

**06 January 2015****Agenda Item: 9****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.

**Gypsy & Traveller Liaison Officer**

2. The County Council has a legal requirement under the Human Rights Act (1998) and the Housing Act (2004) to have adequate provision of authorised encampments, and to represent the interests of Gypsies and Travellers. For a number of years the County Council has provided funding for a Gypsy & Traveller Liaison Officer (GTLO) within the County. The key purpose of this role is to:
  - develop improved relationships between the Gypsy and Traveller communities of Nottinghamshire, local agencies and the wider community and ensure relevant agencies take account of the needs of the Gypsy and Traveller communities and their services are accessible to these groups
  - carry out welfare assessments, on behalf of Nottinghamshire County Council, on all unauthorised encampments on land which Nottinghamshire County Council either owns or has responsibility for.
3. The current GTLO works 3 days a week and is employed by the voluntary organisation Networking Action with Voluntary Organisations (NAVO). The County Council has a service level agreement with NAVO to provide the £24.7k funding for the post. In April 2014 responsibility for this area of work was transferred from Corporate Strategy to the Trading Standards and Community Safety Service.
4. At a Special General Meeting held on 15 October 2014 the NAVO Executive Board agreed that due to the lack of long term sustainable funding, NAVO will formally close on Tuesday 31 March 2015.
5. Following discussions with NAVO it is proposed that from 1 March 2015 the Gypsy and Traveller Liaison post be transferred into the County Council to be directly employed within the Trading Standards and Community Safety Service. The current post holder is in agreement with this proposed arrangement.

## **Vehicle Nuisance: County Court Injunction (update)**

6. The application to consider the extension and variation of the existing injunction in place around Victoria Retail Park, Netherfield was heard at Nottingham County Court on 26 November 2014. The Court extended the duration of the existing injunction for Netherfield (which was due to expire on 3 December 2014) until the end of January 2015 to enable further consideration. Applications for Junction 27 and Chilwell have been adjourned to 16 January 2015 for further consideration.

## **Rural Crime Conference**

7. The second Nottinghamshire rural crime conference took place at the Newark Show Ground in November 2014 with a view to raising awareness of rural crime, including plant and machinery theft as part of an ongoing multi-agency campaign to tackle the problem. This work is supported by a contribution of £3,300 from the 2014/15 Community Safety Initiatives Budget. Rural crime costs many millions of pounds in the UK every year, leading to loss of farming business and an adverse impact on communities through increased costs.
8. The event took place alongside the Midlands Machinery Show organised by the Newark and Nottinghamshire Agricultural society, which provided a platform for small and medium sized agricultural businesses to show their diverse range of machinery to those who work in agriculture and have an interest in agriculture.
9. Councillor Alice Grice opened the conference introducing speakers from Nottinghamshire Police the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Nottinghamshire Crimestoppers Trust, who outlined their organisation's commitment to tackling the problem.

## **Safer Nottinghamshire Board (SNB) Hate Crime Conference**

10. Community Safety Officers worked with partner agencies to organise the SNB Hate Crime Conference which took place on 15 December 2014. The conference was an opportunity to shape the future direction of the SNB Hate Crime steering group and to:
  - look at good practice and identify the next steps in tackling hate crime
  - reflect on current thinking and recent research on hate crime
  - implement improvements in victims' experience of hate crime
  - understand how hate crime is dealt with through the criminal justice system and by the police
  - develop and agree improved approaches to tackling hate crime.
11. Speakers and workshops included a mixture of experts and practitioners including the Police and Crime Commissioner, Paddy Tipping, the SNB Hate Crime Champion Ruth Hyde and a representative from the Nottingham Citizens (a network of 20 diverse institutions). The event was aimed at voluntary, community and public agencies working to reduce hate crime in Nottinghamshire (including Nottingham City).

## **Partnership Plus Areas Review**

12. Earlier this year the Safer Nottinghamshire Board (SNB) commissioned a review of Partnership Plus Areas (PPAs) within the county. The review was to identify the effectiveness of PPAs to date and recommend any improvements going forward. The Chief Executive of the Nottinghamshire Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner has led the review supported by a multi-agency steering group. A presentation was given to the September meeting of the SNB outlining the results of the review to date. These include:
- the need for a PPA Champion from a county-wide agency at senior manager level
  - greater involvement of local communities and individuals in PPAs
  - PPAs having a wider remit than crime and disorder
  - better co-ordination of PPAs with other initiatives, including the Preventing Demand strategy, the Supporting Families programme and work protecting vulnerable people
  - refreshed involvement of Elected Members in PPAs.
13. These recommendations were all approved by SNB. Since that meeting Nottinghamshire County Council's Chief Executive, Mick Burrows, has agreed that he (and his successor) will be the SNB PPA Champion, supported by one of our Community Safety Officers. Mick Burrows has written to all partners to confirm this and he will lead a small multi-agency working group to undertake the next phase of the review.
14. The working group will then report to the PPA steering group (where all districts are represented) and then ultimately to SNB. Safer Nottinghamshire Board have agreed that the review will now continue until October 2015 (to allow other agendas to fall into line) and so the current PPAs will continue (and be funded) until 30 September 2015.

## **Health Education and Academic Resilience Group**

15. One of our Community Safety Officers is currently part of a Public Health led working group reviewing the County Council's provision of Personal, Social and Health Education into schools. The aim is to move from the current provision of individual health interventions and projects to developing a co-ordinated package to meet the holistic health needs of young people. There is currently an eclectic range of schools based interventions on offer, a number of which are commissioned by Public Health or other Council departments. The review aims to ensure that interventions are complementary of each other, do not duplicate and identify scope for commissioning a number of these interventions together.
16. The desired outcomes of the programme are for safe, healthy, happy, resilient young people who achieve their potential and contribute to their community. The aim is for a lower prevalence of young people smoking, being overweight or obese, using substances, becoming teenage parents, experiencing bullying, poor school attendance, school exclusions, and improved attainment etc.

## **Other Options Considered**

17. As the Gypsy and Traveller Liaison Officer (GTLO) role has a county wide remit the County Council is the most suitable employer. If the post were employed by one of the District Councils it would be difficult to provide the necessary county wide focus.

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

18. 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.
19. As the Trading Standards and Community Safety Service already has responsibility for this area of work the transfer of the GTLO role to within the Service would enable a seamless transition and continuation of this important work.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

20. 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

## **HR Implications**

21. The GTLO post holder will be covered by TUPE "Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006".

## **Finance Implications**

22. The cost of the GTLO post will be funded from the mainstream budget set aside to pay the SLA.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

23. It is recommended that the Community Safety Committee:
  - i. notes the various developments in the areas of work contained within this report.
  - ii. approves the transfer of the Gypsy and Traveller Liaison Officer post from NAVO into the Trading Standards and Community Safety Service with effect from 1 March 2015.

**PAUL MCKAY**

**Service Director, Access & Public Protection**

### **For any enquiries about this report please contact:**

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## **Constitutional Comments (LM 19/12/14)**

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

### **Financial Comments (KAS 20/12/14)**

25. The financial implications are contained within paragraph 22 of the 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.

- Partnership Plus Review.

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

- All.