

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2015-2016

**CRIME & DISORDER SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE**

Agenda Item No.2

DATE – 11th January 2016

**COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP
UPDATE ON STRATEGIC PROJECTS
& PRIORITIES**

**REPORT OF GROUP DIRECTOR,
COMMUNITY & CHILDREN'S
SERVICE GROUP**

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1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Crime & Disorder Scrutiny Committee on strategic projects and priorities that fall within the remit of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) in Rhondda Cynon Taf.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

2.1 Consider whether they wish to scrutinise in greater depth any matters contained in the report.

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 The Rhondda Cynon Taf Community Safety Partnership has identified a number of strategic projects for delivery during 2015/16 and 2016/17. These represent a potentially significant change programme for services for domestic abuse, substance misuse, tackling extremism and offender management.

3.2 There is a potential to remodel some of these services and an opportunity to move to regional delivery making better use of existing resources. This may include the co-location of services and staff.

3.3 These strategic priorities and projects sit within the context of an ongoing review of the community safety partnership landscape across Cwm Taf which aims to put in place more efficient and robust governance arrangements for partnership activity in the future.

4.0 SUBSTANCE MISUSE

4.1 The responsibility for commissioning and coordinating substance misuse services across Cwm Taf rests with the Cwm Taf Substance Misuse Area Planning Board (APB), This is a multi agency, cross border partnership.

4.2 The majority of substance misuse services are financed through two Welsh Government funding streams, which are both managed by the APB.

- The Substance Misuse Action Plan Fund (SMAPF) – £2,686,376
- The Local Health Board ring fenced allocation – £2,523,000

4.3 Support for service users is provided for within a 4 tier framework for substance misuse services, which refers to the level of intervention.

- **Tier 1** - Consists of a range of drug-related interventions that can be provided by generic providers depending on their competence and partnership arrangements with specialised substance misuse services.
- **Tier 2** - Interventions are provided by specialist substance misuse providers and include a range of harm interventions and interventions that engage retain and support people in treatment. Aftercare is also considered to be a tier 2 intervention
- **Tier 3** - Provisions include the substitute prescribing programmes and home detoxification
- **Tier 4** - Services provide substance misuse inpatient detoxification and residential rehabilitation.

4.4 Since the creation of the Cwm Taf APB in 2012, work has been undertaken to ensure that there is equitable service provision for substance misuse across Cwm Taf. However, for historical reasons there remains an inequitable distribution of services for secondary specialist care Whilst these investments were necessary and appropriate at the time (for example Rhondda Integrated Substance Misuse Service (RISMS)) they may not be the most appropriate model to meet current and emerging need. Consequently the APB has determined that it is now time to remodel the provision of these services across Cwm Taf.

4.5 In addition, Welsh Government now require a five year Capital Strategy to inform the allocation of their substance misuse capital fund. This presents us with an opportunity to review existing assets and service provision with a view to matching our capital assets and resources with the new service model.

5.0 OFFENDER MANAGEMENT

5.1 The new 18 To 25 Project aims to reduce offending and prevent reoffending in the 18 to 25 year old age group. Evidence provided by the office of the Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) shows that 29% of all offences committed within 2014 were committed by this age group. 48% of offences committed by this age group concerned violence against the person. In Rhondda Cynon Taf

there were 313 first time entrants to the criminal justice system in this age group. Of these, 176 were aged 18 to 21.

- 5.2 In discussion, partners have expressed support for this initiative and have agreed that the project initially focuses on First Time Entrants in the 18 to 21 year age group to ensure that caseloads are manageable and resources are targeted at the most crucial ages. A triage model will be adopted for the identification of 18 to 21 year olds suitable for this project who will then receive targeted support and interventions aimed at reducing reoffending behaviour.
- 5.3 All individuals meeting the defined criteria will be expected to complete a clinic session and targeted intervention session to tackle the specific issues in order to prevent re-offending.
- 5.4 The project is being led by Rhondda Cynon Taf CBCs Community Safety team although it will run across Cwm Taf with close support from South Wales Police, Probation Service, Youth Offending Service and is also supported by funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- 5.5 A significant amount of work is nearing completion with a project launch forecast in the coming weeks. An 18-25 Divert Project Co-ordinator has now been appointed and a detailed quarterly evaluation will be conducted to ensure the project is proving effective and delivering reductions in offending and re-offending.

6.0 CRIME REDUCTION

- 6.1 Tackling domestic abuse has been a strategic priority for Rhondda Cynon Taf since the Kafka Brigade project in 2009. Considerable progress has since been made in developing sustainable support services for victims of domestic abuse, ensuring that effective referral pathways exist between partner organisations and that information sharing takes place.
- 6.2 In 2014 an executive steering group was created to give the Cwm Taf Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Forum (CTSVDFAF) strategic leadership and direction. The executive group in conjunction with the office of the Police & Crime Commissioner has commissioned a review of the existing support services for victims of domestic abuse across Cwm Taf in response to several recent developments and opportunities. Recommendations from the review will be available for implementation in late December 2015 early January 2016
- 6.3 Proposed changes to Welsh Government/PCC funding arrangements will require regional (Cwm Taf) coordination arrangements for Domestic Abuse from 2016-17. Conversations have been held with Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council with a view to having a single Domestic Abuse Coordinator across the Cwm Taf region from April 2016. In principle both Councils are in agreement but the details require further refinement.
- 6.4 Implementation of a new service model at the Oasis Centre, Pontypridd, based around the one stop shop approach has commenced and will be completed by the end of this financial year. The changes in the model will increase the capacity of the IDVA (high risk) team to work with more service

users. Two new support worker posts will enable the team to intervene earlier with service users assessed as medium risk.

- 6.5 The Gender Based Violence, Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015 has established statutory duties on public services, specifically the Local Authority and the Local Health Board in respect of Domestic Abuse. The proposed National Training Framework for Domestic abuse will also hold public services accountable for training their entire workforce in various levels of domestic abuse awareness. This training will include Elected Members and Senior Managers.
- 6.6 Following the significant service changes and staff reductions experienced by the CCTV team performance has been maintained with many positive outcomes and developments in the past year.
- 6.7 The service reduction now sees the CCTV service operating and targeting resources at key intelligence led times for crime and disorder and anti social behaviour. Alongside the service changes was a significant Invest to Save programme that has enabled the staff to use smarter, more advanced equipment to maximise impact.
- 6.8 Positive discussions have recently been held with other service areas and departments including schools and depots and have presented positive opportunities for the CCTV team to maximise use of the resource by providing a mobile guarding and key holding facility which presents opportunities for significant savings for these departments through an in-house service provision.
- 6.9 The CCTV team in Rhondda Cynon Taf has also contributed significantly to the South Wales CCTV Review commissioned by the Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales. The interim report and recommendations presents the RCT unit in a very positive light and it has been put forward as the host for one of 4 proposed centralised CCTV units for South Wales, due to the up to date technology, infrastructure, additional capacity and intelligence-led model being run at the unit. Pending further discussions on a South Wales level this could also potentially present further opportunities for generating income within the service.
- 6.10 A presentation was delivered to Members at the last Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee on the imminent launch of the new tools and powers available to the Local Authority and partner agencies within the Anti Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.
- 6.11 In this past year the ASB team within Rhondda Cynon Taf have been national leaders in utilising these new tools and powers and have already achieved successful outcomes for communities through the use of ASB injunctions, Closure Orders and Criminal Behaviour Orders as well as managing activation of the Community Trigger. Due to the successes achieved and positive publicity around some of these actions the team have been asked to present this good practice at the National All Wales ASB Forum.

7.0 COMMUNITY COHESION

- 7.1 The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 has placed a duty on statutory bodies including Local Authorities, Health Boards, South Wales Police and Probation Service to address those drawn into, or at risk of being drawn into terrorist and extremist behaviour.
- 7.2 The Governance structure will see a multi agency Cwm Taf Contest Board addressing all key matters and giving strategic direction on driving this agenda, considering all key risks and threats within the area. Beneath this will sit the Channel Panels (multi agency forums) discussing cases relating to those individuals vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism / extremism in our communities.
- 7.3 Work has now taken place to ensure Cwm Taf have both these key forums in operation to address risks highlighted by the Wales Extremism and Counter Terrorism Unit (WECTU). The Channel Panel is now established in Rhondda Cynon Taf with cases being referred by partners for discussion and action planning. This ensures we are delivering the statutory requirements in the Act and aligns RCT with the national progression and drive from the Home Office on this agenda.

8.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP LANDSCAPE

- 8.1 Following the decision to stand down the strategic partnership boards, the CSP has continued to meet as a transitional arrangement, primarily to conduct a strategic review of the community safety partnership landscape. This was considered important to ensure that delivery arrangements were robust and effective.
- 8.2 There remain a significant number of local partnership groups that fall within the community safety remit. This is in addition to a substantial regional and national network of partnership groups. Together, this is not a sustainable arrangement. This review is aligning itself with a review of Safeguarding and Public Protection structures to ensure a clear governance structure across all themes.
- 8.3 Some partnership groups have moved to a Cwm Taf regional level, either because of external drivers (the creation of Area Planning Boards by Welsh Government), funding requirements (Community Cohesion), service development (Safeguarding) or practical necessity and efficiency (MARAC and domestic abuse) whilst others continue to operate separately within Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr (Anti Social Behaviour). An indirect consequence of this is that the governance arrangements and accountability of many of these groups is no longer clear.
- 8.4 The CSP Transitional Board determined that a rationalisation of the community safety partnership landscape was required to create a more robust and sustainable operational delivery focus. This presented an opportunity to reconsider the strategic direction of community safety across the Cwm Taf region and to reconfigure the resources of the partnership accordingly.

- 8.5 Following presentation at both Local Service Boards in Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr as well as the Regional Collaborative Board, a series of meetings have been held between strategic leads of partner agencies to progress this work. This progress will be reported back to the Regional Collaborative Board in January 2016. Opportunities for merging similar themes and forums have been identified to bring about the benefit of financial and time savings to free up resource for service delivery on these key themes.
- 8.6 The review will also propose a clearly defined governance structure bringing about accountability and clarity for all partners involved.

9 DISCUSSION

- 9.1 Community Safety Partnership activities are increasingly being coordinated and delivered at a Cwm Taf regional level. Previously, this has been driven by conditions attached to funding but with the pressures on public sector resources and the shared priorities across the region, a Cwm Taf regional approach may be the most efficient arrangement for most, if not all, community safety activity.
- 9.2 The strategic projects identified in this report represent a potentially significant change programme for community safety in Rhondda Cynon Taf and Cwm Taf. This will require all partners to commit existing resources to these projects to ensure their successful delivery.
- 9.3 The proposed review of substance misuse services and support services for victims of domestic abuse may lead to new service models and decisions will be required about where these services are located and who provides them.
- 9.4 This also provides an opportunity to consider potential integration of services and/or the more efficient shared use of existing capital assets currently available in the public sector. The development of a five year capital strategy for substance misuse services may lend itself to a more collaborative service delivery model that for example might utilise existing public sector buildings for co-location of staff or services.

10 CONCLUSION

- 10.1 This reports sets out a number of strategic projects for the community safety partnership to be delivered over 2015/16 and 2016/17. Many are in the early stages of development but have been initiated because of a necessity to respond to a particular need or because of an opportunity for further service development or improvement. Taken together they represent an opportunity to consider the future strategic direction of community safety in Rhondda Cynon Taf and the Cwm Taf region.