

## **COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – SEPTEMBER 2015**

### **POSITION STATEMENT FROM THE CABINET LEAD MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY**

#### **Prevent**

As Members will have noted there is a lot of focus both locally and nationally on violent and non-violent extremism and the threat this poses us. Across Leicestershire (and also Leicester and Rutland) there is a great deal of activity taking place that seeks to prevent such activity taking place in the first place and divert those who may be susceptible away.

I am pleased to report that the County Council has undertaken work to ensure we are compliant with the new Prevent Duty placed upon us under s29 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act.

A new Prevent Officer is currently being recruited to work across the County. This officer will focus on the new legislation and support to schools, will co-ordinate work to tackle right wing extremism which has been identified as a threat across the region, and will draw links between hate crime incidents and extremism.

A 'train the trainer' programme has been run over the last year and we now have officers from across each District Council and the County Council trained to deliver the Home Office accredited training programme to raise awareness of Prevent.

This will ensure that training can be delivered across the County to all front line staff from a range of agencies, including schools, in order to ensure workers are aware of where and how to make referrals if they are concerned about an individual showing signs of radicalisation.

A Corporate Group has been established within the County Council, which has representatives from all relevant departments and a District representative all of whom are linked to responsibilities under s29. The group is working on drawing up a Corporate Prevent Action Plan, one of the requirements of the legislation.

#### **Youth Offending Service**

Our Youth Offending Service continues to deliver a range of interventions to reduce offending and re-offending and performance across the Service remains high. During the year the YOS has been working more closely with the Supporting Leicestershire Families programme (SLF), to develop integration of young person centred interventions with broader work around the family.

In the last 12 months the IMPACT team has worked in 31 areas, with 943 young people; the team also delivered assemblies to 28 schools.

Reports of ASB have dropped in every area they have been deployed to and partner agencies have given positive feedback from across the County. 78% of the young people with whom the IMPACT project has worked reported that the work was excellent.

As a result of YOS and Police intervention First Time Entrants to the Criminal Justice System have fallen by 54% over the past 5 years. The number of young people in custody from Leicestershire remains low, a testament to the exceptional work undertaken by the Bail Support and Supervision Programme, which is able to offer robust and credible alternatives to custody for young people.

This year the YOS achieved the Restorative Justice Quality Assurance mark as a result of its ongoing high quality delivery of Restorative Justice approaches. Restorative Justice is used to provide a voice to victims and enable offenders to make amends for their offending.

### **Domestic Abuse**

Our Leicestershire County and Rutland Domestic Homicide Review procedures set up in 2012 are working well. We now have a common approach to learning lessons from tragic circumstances so that as organisations in partnership we can do as much as we can to prevent future homicides. We have developed guidance and delivered training with our partners to support any organisation to identify and respond appropriately to domestic abuse.

This year we have also developed our approach to support for people affected by domestic abuse by working with the City Council, Rutland Council and the Police & Crime Commissioner. Together we have commissioned a new single advice, information and support service for anyone aged 13 or over who has been a victim of domestic abuse or sexual violence. This will commence in December 2015 and will enhance the support available for those affected by these serious crimes.

### **And Finally**

The focus throughout the year has been integrating and strengthening community safety linked work-streams through joint working by tapping into the strong partnership arrangements that exist across Leicestershire.

The new approach to domestic abuse and the links developed with the new PCC led victim service, will lead to a more consistent and victim centred service. The new Prevent post has been seen as an opportunity both to improve information sharing across the partner agencies relating to extremism, and co-ordinate County and District planning in relation to local authority legislative responsibilities.