

Community Safety Strategy

Vision: Sustaining Safe and Resilient Communities Together

Refreshed 2021

Vulnerable Communities and Individuals.

Active identification and risk mitigation of/ for the vulnerable and protection through innovative partnership and community ideas.

Neighbourhoods

Engaging with communities including professionals to understand the local causes and risks of crime.

Cohesive and Resilient Communities

Developing community cohesion through engagement and empowerment.

Introduction

The SaferMK Partnership is the statutory Community Safety Partnership for Milton Keynes. It brings agencies together to formulate and implement a strategy in tackling local crime and community safety issues in the area. No single agency can deliver on the complexities of keeping communities and businesses safe. Therefore, a partnership action plan must be in place to deliver the strategy.

The strategy was due to be reviewed in 2021. However due to the global pandemic and the impact on the resources of all agencies involved in the Community Safety Partnership, Safer MK agreed to refresh the current strategy for 2021/22.

A new strategy will be published for 2022 informed by a better understanding of how Covid-19 has influenced crime and disorder.

Purpose and Scope of the Strategy

The strategy serves as a commitment by community safety partners to work together to maximise the impact on safety in the agreed areas of priority.

The strategy is informed by the Community Safety Partnership's strategic assessment for 2020. The wider partnership has contributed to the priority setting and has agreed the overall vision of sustaining safe and resilient communities together.

Our Community Safety Partnership forms part of the wider MK Together Partnership, including Safeguarding and Health and Wellbeing.

This refreshed strategy also has regard for the strategic priorities set out in the Police and Crime Commissioners (PCC) Police and Crime Plan for Thames Valley 2017-2021.

<https://www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk/police-and-crime-plan/>

Crime in Milton Keynes

The strategic assessment brings together a broad range of information about crime and disorder in Milton Keynes. It provides an opportunity for the partnership to enrich its understanding of the key issues, the connections between these and the underlying causes. The aim is to enable the partnership to target its activities effectively.

Vulnerable Communities and Individuals



Domestic Violence and Abuse

Ensure effective partnership response to the tackling of domestic abuse including: service provision, working in partnership and tackling perpetrators.

What we know

Domestic abuse remains under-reported but still contributes significantly to the overall volume of reported crime.

What we have done:

A new Domestic Abuse Strategy has been published and its implementation is overseen by the Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership Board. The strategy includes the views of survivors and perpetrators of domestic abuse and took into consideration early learning from current Domestic Homicide Reviews

Actions for 2021/22

- Implement the strategy and monitor impact
- Monitor the increase in stalking and harassment to understand potential need
- Monitor the impact Covid-19 has had on rates of domestic abuse

Prevention and reduction of Serious Violence

What we know

We know that the increasing amount of youth violence linked to possible gang activity is a growing concern for the local community, gang activity is linked to drugs lines.

Milton Keynes along with other parts of the UK has seen an increase in the levels of reported violence and the proportion of violence attributed to young people has increased.

What we have done

Community and partner engagement has taken place to understand the development of gang activity in Milton Keynes including the Redeeming our Communities engagement events and a 'rapid review' into local gang activity. New operational and strategic pathways have been put in place to manage preventative and enforcement work, overseen by the MK Together Risk Board. A knife crime task and finish group has been set up to fund local grassroots projects to provide educational and preventative activities for young people, and we have increased the number of police officers in schools. Thames Valley Police have also set up a violence reduction unit.

In addition to our work which has focused on reducing knife crime and gang violence, we have introduced new processes to promote multi-agency responses to incidents of serious violence and identify lessons learned within a week of any occurrence.

Actions for 2021/2022

- Targeted engagement with communities to gain better understanding of why young people within the community engage in criminal activity.
- In line with government's Serious Violence Strategy have work plans under the four following headings:
 - Tackling Drug Lines
 - Early Intervention
 - Supporting Communities and Partnerships
 - Law Enforcement.

Modern Day Slavery

Develop an awareness regarding modern day slavery in Milton Keynes against a background of Thames Valley and national developments, that will inform tactical intervention

What we know

Milton Keynes, like any other diverse and growing city is committed to disrupting opportunities for modern day slavery. We need to better understand the scale of the issue locally.

What we have done

We have embedded the national referral mechanism into our local processes and given strategic oversight of modern day slavery to the MK Together Risk Board.

Actions for 2021/2022

- The MK Together Tasking Board will carry out a scoping exercise to understand the scale of modern day slavery locally. Any actions identified will be delivered through the partnership.

Neighbourhoods



Anti-Social Behaviour

Prevention and reduction of anti-social behaviour (ASB) that includes reports to Thames Valley Police and Milton Keynes Council. Also includes environmental crime.

What we know

ASB comes in many forms and whilst most residents of Milton Keynes will never experience it, it is distressing for those that do. Our community safety partners work well to target areas that attract this behaviour and take a multi-agency approach to tackling the perpetrators and improving the environment for local people.

What we have done

We have worked together across Milton Keynes but in particular two estates that experienced an increase in ASB to make them less attractive to people who cause nuisance and distress to residents.

We have implemented a public space protection order (PSPO) to tackle ASB related to car cruising and updated our PSPO for alcohol consumption in public spaces.

We have taken hard measures against people fly tipping and reduced the level of fly tipping.

Actions for 2021/2022

- Monitor the impact of the PSPOs.

Acquisitive Crime

Prevention and reduction of acquisitive crime (to include burglary, vehicle crime and theft) and rural crime.

What we know

There has been an increase in vehicle crime across Milton Keynes over the last year, especially in the city centre and rural crime continues to impact a significant proportion of the population in Milton Keynes.

What we have done

Vehicle crime has been a target area for Thames Valley Police and numerous communication campaigns have been driven via social media to warn residents and give advice.

Actions for 2021/2022

- Run prevention campaigns in line with Thames Valley Police and national crime prevention weeks
- Target Crime Series in relation to burglary and vehicle crime
- Positive law enforcement.

Other Priorities

The following areas remain a priority for the Community Safety Partnership, however it is acknowledged that the work undertaken by partners has ensured robust and compliant pathways are in place that are monitored by our MK Together Affiliate Boards:

Aim	Update
Deliver the Prevent strategy in MK.	Whilst implementation of the new Channel Duty Guidance is ongoing, partners are satisfied that the Prevent strategy is appropriately delivered in MK.
Develop an understanding of how Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), Honour Based Violence (HBV) and Forced Marriage effects Milton Keynes.	Partners are satisfied there is a robust pathway in place to support women who have undergone FGM and identify children or young women who may be at risk. Risk Board oversees the governance of the FGM panel and would manage any emerging risk of HBV or forced marriage in MK should agencies see an increase.
Develop cohesive and resilient communities that are confident in the local partnerships.	The MK Independent Advisory Group (IAG) has good representation that reflects the local population. Meetings are regularly attended by Police and Council representatives. Thames Valley Police's Community and Diversity Officers (CADOs) have forged strong links with communities across the city.
Continue to monitor Hate Crime.	MK has seen an increase in Hate Crime over the past 12 months. There are good links across a range of communities in MK and a continued focus on encouraging reporting of Hate Crime.