

Community & Voluntary Sector Problem Solving Board Terms Of Reference

Background

In July 2019, the Government announced it would bring forward legislation creating a new legal duty on public bodies, requiring greater collaboration and information sharing to help prevent and tackle serious violence. The Serious Violence Duty will ensure that these services work together to share data, intelligence and knowledge, to understand and address the root causes of serious violence, including knife crime. The challenge of serious violence is not a law enforcement issue alone, communities and local partnerships are at the centre of the response. Serious violence must be understood and owned locally so that all the relevant partners can play their part in tackling the problem. As a result the Thames Valley Violence Reduction Unit has set up the Community & Voluntary Sector Board, bringing together a mix of public, social & community partners.

Purpose of the Community & Voluntary Sector Board

- Act as a critical friend to the nine place – based partnerships on their community problem solving activity and approach to community engagement.
- Support the development of a wider community & voluntary sector problem solving network across the Thames Valley.
- Facilitate the exchange of knowledge and best practice.
- Support evidence based policy making in relation to serious violence.
- Embed the community voice into central VRU decision making.
- Have oversight of community problem solving projects & activity.
- Shape and coordinate the work around youth engagement & voice.
- Strengthen local partnerships & seek opportunities for collaboration.
- Contribute to a regular community & voluntary sector newsletter, to share with the VRU Operational Board & Key Stake holders.

Purpose of the Community & Voluntary Sector Problem Solving Network

- To share ideas, learning and best practices to reduce serious violence & related causes.
- To identify and escalate to the board emerging community issues from within their retrospective local violence partnership or local area relating to serious violence.
- To act as a conduit between the Community & Voluntary Sector Board and local community groups.

Community & Voluntary Sector Board Terms Of Reference

Board Membership Roles and Responsibilities

Board membership to include:

- x4 Regional Voluntary Youth Associations (Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire & MK)
- Thames Valley Police's Community & Diversity Officers (CADO'S)
- Nine Place -Based Partnership Navigators
- VRU Core Programme Workstream Leads
- Thames Valley Police's Tactical Lead for Neighbourhood Policing
- VRU Community & Partnerships Tactical Advisors.
- Strategic Independent Advisory Group

The roles and responsibilities of the Community & Voluntary Sector Board:

- Represent their organisation, or section/department of their organisation in the case of large agencies, and feed back to the relevant senior managers after meetings.
- Read papers sent out with the agenda and engage in discussions.
- Update on previous actions ahead of scheduled meetings.
- Attend all meetings or send a substitute who has been suitably briefed if absence is unavoidable
- Understand that information shared at this meeting must be treated with respect and appropriate confidentiality
- Actively engage in the work of the group, and undertake any actions they have agreed to take responsibility for.
- Be a member of the Knowledge Hub and join the Community & Voluntary Sector Group.

Frequency : Every 6 Weeks

1st September 2021

13th October 2021

24th November 2021

5th January 2022

16th February 2022

30th March 2022

Chairing

TBC.

Term

These Terms of Reference are effective from August 2021 and will be ongoing until terminated by agreement between the parties.

Amendment, Modification or Variation

These Terms of Reference may be amended, varied or modified in writing after consultation and agreement by the Community & Voluntary Sector Board members.