

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL
COMMUNITIES and HOUSING ADVISORY BOARD

24 July 2017

Report of the Director of Central Services

Part 1- Public

Matters for Information

1 COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

To provide Members with an update from the Community Safety Partnership (CSP)

1.1 New Police staff within the Community Safety Unit

1.1.1 Within the Community Safety Unit (CSU) – the operational arm of the Community Safety Partnership – there have been some recent police staff changes. Rachel McNeil, the previous Inspector is now Chief Inspector and will be moving to a new position soon. Inspector Maxine Martin will replace Rachel's role within the CSU. Sgt Mark Ginsberg has retired (as of 12 July) and has been replaced by Sgt Andy Gallon. Sgt Jo Mott is due for retirement later in the year and will be replaced by Sgt Dougal Bell.

1.2 Domestic Abuse Commissioning

1.2.1 Since April 2017 the Commissioning services around domestic abuse have changed. KCC commission Domestic Abuse services for the county and have commissioned Lookahead to provide services for High Risk Victims of domestic abuse within West Kent.

1.2.2 Within West Kent the three Councils have agreed to fund DAVSS (Domestic Abuse Volunteer Support Service) to provide support for all victims of domestic abuse (although primarily they will be supporting medium risk victims). Low risk victims of domestic abuse will be supported by Victim Support.

1.2.3 The referral pathway is fairly complicated but we have produced a flowchart (attached at **Annex 1**) to show the referral routes. If there is any confusion around who the referral should be sent to, or you know a victim of domestic abuse that needs some advice then you should contact DAVSS on 01892 570538. They will be able to provide the appropriate support or signpost on as appropriate.

1.2.4 We hope that this system will ensure that all victims of domestic abuse (regardless of their risk level) will receive the support that they need.

1.3 Self-Neglect Forum

- 1.3.1 The Self-Neglect Forum established by the Community Safety Partnership is going well and so far 28 individuals have been referred to the Forum.
- 1.3.2 The aim of the Forum is to share concerns about any 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.
- 1.3.3 We invite partners to attend these meetings and have been getting good attendance from a variety of partners. We discuss each individual case and then decide on appropriate actions. Actions so far have included getting equipment fitted, such as stair lifts, visiting the individual to offer support and making appropriate referrals so that they get the help they need.
- 1.3.4 Nominations can be made by anyone and a referral form is available from the Community Safety Unit. The referrals are then circulated a week in advance to allow partners a chance to check whether the individual is known to their agency.

1.4 Volunteer Community Wardens

- 1.4.1 KCC are currently recruiting Volunteer Community Wardens for Snodland and Kings Hill. These volunteers will support community wardens, local organisations and residents to create resilient neighbourhoods and reduce the fear of crime.
- 1.4.2 The Volunteer Wardens will support the community wardens by identifying issues and feeding back to organisations including Trading Standards and the Police. They will be talking to local residents and liaising with organisations including Neighbourhood Watch, Victim Support and fire services. They'll also engage with local groups and meetings providing advice on topical issues and will provide local residents with crime prevention materials and advice to reduce their fear of crime.
- 1.4.3 A Volunteer Warden has been identified for Snodland and is currently undergoing training. A Warden for Kings Hill has yet to be recruited.
- 1.4.4 Training will be provided with ongoing mentoring with a community warden. The volunteers will not have accredited powers or be expected to handle sensitive information but will be able to identify issues in their community and work with partners to address these.
- 1.4.5 It is hoped that the scheme will be successful and will help to provide additional 'feet on the ground' for these communities.

1.5 Town Lock, Tonbridge & Leybourne Lakes

- 1.5.1 The CSU has been receiving complaints of anti-social behaviour around the Town Lock area of Tonbridge (particularly when the weather has been warm). This also includes reports of young people jumping into the Lock area. Unfortunately the

warmer weather does lead to an increase in the number of people gathering in this area and this in itself is not anti-social. However, where there are reports of loud music, abusive behaviour or alcohol misuse then the Partners will look to take action.

- 1.5.2 An educational/information event is being arranged with partners to help educate young people on the dangers of jumping into the lock, as well as talking to them (and others) about behaviour which is inappropriate.
- 1.5.3 We will also be looking to use the appropriate PSPO Orders to enforce against some of the ongoing issues (such as excessive alcohol consumption) and we have asked The Kenward Trust, a drug and alcohol misuse charity, to engage with the young people in the area and talk to them about their alcohol misuse.
- 1.5.4 Leybourne Lakes has also seen an issue with some groups of people swimming in the lake, lighting barbecues or being anti-social. Again the partners will be looking to hold an information/educational event to inform people about this behaviour. We will also be looking to use the new PSPO powers to take action against these issues.

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 under taken as appropriate.

Background papers:

Nil

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