



TO: Business Coordination Board

FROM: Chief Constable

DATE: 04 September 2013

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT - SCHOOLS AND YOUNG

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Early engagement with Children and Young People has always been a cornerstone to local policing. Early engagement helps to build good relationships within the community; it can provide support and access to positive role models and can prevent crime and antisocial behaviour through education, intelligence gathering, diversion and local enforcement.
- 1.2 This paper seeks to outline Constabulary's current engagement with children and young people in schools and in other settings across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

2. Background

- 2.1 Safer School Partnerships were initially introduced in 2002 to provide a focused approach to address crime and anti-social behaviour in and around schools in some high crime areas.
- 2.2 Since their introduction, wider benefits have been recognised, including improved community cohesion, a stronger sense of citizenship among children and an increased quality of life and opportunities for young people, their families and the wider community around the school.
- 2.3 Safer School Partnerships were introduced in Cambridgeshire in 2006 with partnerships being formed in Peterborough, Fenland and South Cambs.

3 Primary School Engagement

- 3.1 Police engagement at primary schools has never formed part of the Safer School Partnerships in Cambridgeshire. Liaison and engagement has always been conducted by the local policing teams, primarily, but not exclusively, through Police Community Support Officers.

- 3.2 Where there is a dedicated officer for the secondary school for which the primary school is a feeder, the school engagement at the primary school is conducted by that officer to ensure continuity.
- 3.3 School engagement includes the delivery of Safer Cycling courses at some schools and support to the delivery of the PSHE (Personal, Social and Health education) curriculum via diverse means such as the Starz classroom activities, multi-agency “Stay Safe” events, Junior PCSO activities and classroom activities.

4 Secondary School Engagement

- 4.1 Safer School Partnerships (SSPs) have been established in Peterborough since 2006. Seven of the local authority secondary schools and the three Pupil Referral Units have dedicated officers working in the schools. Whilst initially joint funded, the schools officers, a Sergeant, three Constables and four Community Support Officers, are fully funded by the Constabulary and form part of the Peterborough Community Intervention Team. The four remaining schools which are not covered by SSPs are still supported by the Community Intervention Team, but the primary responsibility for day to day contact with the school falls to the local policing teams.
- 4.2 Fenland has the only other formal SSP outside Peterborough. A PCSO is part funded by the school and half of their time is spent working directly with the school. The other schools in Fenland have a dedicated PCSO.
- 4.3 Schools in South Cambridgeshire, East Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire and Cambridge City all have a locally identified PSCO who makes regular contact with the school and is the school’s first point of contact in the event of an emerging issue or a request for support.
- 4.4 The Constabulary also supports multi-agency events such as the “Choices” and “Prison Me, No Way!” programmes to address decision making and risk taking, which are aimed at those identified as being at a risk of offending.

5 Youth Engagement outside School settings

- 5.1 The Constabulary is working in partnership with The Prince’s Trust to deliver the *Team* programme in Cambridge and Peterborough. The *Team* programme is a 13 week developmental course for 16-25 year olds; participants are often young people who are at risk of offending or who have already been convicted of offences. The aim of the *Team* programme is to develop keys skills, confidence and motivation, enabling them to move into work, education or training.
- 5.2 The *Team* programme runs three times a year at each location and a Constabulary member is seconded onto each programme to help with the delivery of the course.

- 5.3 Each *Team* delivers two community projects over the course of the programme, aimed at supporting vulnerable people. Young people's projects or charities are often the focus of the programme.
- 5.4 Apart from the Prince's Trust, there is a wide range of partnership engagement activity which takes place across the force area. The Constabulary has a Youth Engagement tactical group which meets quarterly and which shares details of initiatives and engagement. Examples of current engagement include:
- The Constabulary supports the regional colleges' Public Services courses; the Learning and Development department have developed bespoke training for those interested in joining the Police service. A "Cadet" scheme has been started at Cambridge Regional College and they are involved in community volunteering, supported by the Constabulary.
 - Regular visits are made at Youth Clubs, Church Youth Groups, Scouts, Air Training Corps, Army Cadets (etc) across the county.
 - Friday night football clubs, off-road cycling clubs, boxing and DJ-ing clubs are all regularly supported by uniformed officers.
- 5.5 Social media (primarily Facebook and Twitter) is used in some local policing areas, to inform and seek the views of young people; Survey Monkey has been used in other areas to canvass views. Youth Advisory Groups are being established in some areas for face to face engagement and feedback. The results of this engagement work are being used over the summer to conduct additional patrols at locations where young people feel vulnerable.

6 Property and the Police Property Act account

- 6.1 The Constabulary donates unclaimed cycles to a number of Youth groups or agencies working with young people. The Probation and Youth Offending Services provide cycles to young people to provide them with a form of mobility which will help them make appointments and support sessions.
- 6.2 Cycles are also provided to Littlehey Prison where young offenders are taught how to service and repair them, giving them a skill for when they leave custody. The serviced and repaired cycles are then sold and the money is added to the Police Property Act account.
- 6.3 The Police Property Act account holds money which is raised by the sale of recovered property which is not claimed by its owner.
- 6.4 Charities and organisations may bid for funds to support their initiatives. Youth organisations are prioritised and in the past three years, over £38,000 has been donated from the account, almost exclusively for youth engagement initiatives.

7. Recommendation

- 7.1 That the Board notes the paper.