

**30 September 2014****Agenda Item: 7****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR FOR ACCESS AND PUBLIC  
PROTECTION****COMMUNITY SAFETY UPDATE****Purpose of the Report**

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

**Rural Crime Conference 2014**

2. The cost of organised rural crime is high; an estimated £50 million to £70 million worth of plant and agricultural machinery is stolen nationally every year. Only five per cent of this stolen property is ever recovered. Rural buildings are often seen as an easy target due to restricted street lighting and their isolated locations.
3. Following on from the success of the 2013 Rural Crime conference and associated campaign, a date has been agreed for the 2014 Rural Crime conference which will be held at The Agricultural Machinery Show on 12 and 13 November 2014 at the Newark Show Ground. This work is supported by a contribution of £3,300 from the Community Safety Initiatives Budget. The Police lead for Rural Crime is leading on the planning of this event with support provided by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and our Community Safety Team.

**Stonewall Education Equality Index**

4. The Stonewall Education Equality Index is a comprehensive annual benchmarking exercise for local authorities from across the country, showcasing how well they are tackling homophobia and homophobic bullying in their schools.
5. This year's index has been the most competitive to date with 45 local authorities taking part which is the highest number of participants ever. The most improved local authority is Nottinghamshire County Council in achieving 13<sup>th</sup> position, rising from 35<sup>th</sup> in 2013.

**Hate Crime Conference**

6. Our Community Safety Officer, who leads on Hate Crime and supports the Safer Nottinghamshire Board's Hate Crime champion, attended a free national Hate

Crime conference in Leicester on 5th September. The conference outlined the key findings and recommendations from the Leicester Hate Crime Project including:

- victims describing their experiences of hate crime
- a Hate Crime 'Question Time' panel featuring campaigners and senior criminal justice practitioners.

7. The key learning from the conference will be valuable to inform Nottinghamshire's strategic approach to tackling Hate Crime in the future.

### **Antisocial Behaviour (ASB): Community Triggers & Positive Requirements**

8. From the 20 October 2014 the Antisocial Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 will give victims and communities the right to request a review of their case and bring agencies together to take a joined up, problem-solving approach to find a solution. Within the Act this is referred to as the "Community Trigger". The threshold for the trigger is to be defined by local agencies but the Home Office has determined that it should not be more than three complaints in the previous six month period, and may also take account of:

- the persistence of the anti-social behaviour
- the harm or potential harm caused by the anti-social behaviour
- the adequacy of response to the anti-social behaviour.

9. Currently across Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire work is taking place to consider not just the level at which to set the threshold but also the mechanism that will be utilised when a request is received, including considering who will actually receive this request.

10. Our lead officer for Antisocial Behaviour is involved in discussions with the three Community Safety Partnerships in the county and early indications are that they are likely to follow the Home Office minimum recommended threshold.

11. It is recommended that Nottinghamshire County Council support the adoption of the minimum threshold at this stage with a clear review date of both the threshold and the mechanisms for responding to calls a year following commencement. A review following a year is recommended as the threshold takes account of complaints in the last six months and victims have a month following the actual incident to report, so it could be seven months before activation is requested unless historical instances are considered.

12. A 'Positive Requirements' workshop took place at the Galleries of Justice on the 3<sup>rd</sup> September with representatives from County Community Safety Partnerships. The new Positive Requirements orders allow not just prohibitions on antisocial behaviour perpetrators but also positive requirements to get people to address the underlying causes of their behaviour. At the workshop key stakeholders looked at what positive requirements are likely to be needed and identifying where services exist to deliver these and also where there are gaps and issues that require further exploration.

## **Proposed Minimum Standards for Vulnerable Persons Panels (VPP's)**

13. For some years now each district has had in place multi-agency panel based arrangements for dealing with vulnerable people, developed to reflect the particular circumstances of the area served. In most areas this is known as the Vulnerable Persons Panel (VPP). These meetings 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 any relevant information about a case and then to ensure appropriate interventions and problem solving plans are in place and are being delivered
14. Following on from the Vulnerable Persons Panels Review event in April our officers worked with police colleagues to draft a report to present the findings of the review.
15. Following discussions with the Chairs of all the Vulnerable Person Panels (VPPs) across the County a set of minimum standards for VPPs was proposed at the Safer Nottinghamshire Board on the 5 September 2014. It is intended that through these minimum standards further accountability will be built into VPP structures that will ensure continued effectiveness of these meetings and also provide a clear pathway for raising issues that impact on this effectiveness to secure a resolution. The areas covered by the minimum standards include membership, data sharing, accountability and performance management.

## **Review of Neighbourhood Watch**

16. Commencing October 2014 the Service will lead a short multi-agency review of Nottinghamshire Neighbourhood Watch "Nottswatch". The working group, which also includes colleagues from Nottinghamshire Police, Nottingham City Council and Nottswatch, will consider a number of issues including the organisation, administration, resourcing and promotion of Neighbourhood Watch schemes and how to make best use of new technologies. The group will consider what can be learned from successful Neighbourhood Watch schemes elsewhere and report back their findings to the Nottswatch Advisory Group in December 2014.

## **Adult Community Drugs and Alcohol (Substance Misuse) Recovery contract**

17. On the 12 June 2014, following a successful tender process the Public Health Committee endorsed the award of the Adult Community Drugs and Alcohol (Substance Misuse) Recovery contract to Crime Reduction Initiatives (CRI). As a result of the new contract award the people of Nottinghamshire will benefit from improved substance misuse services. The new contract will ensure evidence-based, results-focussed and consistent services are put in place across the County. They will place a focus on long-term recovery, helping more people successfully through the system and out the other side, which will in turn ease the burden on the system, reduce crime and help bring more people back into work.
18. This work has been done in conjunction with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. The commissioning of these services will cost approximately

£10million per year, delivering the Council value for money by also contributing £3m savings by 2017/18. The officers of the Council are now working with the new provider to mobilise services in readiness for a 1 October 2014 start date.

### **High Sheriff National Crimebeat Awards 2014-15**

19. A Community Safety Officer will support the new High Sheriff Graham Cartledge with the National Crimebeat Awards 2014-2015. This is the third year the Community Safety Team have assisted the High Sheriff with the co-ordination of the County submissions for the National award scheme. The awards have led to several locally established projects being showcased at a National level, including Dragons Den Style Project, "I Pledge to Keep On Track" Youth Crime Prevention Programme and "In Our Hands" project. This year the High Sheriff's special interest is in how sporting initiatives in the community can support the most under privileged children and young people and make a positive difference.

### **County Wide Best Bar None Scheme**

20. A Community Safety Officer and a Trading Standards Officer will represent the Authority on a new project board established to implement the county wide roll out of the Best Bar None Scheme. Funding for an initial three year period has been secured from the Police and Crime Commissioner, County Council and the Licensed trade. The Scheme also features in the County Wide Local Alcohol Action Area (LAAA) and is supported by the Home Office, Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) and the British Institute of Innkeeping.
21. Best Bar None (BBN) is a national award scheme, supported by the Home Office and created by Manchester Police Force, which aims to reduce alcohol related crime and disorder by raising the standards of the licensed premises. The scheme rewards licensees who provide good management, a safe and enjoyable environment for customers, discourage binge drinking and prevent alcohol related crime. The Home Office and Police statistics show a 10 – 48% reduction in violent crime against a person in areas where BBN operates. This is in addition to an estimated saving to the NHS based on the current number of schemes of over £35 billion as a result of the reported one in four patients who attend A&E having consumed alcohol or having been assaulted by someone who was drunk. Further updates on the progress of the roll out of the scheme will be brought to future meetings.

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

22. This report is a regular update to the Community Safety Committee to keep them abreast of developments in our community safety work. Our understanding is that authorities are generally adopting the Home Office recommended minimum threshold for Community Triggers.

### **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:**

24. It is recommended that Committee:

- i. notes the various developments in the areas of work contained within this report
- ii. supports the adoption of the minimum threshold of three complaints for the Community Trigger, with an annual review.

## **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
- Yvette Armstrong, Community Safety Officer, Trading Standards & Community Safety x 73058.

## **Constitutional Comments**

25. Constitutional comments are not required as this report is for noting only.

## **Financial Comments (KAS 22/09/14)**

26. There are no financial implications contained with this report.

## **Background Papers**

- 'None'.

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

- 'All'.