

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL
COMMUNITIES and HOUSING ADVISORY BOARD

28 May 2019

Report of the Director of Central Services

Part 1- Public

Matters for Information

1 COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

The paper gives the latest update from the Community Safety Partnership

1.1 Crime statistics

- 1.1.1 The latest crime statistics for April 2018 to March 2019 are now available and show that there were 8,359 incidents of victim based crime recorded within Tonbridge and Malling (an increase of 7.5% compared to the same period last year). This, in part, is due to new Home Office counting rules. In the same time period there was a decrease of recorded incidents of anti-social behaviour reported to the police (down by 418 incidents). Although victim based crime levels have risen, the borough is still one of the safest in the county and we have the third lowest victim based crime rate in Kent.
- 1.1.2 Although knife crime has been a big issue nationally, locally it is not a major concern. There are some people in the area who carry knives but not to the extent that is seen in other areas. The Police Community Policing Team (CPT) gather intelligence around who might be carrying a knife and can act on this.
- 1.1.3 There has also been a slight increase in dangerous cycling in the borough (and in other neighbouring areas). This can be difficult to tackle due to the age of those causing this behaviour. However, the Police have been able to issue a Community Protection Warning Notice to someone over the age of 18 who was causing a nuisance and this has stopped them from riding in a dangerous manner. This will be monitored and used on other individuals if appropriate.

1.2 Young Persons Group

- 1.2.1 A monthly Young Person's Group is now running which discusses young people who may be at risk in the borough. The risk could be through gangs, child sexual exploitation, substance misuse or anti-social behaviour. The Group shares information about these young people and then looks at actions about how to prevent or stop them from becoming involved in the risky behaviour. We also look at whether there are any geographical areas we need to target or issues of

concern (e.g. drug use). The meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month and are well attended by partners.

1.3 Events/training

1.3.1 A number of training sessions have been held or hosted since the last Board meeting. Prevent training, presented by Nick Wilkinson from KCC was held on 13 March and 28 partners attended. We have also hosted Cyber Stalking training (on 11 April) and 24 people attended. We will also be hosting some Gangs awareness training (funded through the Kent Community Safety Partnership) in June. We expect to be fully booked for this course.

1.4 Safer Towns Partnership

1.4.1 The Safer Towns Partnership in Tonbridge is continuing to operate, although unfortunately the Co-ordinator is no longer in post. The post will be advertised and it is hoped to get someone in place within the next few weeks.

1.4.2 We work closely with the Safer Towns Partnership in Tonbridge to link the businesses together so that they can help to prevent shoplifting and nuisance behaviour. It is hoped that once the Co-ordinator is in post that they will be able to reinvigorate the Partnership and encourage further information sharing.

1.5 Community Alcohol Partnerships

1.5.1 Both Community Alcohol Partnerships (CAP) continue to meet. In Snodland we now meet three times per year as part of a CAP Plus scheme and as part of this we will be undertaking a one year review of the CAP. We will also be preparing our new Action Plan for 2019/20. We have also arranged some free training for businesses which will take place on 4 June around the Challenge 25 process.

1.5.2 The CAP in Tonbridge also continues to meet on a regular basis. As part of the CAP local schools have recently been able to have a performance of 'Smashed' an interactive performance around teen drinking. This was well received in the local schools. The CAP is looking to improve its contact with the schools in Tonbridge and we have been trying to make contacts with them to show them the benefits of the CAP scheme.

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.

1.9 Policy Considerations

1.9.1 Community Safety

Background papers:

Nil

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