

Test Valley Community Safety Management Group: Report on Work Being Undertaken Beyond That With Schools.

Report of the Community Engagement Manager (on behalf of the Test Valley Partnership)

Recommended:

- 1. Report to be noted and partnership approach be endorsed.**
- 2. Officers bring a report back to OSCOM in autumn 2020 to give an annual update on the work of the Community Safety Management Group**

SUMMARY:

- OSCOM has previously discussed work being undertaken by the Test Valley Community Safety Management Group (CSMG) in regards to work on drugs and with schools.
- OSCOM subsequently requested a report on the wider work of the CSMG. A number of examples of partnership project and operations are cited to outline how the partnership operates and its impact beyond these aspects.
- The CSMG is a local multi-agency partnership, including TVBC, Police and others dealing with all aspects and impacts of community safety and anti-social behaviour related matters.

Background:

- 1.1** This report follows previous reports and discussions in October 2018 and March 2019, in regards to work undertaken by the (CSMG) on sourcing funding opportunities and support for work on drug education and prevention programmes and work with schools locally, and a request from the committee to know more of the wider partnership work undertaken by the group. This report gives examples of some of the projects and operations initiated and operated via the CSMG and will act to inform OSCOM members of the nature of work in this field ahead of an OSCOM round table session.
- 1.2** The CSMG is a sub-group of the Test Valley Partnership and comprises of the statutory Community Safety Partners (TVBC; Police; Fire & Rescue Service; Clinical Commissioning Group; Probation), plus other relevant local Community Safety Partners such as Registered Social Landlords, Neighbourhood Watch, Street Pastors, Youth Crime Prevention (YCP), Town Centre and BID managers, amongst others.
- 1.3** It enables organisations working locally in this sector to respond to the needs of communities in a co-ordinated and organised way by sharing skills, resources and data. The group addresses community safety specific issues on a tactical and localised level. This allows for responsible authorities and other local agencies and partners to work in partnership to develop and implement strategies to tackle crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour priorities locally.

- 1.4 Officers from TVBC also attend monthly confidential Police Tactical Command Briefing Meetings to help ensure that effective two-way communication and co-ordination is maintained on key issues between the CSMG and Police. CSMG priorities are a standing item on this agenda.
- 1.5 The CSMG collectively assesses and proposes the partnership priorities to the Test Valley Partnership annually. The priority areas for 2019/20 are:
- Community Crime Prevention and Public Safety. To increase public reassurance and confidence to report issues to public bodies.
 - Anti-Social Behaviour, in particular including street-attached behaviours.
 - Supporting Vulnerable People in Need, to include issues of Cyber Crime, Scams, and Modern Slavery etc.
 - Positive engagement and early intervention with young people, to identify and address potential causal issues of behaviours.
 - Drug related harm
 - Duties under the Counter terrorism Security Act PREVENT agenda.
 - To encourage co-operative partnership amongst agencies and community/voluntary sector groups working towards enhanced and positive communities.
- 1.6 In addition, monthly sub-group casework meetings (Community Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences) are also held in the North and South of the district with all relevant partners to discuss and plan for cases on an individual basis.

2 Context

- 2.1 The CSMG has implemented a range of operations and projects to help address the priorities and key issues identified. A sample of the recent early intervention, responsive and engagement partnership operations and projects planned and monitored via the CSMG are outlined below to show its remit:
- 2.2 The diverse nature of the group, incorporating statutory, voluntary and third sector organisations linked to community safety allows for a wide range of information, skills, capacity and intelligence to be brought to the group and incorporated into discussions and projects. It also allows for important messages around crime prevention and public safety to be disseminated to these groups and their wider community networks.
- 2.3 **‘Op Mazi’**: Following increased reports of Anti-Social Behaviour linked to street-attached individuals, mainly in Andover Town Centre, in the summer of 2018, ‘Op Mazi’ was launched by the CSMG, incorporating Police, TVBC and local specialist treatment and support service sector partners to address this. These services include Two Saints, NHS Inclusion Substance Misuse Service, MIND, Salvation Army and the Bridge Drop-in amongst others.

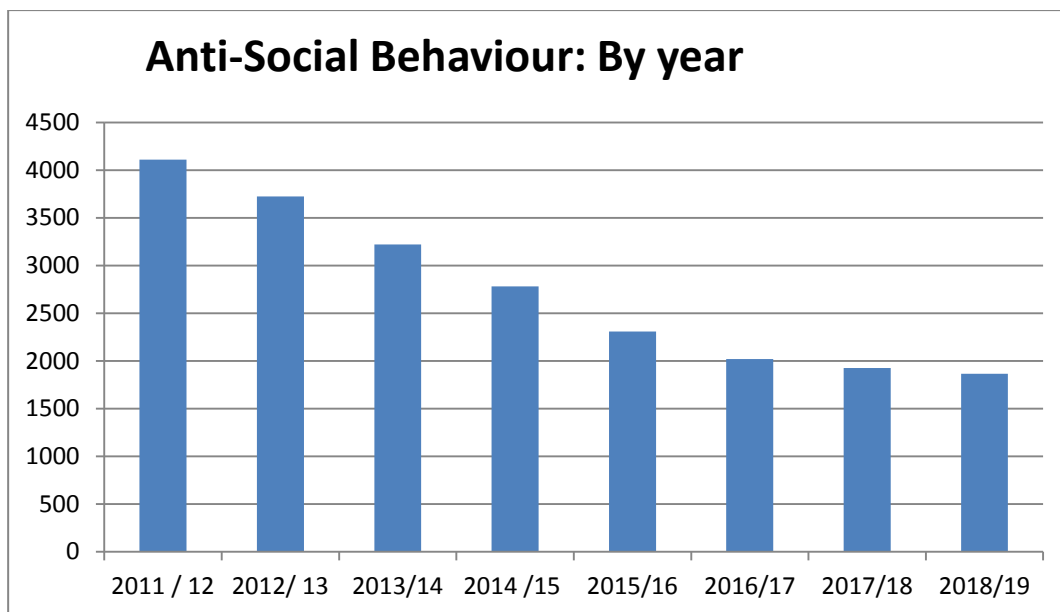
- 2.4 Actions have included increased police presence and regular partnership patrols in the areas most affected, plus direct specialist engagement with those concerned to identify any vulnerabilities and issues, with subsequent referrals to partners for action on drink and drug related issues, housing and/or benefits as applicable. Alongside this, enforcement action has been taken by Police and TVBC, along with a series of joint patrols of all partner agencies initiated to engage, monitor and enforce matters.
- 2.5 A number of those identified were subsequently re-housed, found places or entered treatment and have since removed themselves from these areas. Nonetheless some issues remain and the operation has been agreed to continue during 2019/20, with increased frequency of targeted patrols, plus educational projects to advise of available support and encourage public funding to be directed to local support charities and groups rather than direct to individuals.
- 2.6 **PSPOs:** A new Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) for Andover and Romsey, to replace the former Designated Public Places Orders, has been drafted and should be approved by the end of the year. The CSMG has led on evidencing, formulating and co-ordinating the approach to the new orders which, following cabinet agreement and public consultation, will introduce greater powers to deal with anti-social behaviour. The orders will be area specific to the issues evidenced, and will include Anti-social behaviour arising from alcohol usage, harassment and impacts on public health from urination or defecation.
- 2.7 **Vulnerable People:** The CSMG has also identified the need for and provided a series of awareness raising and training courses for professionals beyond the partnership, including on topics such as 'Adverse Childhood Experiences' (ACEs), and Suicide Awareness training for frontline staff following the identification of recent trends in incidents locally. Other examples include links with Police and Trading Standards 'Operation Liberal', 'SCAMnesty', and 'SCAMchampion' projects to identify, engage and advise people at risk of current frauds and scams locally.
- 2.8 **Big Band Buffet:** The Big Band Buffet is an annual event open to over 55s and those who may be isolated, vulnerable and their families, and at increased risk of crime or other harm. It provides a lunch accompanied by a band. Alongside this, partners from the CSMG and other Community Safety based organisations will provide talks and stands for the audience on relevant topics such as home and fire safety, staying safe at home, cybercrime, fraud, scams and distraction burglaries.
- 2.9 **'ICE':** 'ICE' (Intervention, Communication; Education) is an early intervention project developed to identify young people with risky or altered behaviour, and who may be at increased risk of causing Anti-Social Behaviour in their communities, without criminalising them.

- 2.10 ICE comprises Test Valley Borough Council, Hampshire Police, Fire & Rescue Service, Army and Schools; and operates via a series of voluntary workshops for young people to attend, referred by schools, partners and families, highlighting concerns of changes in pupil behaviour, likely to be linked to ASB/offending. The scheme is funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner and the CSMG. Feedback from participants and partners continues to have been positive, both in terms of the course and its subsequent impact on attitudes and behaviours.
- 2.11 In December 2018, the ICE partnership project was recognised in the national 'Children and Young People Now Awards' as a finalist in the Youth Justice category. This is the third year that the project has been recognised and shortlisted by award bodies, following the Hampshire Fire & Rescue 'Celebrating Success' Awards in 2017, and the National 'Resolve ASB Awards' in 2016. Subsequently, additional funding has been secured from the Police and Crime Commissioner to extend the ICE project to March 2020 with three further tailored cohorts scheduled.
- 2.12 To date over 900 people have attended these events, and further funding has been secured from the Police Commissioner to run a further event in January 2020.
- 2.13 **Community Sports:** TVBC, Hampshire Police, Fire & Rescue Service and the Army have operated community sports programmes to engage with young people and break down barriers between them and the agencies. The project now operates a wide range of sports led by local clubs and coaches.
- 2.14 In 2019 around 100 young people took part in Football, Tennis, Athletics, Hockey, Cricket and other taster sessions. The events are open to all young people between 8-15 with promotions targeted on those most vulnerable and at risk. The sessions promote positive social behaviours and continue to improve relationships and understanding between agencies and young people, as well as in helping effective engagement and communication between them.
- 2.15 **Knife Crime:** The CSMG is currently working with the Police and Crime Commissioners newly commissioned services to deliver knife crime awareness and engagement workshops with schools across the Test Valley. It is envisaged that these workshops will be delivered after the spring with those schools who have expressed an interest in taking up this offer. Additional work is also underway with Police to introduce a school apprenticeship project which will engage young people in learning and promoting the issues.
- 2.16 **PREVENT:** The CSMG is linked into the countywide Prevent Board which leads on the topic, and allows for effective information sharing between the strategic leads and the wider community on the requirements and duties. The CSMG has organised awareness sessions and training on this topic for members, community groups such as parish councils and village hall organisations, and for firms such as Be Wiser as part of their apprenticeship training scheme, which is a requirement of Ofsted.

- 2.17 The CSMG also encompasses the statutory Community Safety Partnership (CSP) duties of the Test Valley Partnership. The statutory authorities are obliged to work together to protect their local communities and deal with local issues including antisocial behaviour, drug or alcohol misuse and re-offending. They are also responsible for assessing any Community Trigger and Domestic Homicide Review referrals, and to provide an annual Strategic Assessment report for the Police and Crime Commissioner. Each of these aspects are reported to the Test Valley Partnership directly. The 2019-20 Strategic Assessment is currently awaiting sign off by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and therefore is not publicly available at time of writing, however, a copy of the 2018/19 Strategic Assessment is at Appendix A.
- 2.18 **Community Trigger:** 'Community Trigger' is a statutory device which gives victims and communities the right to request a formal review of their case where circumstances of ASB meet a set threshold. In 2018/19 no Community Trigger review requests were received.
- 2.19 **Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR):** Under the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004, Community Safety Partnerships (locally through the Test Valley Partnership) have a legal duty to commission 'Domestic Homicide Reviews' and to report their findings to the Home Office, in all cases in which the death of a person aged 16 or over has resulted from violence, abuse or neglect by a person within an intimate relationship, or within the same household. The objective is to identify lessons which can be used for either good practice or areas of improvements.
- 2.20 A DHR has recently been completed in Test Valley. The report, its executive summary and action plan have been approved by the statutory and impacted members of the Community Safety Partnership, and has been submitted to the Home Office for quality assurance processes. The action plan will be implemented by the relevant partners and lead agencies to address the lessons identified. In June 2019 a further DHR referral was received from Police and a review is underway on behalf of the Test Valley Partnerships CSP members.

3 Conclusion

- 3.1 Research by the College of Policing shows that working in partnership to develop problem-orientated and social skills based prevention and diversionary schemes is an effective means of reducing and addressing issues such as anti-social behaviours. Within Test Valley the CSMG has developed innovative and award winning multi agency projects, such as ICE, Community Sports, The Big Band Buffet and Op Mazi, to name but a few, which demonstrate the effectiveness of this approach to partnership working in Test Valley
- 3.2 Analysis of the available data shows that reports of incidents of ASB have continued to fall, by a further -3.9% over 2018/19 (from -3.3% in 2017/18). From its peak in 2011 of 1,234 reports in Quarter 2 of that year, reports fell to 413 in Quarter 4 of 2018/19 (latest available figures).



3.3 Whilst there are many variables which can influence these statistics, the CSMG believe that, in part, the downward trend shown in ASB reports reflects the positive working relationships in place, and collaborative promotion and early intervention engagement work of the Group working in effective partnership, as shown in the examples cited above. This approach has also helped to develop excellent working relationships between key partners, such as the Police, and TVBC. OSCOM will shortly have further opportunity to engage with the Police via the planned round table session.

4 Appendix

4.1 2018/19 Strategic Assessment Report.

<u>Background Papers (Local Government Act 1972 Section 100D)</u>			
None.			
<u>Confidentiality</u>			
It is considered that this report does not contain exempt information within the meaning of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, and can be made public.			
No of Annexes:	None		
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