

Central Bedfordshire Council

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Thursday, 15th March 2017

Community Safety Partnership Priorities – 2018-19

Report of: Cllr Ian Dalgarno, Executive Member for Community Services
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Purpose of this report

1. To provide the committee with an update of the work of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) in the last twelve months, update on the current CSP Priorities and to advise what is planned for the CSP in 2018-19.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive or Committee is asked to:

1. To agree that the CSP should adopt two new emerging issues for 2018-19:
County Lines
Unauthorised Encampments.

Central Bedfordshire Community Safety Partnership Strategy 2016-2019

1. The Community Safety Partnership (CSP) brings together five responsible authorities; Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group, Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service, Bedfordshire Police, Central Bedfordshire Council and Offender Management Services¹. Within Central Bedfordshire we also work with partners from the Youth Offending Service, Public Health, Criminal Justice Sector, Adult Safeguarding, Children's Services and the Voluntary and Community Sector. Collectively these organisations work together with one aim – to make Central Bedfordshire a safer place to live and work.
2. Community Safety is an area of concern for all communities. It is consistently a high public priority, and one that can affect the quality of life for individuals and entire communities. Partnership approaches to tackling crime and

¹ BeNCH Rehabilitation Company and the National Probation Service

disorder are largely built on the principle that no single agency can deal with, or be responsible for dealing with, complex community safety and crime problems.

- Each CSP is required to produce a three year plan. This plan builds on the annual Partnership Strategic Assessment which provides an overview of the crime and disorder in the local area and identifies the priorities which the CSP will focus its efforts into addressing. The current CSP Strategy covers the period April 2016 – March 2019.

Table 1 : CSP Priorities for 2016 – 2019

Community Safety Partnership Priorities 2016 - 2019					
Priorities		Protecting the Vulnerable	Dealing with Domestic Abuse	Protecting our Communities	
		Modern Day Slavery		BME	Anti-Social Behaviour - environmental
		Trafficking		Under 18's	Nuisance Motorcycles
		Prevent CSE		Medium Risk	Street Drinking
Causal Drivers	Alcohol	✓	✓	✓	
	Drugs	✓	✓	✓	
	Mental Health	✓	✓	✓	
	Young People	✓	✓	✓	
	Open Spaces	✓		✓	
Community Priority				✓	

CSP Achievements in 2018-2019

- A Pan-Bedfordshire Modern Day Slavery (MDS) Co-ordinator, funded by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC), was appointed and sits within Bedfordshire Police. This post is developing a Pan-Bedfordshire MDS Strategy and Action Plan.
- Through OPCC funding, approximately 1000 front line staff, across the partnership, attended MDS awareness training. This training was delivered by a leading national charity; Unseen².
- The Prevent Group have reviewed and updated Central Bedfordshire Council's (CBC) Prevent Protocol, increased communications, reviewed CBCs venue hire policy and carried out a Learning Needs Assessment of CBCs staff.

² <https://www.unseenuk.org/>

- 7 The CSP is working closely with Bedford Borough Council and Luton Borough Council to develop Pan-Bedfordshire responses. Pan Bedfordshire options are being progressed for both Prevent and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG).
- 8 Intelligence workshops were delivered; these explained the intelligence process, its importance and submission process. This year has seen an increase in intelligence submissions to Bedfordshire Police from Central Bedfordshire Council and partners.
- 9 The Bedfordshire Domestic Abuse Partnership (BDAP) website was updated and relaunched – there was a 156% (896) increase in visitors compared to the previous 12 months. BDAP also launched on social media, and saw their messages reach over 40,000 Facebook and Twitter accounts.
- 10 The Domestic Abuse Champion scheme continued to be promoted and training delivered. Champions received a number of training sessions free of charge, this enabled them to be a “champion” in their team, to assist with risk assessments and to signpost their colleagues to support services for victims. There were approximately 60 trained champions.
- 11 The CSP supported Stepping Stones³ (a local women’s charity) with a Tampon Tax grant application. This grant was successful, with £270,000 awarded to provide an outreach search to victims of domestic abuse in Central Bedfordshire. The “Stepping Out⁴” Service is now up and running and embedded in CBCs Children’s Services.
- 12 A grant was submitted to the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) – a £134,000 grant was awarded to support domestic abuse victims who wish to leave their relationship but are unable to access current refuge provision.
- 13 The two-tier domestic abuse training programme continued, with over 150 professionals attending. The Domestic Abuse Team also delivered basic awareness training to over 150 General Practitioners (GP).
- 14 From 1st September 2017 the Domestic Abuse Team was moved from Community Safety and now sits within Children’s Services. Although the CSP will continue to have domestic abuse as a priority, the work within CBC will be led by our colleagues in Children’s Services.
- 15 Bedfordshire Police continues to run Operation Meteor, the policing response to nuisance motorcycles. They have invested in a number of off-road bikes to improve their effectiveness in dealing with this issue.

³ <http://www.stepsstonesluton.co.uk/>

⁴ 1-1 support, advice and advocacy for victims of domestic and sexual abuse

16 321 fly-tipping cases were reported to the Community Safety Operation Team between 1st February 2017 – 31st January 2018, these being fly-tips with evidence or those on private lane. These cases resulted in:

- 6 Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN) issued for failure to produce waste transfer notes
- 4 FPNs for failure to produce waste carriers licence
- 11 FPNs for small scale fly-tipping
- 5 successful prosecutions for fly-tipping
- 4 successful prosecutions for duty of care
- 1 successful prosecution for failing to respond to section 108 request for information regarding fly-tipping
- 4 files with Legal for fly-tipping (awaiting court dates)
- 2 files with Legal for failing to respond to section 108
- 1 file with Legal for breach of Community Protection Notice (CPN) – failure to clear land
- 4 warrants for arrest for failing to attend court for fly-tipping offences

17 A judge ordered that a fly tippers vehicle was crushed following a successful prosecution. A member of the public reported the fly-tipping incident and took the vehicle registration. Enquiries to the DVLA provided the owners details and a case was built. The court awarded a fine and for the vehicle to be crushed.

18 An Environmental Protection Officer in the Community Safety Operations Team was recently awarded an award from Keep Britain Tidy for “Excellence in Enforcement”.

19 The Environmental Protection Team is working closely with Bedford Borough Council and Luton Borough Council, through the Pan Beds Fly-Tipping Group, to work in partnership to reduce fly-tipping across the whole of Bedfordshire.

20 The Anti-Social Behaviour Team has issued a number of Community Protection Notices on persistent street drinkers and are currently progressing an injunction with barristers which if passed would provide increased enforcement options, including the banning of a number of persistent street drinkers from certain Town Centres.

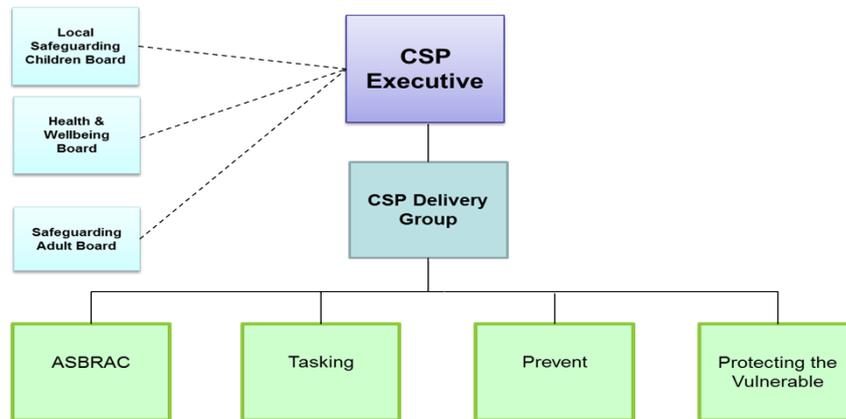
21 Biggleswade’s Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP) continues to run and is due to be evaluated by the end of March 2018. First indications show that there has been a reduction of street drinking in Biggleswade.

CSP Review

22 In Q3 2017-18 the CSP structure was reviewed, looking for opportunities for improvement and increased efficiency. The review recommendations were taken to the CSP Executive in December 2017 and the following was agreed:

- 23 Revised meeting structure to be implemented – reducing the number of meetings, reviewing attendance and ensuring groups are coordinated to the current CSP priorities

Diagram 1: Revised CSP meeting structure



- 24 The CSP would be branded to help to increase its profile, especially with the community. The re-branding would include a CSP website, social media and a multi-agency communication plan.
- 25 A new CSP Performance Report to be produced, with an aim to increase data provided from the wider partnership.

Plans for 2018-2019

- 26 Implementation of the recommendations from the CSP review – new meeting structure, branding and revised performance report.
- 27 Following an analytical review it was confirmed that the priorities should not change for 2018-19. It was recommended that there were two emerging issues which the CSP need to focus effort on in 2018-19; unauthorised encampments and ‘County Lines’⁵.
- 28 Review and implement the CSP recommendations from the Home Office’s Serious Youth Violence review once published.
- 29 Implement the recommendations in the Local Government Association’s “Tackling Modern Slavery – A Council Guide”.
- 30 Increasing community engagement – rebranding, website, social media and community events.

⁵ County Lines – Drug dealers from other towns and cities, predominantly London, travelling to the area and establishing a drug dealer network, often using young people.

- 31 Further training for CBC staff & partners, including Prevent, MDS and Intelligence.
- 32 Continued partnership communications on key issues such as Prevent, MDS and CSE to continue to raise awareness, encourage information and intelligence sharing and signposting to suitable support services.
- 33 MDS 'Train the Trainer' programme to be delivered to key professionals in a variety of service areas, training to then be cascaded to teams.
- 34 Development of a Pan Bedfordshire 'Violence against Women & Girls' strategy.
- 35 The development of a CBC procedure for the seizure of vehicles used in fly-tipping.
- 36 To increase the use of Section 108⁶ to obtain vital information from businesses and individuals to further investigations in to fly-tipping
- 37 Develop the use of Community Protection Notices (CPN) for landlords and agents of areas where waste is a constant problem, especially where there is a high turnover of tenants, making them responsible for maintaining the land.
- 38 CBCs Unauthorised Encampment Enforcement Officer will be the single point of contact for members of the public. This officer will provide a community approach to dealing with encampments, taking into account the needs of travellers along with the impact on the community.
- 39 Continue work on an application for an injunction to prevent named individuals from unlawfully camping in CBC and to protect specific parcels of land from encampments. This will primarily be for the villages along the B4012, A5007 and C94 from Ridgmont to Marston Moretaine. Once achieved further injunctions will be progressed in the Houghton Regis and Woodside link area.
- 40 Target hardening against unauthorised encampments will continue, with ongoing projects currently for Go Bowling and Grove Theatre Car Parks in Dunstable.

Council Priorities

- 41 The CSP has a statutory duty to work with partners to reduce crime and disorder in Central Bedfordshire. Working towards the priorities with an aim to enhance Central Bedfordshire; making it a safer place to live and work. We

⁶ Section 108 of the Environment Act 1995 – can compel suspects/persons to attend interviews or answer questions in relation to waste offences.

aim to work with the community to deliver on their priorities and to keep them informed and in turn increase public confidence.

- 42 The CSP continues to look for opportunities to increase effectiveness and efficiency and to deliver value for money. In the next twelve months the CSP will continue to work closely with the other two local authority areas in Bedfordshire and look for opportunities to align processes and increase efficiency and reduce demand.
- 43 The new “Protecting the Vulnerable” group’s aim is to create a multi agency group working on those areas which affect some of the most vulnerable individuals in our area.

Corporate Implications

44 None

Legal Implications

- 45 The CSP has a statutory Duty under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to:
- Set up a strategic group to direct the work of the partnership
 - Regularly engage and consult with the community about their priorities and progress achieving them
 - Produce an annual strategic assessment
 - Set out a partnership plan and monitor progress
 - Commission domestic violence homicide reviews

Equalities Implications

- 46 The Equality Act 2010 applies to public and private sector bodies and replaced previous anti discrimination laws. The aim of the legislation is to ensure services are available to all sections of society, in relation to the following protected characteristics; age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
- 47 The CSP Strategy sits alongside an Equalities Impact Assessment which has been produced with support from CBCs Community Intelligence Manager, this ensures that those with protected characteristics are

considered in all pieces of work. The CSPs current priorities all focus on those who may be marginalised and with a specific focus on those with protected characteristics.

Conclusion and next Steps

- 48 The CSP has made significant strides in 2017-18, however, with such complex priorities further work will always be needed. The CSPs focus in 2018-19 will be implementing the recommendations from the CSP review and developing the Protecting the Vulnerable Group, ensuring that effective multi-agency work continues to protect the most vulnerable members of the CBCs population.
- 49 Continued research and analysis is needed to understand the two new emerging issues in Central Bedfordshire, Unauthorised Encampments and County Lines. To understand why such a significant increase was seen in unauthorised encampments in the last 12 months and to identify to long term solutions to this issue. To understand the impact of County Lines on Central Bedfordshire, those involved, those impacted and to look for prevention, supportive and enforcement solutions.

Appendices

None

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