

Local Strategic Partnership

COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP REPORT

a) A new North Northamptonshire CSP

After discussions spanning the last few months, the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner has given his approval to the merger of the four community safety partnerships in the north of the county, with effect from 1st July 2019.

The merger was proposed by the four CSPs, because they recognised

- The difficulty for county wide agencies – police, fire, probation, health – in engaging with six existing CSPs across the county effectively at sufficiently senior levels;
- The need to combat serious organised crime, violence, drugs use and county lines meant that it was more likely we could be successful if we worked across the whole area and pooled our resources
- Emerging cross boundary working on case management would be embedded sooner
- The impending reform of local government would make a North Northants CSP inevitable.

The other development in the last 6 months has been the (re)creation of a county wide CSP. This has been formed by all the statutory partners, to resume responsibility that the Chief Executive's Group had formally exercised. The latter group is fully engaged on local government reform and had recently moved away from a membership which sought to embrace the whole of the public sector in the county anyway. The County CSP is chaired by Martin Hammond. Its priorities are

- Serious organised crime
- Hate crime and anti-social behaviour
- Domestic abuse

New or refreshed strategies on all of these are being developed. A recent conference on county lines, drugs gangs and violence was held at Rockingham Castle to inform the serious organised crime strategy.

b) Current concerns in Kettering Borough

Last week we had the Purple Flag overnight assessment, which went well. The assessors were very impressed with the way we work with our partners, the Police,

Street Pastors, CCTV and Pubwatch to provide the service that we do to the night time economy. The assessor who is an Enforcement Team Leader at Guilford Council and has requested that he visits to see how our Wardens and Police interact and work together as he realises that we are producing positive results which he would like to replicate.

Over the last few months the general feeling from around some local businesses in the town is one of concern about some locations. . There are some specific problems around Mc Donald's, Gala Bingo with a group of youths, where we have found knives hidden at the rear of Gala, and a young person was stabbed in late March. This is extremely worrying and we are working closely with the Police and Mc Donald's to come to a resolution.

We do have a number of County Lines in the Borough which are causing some concern at the last count there was 16 operating in the borough but these lines were also in other areas of the county.

We have regular Cuckooing meetings to identify vulnerable persons who have a property that could be taken over by a drug gang and offer assistance to the resident to ensure they have support in place to prevent it. We have 3 organised crime groups operating in the area at the moment, but these, as with the county lines, can change overnight.

The Redeeming Our Communities Group, (a faith based national organisation that has recently focused on Northamptonshire) held a large introductory event in Kettering earlier on in the year; they have now set up an action group which is meeting every six weeks and looking at the following: youth provision, homelessness and social isolation.