

## **Community Safety - Yeovil One Update**

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### **Purpose of the Report**

To update members on the work of the Yeovil One Team and the development of this multi-agency initiative, which was established in order to protect and improve the quality of life for people living, working or visiting Yeovil.

### **Public Interest**

This report provides an outline of the multi-agency team that works to collaboratively tackle issues that can have a detrimental effect on the wellbeing of residents and visitors to Yeovil. The team work together on issues that single agencies have been unable to deal with successfully. The team look to add value and solve complex issues through close partnership working at a local level, which allows the sharing of resources, knowledge, skills and intelligence.

### **Recommendation**

That members note the report.

### **Background**

Early in 2014 Yeovil Central Ward was identified by analysis, from the Avon and Somerset Constabulary Operating Model, to have the highest demand for policing services across Somerset East Policing Area. In addition to this, Yeovil Central ward was in the top half of the deprivation indices across the South West.

It was found that one third of the top demand locations for the South Somerset policing area are within the Yeovil Central ward and have the potential to negatively affect the quality of life for residents, the experience for visitors and shoppers and people enjoying the Night Time Economy in Yeovil town.

Therefore, in June 2014 a multi-agency Yeovil One Team was established in order to develop an integrated model of neighbourhood service delivery to reduce demand and prevent crime and disorder within the Yeovil Central ward. The key aims of the group were:

- To use shared intelligence and knowledge base to develop a single vision and plan to tackle the causes of crime, anti-social behaviour and deprivation in Yeovil.
- Align frontline staff from different services in a single dedicated team, building capacity to deliver improvements for the community.
- Reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and fear of crime, and proactively tackle associated causes and cycles of local deprivation.
- Target the cause of top demand locations, offenders and victims.
- Build community resilience and increases early intervention to reduce overall demands and cost of delivering public services in Yeovil.

The Operational Group first met in September 2014 and has maintained weekly meetings ever since. This group is currently led and chaired by Police Sergeant Claire Leonard.

The Tactical Group was formed in January 2015 and has maintained Monthly meetings to support and direct operations. Cllr Tony Lock is the lead and Chair of the Group. The Tactical Group has an overview of the operations team, adding additional expertise at a management and Portfolio Holder level.

## **Update**

The weekly operational meetings continue to be held at the Yeovil Fire Station. Additional informal meetings in the form of 'task and finish' groups are formed when required to deal with issues or take initiatives forward with feed back to the weekly group and in turn to the monthly tactical group. The operational group have trialled a new way of working over the last year, with the first meeting of the month being an open forum where any member can bring any issues that require a multi agency approach and then the remaining weekly meetings are focussed on the top priority issues or initiatives. A priority plan is then established for each of these, which details the lead agency, the actions required and the necessary deadlines or milestones. These priority plans have been working well and provide better structure to the work of the group and allow members to take greater ownership of the required actions.

One of the current task and finish groups is the Safer For Yeovil Group, the members of which are focussed on identifying ways of addressing persistent anti-social behaviour in the town centre. One of the ways this behaviour could be addressed is through the use of Civil Injunctions and this is something the Area Development Lead and Environmental Health Officer are investigating. The Environmental Health Officer is also drafting proposed extensions to the Public Space Protection Orders currently in place in Yeovil but these proposals need to go through a set consultation process before they can be finalised.

The operational group have been successful in tackling a number of issues over the last year, the majority of which are confidential due to the personal nature of the data involved. However, the day centre project is an initiative that has proved very successful. Following on from the establishment of a night shelter the previous year, it was decided to trial a monthly 'day centre' drop in at The Gateway Church. The day centre happens once a month and is called 'The Junction'. The sessions are open to all and various agencies take part to offer help and advice and provide practical support such as a photo booth to help residents apply for photo identification and help with completing various forms. Food is also provided by the Gateway Church to help those in need and also to promote a welcoming informal atmosphere. The next 'Junction' takes place on 5<sup>th</sup> June, 12 till 2pm.

The Yeovil One Administrator left South Somerset District Council for a new role during last year and the Area Development Lead (ADL) took the opportunity to review the needs of the Yeovil One Team and concluded that a part time co-ordinator role was needed to help drive forward the work detailed in the newly designed priority plans. The recruitment for this 12 month secondment is currently underway and the ADL hopes to be able to announce the outcome when presenting this report to the committee.

## **Financial Implications**

None arising directly from this report.

## **Council Plan Implications**

The Yeovil One Partnership helps to assist the council in achieving the following corporate aims:

- Protect and enhance the quality of our environment;

- Improve health and reduce health inequalities.

**Carbon Emissions & Climate Change Implications**

None arising directly from this report.

**Equality and Diversity Implications**

None arising directly from this report.

**Background Papers**

None