

14<sup>th</sup> June 2016

**Agenda Item: 5**

## **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**

##### **Best Bar None Volunteer Assessors.**

2. As the Best Bar None Scheme enters into its second year, an appeal seeking volunteers to become trained assessors has been circulated to staff via the Intranet, which has been proactively supported by the Chair of this Committee, the Service Director for Access and Public protection and the Community Safety Team.
3. As an assessor, successful applicants will be invited to attend a fully funded training session to gain the skills needed to fulfil this duty. The assessor's role will then be to assess up to four licensed premises over a period of several months, each assessment taking approximately 1-2 hours to complete (dependent upon the size and nature of the premises). Dates and venues will be confirmed.
4. The Community Safety Team has received several responses from colleagues wishing to play a part in reducing alcohol related crime and disorder across the county.

##### **New Psychoactive Substances (NPS):**

5. The Psychoactive Substances Act 2016 came into force on 26 May 2016 and the main provisions are:
  - Makes it an offence to produce, supply, offer to supply, possess with intent to supply, possess on custodial premises, import or export psychoactive substances; that is, any substance intended for human consumption that is capable of producing a psychoactive effect.
  - Excludes legitimate substances, such as food, alcohol, tobacco, nicotine, caffeine and medical products from the scope of the offence, as well as controlled drugs, which

continue to be regulated by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.

- Exempts healthcare activities and approved scientific research from the offences under the act on the basis that persons engaged in such activities have a legitimate need to use psychoactive substances in their work.
- Includes provision for civil sanctions – prohibition notices, premises notices, prohibition orders and premises orders (breach of the 2 orders will be a criminal offence) – to enable the police and local authorities to adopt a graded response to the supply of psychoactive substances in appropriate cases.
- Provides powers to stop and search persons, vehicles and vessels, enter and search premises in accordance with a warrant, and to seize and destroy psychoactive substances

Penalties:

- Up to 7 years in prison for the supply, production, possession with intent to supply, importation or exportation of a psychoactive substance for human consumption.
  - Up to 2 years in prison for possessing a psychoactive substance in a custodial institution.
  - Prohibition and premises orders, which will allow police to shut down head shops and online dealers in the UK, with up to 2 years in prison for those who fail to comply.
  - Police powers to seize and destroy psychoactive substances, search people, premises and vehicles, and to search premises by warrant if necessary
6. As advised at April's Community Safety Committee, the Community Safety & Trading Standards Service in collaboration with Public Health and Police colleagues will be delivering a second New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) workshop event on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2016.
7. The Community Safety team have also contributed to Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) consultations for Mansfield, Worksop and Retford offering comment on proposed conditions within the orders to ban the use of NPS, as well as advising on national best practice.

## **ANPR Shield Evaluation**

8. Members will recall research figures quoted in paragraph 10 in the Community Safety Budget Update report (26<sup>th</sup> of April 2016) prompted discussion regarding the impact of the ANPR cameras installed in the Ashfield south area of the County.
9. The report stated that in 2013 to help combat high levels of burglary, research shows there was a 35% reduction in burglaries in the first year, with a further drop of 41% the following year.
10. Members suggested hearing more contextual information showing the comparative reduction in burglary rates compared to equivalent areas that do not have the ANPR shield. Members also suggested a 6 month update would be useful in measuring the impact of the shield.
11. A further ANPR update will be presented by Chief Inspector Andy Rooke at November's Community Safety Committee, to give more information about outcomes achieved to

date and use of the ANPR shield across the County.

### **Hate Crime – Members training.**

12. The Community Safety Team have supported the Holocaust Centre in developing a specific half day training course targeted at members, covering topics around tackling prejudice and building strong communities.
13. It is anticipated that these days will include a number of challenging case studies in relation to current issues which members are unlikely to be familiar with. E.g. addressing issues with trans students in schools.
14. It is envisaged this training will also form part of the induction process packs for newly elected members after the next County Council election.

### **Honour Based Violence and Forced Marriage Road Show**

15. The Community Safety Team have secured commitment from Karma Nirvana, a National Charity leading the way in raising awareness of honour based violence and forced marriage, to host a half day road show for Nottinghamshire on the 28<sup>th</sup> June 2016 in the Assembly Rooms at County Hall.
16. As one of 10 national road shows funded by the Department for Communities and Local Government, the aim of this event, which will facilitate 75 delegates, is to:
  - Empower women's voices who are often not heard as they experience greater barriers impacted by honour systems and forced marriages.
  - Work in partnership so that women in our region are not only aware of national services but also what is locally available to them to increase local reporting and reduce isolation.
17. The Service's Gypsy and Traveller Liaison Officer will present on how this agenda relates to Gypsy Romany Traveller (GRT) communities. This is a first for the national roadshows, enabling the Community Safety team to work in partnership with Karma Nirvana in leading the way on this agenda.
18. The Vice Chair of the Community Safety Committee, Councillor Grice, will be attending and opening the event.

### **Gypsy Roma and Traveller History Month (June)**

19. The Gypsy Roma and Traveler History Month was established in Britain in 2008 as a way of raising awareness of these communities and their contributions to society, and to offset negative stereotyping and prejudices.
20. Gypsies, Roma and Travelers are the largest ethnic minority community in the European Union with over 12 million people across the EU and some 300,000 in the UK. In many countries, they are marginalised and sometimes suffer extreme levels of prejudice and discrimination.

21. The Community Safety team, in partnership with the Southwell Diocese, and the Office of the Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner will support The Gypsy Roma Traveller Conference to be held at Christ Church, Newark on the 14<sup>th</sup> June.
22. This event, provides a unique opportunity in hearing how Gypsy Roma Travelers (GRT) experience services and how this information can be used to enhance and improve service provision. Topics will include Health; Education and Policing.
23. In promoting and supporting the British Values Agenda, the Community Safety Team is also providing support in presenting information to a select group of schools as part of the GRT History Month. The aim of the project is to raise awareness for pupils and staff, which will include an initial assessment and a summative assessment to show distance travelled.
24. Two performances of the Crystal's Vardo play, which focuses on a young Gypsy girl who has been bullied at school, will be hosted by local academies and also attended by pupils from feeder primary schools. Three academies will also receive materials for embedding into the curriculum with train the teacher input.

### **Safer Nottinghamshire Board: Priority Areas for Action & Strategic Risk Assessment**

25. The Safer Nottinghamshire Board (SNB) is currently being reviewed to ensure that it continues to be fit for purpose and focussed in its role to offer a strategic direction and focus for community safety issues affecting Nottinghamshire. As part of this process, the SNB have adopted a new approach to identify those community safety issues that present the greatest risk and challenges to our communities.
26. The new approach, headlined by a "Strategic Risk Assessment" was undertaken earlier this year, and SNB members calculated the "threat, harm and risk" of current and emerging problem issues. From these, SNB have identified 7 strategic priorities that will form the basis of their attention for 2016/17. These are:
  - Vulnerable people
  - Human trafficking/modern day slavery
  - Domestic abuse
  - New and emerging communities
  - Hate crime
  - Youth crime reduction
  - Crime in rural areas
27. Each of these strategic priorities will be allocated a "Champion" from within the membership of the SNB and be co-ordinated and supported by a Community Safety Officer from the County Council's Community Safety Team. Each priority will develop a costed action plan to ensure targeted and effective actions in 2016/17.
28. In addition, SNB also identified 6 further key issues that need to be addressed to improve community safety in Nottinghamshire. These are issues, where effective work may already be ongoing, with detailed plans and strategies, but where there remains a need to better co-ordinate work with the community safety agenda. These are:

- Sexual abuse
- Violence
- Serious and Organised crime
- Substance misuse
- Reducing Re-offending and Offender Management
- Anti-social Behaviour

29. Effective links and relationships currently ongoing for each of these key issues will be progressed by SNB to ensure that the impact on community safety is recognised and addressed. Key to this work will be the identification of opportunities for better co-ordinated activity from individual agencies and service areas.

### **Grant Offer from The Police and Crime Commissioner.**

30. The Safer Nottinghamshire Board (SNB) has received a grant offer from the Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for 2016/2017. The total of the grant is £737,038. This is a grant designed to assist with the reduction of crime in Nottinghamshire and create safer communities.

31. The PCC has stipulated that from the grant the following amounts be utilised as follows:

- |                                  |          |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| • Integrated Offender Management | £100,000 |
| • PCC - Hate Crime Post          | £47,500  |
| • Neighbourhood Working          | £285,000 |

32. The remaining balance of the grant, £304,538, can be used at the discretion of SNB, although formal agreement is required from the PCC. SNB have agreed that this discretionary amount of the grant will be used to fund activity on the strategic priorities detailed above. Discussions are being finalised with the PCC for the formal agreement to this use of the funding.

33. This grant enables key community safety activity to take place in Nottinghamshire. Wherever possible, the community safety initiatives budget of this committee will be used to add value and broaden the scope of this activity. Members will recall, for example, that at the last meeting of this committee, £100,000 was agreed to fund neighbourhood working.

34. This has meant that the neighbourhood plans that have been developed for 2016/2017 have not only been broader in scope and impact, but have also taken a more holistic and wider partnership focussed approach, and as a result are better able to reflect community priorities for improving community safety.

### **Preventing Violent Extremism in Nottinghamshire.**

35. Community Safety Officers from the County Council have been responsible for the development and implementation of the "Prevent Action Plan for Nottinghamshire". Approved and managed by SNB (though the Hate Crime Champion), the plan promotes a multi-agency approach and has been agreed for use by all service areas of the County Council and the District and Borough Councils. Other partners are now being included,

for example, Nott's Fire and Rescue and Health.

36. The plan has key areas for actions that must be undertaken to mitigate the risk of violent extremism. These include the training and awareness of staff, the use of council premises by outside bodies, the use of IT equipment owned by and housed within local authority (or commissioned service provider) premises. The plan also clarifies the referral mechanism for referrals should any concerns come to the attention of staff or service users. A particular emphasis has been work with schools staff in Nottinghamshire to promote this plan as part of safeguarding responsibilities.
37. So far, in 2016, almost 4,000 staff from the County Council District and Borough Councils have received detailed training and awareness. The Community Safety Team have co-ordinated the development of an e-learning package for this issue that is now available to all staff. This activity has been funded by a one-off grant that was made to each local authority of £10,000.
38. Ongoing work will include the scoping for the need and provision of further training and awareness and as part of this information on Violent Extremism will be made available to Elected Members.

### **Vulnerable Person Panels: Second Social Worker Role**

39. Funding is available from the Office of the Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner (£24.3k) and the South Nottinghamshire Community Safety Partnership (£21k) to fund the 12 months secondment of a second social worker role within the Community Safety team. The first seconded social worker has been in post since mid-February 2016 and is already demonstrating the value of the role and also the need for extra officer capacity to achieve the desired outcomes.
40. The social workers will work to strengthen the county's Vulnerable Person Panels' (VPPs) capability in responding to cases involving a mental health dimension. Attending Vulnerable Person Panels they will make recommendations about how vulnerable people who do not meet the social care eligibility criteria can be supported. For those individuals eligible for social care they will make the appropriate referral.
41. Also, in order to explore where service gaps are, a small number of high complexity cases will be held from different districts. The post holders will work with partners and other stakeholders, including the Safer Nottinghamshire Board and the Nottinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Board, to make recommendations about the support provided to vulnerable people going forward.

### **Other Options Considered**

42. None

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

43. It is recommended that the Community Safety Committee notes the various Development's in the areas of work contained in this report.

44. The report is a regular update to the Community Safety Committee to keep them abreast of local and national developments and out community safety work.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

45. 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**

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

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1) 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**

None

## **Financial Comments (KAS 26/05/16)**

The financial implications are contained within paragraph 46 of this report.

## **Background Papers and Published Documents**

- Home Office 'Prevent Action Plan'
- Police and Crime Plan 2016 - 2018
- The Psychoactive Substances Act 2016.

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

All