

RUTLAND HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

5 March 2019

The Prevention Board and the Violence Reduction Network

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RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Rutland Health and Wellbeing Board:

1. Note the contents of this report
2. Consider how members can contribute to the work of the Violence Reduction Network
3. Consider how members can contribute to the work of the Prevention Board
4. Consider a further report at the next Health and Wellbeing Board regarding an LLR approach to mental ill health

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the establishment of a Violence Reduction Network for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland and a new sub-regional Prevention Board.
- 1.2. Both the Violence Reduction Network and the Prevention Board sit under the Strategic Partnership Board which includes representatives from all public services across LLR. The Strategic Partnership Board Terms of Reference focus on a single purpose of minimising harmful behaviours within our communities. The term “harmful behaviours” was deliberately chosen to encompass the work of all public services including health. This reflects the fact that health outcomes have a major impact on criminal justice outcomes and vice versa. It also reflects the belief that many of the challenging problems facing our communities have their roots in social and lifestyle attitudes and behaviours which cannot be addressed without collaborative commitment across agencies and communities. The Index of Multiple Deprivation has often been used to provide underpinning analysis of local crime issues. It tends to

demonstrate that challenging issues overlap each other in local communities, confronting health, social care and criminal justice agencies equally.

- 1.3. More broadly the Police and Crime Plan focusses on the long term prevention of criminal behaviours, recognising that this requires input with individuals at an early stage before those behaviours have become established. This recognition is shifting the emphasis of OPCC activity from reactive responses to emergency situations to the long term development of communities and early intervention with individuals at risk of developing offending behaviours.

2. BACKGROUND AND MAIN CONSIDERATIONS

- 2.1 The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC), Leicestershire Police and the Public Health Departments for Leicester and Leicestershire have been working on the development of a public health informed response to violence reduction since early 2019. This culminated with an event on 6 August 2019 wherein the proposals were presented to the Strategic Partnership Board (SPB). Immediately before this event, the Home Office approached the OPCC to bid for a sum of £880,000 specifically to set up a violence reduction unit. LLR had been selected, alongside 17 other areas, on the basis of the level of knife-related injuries dealt with by the city's main hospital (in Leicestershire's case the Royal Infirmary).
- 2.2 The bid for funds was successful and the LLR Violence Reduction Network (our VRU) commenced operations on 1 September 2019. Funding is currently up until 31 March 2020 although the Home Office has allocated a further £880,000 to LLR for 2020/21. At the time of writing this report we are awaiting details of the application process for this funding.
- 2.3 In relation to Home Office expectations, the VRN needs to deliver the core function: 'To offer leadership, establish a core membership and, working with all relevant agencies operating locally, provide strategic coordination of the local response to serious violence'. The prescribed core membership is: Chief constables, the PCC, the local authorities with responsibility for the geographical areas targeted by the activities of the VRU, CCGs, Public Health England, the Youth Offending Team and appropriate representation of relevant local educational institutions. The VRN is also expected to adopt a 'public health' approach in developing the local response to reducing violence and take advice from Public Health England in doing so. There are also two mandatory products that have to be delivered within the period of the grant agreement, a 'strategic needs assessment', identifying the drivers of serious violence locally and the cohorts most affected and a 'response strategy', describing the multi-agency response being delivered locally and the action being taken by the VRN to enhance local responses. There is also an expectation that at least 20% of the funding will be spent on interventions.
- 2.4 The VRN and its programme of work is supported by a central team led by Grace Strong, Strategic Manager. This small team largely comprises of seconded staff including colleagues from Leicestershire County Council, the Police, Public Health England, OPCC and the VCSO. Although the VRN commenced in September 2019, the full team was not in place until December 2020. The governance for the VRN is

through the sub-regional VRN Programme Board, comprising of senior officers representing the core membership.

- 2.5 Alongside this, the OPCC has also been working with Leicestershire Police to ensure that “prevention” is a key element of the developing police operating model. This reflected the broader commitment to the prevention of harmful behaviours contained in the Police and Crime Plan and the wider commitment across the Strategic Partnership Board. The OPCC has consulted with Directors of Public Health across LLR about how best to integrate its work with the endeavours of both public health departments and established a new Board entitled the Prevention Board. The details of the board are contained in appendix A.
- 2.6 The VRN recognises the wide-ranging activity already underway in relation to violence prevention and a key ambition is to shape, adapt and improve connections between policy, partnerships, services and initiatives so that they operate more as a violence prevention system. Given that violent behaviour has a long gestation period and areas such as parenting and education are central to primary prevention, the VRN is taking a life-course approach and is keen to engage with all relevant agencies and communities in its work.
- 2.7 This is entirely consistent with the methodology of the Prevention Board, which has now met once, directly after the VRN Board, having as it does, a very similar membership. Essentially the Prevention Board will focus on a range of harmful behaviours, one of which is violence. In that sense we anticipate that the Prevention Board will ultimately oversee the work of the VRN: but in the short term we will run them side by side to ensure that we meet the requirements of the Home Office.
- 2.8 Although the Prevention Board has only been recently established, two developments already sit underneath it: the People Zones’ development is already underway and operating in local communities with a clear focus on the public health model; a new development is an emerging focus on the behaviours arising from mental ill-health/distress that drive demand for emergency services. A joint SPB/County HWB deep dive into mental health has already been undertaken and we are keen to widen this debate to include the City and Rutland Health and Wellbeing Boards.

3. VIOLENCE REDUCTION NETWORK PROGRESS UPDATE

- 3.1 The VRN has been working across 7 different projects and to date has made the following progress of note:
 - Work to ensure the Strategic Needs Assessment and Response plan is delivered on time.
 - The mobilisation of a new service aimed at providing support and intervention for young people attending the LRI’s Accident and Emergency department with injuries arising from violence
 - A small grants scheme aimed at grass-root community groups which, together with the provision of training and support, is aimed at supporting the development of community-led responses to preventing violence
 - A series of Network events for VCSOs and Community Safety Partnerships

- Investment in and coordination of multi-agency training on Adverse Childhood Experiences and Trauma-Informed Training
- Preparation for the commencement of the Mentors in Violence Prevention Programme in secondary schools (due to commence in 2020/21)
- The redesign of Engage, a non-statutory team providing tailored support for young adults at risk of offending
- Investment in a film on child exploitation, led by Leicestershire Police
- The commissioning of Barnado's to engage with schools and develop strategic messaging and a tool box for violence prevention
- The design of an Evaluation Framework by Leicester University to ensure commissioned projects can be evaluated from next financial year
- A series of community and young people engagement meetings and events
- Mobilisation for the new Serious Violence legal duty expected to be introduced in 2020.

3.2 The team are now in the process of finalising the Strategic Needs Assessment and will meet with the Programme Board early March to agree the Response Plan and the details of the application for 2020/21.

4. IMPLICATIONS FOR RUTLAND

4.1 Rutland is represented on the VRN Programme Board by the Strategic Director for People, Rutland County Council who has ensured that relevant officers from RCC have engaged in various workshops and meetings. The same role represents Rutland on the Prevention Board. As a consequence, the Strategic Director has experienced excellent engagement and collaboration with the VRN. The majority of the above developments are relevant to Rutland, however below is a summary of how the VRN is ensuring that the needs of Rutland are being reflected in its work.

- Data for the Strategic Needs Assessment is being broken down to the Rutland area wherever possible.
- One of the training days for the ACEs and Trauma-Informed Practice training is being hosted by Rutland County Council and has been reserved for Rutland partners.
- Two Rutland secondary schools have expressed an interest in becoming phase 1 of the Mentors in Violence Prevention programme

4.2 Whilst Rutland CSP has indicated that they do not wish to have a Serious Violence Network Event at this stage, the Strategic Director has been invited to present at the next CSP and at various other partnership meetings.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The VRN is fully funded by the Home Office.

6. LEGAL/GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS

6.1 None

7. CONCLUSION AND SUMMARY OF THE REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 Both the VRN and the Prevention Board provide opportunities to work in strong partnership to tackle both serious violence and wider harmful behaviours. This work has the potential to deliver results and outcomes against the breadth of statutory strategic plans across LLR and Board members are invited to consider what their role in these areas of work might be.
- 7.2 There is a growing sense across the partnership that there is an opportunity to better co-ordinate and shape our approach to mental ill health and the board are invited to consider a future paper on this matter to build upon the work that has initially been undertaken with the County's Health and Wellbeing Board.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 8.1 Appendix A is the Strategic Partnership Board paper regarding the setting up of the Prevention Board which gives greater detail on the nature of the board.

9. APPENDICES

- 9.1 Appendix A as referenced above

A Large Print or Braille Version of this Report is available upon request – Contact 01572 722577.