

Report to Cabinet

Subject: Review – Safer Streets 4 Funding

Date: 14 December 2023

Author: Head of Environmental Services

Wards Affected

Colwick & Netherfield

Purpose To update Members on the delivery of the Safer Streets 4 round of funding and to review its outcomes and success.

Key Decision

This is not a key decision.

Recommendation(s)

THAT Cabinet:

- 1) Note the update and analysis of the outcomes and successes delivered.

1. Background

In April 2022 the Home Office opened applications for the fourth round of Safer Streets funding to expand upon previous rounds and include the safety of women at night and targeting neighbourhood crime and violence against women and girls, as well as including anti-social behaviour as a primary focus.

- 1.1 The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Nottinghamshire secured £750,000 from the Home Office's Safer Streets fund for a range of public safety projects in South Nottinghamshire, with support from Nottinghamshire Police and South Nottinghamshire Community Safety Partnership.
- 1.2 South Notts Community Safety Partnership submitted a funding bid in May 2022 to provide £250,000 for each partnership area, Gedling, Broxtowe and Rushcliffe, and were successful. The following initiatives to make our communities safer were recommended for the Colwick and Netherfield areas.

- New CCTV and ANPR cameras
- PCSO's laptops
- Burglary prevention
- Car park safety
- Cinder path improvements
- Shop watch scheme
- Street Wardens
- Youth provision
- Street lighting improvements

1.3 The successful award of funding was announced in Jul 2022 to enable delivery to take place.

1.4 **New CCTV and ANPR cameras** - Five static automatic number plate recognition camera's (ANPRs) have been installed across Netherfield and Colwick, as well as one mobile ANPR fitted to a police car for the area. A high-tech camera, capable to 360-degree viewing, has been put up at the entrance to the site, near the new Sainsburys, off Colwick Loop Road and one on the junction of Balmoral drive. It comes in response to a series of incidents where car enthusiasts have organised unlicensed gatherings which have caused road safety, noise and antisocial behaviour concerns from residents and businesses.

CCTV Outputs: Over 400 hours of proactive monitoring patrols and 36 police viewings to support evidence gathering.

ANPR camera Outputs: NB South Notts includes other authorities hence 7 cameras referenced.

	Total reads	VOI Activations	PNC Activations	Priority Activations
South Notts 7 Static Sites and 2 vehicles	17,148,144	28,718	4,022	330

1.5 **Operation Triplefin** – an initiative launched in 2022/23 – has helped to prevent and reduce antisocial behaviour and criminal activity associated with the car cruises. Impact has already been seen with eight people facing fines for breaching the public spaces protection order approved by Cabinet earlier this year, and seven other warnings given.

1.6 **PCSO's Laptops** - New laptops are helping PCSOs stay out on the streets for longer fighting crime and antisocial behaviour. The devices mean the officers don't have to spend as many hours inside police stations and can instead offer more of the reassuring high-visibility presence they are known for in the community and help victims more efficiently and effectively.

PCSO's Laptops Survey outcomes: 50% decrease in time spent at stations per shift. PCSOs reported being more productive, efficient, and improved working practices. Traveling to and from stations decreased from 1.5 hours to 30 mins. Laptops now being rolled out to all PCSOs across the force.

- 1.7 **Burglary prevention** – Free security devices were provided to victims who had suffered vandal attacks on their homes, allowing them to sleep normally at night after having hi-tec security devices fitted on their houses. One resident was so frightened after their front window was smashed that they slept downstairs for months so they could react quickly if their house was targeted again. They subsequently had a Ring video camera doorbell fitted as well as CCTV at the back of their home, thanks to the Safer Streets scheme, and now feel much safer, one of many victims of burglary and other neighbourhood crimes in Netherfield and Colwick who have been offered free security upgrades to prevent repeat incidents.

Burglary prevention Outputs: Gold, silver, bronze and ring door bell packages offered. 81 victims have benefited from this intervention.

	Total	Gedling
No. of Risk Assessments offered	833	276
No. of Risk Assessments undertaken and referred to specialist contractor	231	81
GOLD	6	1
SILVER	23	7
BRONZE	162	66
DOORBELL ONLY	40	7

- 1.8 **Car Park Safety** - Communal car parks have been developed to reduce vehicle crime and improve residents' feelings of safety. Large planters have been removed with new surfaces laid and vegetation has been cut back across three different car parks. This project has increased natural surveillance, making it harder for people to commit vehicle crime, drug dealing and antisocial behaviour. Lighting improvements for the car parks have been implemented to further improve safety within the area. **Car Park Safety Outcomes:** Greater use of car parks has been observed.
- 1.9 **Cinder path improvements** - Environmental Improvements to Cinder Path. Known for ASB, alcohol/drugs and litter problems. Regularly used by residents for journeys to school. Improvement works included, litter picks by volunteers, tree and bush pruning, graffiti removal and 13 new/upgrades to lighting.
- 1.10 **Shop watch scheme** - Retailers are joining forces with police and street wardens to keep shoppers safe. Safer Streets funding has enabled a Shop watch radio scheme to be reintroduced at Victoria Retail Park in Netherfield, meaning businesses can instantly contact each other and alert fellow traders and the police when persistent shoplifters are in the area.
- 1.11 **Street wardens** - Two street wardens have also been contracted by Gedling Borough Council with the Safer Streets funding, who have provided an extra visible uniformed presence at Victoria Retail Park as well as residential areas and the nearby Colwick Industrial Park. The wardens gather evidence of antisocial behaviour and criminal activity and report incidents to Nottinghamshire Police and the council for further action.
- 1.12 **Youth Provision** - Dance and Music production workshops have taken place, with performances developed for the 'Netherfest' held in July 23.

Twenty-five young people have been part of the workshops, and a group were booked on an adventure day in August during the summer break. They had the opportunity to go climbing, sailing and take part in teambuilding activities.

Youth Provision Outputs: 13 youth work sessions delivered. 33 individual young people attended. Some young people known to police.

Young people working towards Junior Award scheme for schools (JASS).

One young woman nominated for a 'Youth Award' for Gedling area.

Scheme now extended to the end of March 2024.

1.13 The Safer Street 4 projects delivered as outcomes: environmental improvements, youth provision, improved car park safety, burglary prevention, CCTV installation and coverage, an enhanced Shop watch scheme, Street Wardens, and improved ways of partnership working.

1.14 **Lessons Learnt**

- Retail, NTE and residential areas have different competing demands.
- Plan for the unexpected, such as contractors going into administration.
- Governance and project management structures are important. It's helpful to have lead expertise on projects that can work across more than one authority area.
- Home Office SS4 budget changes are over bureaucratic compared to previous SS rounds.
- Partnership capacity is at an optimum level and delivery is dependent on a few individuals.
- Reducing crime in 13 months is challenging.
- Communications before during and after delivery is an integral part of the programme – we were later than we needed to be with our communications interventions but learnt from it and could use the learning in future delivery.

1.15 **Home Office and PCC Recommendations**

- Need for greater devolution and flexibility to make budget and intervention changes.
- Project Managers should be a mainstream requirement of funding.
- Increase how much funding can be spent on administrative costs. 7% is too low.
- CSPs need additional officer capacity to respond and maximise benefits from national programmes and new legislation.
- Investment is needed in developing the next generation of community safety practitioners and managers.
- Home Office reporting requirements should be reduced to reflect less funding available for round 5.
- SS5 application process and focusing on fewer interventions is welcomed.

2. **Proposal**

That Cabinet:

2.1 Note the update and analysis of the outcomes and success delivered.

3. Alternative Options

3.1 An alternative option would have been to not bid for and accept the Safer Street 4 funding and deliver to the Action Plan arising and continue with initiatives on an ad hoc basis. However, this was not recommended as it would have failed to deliver the Notts Safer Plan priority of 'Preventing crime and protecting people from harm'. It was considered a sound plan in that it included a specific target to reduce the proportion of residents experiencing neighbourhood crime to below 7% (Notts Police and Crime Survey) which has been achieved.

3.2 Different Safer4All funding situational crime prevention initiatives could have been selected, but they needed to have a sustainable year on year benefit e.g., fixed or re-deployable CCTV, CCTV Refuge Cameras, street lighting, target hardening of homes or vehicles, Automatic Number Plate Recognition cameras (ANPR). Feedback from key stakeholders and data analysis and mapping of burglary hotspots ensured the correct hot spot areas were targeted to produce the best outcomes in terms of reduction of ASB incidents.

4. Financial Implications

4.1 A Sum of £250,000 was awarded for each partnership for a range of initiatives spanning two financial years 2022/23 and 2023/24. The Council planned to deliver a range of outcomes (set out in this report) which totalled £114,500 and £135,500 was to be delivered directly by partner organisations including the OPCC and The County Council.

4.2 Budgets for the Council led initiative were included in relevant budgets in both 2022/23 and 2023/24. And were monitored separately in order to ensure deliverables were identifiable and able to meet grant funding conditions.

4.3 The Council actually delivered outcomes which totalled £109,500 resulting in a slight underspend of £5,000. As the grant conditions stated that the grant needed to be spent by September 2023, the £5,000 carry forward was not permitted.

4.4 Whilst it was expected that the authority provided match funding this did not need to be in monetary terms, the Council provided match funding in terms of significant officer time to the project.

4.5 Future Safer Streets projects will be subject to business cases which will detail proposals arising from the OPCC and arising Action Plan will be produced and evaluated to ensure approval is sought for including in revenue and capital budgets.

5 Legal Implications

- 5.1 The delivery of the programme has involved the procurement of certain services for which legal advice has been obtained to ensure that the Council's Procurement Rules have been followed.
- 5.2 Consultation on the Safer Streets 4 funding was not statutorily required, however early adoption and feedback from key stakeholders and data analysis and mapping of burglary hotspots ensured the correct hot spot areas were targeted to produce the best outcomes in terms of reduction of ASB incidents.

6 Equalities Implications

- 6.1 As the Safer Street 4 initiative and action plan were delivered, opportunity for consideration of the views of residents and staff was considered.
- 6.2 An Equalities Impact Assessment was undertaken for each element of the project requiring one.
- 6.3 As indicated in para 1 the funding in round 4 had a focus on protecting girls and women from violence and as such, the measures have apposite impact on females, in addition there have been specific youth targeted activity. Specific measures based on age and gender have impacted those within the relevant characteristic in a positive way.

7 Carbon Reduction/Environmental Sustainability Implications

- 7.1 This report has no immediate Carbon Reduction/Environmental Sustainability Implications.

8 Appendices

None

9 Reasons for Recommendations

- 9.1 To make progress against the Notts Safer Plan priority of 'Preventing crime and protecting people from harm'..
- 9.2 To reduce the proportion of residents experiencing neighbourhood crime to below 7% (Notts Police and Crime Survey).
- 9.3 To keep Members updated on the progress of the Safer Streets 4 Funding initiative and Action Plan.

Statutory Officer Approval

Approved by: Chief Financial Officer
Date:

Approved by: Monitoring Officer
Date: