

**16 December 2014**

**Business & Town Centres Committee**

**Amendment to Community Safety Commissioning Plan  
2014-2015**

**Report of:** *Ashley Culverwell, Head of Borough Health Safety and Localism*

**Wards Affected:** *All*

**This report is:** *Public*

**1. Executive Summary**

- 1.1 The Community Safety Commissioning Plan sets out how the Council will deliver against the Corporate Priorities for a Safer Borough and align with the Community Safety Partnership's (CSPs) work relating to anti-social behaviour (ASB) and crime reduction.
- 1.2 Members agreed the Community Safety Commissioning Plan 14-15 (Appendix A) on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2014 at Community Services Committee (Minute ref 317 refers).
- 1.3 This report seeks agreement to the re-allocation of the £6,000 budget earmarked for family boot camps to a new project aimed at children and young people from the ages of 5-16 who are survivors/witnesses of violence in the home.

**2. Recommendation (s)**

- 2.1 **That Members agree the re-allocation of the budget within the Community Safety Commissioning Plan 14-15 awarded to Family Solutions to be re-allocated to deliver the Moving On project aimed at young survivors/witnesses of domestic violence.**

**3. Introduction and Background**

- 3.1 The Community Safety Commissioning Plan sets out how the Council will deliver against the Corporate Priorities for a Safer Borough and align with the Community Safety Partnership's (CSPs) work relating to anti-social behaviour (ASB) and crime reduction.
- 3.2 The Commissioning Plan was put before Members at the Community Services Committee on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2014 and agreed.

- 3.3 A budget allocation of £6,000 was awarded to Family Solutions to deliver a 4-6 week programme of Family Boot Camps aimed at reducing youth offending and re-offending, tackling the consequences of drug and alcohol abuse, and mental health issues through working with the whole family rather than just the young person.
- 3.4 There have been several hurdles engaging families locally such as the lack of referrals received by Family Solutions who would meet the criteria.
- 3.5 Following discussion with colleagues from Family Solutions and some other local agencies it was identified that many of the families that require additional support have experienced violence in the home.
- 3.6 Data show that locally during Apr – Aug 2014 there have been 107 incidents of violence with injury. When this figure is broken down it shows that 43 were domestic violence. This is in addition to 211 domestic violence incidents recorded by Essex Police for Brentwood. Reporting of domestic violence resulting in assault with injury has doubled this year with 44% of witnesses being under the age of 5.
- 3.7 The re-allocation of the budget will enable us to commission a project aimed at young people aged from 5-16 who are survivors/witnesses of domestic violence and are now settled in a safe environment.
- 3.8 The programme consists of 10 weekly sessions delivered to two age ranges 5-11 who will concentrate on emotional literacy and allowing a safe place to explore their experiences. It will include emotional containment techniques and coping mechanisms, healthy relationships and identifying age appropriate risky behaviours. The 12-16 year old age range will include the same focus but explore in more depth, healthy relationships and gender specific roles.
- 3.9 Domestic violence is one of the most insidious crimes, accounting for 9% of all crime, and with an estimated two million victims a year. These victims are predominantly women, with one in four women experiencing a form of domestic abuse in their lifetime. It has a major impact on children and young people who witness incidents and which can often lead to its perpetuation. It also imposes a significant cost on society, which has been estimated to be over £15.7 billion a year.<sup>1</sup>
- 3.10 A significant part of this cost falls on the public services that deal with the consequences of domestic abuse, predominantly local authorities, the police and the health service. In developing their community budget proposals Essex estimated the cost of domestic abuse to agencies in the

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<sup>1</sup> Essex Police's Approach to Tackling Domestic Abuse, HMIC (2014)

county at £48.24 million, with some £2 million of that falling on councils. They also calculated that of the £5.92 million spent on domestic abuse services in Essex, the Councils in the county contributed some £2.19 million or 37 per cent, compared with less than £800,000 from the health service and the criminal justice system, when domestic abuse collectively costs these agencies some £27 million.<sup>2</sup>

- 3.11 The importance of intervening early to reduce domestic violence was recently highlighted by the Early Intervention Foundation's (EIF) report published at the start of the year into the impact on domestic violence and abuse on the outcomes for children and young people. It found that effective prevention and early intervention offered the opportunity to reduce the impact of domestic violence on children and young people and deliver long-term savings for the bodies involved in working with the victims of domestic abuse.
- 3.12 The NSPCC (Radford, 2011) recently conducted a large study on the prevalence of child maltreatment in the UK, updating its own research from 2000 (Cawson 2002). The study is based on interviews with a nationally representative sample of three groups of children and young people: 18 to 24-year-olds (1,761 in total) and 11 to 17-year-olds (2,275 total) who responded to the survey directly, while 2,160 primary caregivers responded on behalf of children under 11 years of age.<sup>3</sup>
- 3.13 As well as extensive data about all forms of child maltreatment, this survey extensively questioned children and their parents/guardians on their exposure, and the impact of exposure, to domestic violence and abuse. The survey asked six questions about "family violence" including four questions about exposure to domestic violence from an adult partner or ex-partner towards the parent, and two questions about other forms of violence between family members other than the child living in the home. Radford found the following prevalence rates among the 4,036 children and young people included in the survey:
- 3.3% of children aged under 11 years had witnessed at least one incidence of domestic violence or threatening behaviour in the preceding 12 months, as had 2.9% of young people aged 11-17 years and 12% of young adults aged 19 – 24 years;
  - 12.0% of children aged under 11 years and 18.4% of young people aged 11 – 17 years had witnessed at least one incident of domestic violence or threatening behaviour;

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<sup>2</sup> Domestic Violence Executive Report 12.6.14 presented to the Local Government Association

<sup>3</sup> Radford, L., Corral, S., Bradley, C., Fisher, H., Bassett, C., Howat, N. and Collishaw, S. (2011) Child abuse and neglect in the UK today. London: NSPCC.

- 24.8% of young adults aged 18- 24 years had witnessed at least one type of domestic violence and abuse (categorised as violence or threatening behaviour between parents) during childhood;
- These figures are similar to those produced by the NSPCC in 2009, which found that 25% of girls and 18% of boys had experienced some form of domestic violence at least once in their childhood.<sup>4</sup>

#### **4. Issue, Options and Analysis of Options**

- 4.1 Under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the Council have a statutory responsibility to work with other agencies to reduce crime and disorder in the borough. Domestic abuse accounts for almost a fifth of all recorded violent crime and is a Strategic Priority for the Community Safety Partnership (CSP). It is widely acknowledged the complex issues such as domestic abuse cannot be tackled by agencies working in isolation. A multi-agency approach is essential.

#### **5. Reasons for Recommendation**

- 5.1 To authorise the re-allocation of budget to ensure that we continue to commission projects and initiatives which will allow for targeted use of resources to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour.
- 5.2 To demonstrate that the Council continually monitors projects and local issues to ensure that we deliver services and interventions that are appropriate and needed by the communities we serve.

#### **6. Consultation**

- 6.1 The Commissioning Plan 14-15 was been put together in collaboration with our partners and is fully endorsed and supported by the CSP.
- 6.2 The re-allocation of budget was agreed by partners at a recent CSP Strategy Panel Meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> November.

#### **7. References to Corporate Plan**

- 7.1 This report is aligned to the Council's corporate priorities in relation to a Safe Borough, Housing, Health & Wellbeing, and a Modern Council in terms of the following:

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<sup>4</sup> Barter, C. et al (2009) [Partner exploitation and violence in teenage intimate relationships: a landmark research report from the University of Bristol and the NSPCC](#). London: NSPCC.

- Increasing community confidence
- Developing effective partnership arrangements
- To promote Brentwood as a safe place to live and celebrate our successes
- To work with vulnerable young people and families at risk of becoming involved in crime or anti-social behaviour.
- To promote crime awareness and vigilance across Brentwood residents

## 8. Implications

### Financial Implications

**Name & Title:** Jo-Anne Ireland, Acting Chief Executive

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- 8.1 There are no additional financial implications arising from this reallocation of existing resource.

### Legal Implications

**Name & Title:** Christopher Potter, Monitoring Officer and Head of Support Service

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- 8.2 None.

**Other Implications** (where significant) – i.e. Health and Safety, Asset Management, Equality and Diversity, Risk Management, Section 17 – Crime & Disorder, Sustainability, ICT.

- 8.3 The projects proposed within the Commissioning Plan have controls in place to ensure Health & Safety standards are adhered to, and will comply with the Council's policies in respect of Equality and Diversity and Safeguarding.

## 9. Background Papers

- CSP Strategic Assessment 14-15
- CSP Performance Data – Aug 14
- Domestic Violence Executive Report to the LGA June 2014
- Essex Approach to Tackling Domestic Abuse  
<http://www.hmic.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/essex-approach-to-tackling-domestic-abuse.pdf>
- Child abuse and neglect in the UK today. London: NSPCC (2011)

- Partner exploitation and violence in teenage intimate relationships: a landmark research report from the University of Bristol and the NSPCC. London: NSPCC (2009)

## **10. Appendices to this report**

Appendix A - Community Safety Commissioning Plan 14-15

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