



23 April 2013

Agenda Item: 6

**REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR,
POLICY, PLANNING AND CORPORATE SERVICES**

COMMUNITY SAFETY UPDATE

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to inform members of recent community safety activities undertaken by the Community Safety Team.

Information and Advice

Crime and Antisocial Behaviour

2. Development of Alcohol and Substance Misuse implementation plans across the county focus on reducing the harm caused by alcohol and substance misuse. These implementation plans will develop specific actions in tackling binge drinking, alcohol fuelled crime, violence and anti social behaviour.
3. The Community Safety Team has been heavily involved in the following initiatives, which have recently been commended by the National Crimebeat Awards 2012/13. Sponsored by the High Sheriff's Association of England and Wales the initiatives are:
 - I Pledge to Keep on Track (working with the National Centre for Citizenship and Law, Experian and the Police to reduce anti social behaviour and promote good citizenship)
 - In Our Hands Project (working with the Holocaust Centre at Laxton, Mansfield and Bassetlaw District Councils to reduce hate crime and improve community cohesion)
 - Ashfield schools participated in a Dragon's Den Style competition. Student teams (14yrs) invited to produce a lesson plan for delivery to younger students (10-11yrs) about cyber bullying and e-safety.

4. The I Pledge to Keep on Track Project also succeeded in being formally accredited by the LASER (Learning About Safety by Experiencing Risk) Alliance, which is part of RoSPA (Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents).

Hate/Mate crime

5. The term 'Mate Crime' is used by some disability organisations to raise awareness. People with learning disabilities are often befriended by people who then exploit them by groups and individuals who pretend to be friends but who are really taking advantage of people.
6. The County Council is working with partners from Adult Safeguarding, Nottingham Trent University, Nottinghamshire Police, MENCAP and Nottingham City Housing to develop a range of training initiatives to tackle the growing problem of 'Mate Crime'. Working with a national learning disability charity Action for Real Change (ARC), partners are developing a training programme for use with schools, front line staff and bespoke groups of specialist staff who are in a position to tackle this aspect of disability hate crime.

Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) Steering Group

7. The Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) is part of a coordinated response to domestic abuse. Nottinghamshire's MARAC Steering Group meeting has been re-established to ensure the effective running of this multi-agency case management approach to high risk domestic violence cases. Areas for development include establishing 'single point of contact' arrangements within referring agencies to ensure that cases heard at the MARAC meetings are appropriate.

Domestic Violence Support Services.

8. Domestic violence support services have been successfully commissioned to two main providers covering the North and South parts of Nottinghamshire. This was in response to the Overview Committee Review of Domestic Violence 2011 and has improved quality and allowed partners to link more effectively with the specialist services.
9. Whilst the volume of domestic abuse reported to the police continues to be high, 95% of calls are first time reporters demonstrating success at reaching victims in need and resolving issues quickly in the vast majority of cases. The persistent problems experienced by repeat callers are of concern, and officers are working with the Police, Probation Service and the Community Safety Partnerships to strengthen the response to these victims and improve the management of known offenders.
10. There has been considerable interest from the Nottinghamshire Health and Well-Being Board to develop services for adults and children affected by domestic violence. It is now clearly evidenced and recognised that early identification and support can reduce long term health costs and reduce crime. As Public Health is now part of the County Council there are opportunities for closer links

between community safety and health services. Evidence of this can be seen in Mansfield and Ashfield where approximately £89,000 has been agreed for support services for victims of domestic violence disclosing to GPs.

11. A new performance framework to measure the quality and impact of partnership responses to domestic violence is due to be published by the Safer Nottinghamshire Board in June 2013. This will go more deeply into the available data in order to measure the two contrasting objectives to:
 - Increase disclosure and reports to the Police of hidden crime and abuse
 - Reduce the overall volume and severity of domestic violence and abuse

District approaches to working with vulnerable people and the role of NCC services.

12. Each district has established its own approach to working with people who are vulnerable to a number of issues including anti-social behaviour; hate crime and medium risk domestic violence. Since these arrangements were established there have been a number of developments at County Council level including the introduction of the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and the Supporting Families initiative. The Community Safety Team are now undertaking development work to ensure that these services work effectively with the district arrangements to ensure a clear pathway for how we work together to support victims.

Smoke Alarms

13. County Council staff are helping older and disabled people to keep safe by checking their smoke alarms. With British Summertime beginning on 31st March, Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service have been encouraging people to check their smoke alarm when they change their clocks. Staff from the meals at home team and home care service, who regularly visit older and disabled people, will now ask them if they want their smoke alarm testing. And if any vulnerable people do not have a smoke alarm, they will inform them how to get one fitted for free.

For more information about the Fire Service campaign visit: <http://www.notts-fire.gov.uk/2F1123C5E487401EA83302F9706C52FF.asp>

For information about free home safety checks: <http://www.notts-fire.gov.uk/F340B91E84024396956F429B5344DE4B.asp>

Statutory and Policy Implications

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

Recommendation

- 1) Members are asked to note this report

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Background Papers

Safer Nottinghamshire Board's County Strategic Assessment 2013

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.