



LEICESTERSHIRE & RUTLAND SAFER COMMUNITIES STRATEGY BOARD

27th SEPTEMBER 2024

SAFER RUTLAND PARTNERSHIP STRATEGIC BOARD

Background

1. The Safer Rutland Partnership is a multi-agency collaboration aimed at improving community safety and reducing crime within the county of Rutland. The partnership brings together various organisations, including Rutland County Council, Leicestershire Police, Leicestershire Fire and Resue Service, health services, commissioned services and the local voluntary sector. The aim of the partnership is to work collaboratively to tackle issues and emerging patterns.

Notable developments and challenges:

Past Year

2. Rutland's most notable achievement is its status as the safest county on mainland UK, with a crime rate of 41.95 per '000 residents as of July 30th 2024. This success is the result of a strong collaborative partnership developed within the County.
3. Another significant accomplishment relates to tackling County Lines, a problem affecting the entire LLR region and beyond. Although the LLR crime data shows an increase in drug-related offences in Rutland, this rise is not due to local drug users but rather the proactive efforts of local NPA officers. Supported by an extensive ANPR network, designed by the Community Safety team, on the County's roads and a proactive police presence, these efforts have led to substantial seizures of drugs and cash. This ongoing activity is essential to maintaining Rutland as a safe place to live, work, and enjoy.
4. Focusing on young people, several early engagement initiatives have been successfully completed with youths known to services. These early interventions have contributed to a reduction in antisocial behaviour and crime.

Further support comes from the Targeted Intervention Group, which aims to empower vulnerable young females with critical thinking and lifelong skills to prevent violence against women and girls in the community. Having operated for three years, this program has ensured that participants have not gone on to commit antisocial behaviour or crime.

5. These achievements highlight Rutland's commitment to maintaining safety and community safety.

Coming Year

6. Several initiatives are planned for the coming months. One key project is entering its final stages: a campaign to raise awareness about domestic abuse, specifically targeting the hair and beauty sector. The goal is to educate hair stylists and beauticians on how to recognize the signs of domestic violence in its various forms. This campaign is based on the national #CutItOut initiative, and we already have several salons eager to receive both the training and the awareness and branding materials. Given the sensitive nature of the topic, hair stylists often become trusted confidants, making their involvement crucial.
7. The training materials are being developed in partnership with FREEVA, with guidance from a national domestic violence consultant. This consultant has also provided access to educational videos and suppliers of branded materials.
8. It is important to remember that elder abuse is an often hidden aspect of domestic abuse but one this campaign will include within its remit.
9. The campaign is set to launch in the second week of November 2024.

Key issues for partnership working or affecting partners

10. Oakham is currently without a dedicated neighbourhood police officer following the departure of the previous officer in August. This absence affects our main market town's support for partnership activities. However, a business case has been submitted to fill this position, and we are optimistic about a positive outcome leading to the recruitment of a new police officer for Oakham.

Issues in local areas

11. As previously mentioned, Rutland is facing several challenges, including issues related to County Lines and the nighttime economy. There has also been a rise in reports of antisocial behaviour from older members of the community, often over minor issues, demonstrating a lack of respect and tolerance towards others.
12. To address issues related to the nighttime economy, we are working with the Royal Military Police and licensed venues to improve the behaviour of a small group of military personnel. We have scheduled meetings with local military representatives to ensure they are fully aware of and understand the impact of their behaviour. Notably, military law has a lower threshold for acceptable conduct.

Recommendations for the Board

13. That the board note the contents of this report.

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