

Appendices

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**NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL****CABINET REPORT**

Report Title	Cabinet's Response to Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Gangs and Knife Crime
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AGENDA STATUS: PUBLIC

Cabinet Meeting Date:	20 January 2020
Key Decision:	No
Within Policy:	Yes
Policy Document:	No
Directorate:	Customer and Communities
Accountable Cabinet Member:	Cllr Anna King
Ward(s)	Borough Wide

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To provide a response to Overview and Scrutiny Committee's pre-decision scrutiny report on Gangs and Knife Crime

2. Recommendations

That Cabinet gives careful consideration to the Overview and Scrutiny recommendations detailed below:-

Collaborative working

- 2.1.3 That the current work and programmes undertaken by the Community Safety Team regarding knife crime is continuous and becomes more strategic.
- 2.1.4 That the Community Safety Manager is charged with working with all relevant organisations and agencies so that they collaborate and enhance joint bids for funding in respect of dealing with gangs and knife crime.

- 2.1.5 That Northampton Borough Council, works with other Agencies and Groups in the town to coordinate the youth provision/offer in the Borough.
- 2.1.6 That Northampton Borough Council leads on Multi Agency Training, regarding issues relating to gangs and knife crime, to bring all Multi Agency work together.
- 2.1.7 That a meeting with the Community Safety Team, NBC, and Community Courtyard is convened regarding involving its work.

Facilities for Young People

- 2.1.8 That all potential funding streams are investigated so that youth clubs, and other facilities for young people are brought back into the town.
- 2.1.9 Funding is the core as all activities cost money and it is ensured that the costs should not be passed onto the young people.
- 2.1.10 That in recognising that the most difficult area appears to be liaising with families, when safe to do so, the Community Safety Team has a stand at a family fun day; or a similar event is organised remotely.

Best Practice

- 2.1.11 That the Community Safety Team liaises with Officers at Merseyside regarding their best practice initiatives in dealing gangs and knife crime and aim to mirror such initiatives in Northampton.
- 2.1.12 That all Councillors are provided with the link to the short film produced by young people, via Free2 Talk - Knives end Lives: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mCnUZyfeL4> and encouraged to watch it.

3. Issues and Choices

3.1 Report Background

- 3.1.1 The purpose of the Scrutiny Panel was to investigate how Northampton Borough Council (NBC) can play an active role in tackling knife crime and gangs in Northampton.
- 3.1.2 A report was presented to Cabinet on 16 December 2020 to notify it of the work undertaken by the Scrutiny Panel.
- 3.1.3 The Scrutiny Panel decided that the following needed to be investigated and linked to the realisation of the Council's corporate priorities.

Evidence Collection

3.6 Background data, including:

- Presentation to set the scene: To identify the prevalence of the problem locally
- Relevant national and local background research papers
- Definitions – Knife crime and Gangs
- Case Studies

- Best practice external to Northampton

- Internal expert advisors:
 - Leader of the Council, Northampton Borough Council (NBC)
 - Cabinet Member for Community Engagement and Safety, NBC
 - Head of Customers and Communities, NBC and the Environmental Health and Licensing Manager, NBC
 - Head of Housing and Wellbeing, NBC
 - Chair of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP)
 - Service Manager, Anti-Social Behaviour Unit

- External expert advisors:
 - Head of Protecting Vulnerable Persons, Northamptonshire Police
 - Chief Superintendent, Northamptonshire Police
 - PCSO – St David's, Northamptonshire Police
 - Service Manager, RISE Team
 - Senior Manager, Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children's Board
 - Director, Education Services, NCC
 - Representative, Children's Rights' Group, Corporate Parenting Board
 - Chief Officer, Northamptonshire Victim Support

- Cabinet Member for Adult Services, NCC
- Cabinet Member for Children's Services, NCC
- Chair, Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Board
- Chief Officer, Service Six
- Chief Officer, Lowdowne Centre
- Manager, Free to Talk Group
- Chief Executive, Northampton Partnership Homes (NPH)
- Chief Officer, Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
- Chief Executive, Victim Support, Northampton
- Security Manager and Police Team, University of Northampton

Site visits to Free2 Talk, Blackthorn, and Far Cotton Boxing Club

3.2 Choices (Options)

- 3.2.2 Cabinet may choose to agree to any or all of Overview and Scrutiny Committee's recommendations in full or part.
- 3.2.3 Overview and Scrutiny committee have provided Cabinet with a robust and detailed report to support its recommendations.

4. Implications (including financial implications)

4.1 Policy

- 4.1.1 There are no policy implications directly arising from this report.

4.2 Resources and Risk

- 4.2.1 Whilst there is no cost involved, the work will require officer's time to be taken into consideration.

4.3 Legal

- 4.3.1 There are no legal implications directly arising from this report

4.4 Equality and Health

- 4.4.1 Equality and health implications will be taken full account of in the development of the proposed recommendation.
- 4.4.2 There will be an equalities impact assessment undertaken as an integral part of the process.

4.5 Consultees (Internal and External)

- 4.5.1 A range of stakeholders were consulted with as part of the overview and scrutiny review.

4.6 How the Proposals deliver Priority Outcomes

4.6.1 This is in line with the Councils priorities, specifically Safer Communities.

4.6.2 Serious Organised Crime, including gangs and knife crime is a priority for the Community Safety Partnership and is heavily imbedded within the Community safety Strategy 2020-22.

5. Background Papers

Overview and Scrutiny Committee Scrutiny Report – Gangs and Knife Crime
November 2020

George Candler
Chief Executive