

Division(s):

PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 21 September

Safer Oxfordshire Partnership Community Safety Agreement 2016-17

Report by Simon Furlong, Director of Community Safety and Chief Fire Officer

Introduction

1. Community safety legislation states that there is a requirement for an annual countywide Community Safety Agreement in two tier local authority areas. The agreement provides a joined-up approach to community safety service delivery in order to enable more effective and co-ordinated strategic planning across partner agencies and to ensure sustainable and lasting improvements in delivering outcomes. It is supported by an annual strategic intelligence assessment which sets out the main trends relating to crime and anti-social behaviour over the previous year.
2. The Community Safety Agreement 2017/8 is attached to this paper and sets out the shared priorities for the partnership and the activity that was agreed to drive these priorities forward. It also includes our achievements for the previous year as well as further information about the role and structure of the partnership. The agreement is approved by the elected member-led Safer Oxfordshire Partnership Oversight Committee chairman and County Council Councillor Kieron Mallon. Councillor Mallon is also the police lead for the County Council and our representative on (and Deputy Chairman of) the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel.
3. The Committee is invited to consider how the partnership is delivering against its shared priorities, as set out in Annex 5 of the agreement. In particular, the partnership welcomes support and challenge on the activities where the partnership is the lead agency. It also welcomes scrutiny on the allocation and use of the Community Safety Fund from the Police and Crime Commissioner, specifically in relation to countywide activities including Public Health, the Youth Justice Service, Domestic Abuse, and preventing radicalisation.
4. The Performance Scrutiny Committee is **RECOMMENDED** to advise on areas of improvement for the partnership in delivering against its priorities for 2017/18.

Exempt Information

5. None

Background

6. The Safer Oxfordshire Partnership is a countywide, multi-agency, community safety group that supports the coordination of shared community safety priorities across the county. The overarching objective of the partnership is to work collaboratively to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour through prevention-focused activities. The partnership is supported in this task by the four district level multi-agency Community Safety Partnership (CSPs) who develop rolling plans to support delivery of their local priorities. Current membership of the Safer Oxfordshire Partnership is shown in Annex A. It can be noted that many of the same agencies are represented on both the Safer Oxfordshire Partnership and the district Community Safety Partnerships.
7. The partnership's priorities are driven by the Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC) five-year strategic plan for Thames Valley (2017-22) – as well as local community safety concerns. The partnership priorities for 2017/8 are set out on pg7 of the attached Community Safety Agreement.
8. The allocation of the Community Safety Fund – which is received annually from the Police and Crime Commissioner - is agreed each year by a funding sub-group consisting of all existing grant recipients and the Local Policing Area Commander represented on the partnership. The grant agreement is agreed with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner in June each year and grant recipients provide a mid and end of year report for the Commissioner, which is collated by the partnership. This is the only regular grant funding received by the partnership.

Performance issues

9. The outcomes for the partnership are set out in the delivering priorities table in Annex 5 of the Community Safety Agreement. Other than the district CSPs, which are scrutinised by the District and City Councils the majority of the funding is used to support activities being delivered by Public Health, the Youth Justice Service and countywide domestic abuse services. The impact of the funding for each of these areas of work is summarised by the strategic leads below.

Domestic Abuse £94,374 – Sarah Carter (Strategic Lead Domestic Abuse, Oxfordshire County Council)

10. The Strategic Lead reports that the grant is being spent to support three key areas of work that continue to be a priority following publication of the Strategic Review of Domestic Abuse in October 2016. This includes a Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) post, IDVA posts to support high risk victims and funding to support the continued development of the Domestic Abuse Champions Network.
11. The Council now employs a **VAWG Coordinator** who works across Oxfordshire to join up initiatives to support the domestic abuse and reducing violence against women and girls agenda. Outcomes so far this year include:
 - (a) producing and launching the www.LGBToxon.uk website,

- (b) organising 2 'Books Beyond Words' training sessions in Oxfordshire for frontline practitioners to work with people with Learning Disabilities experiencing abuse
 - (c) led the Home Office's VAWG Transformation Fund bid for the Thames Valley BAMER Project (Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic and Refugee communities) which was successfully awarded £400k for new Refugee accommodation.
12. In terms of education and training, the VAWG coordinator has developed:
- (a) a 6 week 'healthy relationships' programme for a youth group in Blackbird Leys, supporting Oxford CSP's focus on reducing domestic abuse in the area.
 - (b) The post delivers regular training sessions on domestic abuse to
 - (1) medical students at the John Radcliffe Hospital,
 - (2) Thames Valley Restorative Justice Service and Thames Valley Police Integrated Offender Managers, and to
 - (3) nursing and midwifery students at Oxford Brookes University.
13. **The IDVA service** provides a rapid pathway to immediate support by anyone identified as at high risk. This is particularly important as seeking help can escalate risk. The current provider is Reducing the Risk and each year the service works with more than 300 victims. This includes new referrals, victims who continue to need support and repeat referrals for victims who come back into the system.
14. There are currently up to 1000 **Domestic Abuse Champions** operating across Oxfordshire. The Domestic Abuse Champions Network spans across all areas geographically and across a diverse range of agencies. We have Champions who work in schools, colleges and across a range of agencies and health settings and provide key links in enabling victims and their children to access appropriate help and support.

Public Health £50,656 – Jackie Wilderspin (Public Health Specialist, Oxfordshire County Council)

15. The grant received by Drugs and Alcohol service commissioners in Public Health in 2016-17 was spent in 2 areas of work – Reducing Reoffending and Reducing Alcohol Related Harm. These are described briefly below. This work is continuing in 2017-18 thanks to a further grant.
16. Drugs treatment services in Oxfordshire are provided by Turning Point, commissioned and contract managed by Public Health at the County Council. As part of this contract treatment is provided for offenders on Drugs Rehabilitation Requirements (DRRs) and Alcohol Treatment Orders (ATOs) as part of their sentence. These clients undergo treatment for their addictions, with regular drugs tests, and also have opportunities to gain work experience, qualifications and other support to sustain their recovery. One of the settings for this work is the Refresh Café on Cowley Road in Oxford. PCC funding is used to employ 2 workers for that venue, working with a range of clients, many of whom are on court orders.

17. Outcomes of this work include:

- Work Based Opportunities for Offenders including those on DRRs, ATOs, released from prison or on day release. Clients have an average of 60 hours of work experience during their placement
- Opportunities for all volunteers (including offenders) with an expectation of attendance on 2 days a week. The volunteers receive training in food hygiene, link to other volunteering and employment programmes and are helped with interview techniques, job searching, opening bank accounts etc.
- Drug & Alcohol Free / Recovery Support activities to ensure the clients have holistic care. They are encouraged to attend AA or NA meetings (which are held at the Café) and other recovery groups. They are also linked to mental health services, housing, Children Social Care etc as necessary.

18. **Summary of achievements in 2016-17**

Outcomes	Target	Actual
Number of Offenders volunteering at the Refresh Café	35	81
Number of hours delivered by volunteers at the Refresh Cafe		4,694 hrs
Number of Offenders completing an accredited Volunteering Training Programme	25	28
Number of Offenders moving into further Training	10	13
Number of Offenders moving into paid employment <i>(including Subway sandwich chain (3), Pret a Manger, McDonalds, Booker Cash and Carry (3), Catering, Sainsbury (2), Building work (4), Unipart, Social Care.</i>	15	26
Number of Offenders becoming Drug/ Alcohol free	20	37
Number of Public Awareness Campaigns completed <i>(Cowley Road Carnival, Truckfest)</i>	3	2
Number of volunteers receiving Food and Hygiene level 2 qualification		39

19. The work to reduce alcohol related harm is undertaken by many partners and in many settings. For example, Public Health continue to commission the Community Safety Practitioner who works in the Emergency Department at the Hospital Trust, following up people who arrive with alcohol related injuries or as a result of violence. She offers advice, referrals into treatment services or care plans with other agencies as appropriate. A more comprehensive report on this work was included in the Alcohol and Drugs Partnership annual report.

20. Alcohol Campaigns to reduce alcohol related harm were also funded through the PCC grant in 2016-17. This focussed on Dry January, particularly aimed

at people who are drinking above the recommended maximum (which is 14 units per week for both men and women) and who, as a consequence, are likely to be damaging their health. This level of drinking can also have social and community safety implications, including drink driving, public order, domestic abuse and anti-social behaviour.

21. In addition, the Public Health team designed and distributed Alcohol Scratch Cards. These postcard sized resources can be used by a range of professionals to engage people in a brief conversation about drinking alcohol. These conversations often improve motivation to drink less and lead to decisions to reduce alcohol consumption. Public Health commission training sessions on how to deliver brief advice on alcohol in order to prevent alcohol related problems. Everyone attending the training is given scratch cards as a resource for working with their clients. Over 160 professionals from a wide range of agencies have received this training in the last 18 months.
22. The work at the Refresh Café is continuing during 2017-18 and is still supported through the PCC grant. In addition, the Drugs and Alcohol Commissioners are discussing the implications of the recently published national Drugs Strategy and will contribute to a meeting of the Reducing Reoffending Strategy Group on this topic later in the autumn. Plans for alcohol harm reduction campaigns are also being drawn up.

Youth Justice Service £226,913

Amrik Panaser (Head of Youth Justice Service, Oxfordshire County Council)

23. **First time Entrants:** The latest published data in this indicator relates to the calendar year January to December 2016. There were 164 actual First-time Entrants to the Youth Justice System which is 11 less than 2015. This is a 43% reduction on 2011/12 levels. This indicator is reported as a rate per 100,000 of the 10-17 population. Performance is better than National and Thames Valley rates but below that of the South-East and family group of Youth Justice Services.
24. **Reducing Reoffending:** The most recent data for 2016/17 (year to date) is that we have a reoffending rate of 31.9%; this is statistically better than all comparison groups nationally and locally (38% for England and 33% against our statistical neighbours).
25. **Reducing Custody:** There were 7 custodial sentences in the year out of a total of 188 court sentences. This equates to 3.7% and is a rate of 0.12 per 1,000 of the 10-17 population. It is a decrease on the previous year in which there were 12 custodial sentences in the year out of a total of 184 court sentences. This equated to 6.5% and is a rate of 0.20 per 1,000 of the 10-17 population. This Data is better than National and South-East rates and equal to the average for family group of Youth Justice Services.
26. **Restorative Justice Outcomes: 2016-2017** which is amongst the best nationally in the sector. We have also achieved **the Restorative Justice Council Quality Mark** for the second time:

- Relevant interventions closing in that period for offences involving personal victims: **204** (the number was 138 in 2015-16)
- Number of victims for those offences: **256** (the number was 192 in 2015-16)
- Number of victims contacted and consulted: **235** (92% of victims) (the number was 156 in 2015 -16 = 81%)
- Of those contacted, number of victims engaging in a restorative process: **126** (68% of victims who were contacted) (the number was 99 in 2015-16 = 64%)
- Number of victims engaging in a face to face meeting: **41** (17% of victims who were contacted) (the number was 31 in 2015-16 = 20%)
- Number of victims engaging in an indirect restorative process: **119** (51% of victims who were contacted) (the number was 68 in 2015-16 = 44%)

27. **Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) Findings:** The Youth Justice Service was included within the JTAI during March 2016, published in May 2016. The feedback to Oxfordshire County Council noted the specific tool devised with the youth Justice Service to identify risk and "... (a) clear understanding that young people face both as perpetrators and potential victims of exploitation" (Pg 5).
28. **Partnerships innovation:** Partnership work with community sector, includes groups focussing on risky behaviours, road traffic offences and injuries. Oxfordshire Youth Justice Service initiated a Child on Parent Violence group work course, funded initially by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, and run under the charity SAFE! Some of the families attending the groups have been referred by the Youth Justice Service (10% of YJS caseload involve cases where offences were committed in the home). A total of 36 families have benefited from the programme to date.

Preventing Radicalisation – no PCC grant funding

Carys Alty (Prevention and Community Safety Manager, Oxfordshire County Council Fire and Rescue Service)

29. A key area of work for the partnership last year was to implement the new Prevent duty which was introduced in 2015 to prevent radicalisation. No grant funding was allocated to support this activity as it was anticipated that partners would use existing resources to mainstream prevent as a safeguarding issue. Key areas of work for the partnership last year included:
- Setting up appropriate governance arrangements for Prevent across the county and district levels through an agreed memo of understanding
 - Embedding Prevent into existing safeguarding procedures and processes

- Coordinating countywide prevent activity through the multi-agency Prevent Implementation Group and reporting to the Safer Oxfordshire Partnership on progress against the new duty – this includes developing a countywide room hire agreement which includes preventing radicalism as a safeguarding issue
 - Developing and delivering the Home Office training package - Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent (WRAP) - face-to-face to over 320 front line staff (including schools)
 - Raising awareness of Prevent through attending meetings with practitioners and local community leaders (primarily through our Local Authority Designated Officer LADO), as well as providing reports for the safeguarding Boards
 - Supporting individuals vulnerable to radicalisation through the Channel Panel
30. Towards the end of last year, the partnership put itself forward for a Home Office Prevent peer review (the first area to do) which took place over 3 days in May 2017. The report was received in August 2017 and an action plan is being developed in response.
31. According to the annual Counter Terrorism Local Report (CTLP) that is produced in March each year by Counter Terrorism Policing South East and based on local intelligence, Oxfordshire continues to be a low risk area in relation to radicalisation and extremism.

Next steps

32. The partnership will continue to develop its work as set out in the Community Safety Agreement 2017/18.

Financial and Staff Implications

33. None

Equalities Implications

34. None

RECOMMENDATION

35. **The Committee is RECOMMENDED to advise on areas of improvement for the partnership in delivering against its priorities for 2017/18.**

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Background papers: only paper attached is the Community Safety Agreement 2017/18

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