

REPORT TO: Safer Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 19th November 2019

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources

PORTFOLIO: Community Safety

SUBJECT: REMEDI “Got Your Back” Project Update

WARDS: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To update the Board on the positive work that the organisation “REMEDI” is doing in partnership with the Local Authority, Police and other local organisations to make Halton safer, in particular the “Got Your Back” Project.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- 1) **the report and presentation be noted; and**
- 2) **The Board consider the information contained in the presentation and support the proposed update to the project and raise any questions of interest or points of clarification following the presentation.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The Victims Services Cheshire website has been commissioned and funded by the Police & Crime Commissioner for Cheshire. It was developed to provide a single place for local and national information about the support, information and guidance available to victims of crime in Cheshire.

Halton & St Helens VCA, in partnership with CVS Cheshire East, Chester VA and Warrington VA have been supporting the creation of the online resource.

3.2 Remedi are a charity who provides a restorative justice and mediation service across Cheshire.

Restorative Justice brings those harmed by crime or conflict and those responsible for the harm into communication by looking for a positive way forward.

It provides victims with a chance to explain the impact of the offence and ask questions and it helps offenders to explain their actions and offer an apology.

- 3.3 Got Your Back is delivered by charity, Remedi, who also deliver restorative justice services throughout the whole of Cheshire. Remedi was one of four organisations which successfully bid to the Commissioner's Supporting Victims Fund, which funds projects which specifically support victims of crime under the age of 18.
- 3.4 "Got Your Back" offers support to victims of crime under the age of 18 in Halton whether they've reported the crime to the police or not. Referrals to the service come via the police and partner agencies and it also helps young people that reach out for support via social media.
- 3.5 Since the start of 2019, it has already supported 18 young people across Runcorn and Halton via bespoke one-to-one support sessions. The service works with young people to look at how they can put their experiences behind them. Together, a plan is formulated to establish who can support them. Some people may wish to feel safer or more confident since the crime against them happened. A regular review of progress is carried out to ensure that the young person is feeling more able to cope and recover.
- 3.6 One victim recently accessed the service as he felt vulnerable after being targeted by a group of youths. He told his Support Worker at the start of the sessions that his feeling of safety currently scored a 'two' on the scale of one to ten. However, after agreeing the plan and following the support, he now feels a seven.
- 3.7 Another priority for Got Your Back has been tackling hate crime in Halton. In just one month last year (July 2018), 108 hate crimes were reported by young people across Runcorn and Widnes. The team from Got Your Back has delivered hate crime workshops to more than 550 under 18s in the area. The workshops help young people understand what a hate crime is, what to do if they feel they have been a victim of a hate crime and how to report it.
- 3.8 The feedback from the sessions has been extremely positive with young people coming up with ideas how they can support someone who has experienced a hate crime and helping them understand the impact hate crime can have on the wider community.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 None identified.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None identified.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

The Community Safety Service as a universal service impacts on the health, safety and well-being of young people.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

None identified.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

The Community Safety Service as a universal service impacts on the Health, safety and well-being of the residents of Halton.

6.4 A Safer Halton

The Community Safety Service as a universal service impacts on the Health, safety and well-being of the residents of Halton.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None identified.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

None identified.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

None identified.

9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

9.1 There are no background papers under the meaning of the Act.