



**ST HELENS**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

# St Helens People's Board

**23 September 2020**

<b>Report Title:</b>	<b>Safer St Helens Executive – Update Report</b>
<b>Cabinet Portfolio</b>	Community Safety
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cllr J Bell
<b>Exempt Report</b>	No
<b>Reason for Exemption</b>	N/A
<b>Key Decision</b>	No
<b>Public Notice issued</b>	N/A
<b>Wards Affected</b>	All
<b>Report of</b>	Sue Forster Director of Public Health <a href="mailto:susanforster@sthelens.gov.uk">susanforster@sthelens.gov.uk</a>
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## **1. Summary**

This report presents an update to the People's Board following the recent meeting of the Safer St Helens Executive on 7 September 2020.

## **2. Recommendations for Decision**

The People's Board is recommended to:

- i) Note the update report from the Safer St Helens Executive.

## **3. Purpose of this Report**

- 3.1 This report presents to the People's Board an update from the Safer St Helens Executive for information.

## **4. Background /Reasons for the recommendations**

- 4.1 At the meeting of the People's Board on 22 July 2020, the Board agreed to the creation of the Safer St Helens Executive to provide additional capacity to lead on strategic issues relating to community safety. A Terms of Reference was also approved confirming that the Executive would update the People's Board on issues relating to community safety following each Executive meeting. This report provides the Board with an update following the Executive meeting on 7 September 2020.
- 4.2 The Executive meeting was led by Cllr Bell, Cabinet Member for Community Safety. The meeting was well attended by partner agencies, including representatives from Merseyside Police, Merseyside Fire & Rescue Services, Torus, Halton & St Helens VCA, National Probation Service, Merseyside CRC as well as representatives from Licensing and Youth Justice Services.
- 4.3 The meeting received an agency update from all organisations represented, informing the partnership of issues such as response / recovery following the pandemic, current operational priorities and areas / opportunities for future partnership support.
- 4.4 The meeting received an update on preparations for 'Operation Good Guy' – the umbrella name given to the partnership work undertaken during the Autumn period, including responses to Halloween and Bonfire Night. This includes in St Helens the co-ordination of actions by Trading Standards in relation to the sale of fireworks, completion of environmental visual assessments in advance of this period, proactive responses to fly-tipping and waste gathered in localities and ensuring that services are co-ordinating their activities to prevent and respond to any issues of anti social behaviour during this period. The Executive noted the update on this planning and will receive both further updates and an evaluation of learning following this period.
- 4.5 The Community Safety Partnership locally has worked closely with the Merseyside Violence Reduction Partnership to develop and support local responses to prevent serious violence. St Helens CSP has been allocated £120,000 from the Merseyside VRP to develop and deliver local initiatives during 2020/21. The impact of the lockdown period has resulted in a shorter programme for activity, however the CSP has now allocated the funding across the themes of early help /early years, targeted interventions, youth mentoring/diversionary activities and local education initiatives. For St Helens, the programme includes the delivery of the Beacon

Scheme by MFRS during the Autumn, delivery of the CELLS programme to engage young people who are supported by the Youth Justice Service to prevent re-offending and funding via a small grants programme for local community organisations to engage and work with young people, led by Halton & St Helens VCA. The CSP has also retained a proportion of the funding to respond to the specific challenges that the Covid pandemic may present during Autumn / Winter 2020. The Executive endorsed the programme for delivery in 2020/21 at this meeting following the creation of this multi agency programme to prevent serious crime and protect young people at risk.

4.6 The Executive also received a presentation providing an update on the progress being made across the partnership in relation to domestic abuse. This included the following information:

- Information from Safe2Speak (the service that delivers the Refuge and Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy Service) indicating that demand has increased since lockdown restrictions were eased. The service has received additional funding from the Ministry of Justice and St Helens Council over recent weeks increasing IDVA capacity to ensure that caseloads are manageable and that victims of abuse receive a timely and effective response.
- The Community Safety Team continues to work with SafeLives (a national domestic abuse organisation) to establish a Survivor Panel to ensure that the voices of victims of domestic abuse are heard and inform future service directions and to co-ordinate responses to perpetrators of domestic abuse. SafeLives are also revisiting the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) within Children's Social Care to undertake a case review to inform future learning for this service area in relation to domestic abuse.
- An action within the Domestic Abuse Strategy was to adopt a Domestic Abuse Workplace Scheme and for partner agencies to consider this approach. Preparatory work has commenced on this objective and a further report will be presented to the People's Board on the opportunity to implement this scheme across the partnership during Autumn 2020.
- The Domestic Abuse Prevention Officer is working in partnership with St Helens Chamber to deliver Domestic Abuse awareness sessions to young people engaging in courses delivered by the Chamber throughout the Autumn 2020. The Executive have requested that this engagement is extended to wider further education settings across this academic year.
- A new campaign 'Voices against Domestic Abuse' will launch in October 2020 in line with the strategic aim to break the silence of domestic abuse in our communities and will include the launch of the Survivor Panel as well as offering training and support for wider businesses / sectors to encourage people to speak out against abuse.
- Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service are piloting the delivery of important information on the help and advice available in relation to both domestic abuse and mental health support in St Helens as part of their home safety visits.
- A Domestic Abuse Sub Group has been established to deliver the actions within the Domestic Abuse Strategy and has commenced a review of current training delivered across the partnership and will produce guidance and advice for professionals on talking about domestic abuse.

4.7 Finally, the Executive considered a referral received by Merseyside Police to consider initiating a Domestic Homicide Review in line with statutory guidance and the role of the Community Safety Partnership in this function. The Executive considered the request from Merseyside

Police and agreed that the referral met the criteria for the establishment of a Domestic Homicide Review. The Executive agreed to the notification of the Home Office, establishment of a Domestic Homicide Review Panel and the appointment of an Independent Chair to lead the Review Panel.

## **5. Consideration of Alternatives**

- 5.1 The report is for information only. There are no issues to escalate to the People's Board from the Executive following this meeting.

## **6. Conclusions**

- 6.1 This report presents the People's Board with an update on the activity of the Safer St Helens Executive in providing strategic direction and oversight and the wider activity ongoing across the partnership to deliver safer communities in St Helens.

## **7. Implications**

### 7.1 Financial Implications

- 7.1.1 There are no financial implications from this report.

### 7.2 Legal Implications

- 7.2.1 There are no legal implications from this report.

### 7.3 Staffing/HR Implications

- 7.3.1 There are no HR implications from this report.

### 7.4 Impact on our customers/residents

- 7.4.1 The report provides an overview on the key areas of activity undertaken in the area of community safety as reported to the Executive during August / September 2020.

### 7.5 Community Impact Assessment

- 7.5.1 This report is for information only.

### 7.6 Asset / Property Implications

- 7.6.1 There are no asset or property implications from this report.

### 7.7 Environmental implications

- 7.7.1 There are no environmental implications from this report.

### 7.8 Policy Framework Implications

- 7.8.1 There are no Policy implications – the report is an update only.

## 7.9 Risks

7.9.1 The report details how the partnership is responding to both national and local challenges and working together to respond to identified risks.

## 7.10 Link to council's priorities

7.10.1 Creating safe and strong communities for our residents is a key priority for the Council and the St Helens People's Board.

## 8. **Background papers**

None.

## 9. **Appendices**

None.