

Safer Streets – Update, (Andy Vincent, Corporate Head of Housing)

Synopsis of report:

The purpose of this report is to update Runnymede Borough Council’s Community Services and Housing Committees on the work to implement the commitments made in the Safer Streets Funding bid which was submitted to the Home Office in conjunction with Surrey Police in autumn 2022.

Target hardening work intended to design out crime has been completed on the Garfield Road estate.

A youth service designed to engage with young people on the estate and divert them away from anti-social activity commenced in May 2023. This is being delivered by Eikon a local charity based in New Haw.

Runnymede Borough Council has secured £67,000 in match funding via the Safer Streets programme in 2022/23 – this funding is being utilised to deliver the diversionary activities led by Eikon.

Recommendation(s):

That Community Services and Housing Committee members note the progress being made to implement the commitments made by Runnymede Borough Council in the Safer Streets bid.

1. Context and background of report

1.1 In September 2022 Runnymede Borough Council was asked to join a Surrey Police led funding bid, representatives from Community Services (including Community Safety and Safer Runnymede) and Housing, supported by the Corporate Grant Bid Writer to compile an application for Safer Streets Funding round 4.

1.2 Safer Streets Funding is available to: -

“Police forces, local authorities, British Transport Police and eligible community groups across England and Wales to prevent violence against women and girls in public, neighbourhood crime and anti-social behaviour.

These projects will be able to roll out extra CCTV and streetlighting in their communities and expand work to change attitudes and behaviours and prevent these crimes happening in the first place.”

1.3 The purpose of the bid was to address issues of anti-social behaviour on the Garfield Road Estate Addlestone (described as the Safer Streets bid in the remainder of the report).

1.4 Working with Police Officers and their Designing Out Crime Officer (DOCO), the initial consideration for the bid focused on the physical Garfield Road housing estate area. Following a walk around by Officers, where options to reduce anti-social behaviour and criminality were considered, several components were included as part of the application. These were:

- The installation of gates into stairwells
- Installation of CCTV cameras, linked to Safer Runnymede
- Installation of additional lighting
- Reconfiguration of gardens to remove secluded pathways

- 1.5 The Safer Streets bid also proposed to provide support alongside physical diversionary activities, designed to prevent people from and to move people away from anti-social activity. This was initially intended to be delivered in the form of a Youth Café, however due to reasons reported to committee in March 2023, such an opportunity was not able to be realised.
- 1.6 Therefore, officers have worked with the Police and Crime Commissioners Office and with Home Office representatives, to identify potential alternative projects that can be delivered at the Garfield Road estate, focussed on young people, in order to preserve as much of the grant funding originally awarded as possible for the benefit of the prescribed area, its residents and the wider Addlestone community.
- 1.7 This report sets out the work already completed in relation to the Safer Streets funding bid and the Youth intervention work that is to be delivered at the Garfield Road Estate, working in partnership with Eikon, a local youth charity.

2. Delivering the proposals within the Safer Streets bid

- 2.1 The physical work proposed within the bid for the estate has been completed.

- Additional CCTV cameras have been installed.
- Two stairgates installed (other gates may be installed following detailed consultation with the residents affected).
- Additional lighting is in place at Hampshire and Middlesex Court.
- The pathway behind the bungalows has been removed and blocked off.

- 2.2 A security firm is also undertaking regular sweeps of the estate to tackle and prevent anti-social behaviour.

- 2.3 Support and work to divert young people and young residents engaged in anti-social behaviour away from further nuisance is being delivered by The Eikon Charity.

- 2.4 This arrangement commenced in May 2023 and has been specified to provide the following interventions: -

- 2.4.1 Children and young people 8-18 years in Runnymede (including those out of school) are identified, assessed, and supported with relevant, and direct early interventions to improve their wellbeing and mental health either in a community or school setting:

- Intensive 121 support with the child (and with a parent or sibling in some cases) help overcome anxieties and early level concerns.
- Targeted group work to address key topics such as healthy relationships (including boys' groups with a focus on healthy boundaries with girls/ women and challenging domestic violence social norms), anger management, friendship circles.
- Preventative work with larger cohorts of children to address key topics such as anti-bullying, online safety, and school transition support.

2.4.2 Parents and carers in the community are supported by building their knowledge, confidence, and skills to support their young person’s wellbeing and mental health longer term:

- 121 support with their young person in community settings.
- Parent webinars on topics such as ‘Supporting your Child’s Mental Health and Wellbeing,’ ‘Supporting your Child’s Self-esteem and Confidence,’ ‘Supporting your Child through Year 10 & 11’ (and bespoke events can be arranged). These are funded elsewhere, but parents in the programme will be signposted.

3. Policy framework implications

3.1 The Safer Streets work supports objectives 1& 2 within the Council’s Corporate Health and Wellbeing Strategy:

- Healthy Homes: Ensure residents of all ages can live in safe, secure, good quality homes and are supported when necessary to be able to continue to live independently.
- Healthy Communities: For all residents to be able to engage and participate in their community, access services, facilities, amenities, leisure, and recreational opportunities locally.

4. Resource implications/Value for Money

4.1 In 2022/23 the following has been spent – in line with the original funding application on activities on the Garfield Road Estate.

Item	Year 1 Spend (£)
Gates	3,700
Cameras	12,692
Lights	300
Metal Fences	
Wooden Fences	6,507
Turf	-
CCTV Monitoring/Maintenance	22,560
Project Management	4,999
Ongoing Maintenance	4,000
Patrols on Surrey Towers Estate	12,000
Total:	66,758

4.2 Expenditure by Runnymede Borough Council is match funded through Safer Streets – and therefore this money is available to support the diversionary activities delivered by Eikon.

- 4.3 It is intended for other agreed works, delivered via existing budgets within Housing, to be completed to provide the opportunity to realise £95,000 of further match funding from the Safer Streets project in 2023/2024 that will enable Eikon to deliver the project outlined for a period of two years.

5. Legal implications

- 5.1 Social landlords have a key role to play in creating safe and sustainable communities. They can achieve this in partnership with the police and other key local agencies to deliver a comprehensive approach to local problems and priorities. The measures outlined in the body of the report are evidence of the efforts being made by the Council in its capacity as a Housing Authority to discharge its role in addressing community safety issues.

6. Equality implications

- 6.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment has been completed for the target hardening, diversionary activities, and floating support service.
- 6.2 No equalities issues have been identified – although it is essential that the floating support service reaches all parts of the community.

This will be monitored through regular contract meetings.

7. Environmental/Sustainability/Biodiversity implications

- 7.1 None

8. Other implications

- 8.1 Consultation – Engagement with residents is essential in this project. A meeting was held with residents in July and October 2021.
- 8.2 Regular updates have been provided on improvement measures to the Garfield Road estate via newsletters.
- 8.3 Engagement on diversionary activities and the floating support service is planned for 30th May 2023.

9. Timetable for Implementation

- 9.1 The target hardening interventions highlighted within the Safer Streets bid have been completed.
- 9.2 The support service – delivered by The Eikon Charity commenced in May 2023. A progress update on delivery will be received in June with a contract management meeting taking place in July 2023.

10. Conclusions

- 10.1 Significant progress is being made in implementing the commitments made within the Safer Streets Bid.
- 10.2 It is anticipated that further diversionary work will be undertaken on the estate in 2023/24. This will enable match funding to be drawn down from the Safer Streets fund to support the provision of the Eikon service.

(To resolve

Background papers

Previous reports to Committee on the Safer Streets Project

[Safer Streets Funding Application Report](#)