of legal proceedings.

2. Protocol

2.1 The purpose of this protocol is to facilitate the delegation of powers to BCC and officers employed within BCC's IMLS to enforce the provisions of the Consumer Credit Act 1974, to include matters in respect of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 within the area of Nottinghamshire County Council. The protocol encourages the exchange of information and a working partnership approach between BCC and NCC in relation to the Consumer Credit Act 1974.

2.2 This Protocol will come into force on the Commencement Date and terminates at the end of the Term.

2.3 Notwithstanding the terms and conditions of this Protocol, this Protocol does not prejudice the right of NCC to withdraw the Delegated Power at any time during the Term. However NCC undertakes not to withdraw the Delegated Power unless it considers there is good reason to do so. The Delegated Power is not to be unreasonably withdrawn by NCC.

3. The IMLS

3.1 It is recognised that officers in the IMLS will need authority to initiate and/or undertake investigations and/or the prosecution of potential offences falling within the scope of the 'Illegal Money Lending Project' where such potential offences fall entirely outside of the BCC boundaries. This protocol and also the Delegated Power is deemed to provide such authority to BCC and its officers regarding all matters.

3.2 The IMLS will comprise of a Head of Service and up to 55 staff directly employed by BCC. The Head of Illegal Money Lending Section will be responsible for the day-to-day operation and supervision of the IMLS.

3.3 The Head of Illegal Money Lending Section will report directly to the Director of Regulation and Enforcement or nominated officer as appropriate.

- 3.4 The Head of the Illegal Money Lending Section BCC will, when required, provide quarterly progress reports, from the Commencement Date, to the Group Manager Trading Standards and Community Safety of NCC giving details of investigations, (unless there is a significant risk that any such disclosure may jeopardise an investigation, such a decision is within the discretion of the Director of Regulation and Enforcement or Head of Trading Standards BCC) prosecutions being pursued or concluded and developments concerning or affecting the Illegal Money Lending Project in Template.
- 3.5 It is recognised that after Delegated Power is granted to BCC, all decisions concerning the pursuance of relevant investigations, decisions to prosecute and the laying of charges and/or information on such relevant matters within Template, shall be taken by BCC and in accordance with the relevant Code for Crown Prosecutors and BCC's Enforcement Policy.

4. Working Arrangements in the Nottinghamshire County Council Area

- 4.1 NCC will designate and appoint a Nottinghamshire County Council Contact Officer (NCCCO).
- 4.2 The Head of Illegal Money Lending Section will at any time the Head of Illegal Money Lending Section considers necessary and prudent, or at the request of the NCCCO, brief the NCCCO on any intelligence gathered, any progress made on investigations and/or prosecutions pending or otherwise, relating to or affecting Nottinghamshire and/or its residents.
- 4.3 Further to Clause 4.2 above, all reasonable steps will be taken by the Head of Illegal Money Lending Section to keep the NCCCO updated on the progress of investigations and enquiries being carried out in Nottinghamshire and any changes made or introduced by Government concerning the 'Illegal Money Lending Project'. It is incumbent on the Head of Illegal Money Lending Section to maintain regular dialogue/communication with the NCCCO.
- 4.4 The IMLS will have regular contact with the Police and other Government agencies. The Head of Illegal Money Lending Section will consult the NCCCO to identify any local arrangements, investigations and protocols before any investigation is commenced in pursuance of the 'Illegal Money Lending Project'. Wherever possible, the Head of Illegal Money Lending Section will actively involve the NCCCO and seek to develop close links between those agencies and BCC.
- 4.5 The Head of Illegal Money Lending Section will as soon as reasonably practicably inform the NCCCO of the outcome of any concluded prosecution proceedings conducted within Template.

- 4.6 BCC, where possible, will consult with NCC in good time before issuing any press release concerning any prosecution pursued by BCC pursuant to this Protocol.
- 4.7 Any contact with local government bodies, other police forces, credit unions or similar organisations that may be locally funded or may involve local sensitivities will be agreed with the NCCCO in advance. Upon being notified of an intention to contact such a body, Nottinghamshire County Council Trading Standards may arrange for one of their own officers to accompany the relevant officer of the IMLS on any visit.
- 4.8 Where the Head of Illegal Money Lending Section and the Group Manager Trading Standards and Community Safety of Nottinghamshire County Council agree that an officer or officers of Nottinghamshire County Council Trading Standards will be actively involved in an investigation, that officer will remain an employee of NCC but for the purpose of that investigation, will come under the control of the IMLS team manager. Such agreement will be subject to the Head of Illegal Money Lending Section being satisfied that the officer's or officers' participation will not compromise any investigation or endanger any member of the IMLT, supporting staff or witnesses, that the officer has the appropriate training and experience to undertake the task; and upon any other terms that the Head of Illegal Money Lending Section and the Group Manager Trading Standards and Community Safety of Nottinghamshire County Council consider necessary and/or appropriate.
- 4.9 Unless there is prior agreement with the Head of Illegal Money Lending Section for assistance in an investigation, which is accompanied by an official purchase order from BCC, no reimbursement will be made for time spent on activities supporting the 'Illegal Money Lending Project' or expenditure incurred by any NCC officer.
- 4.10 The exercise by BCC of these arrangements shall be at no cost to NCC
- 4.11 BCC shall have an Appropriate Contact Officer.
- 4.12 In the absence of the IMLS Head of Service, the role, duties, and responsibilities of the Head of Illegal Money Lending Section shall be discharged and carried out by the other Appropriate Contact Officers as nominated.

5. Referral of Information/Intelligence to the Project Team

- 5.1 It is recognised that the IMLS will rely on receiving information about Illegal Money Lender activities.
- 5.2 NCC will endeavour to provide as much relevant information and intelligence as reasonably and practicably possible to the IMLS concerning any investigation

being carried out within Nottinghamshire having regard to any statutory limitations/restrictions.

- 5.3 Information and intelligence will be provided by the NCCCO to the Head of Illegal Money Lending Section or a person designated by him/her.
- 5.4 BCC IMLS will not, as a matter of routine, investigate individual complaints received concerning alleged Illegal Money Lender activities. However, such complaints may be used by the IMLS as a source of intelligence.
- 5.5 BCC, IMLS and NCC agree to process personal data only in accordance with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998 and to disclose information only in accordance with the requirements of the Enterprise Act 2002.

6. Conduct and Control of Investigations

- 6.1 The conduct and control of all investigations undertaken and prosecutions by the IMLS in Nottinghamshire will be the responsibility of BCC. Investigations will be undertaken in line with the BCC's published Enforcement Policy and subject to the policies and procedures approved and adopted by Birmingham Trading Standards.
- 6.2 BCC will be responsible for all aspects of the investigations and responsibilities under the Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act 1996, Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000, the Data Protection Act 1998, the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Enterprise Act 2002.
- 6.3 BCC will be solely responsible for the Health and Safety of IMLS officers and any other officer or person within the direct management of the IMLS providing support and assistance in any investigation undertaken by the IMLT.
- 6.4 Where breaches of FSMA or the Consumer Credit Act 1974 are identified, action will be taken in accordance with the enforcement policy and procedures adopted by Birmingham Trading Standards.
- 6.5 When the Head of Service, IMLS BCC, recommends a prosecution under FSMA or the Consumer Credit Act 1974, if required, NCC will be provided with a copy of the relevant prosecution file, which will consist of a detailed case summary, schedule of issues, aggravating and mitigating factors, reasons justifying prosecution and any other material fact that NCC ought reasonably to be aware of. NCC will be invited to communicate any comments it considers appropriate and necessary concerning the intended prosecution to the Director of Regulation and Enforcement, the informant for BCC. Such comments will be given due attention and consideration by the informant for BCC.

7. Responsibilities and Actions of the Authorities

- 7.1 BCC shall be liable for the actions and competence of the persons employed within the IMLS and shall ensure that the IMLS shall comply with all legislative requirements and take all reasonable steps to ensure any actions taken are lawful and within the spirit of the protocol.
- 7.2 NCC shall be liable for the actions and competence of persons within its employ and shall take all reasonable steps to ensure the competence of those persons in carrying out their functions and that they comply with legislative requirements and the spirit of this protocol.
- 7.3 Information / intelligence provided between BCC and NCC shall be used for the purpose intended and shall not be divulged to third parties unless to do so would be lawful and in pursuant of an investigation / enquiry subject to this protocol.
- 7.4 BCC and NCC endorse a joined up working approach to the enforcement of the Consumer Credit Act 1974. The partners will attempt to promote consistency in enforcement. However, this protocol does not attempt to restrict the powers of authorised officers of the IMLS or BCC from discharging their duties, as appropriate.

Commencement date: 2015

Signed

Mark Walker
Group Manager Trading Standards and Community Safety
Nottinghamshire County Council

Signed

Jacqui Kennedy
Director of Regulation and Enforcement
Birmingham City Council

14 July 2015**Agenda Item: 9****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR FOR ACCESS AND PUBLIC
PROTECTION****UPDATE ON KEY TRADING STANDARDS MATTERS****Purpose of the Report**

1. To update the Committee on key Trading Standards matters.

Information and Advice

2. **Business Development and Income Generation Manager** – I am pleased to report that recruitment to this post, the creation of which was agreed by the Committee, has now taken place. Chris Elgenia has been successful, and brings a mix of private sector and public sector experience to the Service. Chris started with the Authority on 25th June.
3. **Primary Authority** - Councillor's Gilfoyle and Grice recently met senior legal representatives from both Boots and Wilkinson, to explore how Primary Authority partnerships with the Service are working, what value they are in helping their businesses to grow, and how we can improve in meeting the needs of business. Both businesses were very positive about the relationships in place, and have agreed to come to a future meeting to provide insight to all of the Committee.
4. **Regional "Scambusters" Team – Operation Summit** The sentencing of the 6 defendants involved in a fraudulent roof coating and building work business took place in Crown Court on 12th June. The fraud spanned not only the East Midlands, but also South Yorkshire, Cambridgeshire and Norfolk. The prosecution case contained evidence from 97 victims, predominantly older adults, with the financial detriment alone totalling almost £230,000. There is likely to have been many, many more victims who never came forward.
5. The work carried out was at the best shoddy, and at it's worst, non-existent, leaving victims significantly out of pocket, and in many cases, very upset and distressed.
6. The two ringleaders, Tyrone St John Beard and Marcus Reading, both from Tuxford received 6½ and 4½ year prison sentences respectively. The salesman, Mohammed Ditta of Bradford, received 3 years in prison. The workers, Simon Davis, Michael Sean Sumner both of Tuxford, and Christopher Russell of Kirkby-in-Ashfield, all received 18 month prison sentences.

7. Judge Hamilton described the ringleader Beard as a “bullying fraudster” who had no doubt set the fraud up with Reading. He said the scheme was dishonest from the outset, and had been designed to get in as much money as possible. The sentence shows how seriously the Courts view individuals who target older and vulnerable people in such a way.
8. The Proceeds of Crime Act timetable in respect of the case was also set by the Court. The first call for any monies confiscated as a result of this criminal activity will used be to help compensate victims for at least some of their losses.
9. The case has attracted much media attention, both local and national, and in printed and broadcast formats. Apart from local newspapers and regional news programmes, an item on the subject appeared during the BBC One Show, whilst an article also featured in the Daily Mirror.
10. Following sentencing, officers have written to witnesses to inform them of the outcome. Two of the responses have included:
 - *“I’m glad they got their deserves. I would have mended my roof sooner but I thought I would be breaking my contract. It has just cost me 800 pounds to repair the damage done”*
 - *“Thank you for your recent letter...I had wondered what had happened to them....A pity that they got off so lightly.”*
11. **Approved Trader Service Provider** – it is pleasing to report that the procurement process to find a new partner to deliver a Trading Standards approved scheme has now been completed, and the contract has been signed with a private sector partner. The new Service provider is Vetted Limited, which trades under the name of ‘Checkatrade’.
12. The new scheme will provide a directory of businesses that have undergone a series of checks by both Checkatrade and Trading Standards. Customer reviews displayed on the internet are also key to ensuring the high quality of tradespeople on the scheme.
13. The aims of the scheme are to protect consumers from problem traders, to promote local businesses, and to help those businesses grow. The increased use of vetted traders, who are members of the scheme, will not only benefit both local businesses and the local economy, but will also reduce the detrimental impact of rogue traders by driving them out of the market.
14. The new partnership will bring many benefits to the Authority, businesses and it’s residents:
 - Market leading scheme provider, with high levels of brand recognition and expertise;
 - High levels of promotion in local and national media, of the scheme and members;
 - A range of membership options and associated cost for businesses;
 - A range of other ancillary benefits available to members;
 - High quality website for consumers and businesses providing real time information - www.checkatrade.com
 - Reduced costs of running such a scheme to the County Council;

- Long term exclusive contract signed, giving both parties the confidence to invest and commit fully to the partnership; and
 - Potential to attract income into the County Council.
15. Work will now be carried out to make the transition from the old Buy with Confidence scheme to the new provider as seamlessly as possible. There will also be a programme developed in order to promote the new scheme to both businesses and consumers.
16. **Safeguarding the Vulnerable** – the Service continues to intervene to protect our more vulnerable residents. Two recent examples include are below.
- An elderly gentleman had entered into a contract with a known doorstep criminal. He paid a £400 deposit for the supply and installation of windows, the remainder to be paid on delivery. On realising the trader's criminal record, the gentleman approached the Service. With support, the resident negotiated delivery of the windows, paying only a small additional sum directly to the window manufacture for delivery. He has now arranged for a reputable tradesman to install the windows.
 - Officers recently intervened to assist a resident being pressurised by a trader. She agreed to driveway work, but had not been given any paperwork or cancellation rights notice by the trader. The amount of work escalated beyond that she felt she had agreed to, and the lady was most concerned as nothing was recorded in writing. Our officers are currently negotiating on the resident's behalf.
17. **New Psychoactive Substances/New Drugs (NPS):** the Psychoactive Substances Bill was introduced in the Queen's Speech in June, and is already progressing through the House of Lords. The bill is based on the similar legislation in Eire, and proposes the blanket banning of such substances.
18. The Bill creates new criminal offences to produce, supply, offer to supply, possess with intent to supply, import and export psychoactive substances. The Bill focuses on supply, and as such does not include a personal possession offence. The maximum sentence, on conviction on indictment, would be seven years' imprisonment
19. Due to the nature of the market, the proposed definition of psychoactive substance has been drawn very wide, covering any substance consumed for psychoactive effect. Substances, such as food, alcohol, tobacco, caffeine and medicines would then be excluded from the scope of the offence, as would be controlled drugs which it is suggested would continue to be regulated by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.
20. Apart from the creation of criminal offences, the Bill also proposes the creation of civil sanctions, introducing prohibition notices and orders, and premises notices and orders. The breach of such orders would also be a criminal offence. This would enable local authorities, police forces and Border Force to take proportionate action to stop the supply of such substances.

21. The Bill also provides bespoke powers to seize and destroy the substances, and powers to search persons, premises and vehicles, as well as to enter premises by warrant if necessary.
22. The Bill will proceed through the various parliamentary stages over the next six months. Subject to parliamentary approval, it is anticipated that implementation will be in the spring of April 2016.
23. **Rabies Controls** - All pet animals imported from the European Union into this country must have been vaccinated against rabies. Two further cases of illegally landed animals have recently been dealt with by the Service.
- The first case concerned a dog that had not effectively been vaccinated against rabies, in that it was too young for the vaccine to be fully effective. This animal was taken into quarantine.
 - In the second case, a litter of 4 pups were identified that had been imported without the correct passport documentation, and also again suspected of being too young for a rabies vaccination to be fully effective. The puppies were sold via an address in Nottinghamshire – the relevant authorities have been informed. The location of one has been traced and this has been quarantined. Although illegally imported, the animals did not transpire to have the disease.
24. **Legal Action Update 2nd June** - Eight defendants pleaded guilty in the Nottingham Crown Court to a number of different charges under the Fraud Act 2006, the Companies Act 2006 and the Legal Service Act 2007. The eight were found to be mis-selling trust documents to older and vulnerable adults, claiming that the documents would ring-fence their properties against having to pay for care home fees. Sentencing of the eight took place on the 13th and 15th Of May 2015.
25. The three main defendants were given prison sentences, with one defendant receiving a 4½ years prison sentence, and two more being sentenced to 4 years. The so called legal consultant and four salespeople were also all given suspended prison sentences, and ordered to complete unpaid work of 200 hours. One individual was given a curfew order for six months. A Proceeds of Crime hearing is listed for the 28th September 2015.
26. During sentencing, His Honour Judge Hamilton commended a number of officers from the Service for their work in bringing to justice the defendants. They have all subsequently received letters of commendation. Judge Hamilton stated:

"I would like to congratulate and commend all those people involved in the investigation. The amount of papers involved in this case has been enormous and it has involved a lot of teamwork and a lot of investigation. There has been people involved in the backrooms, putting together files and evidence against the Defendants. The reality is but for the work of all these people, the Defendants would have not been brought to justice."

27. On the 14th May 2015, Khalid Abdulla of the European Food Store, Mansfield appeared in the Mansfield Magistrates Court, he pleaded not guilty to possession of illicit tobacco. His trial is listed for the 7th August 2015.
28. Fredrick Newbury was due to appear in the Nottingham Crown Court on the 20th February 2015. He has pleaded guilty to a number of charges, and is awaiting sentencing. Newbury had been carrying out substandard work, been aggressive towards some customers, and had falsely claimed on paperwork to be approved by Trading Standards. Newbury continues not to attend court due to ill health, but letters have now been submitted to court by his General Practitioner, and the hospital currently treating him. The matter has again been moved to the 6th July 2015 for an update - the matter was due to be deferred for six months, but Newbury has not been well enough to consult with counsel.
29. Paul and Peter Dye appeared in the Nottingham Crown court on the 20th May 2015. They have pleaded guilty to the sale of illicit tobacco in shops at Stapleford and Netherfield on two separate occasions. They are due to be sentenced on the 31st July 2015.
30. On the 21st May 2015 in the Mansfield Magistrates Court, Luqman Ahmed and Sam Ahmed of Kubus Mini Market, Worksop, pleaded guilty to the sale and possession of illicit cigarettes. The cigarettes had also been tested and found to be unsafe, in that they would not self-extinguish if left unattended. Luqman Ahmed the owner of the shop was fined £1000. Sam Ahmed, a shop employee, was fined £200.
31. Edris Zadeh of Bierdronka, Sutton in Ashfield appeared in the Mansfield Magistrates court on the 11th June 2015 he pleaded to two charges of possession of illicit tobacco but pleaded not guilty to a third charge. The matter is now listed for trial on the 7th September 2015.
32. Maher Ali of the European Food Store, Mansfield, also appeared on the 11th June 2015 at Mansfield Magistrates Court, and pleaded guilty to possession of counterfeit cigarettes and possession of dangerous cigarettes that would not self-extinguish. He was sentenced to 28 days in prison on one charge and a further 7 days custody for the second charge.
33. Dana Mira of Hucknall Mini market is due to appear in the Nottingham Magistrates court on the 23rd June 2015 for a first hearing. He is being charged for the supply of illicit tobacco.

34. Other Options Considered

35. None.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

36. This is an information report.

Statutory and Policy Implications

37. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

38. This report contains no additional financial implications, with activity reported or that proposed being contained within existing service budget.

RECOMMENDATION/S

1) It is recommended that the Community Safety Committee notes the updates from the previous meeting and the various developments in the areas of work contained in the report.

PAUL MCKAY

Service Director, Access and Public Protection

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Mark Walker
Group Manager, Trading Standards and Community Safety
Tel: (01623) 452 070
Email: mark.walker@nottsc.gov.uk

Constitutional Comments

39. As this report is for noting only, Constitutional Comments are not required.

Financial Comments (KAS 25/06/15)

40. The financial implications are contained within paragraph 38 of 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'

14 July 2015**Agenda Item: 10****REPORT OF CORPORATE DIRECTOR, POLICY, PLANNING AND
CORPORATE SERVICES****WORK PROGRAMME****Purpose of the Report**

1. To consider the Committee's updated work programme for 2014/15.

Information and Advice

2. The County Council requires each committee to maintain a work programme. The work programme will assist the management of the committee's agenda, the scheduling of the committee's business and forward planning. The work programme will be updated and reviewed at each pre-agenda meeting and committee meeting. Any member of the committee is able to suggest items for possible inclusion.
3. The attached work programme has been drafted in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, and includes items which can be anticipated at the present time. Other items will be added to the programme as they are identified.

Other Options Considered

4. None.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

5. To assist the committee in preparing its work programme.

Statutory and Policy Implications

6. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, public sector equality duty, 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/S

- 1) That the committee's work programme be noted, and consideration be given to any changes which the Committee wishes to make.

Jayne Francis-Ward
Corporate Director, Policy, Planning and Corporate Services

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Keith Ford, Team Manager - Democratic Services

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Tel: 0115 9772590

Constitutional Comments (SLB)

7. The Committee has authority to consider the matters set out in this report by virtue of its terms of reference.

Financial Comments (NS)

8. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

Background Papers

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.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE - WORK PROGRAMME

<u>Report Title</u>	<u>Brief summary of agenda item</u>	<u>Lead Officer</u>	<u>Report Author</u>
29 September 2015			
Mobility Awareness Training	Update on the Mobility Awareness Training.	Paul McKay	Steve Jennings-Hough
Update on Temporary Project Manager – Income Generation post in Trading Standards and Community Safety	Update report requested by Committee on 6 January 2015	Paul McKay	Mark Walker
Update on key Trading Standards matters	Update on key issues in this service area.	Paul McKay	Mark Walker
Update on key Community Safety matters	Update on key issues in this service area.	Paul McKay	Sarah Houlton
Update on Emergency Management and Registration Services	Update report on key activities and events in Emergency Planning and Registration	Paul McKay	Rob Fisher
Update on the work of the Community and Voluntary Sector Team	Further update from this team, following the update to Committee on 6 January 2015.		
10 November 2015			
Update on key Trading Standards matters	Update on key issues in this service area.	Paul McKay	Mark Walker
Update on key Community Safety matters	Update on key issues in this service area.	Paul McKay	Sarah Houlton
Update on Emergency Management and Registration Services	Update report on key activities and events in Emergency Planning and Registration	Paul McKay	Rob Fisher
Impact of the reduction in Police and Community Support Officers	Report requested at Committee of 2 June 2015	Paul McKay	Sarah Houlton

