



21st April 2022

Strategic Priorities

Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Board set up, Needs Assessment completed to identify gaps in support, especially for those who are in specialist domestic abuse accommodation having left an abusive relationship and the Domestic Abuse Strategy adopted. Development of action planning to deliver the strategy underway.

DLUHC confirmed Domestic Abuse Duty funding for 2022-23 – West Northants allocation - £767,196 to support Safer Accommodation.

Trusted Relationships, Home Office funded project, coming to an end March 2022 after 4 years. Evaluation of the programme is being completed, Free2Talk used learning to inform a successful application to the National Lottery to continue the youth programme to work with young people who are getting involved in gangs and knife crime.

Knife Angel to arrive in Northampton Town Centre during the first week of May. Lots of plans developing to raise the awareness of violent crime in all its forms, including; Service at All Saints Church (to be live streamed), Community march and event in Becketts park, emergency first aid and major bleed training, as many school visits during the 2 weeks it is with us from schools across West Northants, school outreach sessions followed by parent sessions, art competition for young people and the launch of a virtual reality App, which allows those that cannot visit the angel to place themselves next to the Angel, so they can still be involved in the experience.

The Knife Angel will be arriving on All Saints Plaza late afternoon on Friday 29 April and will leave again early Saturday 14 May. Activities planned include:

- Service and candlelight vigil on Saturday 30 April from 7.30pm
- Both weekends from 10am – 3pm the Emergency Service Cadets will be giving first aid demos and training. A member of the Community Safety & Engagement Team will also be available.
- Saturday 7 May a march against violence around the town followed by entertainment in the Market Square from 11am until 4pm
- Two sessions of major bleed training sessions, including using the critical bleed packs, are offered to the general public on Wednesday 11 May 2.30pm and 6.30pm.
- Two sessions for officers of Introduction to Trauma Informed Practice at the Guildhall on Thursday 5 May and Tuesday 10 May.
- Three sessions for parents on what to look out for if their child is being drawn into gangs/carrying weapons. Daventry on 4th May, Northampton 5th May and virtual on 12 May. Delivered by Northamptonshire Youth Offending Service

- Art competition for young people – ‘what the Knife Angel means to me’ any medium. Prizes donated by Saints, Cobblers, Silverstone, Bezerk.
- Knife Angel app available on the Explore Northampton app (free to download from the App Store and Google Play) – available across the county – see the Angel in augmented reality, links to further information and videos.
- Themed sessions at the Angel by various agencies.
- All Schools across the West (focussing mainly on Years 6, 7, 8) have been offered workshops and visits to the Angel. Also, an offer to deliver the workshop in the school for those that cannot attend in person.
- Aiming to sign up 10,000 anti-violence champions across the county.
- Anti-violence after school event in Daventry on Friday 6 May 3.30 – 6.30pm

Community Engagement Events

Holocaust Memorial Day – 27 January

Civic event held in person at the Guildhall Courtyard with flowers laid at the memorial stone and a candle lit. A programme of speakers and performances was recorded ahead of the event and shared through WNC’s YouTube [West Northamptonshire Council - YouTube](#) and Facebook Pages in lieu of a face-to-face event due to high rise in Omicron Covid cases.

5 March - Hybrid International Women’s Day event led by the Women’s Forum – to include recorded interviews and performances, working with our partners and community and voluntary sector organisations. Inspirational Woman presentation by invitation only but filmed and live streamed over You Tube - <https://www.youtube.com/c/WestNorthamptonshireCouncil>

International Women’s Day

Following last year’s virtual event the Women’s forum were pleased to be able to welcome the general public back into the Guildhall for a scaled down event. In order to keep people safe the decision had been made to not provide live entertainment or refreshments so there would be no need for everyone to gather in one place at the same time. Instead previously recorded entertainment and interviews were played over the big screens in both the Great Hall and Court Room. Local agencies were well represented with 23 stalls.

The presentation for Inspirational Woman was by invitation only in the Jeffrey Room for the shortlisted finalists and their plus 2 along with the judges. The presentation was filmed and live streamed into the Great Hall and Court Rooms.

All the recordings (interviews and presentation) are available on the Council’s You Tube channel under videos.

Pride

The Pride Committee have been meeting regularly following the 4th successful Pride event in Northampton in September 2021 and plans are well underway. Northampton Pride will take place on the market square again this year, on Sunday 26 June 2022, with a stage programme, walkabout entertainers and a range of stalls and activities. The event will begin with a Parade route which has been lengthened following feedback from last year’s event and will take in more of the town centre. Applications are currently still open for performers, groups wishing to march, stallholders and sponsorship.

This year the Committee have looked to commission a local artist to produce an event logo that will help create a long-lasting brand for the event and will also be promoting a full calendar of LGBTQ events taking place across West Northamptonshire throughout Pride month.

Safer Streets

Some of the physical interventions such as fencing and environmental landscaping have been completed and groundworks have begun for the 12 new CCTV cameras around the Racecourse. Planning applications are in progress for a number of lamppost banners highlighting the 'Safer Route' to the town centre and designs are underway for the flags and pavement stencils. A number of personal safety training sessions have been put on by Suzy Lamplugh Trust throughout January and February with more dates to follow and Student security packs have been received and will be handed out at a student event in March.

A number of other orders are in progress to replace batteries in radios for security and chaperones for the University and for an order of v-alert bands that can be given to vulnerable students and link up with the Safe Zone app bought by the University. All work is due to be completed for 31 March 2022.

We are also supporting the Office of Police Crime Commissioner with some specific projects in Northampton Town Centre, following the announcement from the SWAN Home Office funding of £300,000, this includes a refreshed marketing campaign, which focuses on violence against women and girls and safety in the night-time economy specifically, this includes the regular deployment of the SNO (Safer Nights Out) Van, training delivered to late night venues by Northamptonshire Rape Crisis and work with Suzy Lamplugh Trust (National organisation focussed on Stalking and Harassment).

Several physical interventions have been completed at this stage including, groundworks for CCTV on the Racecourse, hoop top perimeter fencing at Becket's Park, 14 flags installed on lampposts from the entrance to Becket's Park to Element on George Row and painted pavement stencils every 4m highlighting the safer route. Landscaping works have been completed in Becket's Park to remove overgrowth along the Safer Route and improve feelings of safety. Park Mark standard was secured for 4 carparks (the Racecourse plus 3 at the University).

Park Watch schemes have been set up on both sites under Northampton Neighbourhood Watch and two engagement events have been held on the parks in the last week of March to hand out free security products to help make women and girls safer, including a range of personal attack alarms, visibility bands and anti-spiking products.

At the university of Northampton, free student security packs were also handed out on campus at the Go Green week events this month including student survival guide, safety messaging and personal security products. Training has been provided to security, chaperones and residential life volunteers; new radios have been ordered; v-alert devices have been purchased which will work alongside the University's SafeZone app and are available to any student who feels vulnerable; and a student led drama piece has been created to raise awareness and highlight the interventions available to keep students safe. In addition, awareness raising and education

interventions such as personal safety training sessions have been delivered virtually to a wide audience by Suzy Lamplugh Trust.

Due to global supply issues some of the interventions have not been installed ahead of the 31 March deadline and are programmed in for installation in April 2022:

- Fencing to enclose both Racecourse and Becket's pavilion, securing the arches and verandas to prevent ASB.
- Installation of CCTV columns and ANPR cameras at the Racecourse and lighting and CCTV improvements to Becket's Park.
- Wireless CCTV help points in both parks to enable anyone in danger to seek emergency assistance.
- Twin arm added to lamppost column on Guildhall Road outside Bloomsbury house to light the pathway which was previously in darkness.
- 4 Safer Route flags to be added to St John's Halls following external works to the building in Spring. Materials received and on hold for date.
- Park Watch signs to be installed across both Racecourse and Becket's Parks. night venues by Northamptonshire Rape Crisis and work with Suzy Lamplugh Trust (National organisation focussed on Stalking and Harassment).

Neighbourhood Working

Engagement activity in the town centre in January and with Youth Forum to map spaces in the town centre where young people feel safe. Ongoing piece of work being picked up with youth providers through the Castle Community First multiagency group.

Home Office Violence and Vulnerability Review for Blackthorn and Kings Heath underway. Building on the Contextual Safeguarding plan and Neighbourhood assessment document for Kings Heath that has been developed through the partnership working group, providing partners clarity on the full issues in the area. This information has been used to create consultation direction for all partners. Consultation will be happening from this month and will continue over the next few months. Partners will complete the consultation work through existing engagement events, working with their community contacts and creating new individual engagement events. Outputs that have started to take shape include; teen sexual health clinic; school council lead eco project to brighten up the centre of the Heath; Community fun day; Gang and Knife crime intervention work in the school and building of relationships between young people and the police.

Continuing work in our community safety priority neighbourhoods including Blackthorn and St David's. This has included Crimestoppers promotions, which has helped increase anonymous reporting by nearly 42% in Blackthorn, helping us to understand the crime and antisocial behaviour issues that are taking place so we can ensure as a partnership that we are developing appropriate actions and interventions at neighbourhood level.

In Daventry Operation Unite is addressing persistent anti-social behaviour from a large group of young people, we have which included disruption of and damage to retail premises: criminal charges have been brought against some individuals and work is ongoing to issue ABCs and CPNs to others. Away from enforcement, partners are looking at a range of diversionary activities. We have begun working with Designated

Safeguarding Leads in Daventry's schools to identify individuals in need of early intervention.

Road Joint Action Group (multi-agency partnership) identified 9 new issues this quarter – focussing on issues related to speeding, inappropriate signage, HGV's, and parking.

Afghan Resettlement

Following new third country arrivals – we currently have 196 people across both hotels. We have had a meeting with the Home Office to talk about the future of the hotels where we were able to discuss any issues or concerns across both sites, but we are still waiting for confirmation of the contracts with the hotels – they both currently have an end date of 31 March 2022, both on rolling monthly contracts. We are managing to continue to resource staffing but need to have a clear idea of requirements over the next six months, in order to be able to plan and build in resource to manage resettlement in West Northants. We are working closely with North Northants Council to see if we can match families to their accommodation – so far, one match and a couple currently under discussion. Also working at a regional level, to make informed property matches before submitting to the Home Office accommodation matching service, to avoid late refusals. Ministers are still working on a refusals policy as this is the main blocker to movement across the UK at the moment. Housing Team due to deliver an overview on UK housing at Bedford Road to assist with managing expectations in the next two weeks.

379 Afghans (85 family groups) have arrived across both hotels in West Northants since August last year. 138 have moved on (33 family groups) and more than 240 remain across both hotels.

We continue to provide wrap around care to all our guests working with a range of partners including; Public Health, Clinical Commissioning Group, Dentistry, DWP, Education, Adult Learning, Northants Police and various community and voluntary sector organisations, including the Salvation Army and British Red Cross.

This support has included, vaccinations and screening, 0-19 health team support for the children, ESOL classes, cultural awareness sessions, community safety sessions, support with full access to Universal credit and all entitled benefits, school provision for every child, college placements, training courses, music sessions, sport activities and community events.

Homes for Ukraine

We're working closely with our partners, drawing on the invaluable experience we gained during the Afghan resettlement programme, to ensure we meet the needs of these arrivals.

We will continue to work to ensure the necessary services are in place for families as they begin to settle in with their hosts.

Local authorities have been tasked with co-ordinating the Government's activity, particularly around the Homes for Ukraine scheme.

We are in the process of contacting sponsors, who will be hosting Ukrainian visitors, about necessary property and security checks.

The council is currently:

- Training staff to carry out initial property checks
- Seeking to recruit resettlement support workers to help Ukrainians and their households access services and navigate systems
- Setting up a dedicated Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) process to carry out the necessary security checks

We are also liaising with our community and voluntary sector, community leaders and faith groups and asking anyone who can offer support to express their interest via our online [form https://northamptonshire-self.achieveservice.com/service/Ukrainian_support_offer](https://northamptonshire-self.achieveservice.com/service/Ukrainian_support_offer) so we can call upon the support as we being to identify the needs of our Ukrainian families.

Community Safety Strategy

Development Plan going to the Community Safety Partnership Board on 14 April – setting out the plan to refresh our West Northants Community Safety Strategy with partners, current priorities include serious organised crime (gangs/knife crime/exploitation), domestic abuse and sexual violence, hate crime and anti-social behaviour and serious acquisitive and rural crime.

Community Funding Grants

The Community Funding Grants panel met on 23rd Feb to review and approve grant awards to community and voluntary organisations. A verbal update will be provided on value of grant awards approved.

Councillor Covid Support Fund

The fund continues to provide valuable support to our community and voluntary organisations, assisting with the recovery from the impact of Covid. So far 67 projects have been funded receiving in excess of £88,000.

Trading Standards

The Trading Standards team have carried out a number of operations to tackle under-age sales of cigarettes and vapes. Two out of five premises visited sold vapes to a 15 year old test purchaser. They also continue to carry out seizures of illicit tobacco and cigarettes. In a recent operation, 164 packets of illegal cigarettes and 23 pouches of hand rolling tobacco were seized from a premises in Northampton.

Officers are also carrying out sampling visits to monitor compliance with legislation relating to allergens.

Work is progressing on the investigation of a number of cases of rogue traders who have been targeting vulnerable people across the area.

Environmental Health

Working with colleagues from Highways, officers the Environmental Protection Team have been successful in a bid for DEFRA Air Quality Grant funding. A total of £148 297 has been awarded. This funding will be used to provide air pollution sensors

which will link in with traffic management technology across the Northampton area. This will enable actions to be taken to vary traffic flow patterns to address high pollution levels. In addition, it is planned that this technology will enable real time air quality monitoring data to be displayed on public information boards around the town. Work is now in hand to progress this project.

The consultation on the proposed Public Spaces Protection Order for the Daventry and South areas has now closed and work is progressing to analyse the results ahead of a report coming to Cabinet in July.

Excellent progress is being made on the completion of those food hygiene inspections which were delayed as the team worked on the response to the Covid19 pandemic over the past two years. Officers are finding many cases where food hygiene standards have dropped and are taking necessary action to ensure standards are raised. Nevertheless, the targets set by the Food Standards Agency in their Recovery Road Map are being exceeded and the team are working together across the whole area to ensure that businesses providing food are meeting appropriate standards.

Building Control

Following giving Notice to the Warwick and Rugby Daventry Consortium, the Building Control Service for the Daventry area will be coming back in house from April 2023. Work is beginning to develop a coordinated service for the whole of West Northamptonshire.

Fly Tipping Charter

Place Overview and Scrutiny have provided useful input into the draft Fly-tipping Charter and Action Plan. The Charter outlines our how we will identify, investigate and deal with the behaviours of those individuals and businesses who feel it is acceptable to not dispose of their waste responsibly, or in accordance with legal requirements.

Councillor David Smith

Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Engagement and Regulatory Services