

Item Number:

By: Assistant Director, Community Safety, Kent Fire and Rescue Service –

Martin Adams

To: Kent Community Safety Partnership

Subject: Kent Community Safety Conference – *‘Dementia – Are we doing enough – Together what more can we do?’* – 3 November 2015

Classification: Unrestricted

FOR DECISION

SUMMARY

This report provides information regarding the Kent Community Safety Conference 2015 - *‘Dementia – Are we doing enough – Together what more can we do?’*. In particular, it confirms the positive outcomes achieved by partner organisations as a result of attending the event, and what colleagues have done in order to increase knowledge and understanding of dementia, and how they will continue to reflect on how to improve services for people living with this condition.

Colleagues are also requested to agree the theme of this year’s (2016) Kent Community Safety Conference.

RECOMMENDATION

Colleagues are requested to:

1. Agree the theme of this year’s 2016 Kent Community Safety Conference - *‘Drugs, Alcohol and New Psychoactive Substances (NPS)’*.
2. Consider and note the contents of this report.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS: None

COMMENTS

Background

1. On 3 November 2015, the Kent Community Safety Partnership delivered its annual community safety conference on *'Dementia – Are we doing enough – Together what more can we do?'* The event was held at the Ashford International Hotel.
2. As the population ages, and people are being encouraged to live independently in their own homes into old age, it was agreed that the condition of dementia would be a relevant subject matter. Dementia affects many people, and as numbers are increasing, affects all of those agencies providing community safety services throughout Kent and Medway.
3. A working group was established in early 2015 in order to organise the event. This consisted of the three partner agencies within the joint Kent Community Safety Team, as well as representatives from the Alzheimers Society and 'Dementia Friendly Communities'.
4. From the early stages of planning, it was agreed that one of the main objectives of the conference would be to ensure that all delegates attending would sign up to, and encourage others to sign up to, become 'Dementia Friends'. This would demonstrate clear support of the Prime Minister's Dementia Challenge strategy. Additionally, the keynote speaker at the conference, Angela Rippon OBE, was the Dementia Friendly Communities Champions Group Co-Chair.
5. It was also important that the conference provided information to delegates regarding working together to improve the services that are provided to people living with dementia.
6. With this in mind, speakers included professionals from 'Dementia Friendly Communities', the carers of those people living with dementia, and the impact that the condition was having on their lives, as well as a very moving account from a lady who was living with the early stages of dementia.
7. The conference ended with the 'Call to Action Dementia Pledge', where delegates were invited to sign up to becoming Dementia Friends.

Outcomes from the Kent Community Safety 'Dementia' Conference 2015

8. As a result of last year's conference, in excess of 150 delegates signed up to become 'Dementia Friends'. It is thought that indirectly, many more people beyond the original attendance of this conference have also committed to this, as the knowledge and understanding of this condition increases.

9. Following the conference, colleagues in the joint Kent Community Safety Team have been conducting some research to enquire from partner organisations what they may have done to support dementia friendly communities as a result of attending the conference. The following observations have been made:
- i. Kent Police organised a dementia master-class training session at their training school on 26 January 2016 in order to increase awareness and understanding of the condition. It was attended by in excess of 150 police officers and some representatives from external agencies including Kent Fire and Rescue Service (KFRS), KCC Community Wardens and the Kent Association of Local Council's (KALC). Another master-class will be planned for later on in the year.
 - ii. One of Kent Police search advisors within the county, suggested in open questions at the conference that it should be possible to disseminate to trusted partners the details of a missing person such as their age, gender, clothing and where/when they were last seen, to assist in locating them. As a result, KFRS now have a nominated point of contact within the service, and to date, the system has been used twice effectively. The Kent Police search advisor is now looking to enter into similar arrangements with SECAMB, health service workers and carers.
 - iii. A delegate from Growth, Environment and Transport and Public Protection at KCC has stated that dementia awareness throughout these directorates has improved as a result of attending the conference, and that much more consideration is being given to the impact and accessibility of services on people living with dementia. She has stated that staff are now working more closely with partners to ensure that people living with dementia are better protected from 'rogue traders', and that staff working within Trading Standards and Group Business Development have attended Dementia Friends training courses to improve their understanding.
 - iv. A representative from East Kent Housing stated *'Following the conference, I spoke to my teams and fed back to them using the statistics provided to make the team aware of the numbers of people affected. I thought that the conference was most useful and informative, especially the presentation given by Angela Rippon'*.
 - v. A delegate from the Kent Community Warden Service stated *'A very satisfying part of our role now is helping residents in our communities who are living with dementia. We are generally made aware of residents living with this condition by family members, neighbours and Social Services. We are now getting frequent referrals from the afore mentioned to visit and engage with individuals in their homes. This can be a very rewarding experience. The*

excellent training we have all recently had has been most beneficial giving us a much better understanding of what residents are feeling, and how we should approach and deal with a situation’.

- vi. A representative from Kent Police stated ‘*I have arranged five Swale training days by The Dementia Friendly Communities Team, one for each LDPT shift. The PCSOs are also handing out relevant contact details to those requiring specialist help should they be sent to associated calls. In reference to the actual conference, I thoroughly enjoyed it, and as heart breaking some of it was, I discovered I knew next to nothing about dementia or the effects it has on people’s lives’.*
- vii. The Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy Operational Group have plans to discuss at a future meeting the subject of ‘Domestic Abuse and Dementia’, as a result of attending the conference.
- viii. At the KCST team meeting, a KFRS representative spoke briefly about the intersection of dementia and transgender people and how this could potentially become more of an issue in the near future. A meeting is being proposed, composed of those people who may have some input or may be able to assist in relation to dementia and its effect on transgender people, as well as the broader issue of sex and capacity to consent in the older generation. A member of the KCST will be linking into this.
- ix. At a recent Canterbury CSP meeting it was agreed that Canterbury will be organising an event on 11th March 2016, with one subject area being dementia.

Kent Community Safety Conference 2016 – FOR DECISION

- 10. Colleagues are requested to agree the theme of this year’s conference.
- 11. Following extensive discussions with partner agencies, the preferred theme for the 2016 Kent Community Safety Conference is ‘Drugs, Alcohol and New Psychoactive Substances (NPS)’.
- 12. A working group will be established to commence planning for the 2016 conference, and a date towards the end of the year and location will be confirmed and shared with colleagues.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

13. It is important that, as organisations who provide vital services throughout local communities in Kent and Medway, we continue to adapt and improve these services. Understanding dementia and the challenges faced by people living with it, as well as the challenges faced by family members and carers is important if we are to truly support and meet their needs in the future.

RECOMMENDATION

14. Colleagues are requested to:
 - 14.1 Agree the theme of this year's Kent Community Safety Conference - 'Drugs, Alcohol and New Psychoactive Substances (NPS)'.
 - 14.2 Consider and note the contents of this report.