

COMMUNITIES PARTNERSHIP BOARD
Monday 13th September 2021
Microsoft Teams

Board Members:

Cllr Carole Pattison (Chair)	Portfolio Holder, Kirklees Council
Lee Hamilton	Safer Kirklees Manager, Kirklees Council
Jill Greenfield	Head of Local Integrated Partnerships, Kirklees Council
Cllr Mark Thompson	Conservative, Birstall and Birkenshaw, Councillor
Val Johnson	3rd Sector Leaders Representative
Jo Richmond	Head of Communities, Kirklees Council
Julie Sykes	Divisional Commander, West Yorkshire Police
Cllr Naheed Mather	Labour, Dalton, Councillor
Cllr Mohan Sokhal	Labour Greenhead, Councillor
Jacqui Stansfield	Service Manager, Adults Safeguarding Board

Also in Attendance:

Chris Walsh	Performance Lead, Kirklees Council
Gill Skelton	Business Support, Kirklees Council
Chani Mortimer	Service Manager Domestic Abuse and Safeguarding Partnerships
Caroline Henderson	Partnerships Officer
Cl Alan Travis	Deputy Chief Inspector NPT/Partnerships
Iain Yates	WYCA
Michelle Lowe	Probation
Cllr Elizabeth Smaje	Conservative, Birstall & Birkenshaw Councillor
Helen T Lee	Domestic Abuse Coordinator
Kathryn Hinchliffe	Deputy CEO PDAP
Tanya Simmons	WYFRS

Apologies:

Cllr Cahal Burke	Liberal Democrat, Lindley Councillor
Mel Meggs	Director of Children's Services, Kirklees Council
Joanne Atkin	Probation
Clare Robinson	CCG
Amanda Evans	Service Director for Adult Social Care Operations
David Smith	WYCA
Tanya Wilkins	WYP

Item 2: Matters arising from Communities Board Papers 27th May 2021 – Councillor Pattison

- **JM offers support on development of the local Serious Violence Strategy Plan. All to review the guidance and Needs Assessment to understand the requirements**
LH Updated - VRU to provide local areas with access to a consultant to develop local violence plans. Mapping exercise of meetings discussing violence in Kirklees undertaken to understand breath and scope
- **JO, LH, and the Subgroup to redraft TOR and resubmit to the Board for comments**
LH Updated - Subgroup (Strategic Delivery Group) now set up with first meeting in October. Draft ToFR has been circulated to subgroup for comments. These will then be brought to the next Communities Board for discussion and sign-off. Future meetings to be arranged to take place 3 weeks prior to Board

- **All to review the Youth Justice Plan and feedback by 1st June to JR/LH**
LH Updated - No comments received, however it was noted that the plan was a good piece of work.
- **DS/JR/Cllr CP to discuss court representation with LCJB/ Victim and Witness group to the Board**
LH Updated - David Smith recommended we develop links with Citizens Advise Witness Service – still to be picked up
- **JGre to seek representation from Adult Social Care for representation and feedback to the Board**
JG Updated – Have Amanda who is deputized by Alexia Grey and we also now have JS from Adult Safeguarding Board
- **LH will speak to Naz Parker and Helen Geldard on Housing and Clean and Greenspaces representation and feedback to the Board**
LH Updated - Communication with Naz Parker, clarification required if Naz would be a board member as not a partner like KNH previously. This will be discussed further outside of this meeting. Email sent to Colin Parr re: Greenspace – communication ongoing
- **Cllr CP to discuss VCS representation with Val Johnson and feedback to the Board**
LH Updated – VJ to represent 3rd Sector on-going
- **Subgroups to make nominations to the Board for representations**
LH Updated - Ongoing action will be picked up by the Strategic Delivery Group
ACTION - Notify Gill Skelton of your named deputies
- **JGre and MM to have a discussion on ideas and priorities on Communities framework in a more physical presence**
JG Updated – Further discussions to be held

Business Items

Item 3: Inclusive Communities Framework – Jill Greenfield

JG provided an update on the Inclusive Communities Framework. She explained that following the last board meeting where she outlined the ICF, feedback has been received from the board and it has been agreed that the ICF is to be one of three strategies alongside the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the Kirklees Economic Strategy. There is a synergy between the 3 policies and we are working alongside policy and transformation colleagues to engage and consult and achieve broad agreement in principle. As part of this process it is proposed that some Design Circles are formed that include key partners and members of the board to participate in coproducing the ICF. Alongside this is the proposal that the Communities Board will provide accountability for the framework across partners and report into the partnership executive Team. There will also be a Strategic Reference Group to oversee the development of the framework and to have conversations for example about how we balance this with internal governance. This group will run alongside the development stage of the framework to keep all in sight.

Cllr Pattison asked that the Communities Board agrees the scope and outlined approach of the project and that members of the Communities Board commit to joining the relevant Design Circle Sessions (dates to be confirmed) to input into and influence key aspects of the project.

Questions and comments

IY – Commented that within the document there was little reference to the Mayor's office or the funding that could be provided.

JG /Cllr Pattison both welcomed the opportunity to work alongside the WYCA and accept any offers of funding and emphasized the need for members to join the design circles.

Actions:

All to offer time to be part of the ICF development Design Circles

Item 4: Town Centre Policing – CI Alan Travis

AT provided an update to the Communities Board on the Town Centre Policing Team, to which the Local Authority provide funding. Following recommendation by the board in November 2018 the dedicated multi-agency team have been in place since June 2020 and their focus is on tackling persistent issues such as begging and street drinking. Partnership funding pays for a Sergeant and 5 officers. Cover is provided for both Huddersfield and Dewsbury Town centres between 7am and 11pm, with the aim of making the Town Centres a safer place to visit and work. Work has been undertaken to target street drinking, youth ASB, use of E- scooters as well as the issues associated with the Night Time Economy especially since the end of Lockdown. The dedicated team has been instrumental in intelligence gathering and have local knowledge of offenders helping to identify suspects quickly. They also focus on vulnerability issues such as CSE and CCE and County Lines and have been working alongside BTP. AT referred to page 3 of his report where a significant reduction in crime is highlighted showing a 14% reduction in Dewsbury and 32% in Huddersfield.

Current funding is due to run out in April 2022 and AT asked for that funding to continue beyond this time.

LH – Added that progress has been made under difficult circumstances and we now need to move the funding forward so that we can continue with the longer-term problem solving that has been achieved so far

Questions & Comments

Cllr Mather – Stated she is a supporter of this initiative and is aware that it has been well received by businesses however she is aware that it is expensive and therefore asked if WYCA could contribute towards its funding.

Cllr Sokhal - Asked AT what actions are taken by officers when dealing with rough sleepers/beggars in the town centre. AT advised that a partnership approach is taken, and they are signposted to services that can support them. For persistent offenders who do not engage CBO's will be considered. Cllr Sokhal asked AT to investigate 2 individuals who he is receiving complaints regarding and AT agreed to do this and asked Cllr Sokhal to provide details by email to him.

JR - Said that she supports the continuation of funding and recommended we strengthen the comms delivered around this service and be proactively prepared to respond to comments saying that significant crime reductions are purely because of Covid rather than the success of the work undertaken in the Town Centre's.

JS - Confirmed that statistical comparisons are being drawn between 18/19 figures to support statistical reductions.

IY – Deputy Mayor has committed to passporting funding to all parts of West Yorkshire for local spend to use as you wish if it supports the Police and Crime Plan. However, there is no additional pot of funding that can be drawn upon

JG - Reminded all that there is an urgency to allocating this funding to ensure the team are not disbanded All agreed that this is something that funds need to be identified for and prioritised. LH and JR to meet with Police re identifying funding to allow this work to continue

Actions:

LH & JR and Police to meet to discuss the continuation of funding for the Town Centre team on going past April 2022

Item 5: Data and Intelligence – Chris Walsh & Lee Hamilton

CW provided an update on last summer's crime statistics the purpose being to provide the Communities Board with an update on the Partnership data, intelligence and performance. He also provided an overview of the current timeline and plan for the new Strategic Intelligence Assessment and Partnership Plan.

Stats provided in the presentation showed that both non-domestic and domestic burglaries were lower than previous years but there was the usual increase in domestic burglaries in July/August. Vehicle theft and theft from vehicles also decreased, again with a seasonal peak but not to the extent of previous years. Seasonal peaks were also reflected in the figures for Violence both with and without wounding however overall figures were reduced. Domestic Abuse recorded crimes were stable with an increase in June, work has been done to see if there was any correlation between the European Football Championships and incidents of Domestic Abuse however there is no evidence of this in the stats. Hate Crime again has seen an overall reduction with a seasonal peak in the stats and Modern-Day Slavery stats were stable with incidents rising in relation to planned operations at business premises etc. A spike in reports of ASB relating to noise can be partially attributed to repeated reports being made in relation to some business premises including one which received 40 complaints in one evening. ASB Nuisance increased in July due to reports of off-road bikes and fly-tipping. In 2020 these complaints increased significantly due to the closure of waste and recycling centres.

CW explained that the (Strategic Intelligence Assessment) SIA underpins the development of the Partnership Plan. The Strategic Assessment will help us understand what the key issues are from the intelligence gathered.

CW shared the proposed format of the document.

LH explained that there are 2 documents that have been shared with the papers for the meeting one is the timeline for the implementation of the Partnership Plan and it is intended that a draft version will be available to share at the next Communities Board meeting the second document contains draft questions for a consultation with members of this group/nominated deputies.

Actions:

CW to share the slides shown in this meeting

All to take time to look at the interview questions regarding the plan in the pack

Invitations to be sent to all board members for interviews regarding the Strategic Intelligence Assessment and Partnership Plan - GS

Item 6: West Yorkshire Combined Authority Update – Iain Yates

IY gave an update to the Communities Board from the West Yorkshire Combined Authority. Police and Crime Plan has gone out to public consultation and the partner consultation will be sent through to board members.

A visit from the Deputy Mayor to Kirklees is in the process of being arranged.

Current focus is on preventing violence against women and girls and the safety of women at night. As part of this safety in public parks is being looked at as well as the use of Street Marshalls and the "Ask for Angela" scheme where a code word can be used in licensed premises to ask for help. There will also be 4 West Yorkshire wide projects including one to improve safety of women on public transport the bids for these were made 2 weeks ago so in November we will know if these have been successful with the intention being for delivery by the end of March.

IY also advised that the Ministry of Justice Domestic Abuse Perpetrator program has been extended so there will be an increase in the number of GPS tags for perpetrators made available as an extra 32 will be available across West Yorkshire

Actions:

None

Substantive item
Item 7: Domestic Abuse – Chani Mortimer & Kathryn Hinchliff

CM explained that as part of the Domestic Abuse Act we now have a statutory duty to support victims of Domestic Abuse and their children in safe accommodation. A needs assessment has been completed around victims in safe accommodation and work is also being done to develop the Domestic Abuse Strategy which will be launched next March. The strategy will draw on lived experience and the vulnerability needs of victims, and their children and support perpetrators to change their behaviour. The main priorities highlighted by those who have shared their lived experiences are that victims want their own home and to feel safe and support for their children to help them recover from the abuse. Those receiving support from local providers particularly PDAP report that they experience reductions in risk, improved quality of life, greater confidence in accessing support and reporting to police, improved coping skills and stronger social support networks. The data used mainly came from the Needs Assessment that has been completed but this may be an underestimate due to victims presenting at local services with other issues and domestic abuse may only be identified later. There are also some gaps in the data as we do not understand the impact of Domestic Abuse on Health, so we are working with local providers to draw out this information. CM highlighted that the data shows we have a higher suspect repeat rate than other areas this can be attributed to the way Kirklees record secondary offences as they are all recorded separately resulting in better recording. The number of victim's who decline/withdraw from support has improved significantly in Kirklees and this highlights the work of the Domestic Abuse Partnership and the Police. In terms of victims supporting the prosecution due to the significant challenges caused by delays in both the CPS and the courts this is having a devastating impact on victims.

CM also highlighted some of the National research detailed in the paper relating to the risk perpetrators pose to multiple victims, and that they themselves have a high level of need and how as a partnership we respond to that need She has also included details in the paper on DRIVE which is a multi-agency wrap around service for perpetrators.

Current work being undertaken includes the development of the Needs Assessment and the new draft strategy in terms of how we spend money that has been allocated to us. This work has highlighted that we have a strong partnership approach with high levels of engagement from both the strategic and operational groups. The investment provided is allowing us to strengthen our operational delivery and add capacity with our local providers. As a partnership we also know what we are doing that works well and we also know where there are gaps. In terms of barriers some of the funding from the Home Office is dependent on short term grant funding which makes commissioning difficult. Other difficulties include housing and having available suitable accommodation for victims to move on to from refuge. The work completed on the strategy has also highlighted the need for focus on early intervention and prevention. There is also limited provision for perpetrators, so more work needs to be undertaken to look at the best approach.

KH (Deputy CEO of PDAP) gave a presentation on the work of PDAP the challenges it faces as an organisation and the opportunities that the new Statutory Duty will provide to resolve some of these problems. PDAP provides crisis and longer-term support, advice, information and safe accommodation to anyone experiencing domestic abuse, including sexual violence, forced marriage and honour-based abuse. They currently have 3 refuge's and have a high-risk service and provide longer term outreach support. A major challenge for them is a lack of dispersed properties for safe emergency accommodation as currently they do not have any. In addition, when people are ready to move on from refuge accommodation there are barriers to then living independently such as obtaining grants to buy items such as white goods and furniture is a difficulty. Utilities can also be problematic as can obtaining overlap payments of Housing Benefit for the new property. KH took us through a case study of one individual that highlighted the complex needs of some of those that they support. In terms of addressing this challenge they need suitable properties which they can access, and target harden to make them more secure. A further difficulty is for people with NRPF as they currently accept people in this situation however it can take 12 months for this to be resolved. Also, the domestic violence concession is not available to women who are not on their spousal visa. These are just a few of the barriers their team experience that result in time consuming intense work needing to be

undertaken. They have now got funding for an advance practitioner to help them assess a person's needs, so they may help to ease some of these pressures. Other support needed to address these challenges include interpreters especially in Eastern European languages and support for children and PDAP has recently secured some funding for some dedicated children's workers to work within the refuge setting.

Questions & Comments were:

JR- Said this was an opportunity to look at creativity around the housing offer which needs to be done as a priority.

JG – Added that the new strategy is an opportunity for the board to work more closely with those outside the usual partners especially regarding housing. She also would welcome more information on the impact and understanding that impact especially from the place partnerships.

CM- Referred people to page 5 of the paper which discusses research completed regarding perpetrators and what they experience in childhood. This provides us with an opportunity to do some targeted work with young men.

Cllr P- Said she was particularly struck by the number of victims who withdraw from support and do so because they feel it is the perpetrator that needs help such as to help stop them drinking. CM agreed and added that this is often used as a control over the victim.

Cllr Mather – Felt that the paper highlights lots of needs but raises the question of who you put at the centre. Are there services to tackle underlying issues and how long is that service needed. To deal with domestic violence, we need to deal with the needs of victim and the perpetrator holistically.

JS – Added that it is vital to have a perpetrator program but not one that is short term and that covers cultural issues. Other challenges highlighted are basic obstacles such as the granting of a Benefits overlap should be agreed and signed up to as a district as part of the strategy. Challenges such as this need to be eradicated so that we can empower victims and provide inclusive access.

HL – Explained that they are partnering with victims to support them and holding perpetrators accountable to provide a joined-up approach to prevent repeat perpetrators from moving to new partners.

Cllr Thompson - It may be worth speaking to assets as there are properties in the council's portfolio that could be converted as suitable accommodation

Actions:

KH to share slides presented at today's meeting with the group

VJ, Julian and JR to discuss possible sources of white goods and furniture to support victims to move from refuge into more suitable safe accommodation

Item 8: Next Board Meeting Agenda Item Discussion – All

Board members discussed what the next substantive discussion item at the Board meeting in November will be. A List of potential items previously agreed were Violence, Unregulated Housing and Inclusion.

The board agreed that the next substantive discussion item will be Unregulated Housing.

Also, to be included as an agenda item will be an update on the forthcoming Serious Violence Duty which is being introduced next year

Item 9: Any Other Business – All

None

Item 10: Close of meeting – Councillor Pattison

THE NEXT MEETING
25th November 2021
2pm