

# **Building Communities Together Partnership**

## **Terms of Reference**

### **1 Introduction**

Section 5 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (“CDA”) sets out “responsible authorities” as including local authorities (including unitary councils), probation services, the police, the fire and rescue authority, and the clinical commissioning group, for the area. Together these bodies are commonly referred to collectively as a ‘Community Safety Partnership’ (“CSP”).

Section 6 of the CDA requires the CSP to formulate strategies in relation to the area in question to: reduce crime and disorder (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment); combat the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances; and reduce re-offending.

Section 39 of the CDA requires local authorities to establish Youth Offending Teams (“YOT”) and for others, including the police and probation services, to cooperate in the discharge of functions relating to YOTs

Schedule 6 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 sets out “specified authorities” as including district councils and section 26 of that Act obliges a specified authority to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism in exercising its functions (the ‘Prevent’ and ‘Contest’ strategies).

### **2 The Building Communities Together Partnership**

The West Berkshire Building Communities Together Partnership (“BCTP”) shall seek to establish partnership working amongst its members to ensure that West Berkshire is, and continues to be, a safe place to live, work and learn.

The BCTP shall be:

- the CSP for West Berkshire;
- the Steering Group for the West Berkshire YOT;
- the West Berkshire Prevent Partnership Board.

### **3 Objectives**

The BCTP shall seek to:

- reduce and prevent crime;
- ensure that statutory responsibilities are fulfilled;
- identify and respond to changes in the nature, incidence and severity of crime within West Berkshire;
- safeguard those who are vulnerable;
- help people and communities help each other and to engage with community safety related initiatives.

## 4 Membership

Membership of the Board shall include the following or their representatives:

### *Responsible Authorities:*

- West Berkshire Council (“WBC”);
- Thames Valley Police (“TVP”);
- Probation Service;
- Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service;

### *Interested Parties:*

- WBC Elected Members – the relevant Executive Portfolio Holder and deputy, and shadow portfolio holder or holders;
- WBC’s Police and Crime Panel Member;
- the TVP Police and Crime Commissioner;

### *Other Partners:*

- Housing Registered Providers;
- West Berkshire YOT;
- The Voluntary Sector;
- Healthwatch;
- Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust;
- Clinical Commissioning Group;
- Community;
- Faith Sector;
- Education.

## 5 Governance

The BCTP is a sub-group of, and accountable to, the West Berkshire Health and Wellbeing Board (“HWB”).

The BCTP is also be accountable to:

- the communities of West Berkshire - in respect of community safety;
- the Home Secretary - for all areas of planning and performance in relation to crime, anti-social behaviour, substance misuse and re-offending;
- the Home Office - in respect of statutory duties under the Contest Strategy (eg Prevent and ‘Channel’);
- the Ministry of Justice - in relation to the work of the YOT;
- safeguarding partnerships for Children and Adults - in respect of the functions of a CSP;

- the TVP Police and Crime Commissioner – in respect of utilisation of the Community Safety Fund;

The BCTP will provide, when required, reports to all of the above and also the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel.

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman will be elected annually by the members and the Chairman must be a senior officer from one of the CSP responsible authorities. The Chairman and/or Vice-Chairman will seek to attend meetings of, and report the activities of the BCTP to, the HWB Steering Group.

The BCTP will aim to meet quarterly and, in terms of agendas, papers, meeting procedures, etc, the BCTP will act in the same manner as for the HWB (although, for the avoidance of any doubt, BCTP meetings will not be public).

## **6 Functions**

The BCTP will:

- undertake an annual Strategic Assessment of crime, disorder and other emerging issues and agree shared partnership strategic priorities;
- produce, and refresh annually, a three year partnership strategic Action Plan to address shared strategic priorities;
- oversee strategic partnership activity contributing to addressing shared strategic priorities, regularly reviewing the impact of action/s on outcomes;
- review and approve an annual Youth Justice Plan;
- approve a Community Safety Fund Spending Plan;
- ensure compliance with national guidance and statutory responsibilities;
- engage with communities and ensure that information from engagement informs the future development of the BCTP and community safety related work;
- manage resources including identifying national and local sources of funding.

## **7 Approval and Review**

These Terms of Reference were agreed by the BCTP on 14 July 2021 and confirmed by the HWB on 22 July 2021.

These Terms of Reference will be reviewed on a regular basis.