

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL
COMMUNITIES and HOUSING ADVISORY BOARD

27 February 2018

Report of the Director of Central Services

Part 1- Public

Matters for Information

1 COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

This report will provide an update of some of the recent work of the Community Safety Partnership

1.1 Priorities for 2018/19

1.1.1 We will shortly be meeting with partners to agree on our priorities for the forthcoming year (2018/19). This will use data from our Strategic Assessment, as well as local knowledge of emerging trends and issues.

1.1.2 Once the priorities have been agreed then a Partnership Plan/Action Plan will be developed which will guide the work of the Partnership for the next year. We will keep the Board informed of our priorities and will bring a copy of the Partnership Plan/Action Plan to the next appropriate Board meeting.

1.2 Serious Organised Crime Tactical Group

1.2.1 Organised crime can be defined as serious crime planned, coordinated and conducted by people working together on a continuing basis. Their motivation is often, but not always, financial gain. Organised criminals working together for a particular criminal activity or activities are called an organised crime group. Organised crime group structures vary. Successful organised crime groups often consist of a durable core of key individuals. Around them is a cluster of subordinates, specialists, and other more transient members, plus an extended network of associates.

1.2.2 The Police have now established a Serious Organised Crime Tactical Group which will be held once a month and will look at identifying any Serious Organised crime groups within the borough. Partners have also been invited to attend this meeting and they will help to disrupt any groups or identify any other individuals who might be part of an organised crime group.

1.2.3 One Organised Crime Group has already been identified within the borough and work is ongoing to disrupt their activities. Other individuals have also been identified as potentially being part of another organised group and work is

beginning to look at them and clarify whether they are involved in an organised group.

1.3 Anti-social Behaviour Officer

- 1.3.1 A new Anti-social Behaviour Officer for Tonbridge & Malling has been appointed. We are hoping that he will start shortly.
- 1.3.2 The ASB Officer's role is to support any residents who report anti-social behaviour and they will liaise with them to identify the perpetrator (if appropriate) and put actions into place to cease the behaviour.
- 1.3.3 If you, or one of your residents is experiencing anti-social behaviour and needs further advice/support, the ASB Officer can be contacted on csp@tmbc.gov.uk or 01732 876149.

1.4 Anti-social behaviour in Tonbridge

- 1.4.1 The Community Safety Unit is still working to resolve the issues of rough sleepers in Tonbridge town centre (around River Walk). There were a number of rough sleepers who were using this area and we were able to engage with Porchlight to help provide accommodation and support for these people. Most of the people there have now moved into accommodation although we are aware of one rough sleeper who remains in this area and who has erected a tent at the Penny Shelter. The individual has been supported by Porchlight and has been offered accommodation (along with his dog) although he has chosen not to accept this accommodation. Social Services are also aware of this individual and are trying to offer support. The CSU is looking at how we can continue to offer support or prevent the issues if the individual does not want to engage with us.
- 1.4.2 There have been some incidents of young people causing anti-social behaviour at York Parade in Tonbridge. A number of young people involved in this have now been identified and have been spoken to (with their parents). The Police have also put a Dispersal Order in place which means that they have the power to move on groups of people who are gathering there and causing anti-social behaviour.
- 1.4.3 We are looking to work with Trading Standards and others to develop a Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP) for Tonbridge. This would replicate the work that has taken place in Snodland to tackle underage drinking and proxy purchasing (where an adult buys alcohol for someone underage).
- 1.4.4 We have identified that some areas of Tonbridge are seeing a slight increase in young people gathering, some of whom will be consuming alcohol. The CAP will mean that each Licenced premises in the identified area will be visited and offered advice and training. A Challenge 25 test will then take place (anyone who looks under 25 should be challenged for identification). We will also link in with the schools in Tonbridge to help educate their pupils around alcohol consumption as

well as looking to see whether additional diversionary activities are required. We will keep this Board updated on progress with this scheme.

1.5 Tonbridge Safer Towns Partnership update

1.5.1 The Safer Towns Co-ordinator, Crissie Gonzalez has now left the post and her post is out for recruitment. This is led by the Safer Towns Partnership Board, which is an independent body who run the Safer Towns Partnership in Tonbridge. There are obviously close links between the Safer Towns Partnership and the work of the Community Safety Partnership so we look forward to working with the new Safer Town's Co-ordinator once they are in post.

1.6 Training

1.6.1 Before Christmas we arranged for some mental health awareness training to be held and 28 people attended this from different organisations. The training helped to raise awareness of the issue of mental health and how to help someone who might approach you for help.

1.6.2 We are also looking to hold some training around Gangs awareness (date to be confirmed). Although we don't have a problem with gangs in the borough (young people) we want to raise awareness of the issue with professionals who work with young people so that they can spot the signs of anyone becoming involved with anything gang related or know where to raise concerns if they have any.

1.7 Legal Implications

1.7.1 None

1.8 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.8.1 Any funding requirements are provided through the Community Safety Partnership.

1.9 Risk Assessment

1.9.1 All risk assessments are under taken as appropriate.

1.10 Policy Considerations

1.10.1 Community Safety

Background papers:

Nil

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