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| Subject: | Community Safety Partnership Update |
| Reason for briefing note: | Update for the Communities Overview & Scrutiny Panel |
| Responsible officer(s): | David Scott, Head of Communities Andy Aldridge, Community Safety Manager Mandy Mann, ASB and VRU Coordinator |
| Senior leader sponsor: | Councillor David Cannon |
| Date: | 9 November 2021 |

SUMMARY

The Royal Borough's Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is comprised of agencies including the Police, health, fire and rescue service, other council delivered services and key external stakeholders delivering interventions for residents, businesses and visitors across the borough.

The CSP deliver a suite of interventions each year to address the needs identified and agreed upon by all stakeholders. These interventions are funded wholly or in-part through a bidding process in conjunction with the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC).

1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The purpose of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is to deliver safer communities as set out in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and subsequent relevant legislation. In doing this, the partnership will co-ordinate community safety activity in the Royal Borough at a strategic level; to reduce crime and the fear of crime and to improve the quality of life of residents.
- 1.2 This activity goes far wider than just policing and is about ensuring all agencies work closely together to safeguard and put residents first; striving to promote stronger communities in partnership with local stakeholders; aiming to keep crime and anti-social behaviour levels low and public confidence high.
- 1.3 To achieve these strategic aims, key stakeholders from across a range of partners including blue light services, statutory agencies and other non-statutory bodies work together to share intelligence and identify any key areas of need. The CSP includes Achieving for Children, Royal Borough, Probation, CCG, RBFRS, Thames Valley Police, Housing Solutions, BHFT, SCAS, Office of the Police Crime Commissioner, Safeguarding Partnership, Resilience, Primary Care, Local Police Independent Advisory Group and Voluntary and Community Sector representative (see Appendix 1 for CSP diagram which shows all statutory members).
- 1.4 The CSP board will then develop interventions to problem-solve and address any key needs identified; utilising and allocating the funding afforded to it by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC).

- 1.5 The OPCC confirmed that the Royal Borough's Community Safety Fund allocation for 2021/22 will be maintained at the same level as in 2020/21 – equating to only a slightly reduced amount of £147,397. Projects supported this year include Prevention and Early Intervention services, Outreach and IDVA (Independent Domestic Violence Advocate) service, Adult transitions service for young adults at risk of exploitation and a mentoring service for those at risk of exclusion/exploitation.
- 1.6 These bids are subject to ratification by the partnership, in previous years the OPCC funding has been approved in quarter four of the financial year for the subsequent year. However, the new PCC has indicated a three year funding proposal to take effect in April 2022. The intention of this three year funding plan is to enable a more longer term strategic planned approach to tackling local priorities.
- 1.7 The terms of reference for the CSP were updated and refreshed in 2019. The CSP board are considering further updates at the November 2021 meeting to reflect new legislation that has been passed or is currently going through Parliament. A verbal update will be provided on the outcome of this at the panel.

2 Serious Violence Duty

- 2.1 Existing Community Safety Partnerships demonstrate a range of multi-agency approaches that can and do contribute to preventing and reducing serious violence. However, the Home Office has identified there is inconsistency in approach and success of these arrangements for a range of reasons for example:
 - competing priorities
 - lack or absence of important elements e.g. data sharing and intelligence
 - extent of participation by key statutory agencies
- 2.2 On 1 April 2019 - the Government published a consultation on a legal duty to support a multi-agency approach to preventing and tackling serious violence.
- 2.3 On 15 July 2019 - the Government published its response to the consultation which noted that the majority of respondents favoured a legislative approach to support multi-agency working with regard to tackling serious violence.
- 2.4 The intention to legislate for a new Serious Violence Duty was announced in the Queen's Speech in December 2019. The Duty is one of many provisions included within Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill, introduced on 9 March this year. A key part of the Government's wider programme of work to prevent and reduce serious violence; taking a whole-system approach to understand the causes and consequences of serious violence, focused on prevention and early intervention.
- 2.5 It will require organisations to work together to plan, share data, intelligence and knowledge, to generate evidence-based analysis of the problem and solutions to prevent and reduce serious violence in local areas. The new duty will provide sufficient flexibility for relevant organisations to work together in the most effective local partnership for any given area (in our case the Thames Valley force and the Windsor and Maidenhead local police area).
- 2.6 This will complement the current investment in Violence Reduction Units, in the 18 police force areas most affected by serious violence, by establishing a legal framework to

support the successful delivery of this cross-sector approach, including through the extended set of partners on whom the duty will fall which are the police, local authorities, youth offending teams, probation, fire and rescue, and health authorities.

- 2.7 The Home Office will amend the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 through the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill which is currently proceeding to Parliament and has reached the Lords Committee stage and is currently expected to be enacted in quarter one of 2022 with relevant secondary legislation completed by end of quarter 2/beginning of quarter 3, 2022. This will ensure that tackling serious violence is an explicit priority for Community Safety Partnerships.
- 2.8 It was agreed as part of the 2021/22 VRU core grant application that the local authority would receive £40,000 to increase their capacity to coordinate local response to the serious violence reduction agenda and build readiness for the incoming Serious Violence Duty as set out in 2.7. RBWM has recently appointed a new violence reduction coordinator who will act as the single point of contact for RBWM and support the local violence reduction work streams and also link with the Thames Valley wide violence reduction unit operated by Thames Valley Police to ensure a coordinated approach across the whole of the force area.
- 2.9 As part of our preparation for the new duty and in partnership with the other eight upper tier local authorities in the Thames Valley Police force area RBWM has developed a series of work streams to tackle and reduce violence, these work streams cover Night Time Economy violence, domestic abuse violence, preventing school exclusions and tackling youth violence and county drug lines.
- 2.10 The CSP developed and agreed an Exploitation Strategy which was approved in early 2021 and provides a strategic framework for all partners to use to seek to reduce exploitation in adults and children. The CSP approved an information sharing protocol in 2021 under which specific information sharing agreements are implemented to deal with either specific sharing arrangements in detail. The CSP submitted the domestic homicide review to the Home Office in February 2021.

3 NEXT STEPS

- 3.1 The CSP will also be working over the next quarter to review and refresh the CSP plan to 2021-24 to reflect the election of the new Police and Crime Commissioner in May 2021 and that term of office. The updated priorities outlined above and being considered and therefore subject to agreement from the CSP board also reflect the new PCC's Police and Justice plan.
- 3.2 At the next CSP meeting a further review of the work which has previously fallen within the remit of the Community Safety Partnership, the Local Children's Safeguarding Board and the Adults Safeguarding Board has begun to reflect that there is now a combined Adults and Children's Safeguarding Board to ensure there is neither duplication nor any gaps in the remit of these two ongoing multi agency boards.
- 3.3 The next CSP is scheduled for Tuesday 2 November 2021 and will meet quarterly throughout 2021/22.

Appendix 1

