

2 October 2012

Agenda Item: 8

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 the Committee about some successful community safety initiatives undertaken in the Partnership Plus areas.

Information and Advice

Bassetlaw, Newark and Sherwood.

2. In Worksop SE & NW Partnership Plus areas, work continues to support victims of Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) by financially supporting an ASB victim case worker in these areas.
3. Probation in conjunction with Nottinghamshire Women's Aid is running a pilot DV perpetrator programme, called Safer Relationships, which will run until March 2013.
4. Following the success of the Bike Project involving Youth & Fire Services in Harworth last year, the project will now be rolled out across both Worksop Partnership Plus areas. A number of partners are working with the Holocaust Centre to deliver "I Belong, You Belong" project involving the Valley Academy, a small cohort of pupils from Portland Academy, Redlands School & two local Children's Centres. This project will involve work with the pupils, parents and grandparents and is about promoting inclusion, diversity and asking what changes can a community make. This project has attracted considerable amounts of external funding.
5. Work is underway to commission a recognised academic research institution to develop a robust evaluation of the Project. This research will aim to ensure that the Project is having an impact on people's core attitudes and beliefs through its activities. A number of leading universities have expressed interest in undertaking this research and its value has also been recognised by the Director for Decentralism and Big Society at the Department of Communities and Local Government (CLG).

6. M-Cat is a relatively new drug known as mephedrone and has various street names including meph, M-Cat, Drone, Meow and Bubbles and is an illegal class B drug to obtain for personal use, give away or sell.
7. In Bassetlaw, the M-Cat steering group has been established with a number of partners to address concerns around the use of stimulant based drugs in and around the Bassetlaw area. The action plan includes training, communications campaign and the re-alignment of services to meet demand. The use of this type of drug is causing concern in terms of mental health issues and violence due to the availability and low cost. It is being used by current service users and is also the social and recreational drug of choice amongst non-service users.
8. Schools across the Partnership Plus areas are participating in the 'The Great Project'. This project, launched in May 2012, enables primary school children to gain knowledge about healthy relationships and to explore what domestic violence is and to know where to go for help and support. This project is delivered to years 5 & 6 children by facilitators trained by Nottinghamshire Domestic Violence Forum (NDVF) and is delivered in an age appropriate and interactive way. The Great Project is being delivered to the:
 - Ryton Park and Kingston Primary schools - Worksop
 - Mount C of E primary school - Newark Castle.

Ashfield and Mansfield.

9. Work has commenced to address derelict and empty buildings, particularly looking at empty retail with living accommodation. It is intended a pilot project will commence involving 20 premises, which have been empty for over 6 months, to offer grant aid to improve and convert back into use as residential.
10. A number of schemes have been implemented across the two districts in tackling ASB. The 'Night Noise' patrol project which ran for 21 weeks involved deploying CCTV and recording equipment within the four current Partnership Plus areas in Ashfield. A number of successful outcomes were achieved resulting in:
 - Warning Notices served, under the terms of the Noise Act 1996 – in both instances the music was stopped.
 - Several Fixed Penalty Notices issued with regards to littering McDonalds/Iceland Car Park.
 - Two mobile CCTV cameras have been purchased and are currently deployed in Mansfield Town centre in tackling thefts. Early indications show thefts are currently reducing in the town centre.
11. A one year funded pilot is to provide a dedicated specialist domestic abuse worker, who will work 6 hours per week at the Orchard General Practitioner practice in the Portland and Woodlands Partnership Plus areas. There will also be a Women's Counselling service at the practice with the intention to increase DV reporting and provide safety interventions quickly.

South Nottinghamshire

12. In Netherfield and Colwick the court injunction to prevent car cruising continues to have an extremely positive effect. Over the last eight weeks there have been no complaints regarding this activity from local communities. The Community Safety Partnership continues to monitor the situation closely, both to ensure ongoing compliance to the injunction and to ensure that the problem has not simply been moved elsewhere in the County. To date, this is not the case. The success of this injunction is attracting attention from elsewhere in the UK, and the Community Safety Partnership is sharing the good practice developed in Nottinghamshire.
13. Arnold recently experienced a slight increase in car theft. Responding to this quickly, the Community Safety Partnership, working closely with Nottinghamshire Police, initiated an innovative capture car operation. Using cars rented from a specialist supplier, wired up with cameras and alarms, the Community Safety Partnership were able to place a car, of the same make and model to those being targeted by thieves, in the hot spot location for this type of crime. Within one day, a prolific offender was captured trying to steal the car, and has now been prosecuted and is awaiting sentence. This has been widely publicised in the area and is acting as a deterrent to other potential car thieves. Subsequently, car theft has now fallen again.
14. The Community Safety Partnership is working with local supermarket chains to ensure that shop theft is kept to minimum levels. Work to date has included training for security staff, advice on product placement within the store, and a range of short term measures, all of which have an immediate, positive impact. For example, partners have set up a temporary information desk within shops, shops have been provided with cardboard cut-outs of police officers, and vulnerable shoppers have been issued with "purse alarms". For smaller retail units, an ever expanding "Business Watch" scheme is in operation, enabling the quick sharing of information and alerts.
15. Women's Aid (WAIS) have continued to provide staff on call during Friday and Saturday evenings to respond to Police referrals and visit victims in their own homes after an incident. This scheme currently operates in the Netherfield and Colwick Partnership Plus areas.

Financial details

16. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Statutory and Policy Implications

17. 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

18. Members are asked to note the report.

Martin Done, Service Director Communications and Marketing

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Yvette Armstrong, Community Safety Officer, Safer and Engaged Communities x73058.

Constitutional Comments (SLB 13/09/2012)

19. Community Safety Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report; it is responsible for the Council's statutory duties in relation to community safety.

Financial Comments ()

20. None required

Background Papers

21. Safer Nottinghamshire Board's County Strategic Assessment 2012

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

22. All