

**Councillor Day - Portfolio Holder for Communities, Youth & Community Safety
Council - Thursday, 8 October 2020**

Community Safety Report

- As the majority will know, inside the Council Offices at London Road and within the Community Safety section we have a meeting space known affectionately as the HUB. Such places being a vision by the Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner to act as a facility, whereby 'partners' in the multi-agency approach to community safety have a place to meet and to work together. Prior to the CV-19 lockdown there were regular monthly meetings using this facility but the closure of our offices caused a temporary pause in the use of this resource. I am however pleased to report that Hub meetings are reverting back to monthly meets using the platform of Zoom. Parish Councils are invited to participate via a telephone dial in. This restriction being necessary because of Data Protection issues and so essentially they cannot currently be present for the full meeting. Now that schools are back we are encouraging them to participate in these meetings along the same lines as the Parish Councils. This gives us an up to date insight and a feeling of any problems that might be occurring in the schools whereby we might be able to assist.
- Police have reported a 13% increase in anti-social behaviour (ASB) within the district compared to this time last year. We consider this to be attributed to lockdown.
- At our most recent meeting of the Uttlesford Community Safety Partnership (CSP), the subject of Rural Crime was discussed and as a result a decision was taken whereby we will be forging stronger links with the Essex Police Rural Engagement Team to ensure a closer bond working within the farming community together with our local police community team, the fire & rescue service and the Combined Voluntary Services of Uttlesford (CVSU). It is our intention to visit farmers and the more isolated properties in rural locations. This will commence shortly and it will be made a priority. We recognise such matters as isolation and mental welfare will also need to be addressed when these visits are made.
- Here within UDC we now have two Officers who are 'PREVENT' champions; these being Fleur Brooks (our Safeguarding lead) and Angi Greneski (our Community Safety Officer). These will be responsible for rolling out training and supplying up to date information to staff as well as being the contact for any concerns from individuals either within the council or anyone in the district. Councillors can complete this training which will assist them to understand how to refer any concerns. Training takes around 45mins and is presented in an easy to understand way. I would urge all fellow councillors to attend one of the training sessions on either 14th or 16th October.
<https://www.elearning.prevent.homeoffice.gov.uk/edu/screen1.html>
- We are aiming to hold a ToolSmart event (marking of tools) on 4th October in Thaxted. This is at present waiting to be confirmed by the Project Covid Team

whilst risk assessments are being carried out. It will receive full advertising if given the green light to proceed.

- A domestic abuse campaign was launched by Crimestoppers on 7th September, with the title of “You are not powerless” – and the CSP are supporting this campaign particularly as we approach the national Domestic Abuse Awareness week.
- Scam and fraud awareness cases are still distributed weekly to all of our parish clerks and district councillors and on the Uttlesford Crime Alert Facebook page as well as our Neighbourhood Watch Steering Group for their further distribution. These are also sent to the UDC media department for publicising to our community. We consider this to be extremely important information to disseminate to residents and our communities. It is one of our key objectives to keep people safe and to protect the vulnerable.
- Hate Crime Week is 10th -17th October, again this is a national event and plans are being made as to how this will be supported by the CSP.

Safeguarding

- The J9 domestic abuse charity had Virtual Training offered by Safer Places in July and August. This training was offered to all Parish Councils, via email, and our Safeguarding Officer visited all pharmacies; hairdressers; beauticians and some opticians and eating establishments, in Uttlesford to share the training link.
- There has been a steady flow of safeguarding concerns being reported and a number of on-going cases, which occurred prior to lockdown and are still being managed. Volunteer Uttlesford have reported a number of cases and the Safeguarding Officer has either given advice, or has contacted the relevant organisations, e.g. social care, to provide support.
- The Children’s and Families Partnership Group has continued to meet via Zoom, and the Safeguarding Officer has been liaising with the new Chair, Jan Eke, on a regular basis. The Delivery Plan is about to be looked at in order for it to be updated; ensuring it is relevant to the new situation, brought about by COVID.
- MACE (Missing and Child Exploitation) monitoring and discussions have continued as usual, via the platform of MSTeams. I am pleased to say we do not appear to have had a spike in Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) cases in our district. However, CSE remains a concern and we need to remain vigilant. The model is constantly changing and our Community Safety Officer along with our Safeguarding Officer and myself recently attended a conference to assist us to understand how it could develop in our district. County Lines is a good example of child exploitation.
- The Safeguarding Officer continues to work with our Taxi/Hire & reward licensing team and now attends all team meetings of that section in order to ensure all safeguarding issues are processed through the correct channels, and advice

sought from the Community Safety HUB. This helps to encourage partnership working within the district.

Grants

UDC grants are being promoted and hopefully the uptake will be good. We are encouraging applicants to think around the emerging issues coming out of COVID and the 'New Normal' when they look at future projects

Community Response Hub

- The response hub has continued albeit the calls have slowed. Due to the current rise in new cases and the change in the government rules it is our intention to again promote the telephone number for the hub and the offer of assistance to the community will resume.
- Work is also taking place to identify the number of volunteers in our towns and villages who may be able to assist the hub should the need again arise.
- We will continue engagement with our most vulnerable residents to determine the help that may be needed should there be a further lockdown or implementation of more stringent rules by government.

Colin Day

District Councillor

Cabinet Portfolio holder for Communities, Youth, Community Safety
and liaison with the Police, Fire & Rescue Service

8/10/20