

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL
COMMUNITIES and HOUSING ADVISORY BOARD

28 February 2017

Report of the Central Services Director

Part 1- Public

Matters for Information

1 COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

To provide an update on some of the recent work of the Community Safety Partnership

1.1 Community Safety Partnership priorities for 2017/18

1.1.1 Following the Community Safety Partnership Workshop held on 8 February, the Partnership has now agreed that its priorities for 2017/18 will be to tackle:

- Anti-social behaviour – including environmental crime
- Counter terrorism
- Domestic Abuse
- Gangs/Organised Crime Groups
- Mental Health
- Substance misuse

1.1.2 We will now be developing actions around these priorities and writing our Partnership Plan. This will be ratified by the Community Safety Partnership Strategy Group at its meeting on 22 March. We will then bring a copy for information to this Board.

1.2 Police and Crime Commissioners Plan

1.2.1 The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) has also recently published his 'Safer in Kent: The Community Safety and Criminal Justice Plan' for 2017 to 2021. In this he sets out his priorities, which are closely linked to the Police's priorities for the next four years. His priorities are to:

- Fight crime, ASB and reduce re-offending
- Tackle abuse, exploitation, violence, organised crime and gangs
- Invest in schemes that make communities feel safer and support the engagement of residents
- Support initiatives that reduce pressure on policing due to mental health
- Support victims of crime and abuse

- Invest in schemes that make offenders pay for the harm they have caused.

1.2.2 The Community Safety Partnership receives funding from the PCC and therefore must ensure that our priorities are linked to the priorities of the PCC.

1.3 Domestic Abuse provision for Tonbridge & Malling

1.3.1 From April 2017 the Community Safety Partnership and Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council will be commissioning the Domestic Abuse Volunteer Support Service (DAVSS) to provide support for all domestic abuse victims within the borough.

1.3.2 At present, the Borough Council and Community Safety Partnership provide funding for DAVSS to support our standard (low) and medium risk victims. Support for our high risk victims is provided by Choices, a charity based in Maidstone.

1.3.3 Following a review by Kent County Council around domestic abuse commissioned services ourselves, Sevenoaks District Council and Tunbridge Wells Borough Council have agreed to commission DAVSS across West Kent to provide a consistent service for all victims, regardless of their risk levels.

1.3.4 DAVSS provide excellent value for money as they use trained volunteers to provide one to one, face to face support for victims (if the victims want this). They can provide assistance with safety planning, support to court and pro bono legal advice. They also run the Freedom Programme and a telephone helpline.

1.3.5 Support for victims of domestic abuse is something that is needed in this borough. Domestic abuse reports to the police have increased by 41% and referrals to specialist services (e.g. DAVSS) have also increased by 23%. It is difficult to know whether the actual amount of domestic abuse is increasing or whether victims now feel more confident to report incidents. We want to continue to make victims feel more confident in reporting so that we can prevent repeat victims and reduce the numbers of people experiencing this crime.

1.3.6 We are currently working with colleagues in West Kent to produce a Service Level Agreement with DAVSS and our new service with DAVSS will begin from 1 April. Details of the number of victims supported and our work with DAVSS will be reported back to future Board meetings.

1.4 Crime statistics

1.4.1 Latest police crime statistics show that the amount of victim based crime recorded has increased by 576 offences (from 5,495 offences in January 2016 to 6,071 in January 2017).

1.4.2 However, there have been decreases in house burglaries (decrease of 5 offences), burglaries other than dwellings (decrease of 96 offences) and theft from

motor vehicles (decrease of 98 offences). There has been a slight increase in theft of motor vehicles (32 offences). This is for data to the end of January 2017 (the latest data available).

- 1.4.3 The Community Safety Unit recently identified a problem of criminal damage offences in Snodland and worked together to identify those causing this issue. While trying to identify those causing this damage the CSU undertook house to house enquiries which as well as finding out how was suspected of the offences also provided reassurance to residents.

1.5 Self- neglect meeting

- 1.5.1 The Community Safety Partnership has recently taken the decision to try to identify individuals at risk of self-neglect. Someone is at risk of self-neglect if they are unable, or unwilling to provide adequate care for themselves. An example of this might be someone who hoards items in their houses.
- 1.5.2 The individuals will be identified by partners and then discussed at one of our Weekly meetings (the last Thursday of every month). Additional organisations will attend these meetings to provide information and support for these individuals. The aim is that with support partners can help them to resolve their issues and prevent them from becoming more vulnerable to other issues (such as crime or anti-social behaviour).
- 1.5.3 We will be trialling this initiative and reviewing how effective it has been. However, initial feedback from partners has been that this is something that is needed.

1.6 Legal Implications

- 1.6.1 None

1.7 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 1.7.1 Any funding requirements are provided through the Community Safety Partnership

1.8 Risk Assessment

- 1.8.1 All risk assessments are undertaken as appropriate.

1.9 Policy Considerations

- 1.9.1 The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

1.10

Background papers:

Nil

contact: Alison Finch
Safer & Stronger Communities
Manager

Adrian Stanfield
Central Services Director