

27th September 2016

Agenda Item: 7

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR SOUTH NOTTINGHAMSHIRE 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

New Psychoactive Substances (NPS)

2. Evaluation feedback received from colleagues who attended the second New Psychoactive Substances workshop event, held in July, was very positive. Colleagues and partners found this workshop event well-structured and informative, with relevant information regarding the recent change in legislation, local and national picture and shared experiences.
3. Delegates also appreciated the opportunity to discuss and share working knowledge and experiences with colleagues from a wide range of services who attended, suggesting specific points of contacts to be established in sharing information.
4. The community safety team continue to provide regular bulletins to delegates who attended both workshop events, giving information about the effects of the new legislation and related developments.
5. Information from the workshops will help to inform future prevention work in the county led by Trading Standards & Community Safety, Public Health, Nottinghamshire Police and Change Grow Live (CGL).

Gypsy Romany Traveller Liaison (GRT) update.

6. A raft of actions have been implemented over several weeks in joining up strategic service provision, building relationships and awareness raising amongst partners and colleagues.

Unauthorised Encampments (UE).

7. Work continues on the draft Unauthorised Encampment protocol, which has been sent out for comment to key partners including District Councils, East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS) and Nottinghamshire Police. The protocol aims to standardise the approach to unauthorised encampments across the districts in the county.

The Gypsy Romany Traveller (GRT) Health Partnership.

8. The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) is currently establishing current and future health needs within the travelling communities. In meeting those needs, the next stage within the JSNA is to include information regarding 'end of life' and also carers, as two new reviews have come to light.
9. Development updates and information on the work of the GRT liaison officer will continue to be provided through the Community Safety Committee reports.

Modern Slavery

10. One of the priority areas for action for the Safer Nottinghamshire Board is that of modern slavery. The Chair of this Committee and the Chief Executive of the County Council met with the Chief Executive of the Gangmasters Licencing Authority (GLA) to explore options for addressing this problem and the contribution of the County Council. The GLA is a national organisation with its headquarters in Nottingham with the key role of tackling the threat of modern slavery in our communities.
11. There have been several media reports recently on this issue, from the tragedy of the death of the cockle pickers in the north, to cases much more local to Nottinghamshire of people being forced into labour, without proper pay, protection, or support. The GLA know that too many cases go unreported at the moment. Best estimates from the Government are that there could be in the region of 180 potential victims of modern slavery within Nottinghamshire. Contrast that with the fact that in 2015 only seven crimes of this nature were recorded.
12. Modern slavery is both an extremely serious crime and a grave violation of human rights and human dignity often in the most brutal forms. Led by the Community Safety Team, work within the County Council to address this issue has started. Initially this will include:
 - Improving the understanding and awareness of our staff and partners
 - Information on the signs and indicators of a problem
 - How and where to refer issues
13. A series of training sessions will be held over the autumn. These will be made available to elected members.
14. Work is also being undertaken to ensure that the County Council supply chains and commissioning processes are transparent, clear, and with safeguarding triggers built in to pick up and deal with any threat of modern slavery.
15. The majority of the people being used and abused as modern slaves are victims. Work is underway with the Police and Crime Commissioner to ensure that the Vulnerable Person

Panels in operation across the county contribute to the development of victim services in Nottinghamshire.

16. The Safer Nottinghamshire Board has commissioned work to explore options to plan how all partners can work together to tackle this issue, protecting the victims, pursuing the perpetrators, preventing the opportunity and preparing the capacity and capability of partners to tackle modern slavery. This will include identifying work that can most efficiently be undertaken on a regional basis.

Hate Crime – Post “Brexit”

17. This item will be the subject of a presentation to this committee by Dave Alton, Hate Crime Manager from Nottinghamshire Police and Andy Peacock, the lead on hate crime for the Safer Nottinghamshire Board from the Community Safety Team.
18. Members can be re-assured that although there was a small rise in hate crime immediately post, and related to, the referendum this has now ceased. This small rise in hate crime related to the referendum was not aimed at any particular group or community within the County. There have been no reports of any community feeling vulnerable or “at risk” as a result of the outcome of the referendum. The situation continues to be regularly monitored.
19. Hate crime remains a priority for the Safer Nottinghamshire Board. Their hate crime action plan, led by the Community Safety Team, encompasses a range of actions to tackle all forms of hate crime, adopting and promoting a preventative approach whenever possible.

Zombie Knives

20. A ban on the sale of so called “zombie knives” has now been introduced in England and Wales. The new legislation bans the sale, manufacture, rental or importation of these knives. Anyone caught breaking the law will face up to 4 years in prison.
21. Inspired by horror films, “zombie knives” often have a long curved blade with serrated edges. They are often sold as collectors’ items but police report that they are increasingly being carried by criminals. The knives could be bought on the internet for as little as £8.
22. The County Council has welcomed this ban. Keeping local communities safe remains a high priority for the County Council and this ban helps to achieve this, by reducing the number of blades that are in society and preventing retailers from unwittingly fuelling criminal activity. The County Council approach to community safety, as a member of the Safer Nottinghamshire Board, is to always support prevention and early intervention to crime and anti-social behaviour, believing it is better to address the issue early on, rather than allowing it to escalate.
23. The Community Safety Team is leading work with partners on a varied range of programmes that will support this ban. For example, work within schools to inform and alert young people and their families, tackling hate crime within the County to reduce community tensions, when knives could be a factor, and improving support to the more vulnerable members of our communities, keeping them safe.

The Heartstone Project

24. The Heartstone Project launched in Nottinghamshire in July as part of a national programme. Heartstone, is a non-profit national organisation which uses story, fiction, photos, documentary and historically based story themes, to raise social and environmental issues with children and young people. In June the Community Safety Committee agreed to contribute £5,000 funding to support the project in Nottinghamshire which was match-funded by Heartstone.
25. All Heartstone stories are intended to help build greater contact, communication and understanding across different nationalities, cultures and backgrounds, to recognise the common human experience and see past stereotypes and prejudice.
26. Heartstone project overview and up-date so far:
- Ten participating primary schools across the county are taking part.
 - Teaching leads from the schools attended an initial introductory session with Community Safety Team leads and the Achievement and Equality Team lead.
 - This will be followed up in October with a second training workshop.
 - One class from each school in years 5 and 6 will receive a hard copies of the Epic Heartstone Odyssey Tale for each student. This will be used to focus class discussion each week over one-two terms to explore issues relating to the British Values curriculum and challenging prejudice.
 - Each class will also receive a set of professional photo sets taken from across the world, which they will then use as a starting point for a whole school exhibition and display. Each school will also be encouraged and supported to take their exhibitions into other public and local community settings.
 - Each class will also receive a professional dance workshop which they will then share locally.
27. The accumulation of all this work from the 10 primary schools will be showcased on 23rd February 2016 at the Mansfield Palace Theatre. Further updates will be provided at future Community Safety Committees.

Other Options Considered

28. None

Reasons for Recommendations

29. It is recommended that the Community Safety Committee notes the various developments in the areas of work contained in this report.
30. The 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

31. 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.

Financial Implications

32. This report contains no additional financial implications, with activity reported or that proposed being contained within the existing service budget.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

PAUL MCKAY

Service Director, South Nottinghamshire & Public Protection

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

34. As this report is for noting only constitutional comments are not required.

Financial Comments

35. There are no financial implications contained within the report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

- Home Office 'Prevent Action Plan'
- Police and Crime Plan 2016 - 2018

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All

