

Regeneration, Culture, Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

BRIEFING NOTE – No. 03/20

Date: 25 February 2020

Briefing paper to: All Members of the Regeneration Community and Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Purpose: At a previous meeting, Members asked for a briefing note on the work of the Community Safety Team and Reverend Nathan Ward, following the successful bid to the Home Office for funding from the Knife Crime fund.

Background:

Following a successful bid to the Home Office Knife Crime fund, Reverend Nathan Ward of St Margaret's Church, Rainham liaised with the Community Safety Team and other partners to outline an action plan. This included:

- Mobile Team Challenge
- Fearless Campaign promotion
- Sessions delivered in schools in Primary schools by the Family Trust.
- Exploring mentoring with the Youth Offending Team
- Sessions on gangs for Professionals/Parents.

Update:

- 8 Medway Youth Service workers completed the full Mobile Team Challenge training (3 days) and four more did a one day top up / intro training. 5 voluntary sector youth workers also completed the full training. This training supports the use of the Mobile Team Challenge team building and conflict kit, which was purchased at the same time. The training led to the Youth Service developing a 7 week programme of team building, leadership and conflict activities that is currently being delivered in Medway Schools. Participants take part in a range of activities that are designed to increase confidence, communicate effectively, improve how they work with others and support them to manage conflict constructively. Participation in the course is being accredited using the Youth Achievement Challenge Award from UK Youth. So far the project seems to have had a positive impact with good engagement from young people. We plan to evaluate the

programme and course over the summer and to continue delivery over the next school year.

- The Community Safety Team worked to identify suitable locations for Fearless (Crimestoppers) signs outside schools and other education providers. The signs give contact details for the anonymous service for young people to report crime or concerns. In total 36 signs have been installed across Medway.
- Reverend Ward has undertaken a number of sessions in primary schools using the Family Trust who delivered sessions based on reassurance and positive choices.
- Mentoring work with the Youth Offending Team has taken place.
- In relation to the professional sessions, the Community Safety Team advised Reverend Ward that they were looking at the possibility of creating a 'Medway Training Package' around gangs and exploitation. This would be developed using the knowledge and skills of professionals working in Medway. Reverend Ward agreed to provide the funding to enable the training to be put together and supplied this to the Community Safety Team. The Community Safety Team have commissioned MSCP (Medway Safeguarding Children's Partnership) to create the training package with a working group of professionals from different departments helping to shape it.

Future working

The Community Safety Team will continue to support St Margaret's Church where possible along with a number of community based organisations. Reverend Ward has advised that he will be holding a conference style event in September. The Community Safety Team have been asked to have a stall at the event. Reverend Ward also arranged for the 'Knife Angel' to visit Rochester Cathedral on its tour of the UK.

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