

REPORT TO: Safer Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 10th September 2019

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources

PORTFOLIO: Community Safety

SUBJECT: Multi Agency initiatives to tackle Knife Crime

WARDS: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The Chair has invited our key partners to the meeting so that they can update the board on the positive work that they are doing in partnership with the Police and Council to make Halton safer.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- 1) **the report be noted; and**
- 2) **the Board consider the information presented and raise any questions of interest or points of clarification following the presentation.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 Following recent events in Runcorn, Widnes and other trends that are emerging across the Country with regard to knife crime and violence against the person by young people, Halton has established a multi-agency response to what is clearly becoming a significant concern for our communities. That multi agency response involves senior representatives from all key partners. It is Chaired by the Chief Executive and attended by the Community Safety Portfolio Holder, Cllr Dave Cargill.
- 3.2 The purpose of this response is to help us have a better understanding of the current picture in Halton in respect of knife crime and violence against the person, especially that being perpetrated by young people.

It will also help to inform you of what the Police, the Council and other partners are doing to tackle this issue and provide community, reassurance, as well as to exploring what others are doing elsewhere in addressing similar issues by reviewing best practice nationally.

A key part of this work is to identify what the community and community representatives can do individually and collectively to help tackle this issue.

3.3 A number of key actions have emerged as a priority for this work, namely

- To develop a structured approach
- To address the apparent current culture that carrying a weapon is acceptable
- To educate and raise awareness that carrying a weapon is not acceptable
- To educate and raise awareness about staying safe
- To develop a programme of measures to deliver a long term and sustainable approach
- To engage with the community to develop a solution and our organisations need to offer support.

3.4 Programmes in Schools/College

Work in schools and Riverside College

This work is focused on age appropriate resources available to schools and colleges.

Some examples of ongoing work

- Training and support tools being delivered in schools and for other providers supporting vulnerable groups such as NEET, PRU etc
- Materials on U Tube
- Dept for Education has circulated a Tool Kit on knife crime to all schools
- Presentation to next Halton Association of Secondary Head Teachers on knife crime
- Looking at work being done in Sefton to share good practice
- Seeking to ensure teachers are well trained and comfortable delivering the knife crime message
- Engaging with Children's Trust
- Engaging with Children and Young People's (CYP) Council

Ewan Jogo, the current Halton Youth Parliament Member, is assisting to provide a CYP perspective which is extremely valuable.

Ewan is also a member of the British Council Select Committee on knife crime

3.5 Community Programmes / Engagement

Community Groups

Continuing engagement with the community continues to be positive, especially “Live Your Life – Drop The Knife” – who have continued to be very active and receptive to advice and guidance.

They have looked at re-badging as “Trust Our Youth” and have recently done so positive work at Ormiston Bolingbroke Academy.

Further, listening, engagement and empowerment helping develop community resistance and improve intelligence.

The Youth Zone at Shopping City on Thursday and Friday nights is proving popular and has been well attended.

Addaction and Police colleagues are supporting this work.

3.6 Social Media/Web Sites/Messages

The Strategic Director for Enterprise, Community and Resources is continuing to coordinate our individual and collective messages to ensure consistency. We need to ensure the messages recognise the different media and social media channels used by adults and CYP to achieve maximum exposure and coverage.

3.7 Other Initiatives

Further knife sweeps have taken place Runcorn and Widnes resulting in a reduction in knife crime in Halton.

“Everton in the Community” are currently working in Halton bringing with them many years of experience

All licensing venues across Halton continue to work with Police and Licensing colleagues in respect of the licensing and use of their premises.

Addaction are undertaking outreach work across the areas, including at various hotspot locations, plus relaunching of “Know and See the Signs”.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

The Community Safety Service as a universal service impacts on the health, safety and well-being of young people.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

None

6.3 A Healthy Halton

The Community Safety Service as a universal service impacts on the Health, safety and well-being of the residents of Halton.

6.4 A Safer Halton

The Community Safety Service as a universal service impacts on the Health, safety and well-being of the residents of Halton.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

None

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

None

9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

9.1 There are no background papers under the meaning of the Act.