

21st April 2015**Agenda Item: 11****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**Rural Crime Conference**

2. One of the Council's community safety officers will be attending the Association of Chief Police Officers Rural Crime Conference on 15th April 2015, which is to be held at the National Motorcycle Museum, Birmingham.
3. The focus of this year's conference will look at areas of good practice in respect of education, prevention, detection and prosecution alongside the important role that modern technology can play to assist in providing more efficient and effective service delivery.
4. Members will be briefed on the outcome of this event and how relevant actions can be implemented across Nottinghamshire's rural communities.

Nottinghamshire Police & Crime Commissioner: Community Safety Budget 2014/15

5. The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) offered £1.3m funding to deal with community safety in the County in 2014/2015. This funding is routed through the Safer Nottinghamshire Board and is managed, co-ordinated and controlled by the Community Safety Team. A member of that team offered advice and guidance to the Safer Nottinghamshire Board on the most impactful and effective use of this funding, informed by relevant data and evidence gathered over five years. This included crime statistics, demographic breakdowns, social issues and health data. From this advice and guidance, the Safer Nottinghamshire Board agreed that the £1.3m funding would be utilised in a mix of locality and thematic projects:-

Locality Working – Partnership Plus Areas (£369,000)

6. 18 Partnership Plus Areas (PPAs) were identified across the County. These were the areas where a combination of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour (ASB) levels, when combined with local concerns and issues, highlighted a need to prioritise the actions and work of all agencies. In addition to the £369,000 from the Police Crime Commissioner (PCC), On the 29th April 2014, this Committee agreed a contribution of £140,000 towards this work.
7. The Community Safety Team manages the production of a detailed, costed action plan for each of the PPAs by the Community Safety Partnerships in the County and leads on the monitoring and evaluation of these plans to ensure that each of the plans are implemented, actioned, evaluated and if necessary amended to ensure they remain relevant, impactful and fit for purpose.

- **Thematic – (£93,000)**

8. Thematic work areas for 2014-2015 were those designed to tackle:-

• Substance Misuse	£633,000
• Hate Crime	£35,000
• Domestic Violence	£35,000
• Reducing Re-offending	£10,000
• Restorative Justice	£50,000
• Youth Issues	£168,000
9. As with “Locality Working” above, our community safety officers manage the production of a detailed, costed action plan for each of the themed work areas and lead on the monitoring and evaluation of these plans to ensure that each of the plans are implemented, actioned and evaluated. In addition they have also introduced and provided direct support to a “Champion” for all of the areas except that of Restorative Justice (which is supported from within the office of the PCC).
10. For each of the other thematic work areas the Community Safety Team ensure that the designated Champion (a senior manager, typically at Chief Executive Level) is facilitated to undertake their responsibilities to tackle their particular thematic work area.
11. As a result of this programme of work the £1.3m funding from the PCC towards Community Safety in the County has been fully utilised and achieved a full spend for 2014/2015. The Community Safety Team has ensured that this funding, and the initiatives/projects it enables complement and add value to other significant work areas, including Supporting Families.

Nottinghamshire Police & Crime Commissioner: Community Safety Budget 2015/16.

12. Community safety officers have been in discussions with the PCC to agree the proposed allocation of funding for 2015/2016. Indications are that this will be approximately £1.2m. Following advice from officers, the Safer Nottinghamshire Board has again agreed that the

funding be split between locality and thematic work, prioritising thematic work areas including Substance Misuse, Vulnerable People, Hate Crime, Domestic Violence and Youth Issues.

13. Locality work is currently the subject of a major review commissioned by the Safer Nottinghamshire Board. This review is due for completion later in 2015 and will make recommendations for introducing and improving effective locality working within the resource constraints now faced by all agencies.
14. One of the community safety officers is a key member of this review team, which reports directly to the Chief Executive of the County Council. Until the findings of the review have been finalised it is intended that the current 18 PPAs remain in operation until 30 September 2015, at which time they will be reviewed.
15. The Community Safety Team will manage both thematic and locality working in 2015/2016 as before. They will take every opportunity to explore the potential for any match/additional funding for the £1.2m. This would include a contribution of £25,000 from the PCC to the County Council Community Safety Budget to reflect the contribution of the Community Safety Team to the management of this funding.

Police and Crime Commissioner – Community Safety Fund 2015/2016

16. The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) recognises that small community groups have a significant role to play in increasing public safety and improving the quality of life. Accordingly, £250,000 of the budget of the PCC for 2015/2016 has been allocated to activate a “Community Safety Fund” to provide financial support to third sector organisations whose remit is to turn people away from a life of offending and support those who find themselves a victim.
17. The Fund is designed to invest into local grassroots schemes which aim to make a difference and help our residents to live happier, fear free lives.
18. Earlier this year, Nottinghamshire third sector organisations were invited to apply for grants up to £25k from this Fund. Applications far exceeded the total funding available. In recognition of our skills and experience in this area of work one of our community safety officers was invited to be part of the selection and allocation process for the Fund. By their involvement it was possible for the Fund to take account of County Council priorities and values and to ensure that wherever possible work would complement the County Council strategic priority of “Supporting safe and thriving communities”.

Connecting Communities in Daybrook and Ashfield

19. A new approach to working with communities has started in three areas of the County, Daybrook, Hucknall and the New Cross area of Ashfield. This approach, known as Connecting Communities, which is abbreviated to C2, has been used successfully in communities in the South West and nationally since 1995. C2 has a track record of achieving high levels of community self-organisation and engagement leading to long term transformative outcomes in health and well-being. C2 uses a seven step, asset-based programme which emphasises listening to local people speak about what issues are important to them and then rather than imposing solutions, local service providers and residents work in partnership to improve neighbourhoods.

20. In both Daybrook and Hucknall 'Listening Events' have recently been held. This involves service providers and local residents meeting to develop a shared understanding of an area. Residents are asked what they love about living in the area, what they don't like about living in the area and want to change and finally residents are asked to vote for which issues are of most importance to them.
21. A week after the Listening Event is held there is a 'Follow Up Event' where the results of the first event are fed back to residents and the process of setting up a partnership between service providers and residents begins.
22. In the New Cross area of Ashfield the aim is for the Listening Event to be held in mid-April. The process leading up to this event began in early March with a walkabout involving partners from a number of organisations including housing providers, Nottinghamshire County Council Community Safety Team, Ashfield District Council and voluntary organisations, such as the Salvation Army, working in the target area. These partners met to get an initial insight into the C2 approach and then they walked around the New Cross area so that when they begin to work with residents they know the streets and buildings that may be referred to.
23. It is made clear to all those involved in this Clinical Commissioning Group funded work that this is not a project or an initiative as this traditionally implies short to medium term working, usually with a funding pot attached, whereby partners go into an area to work on a specific issue and then withdraw after a set period of time. This work also moves away from some previously used consultation methods which involved asking local people their views and then taking these away to work on just amongst partners.
24. The areas in Ashfield where C2 is operating are also Safer Nottinghamshire Board Partnership Plus Areas. It has been acknowledged that the Partnership Plus approach, which is currently being remodelled, needs to involve residents and in the Hucknall and New Cross areas the C2 work will provide a vehicle whereby this can be achieved in the coming months.

Vulnerable Person Panels – Development Work.

25. A report was received by the Community Safety Committee on the 6th January 2015 informing Members about the work of the Vulnerable Person Panels (VPPs) operating in each district area and highlighting the development work currently being undertaken in relation to these. One of the issues highlighted in this report was in relation to how VPPs work with the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and Adult Social Care particularly in light of the Care Act 2014. On the 11 March 2015 a meeting was held to discuss this key area of business. At this meeting significant progress was made in developing effective joint working that should ensure improved care and support for people identified as vulnerable to, for example, antisocial behaviour, hate crime or domestic violence.
26. This meeting, organised by a community safety officer, was led by the Service Director for Access and Public Protection in his capacity as Safer Nottinghamshire Board Champion (SNB) for Vulnerable People. It was attended by VPP Chairs and panel members from across the County. As well as other senior managers from the Adult Social Care, Health and Public Protection Department.

27. During the meeting a shared understanding of the implications of the Care Act was established as well as a greater understanding amongst the VPP representatives of the roles and responsibilities of the MASH, Adult Social Care and the Adult Access Service.
28. It was agreed that the focus for developing service provision needed to be around people whose care needs fall below the Adult Social Care threshold but who it is felt would benefit from some support, particularly in relation to mental health issues. The meeting was informed about services currently being developed with Clinical Commissioning Groups that aim to target this same group of people. There was also a commitment from the SNB Champion for Vulnerable People, to encourage attendance from Health at the VPPs to strengthen the ability of these panels to deal with such cases.
29. The meeting was received very positively by the VPP representatives and there was agreement to meet again within three months to continue the dialogue, review progress on the VPP development work being undertaken and further advance the joint working between these key stakeholders which should result in a much more robust, clarified pathway for work with people identified as vulnerable.

Tackling Crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) in Nuthall

30. Several roads in a residential housing estate in Nuthall had been experiencing significant levels of crime, disorder and ASB. This was due in part to the layout of the estate. In the 1990s, to reduce traffic noise for residents from the adjacent dual carriageway, the County Council built a high earth bank alongside the edge of the estate. The route of the bank, which became overgrown with weeds, was such that it directly overlooked and allowed access to the gardens of several homes. Residents' complaints, backed up by police data, indicated that the bank was being used as an unofficial footpath, with people using it as a vantage point to ascertain if properties were empty, and then take the opportunity to commit crime and ASB.
31. An innovative solution was devised to the problem. In March one the community safety officers conducted a site visit with the local county councillor and a representative from the local Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC). Free Community Payback labour was arranged by the CRC and £2,000 of community safety initiatives funding was provided by the County Council to pay for materials (plants and signage). Litter and rats nests were removed from the area of the bank that directly overlooks the houses and following this shrubs will be planted to restrict both the view into the gardens and access to the bank. The plants will be sourced as far as possible from the County Council's Brooke Farm.
32. The community safety officer involved will also work with local residents to increase sign up to Neighbourhood Alert in the area and to also introduce a Neighbourhood Watch scheme.

National recognition for young people's project.

33. Dragons Den Style Project was set up in Ashfield six years ago with the aim of encouraging young people to consider and deliver messages about crime and anti-social behaviour. This year the project has been awarded 2nd place out of 29 projects from across England and Wales in the National Crimebeat Awards held on March 11th 2015. This year the Dragon's Den Style Project 6 focused on alcohol misuse, with Year 10

students invited to develop an awareness-raising campaign promoting healthy lifestyles and challenging the social acceptability of alcohol.

34. Staff and pupils from two of the Ashfield schools involved in Dragon's Den style project 6 (DD6) attended the awards ceremony in London where they were presented with medals, certificates and a cheque for £750. Young people from Sutton Community Academy and Quarrydale Academy provided a ten-minute presentation about the project at the ceremony, where they were presented with medals, certificates and a cheque for £750. A member of the Community Safety team who chairs the Dragon's Den Style Project planning group and Ashfield District Schools and Early Interventions Police Officer also attended the London presentation. The awards recognise the most innovative and successful crime-prevention projects involving young people.
35. At the locally held final on Friday 13th March 2015 one of the Ashfield schools team was told that some elements of its entry to the 2014/15 Dragons' Den-style project could "go national". The Holgate Academy entry included putting messages on the sleeves around paper coffee cups, development of a smartphone app and use of "Your health in your hands" as a campaign strapline. The judging panel was made up of Notts Police Chief Superintendent Ak Khan; Peter Moyes, Chief Executive Officer at *Life Skills Education CIC*; Alan Simpson, Project Officer at Community Alcohol Partnerships; Eden Hayes, student representative; and Police and Crime Commissioner Paddy Tipping. Chair of the panel was Mrs Nicky Weston Deputy Lieutenant. At the local final of the competition, which was hosted by Sutton Community Academy, Holgate were picked as the winner of the competition receiving £1000 and also took the award for innovation, receiving £500. Quarrydale were awarded the student's choice prize of £500.

Update on community safety projects

36. The Council conducts an ongoing evaluation of community safety initiatives funded by this Committee to demonstrate outcomes and impact. Below are details of the progress of two projects funded by the council in 2014/2015:

Project Name: Equalities work

37. The allocation of £6,000 from the community safety budget supported the delivery of a series of equalities projects in schools for example:
 - "Notts Says No to Prejudice" competition for schools, youth clubs and sports' clubs with the aim of developing and sharing best practice in relation to tackling prejudice-based incidents/bullying;
 - Theatre in Education programme; new Stonewall Primary resource "Free"
 - Work relating to the new British Values agenda.
38. The aims of this project were to reduce incidents of anti-social behaviour, repeat incidents of hate crime and increase reporting of hate crime to provide improved local intelligence.
39. **Achievements to date:** Nottinghamshire has been invited by Stonewall to be one of five pilot Local Authority areas, fully funded for two years with a focus on improving educational outcomes and emotional health and well-being for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) young people.

40. The Council was also being asked to share its work with other Local Authorities at a Stonewall seminar in January 2015 as the work is being held up as best practice and the approach as exemplary. Many schools are taking this agenda extremely seriously, with more requests for training and support.
41. The new British Values agenda has attracted a lot of interest and generated a number of enquiries from schools. The project has also resulted in closer working arrangements with the Police Prevent Team, Targeted Support Services and the Youth Justice Service.
42. Other partners such as the Sports and Arts Service are engaging with Community Safety and requesting training for staff and there is effective partnership working happening in relation to all of the above and all districts.
43. Prejudiced-based guidance and incident report forms have been revised and will soon be shared with schools. Invitations to work on a number of pilots have been issued to schools including special school and infant schools.

Project Name: Victim Support Young Witness Service (Victim Support).

44. This project receives yearly support from the Community Safety Initiative funds with £7,500 allocated from the 2014/15 budget to support 'The Young Witness Service' which provides an enhanced service for children and young people aged 5 to 17 years who have been victims of, or witnesses to, a crime.
45. The aim of this project is to provide an enhanced witness service to support young people and includes home preparation visits, pre-trial familiarisation visits to court, trial day support and post-trial home visits across Nottinghamshire.
46. **Achievements to date:** Over 30 young witnesses were supported through the Young Witness Service with a number of witnesses receiving support in the county magistrates' courts.

Other Options Considered

47. None.

RECOMMENDATION:

48. It is recommended that the Community Safety Committee notes the various developments in the areas of work contained within this report.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

48. 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

50. 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.

PAUL MCKAY

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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

51. As the report is for noting only, Constitutional Comments are not required..

Financial Comments

52. There are no financial implications.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

53. All

Background Papers and Published Documents

54. 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.

- Community Safety Update 15th April 2015 (published)
- Community Safety Update 6th January 2015 (published)