

# **Community Safety Resource Proposal**

**Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny  
Committee**

**January 2019**

# Broader context

Changing priorities – vulnerability/harm reduction

Demand on statutory agencies has changed and increased

Growth – managing increasing need and demand

Neighbourhood Policing Model

Police Crime Commissioners – priorities and funding

Police forces at ‘tipping point’

Austerity:

reduction in front line resources

‘stepping in’ or ‘stepping back’

# Local context

National decline in survey results suggests reduction in services, declining trust in public bodies etc. has had an impact.

Feeling safe when outside during the day and after dark in the local area is a driver for a satisfaction with place - continued to increase in importance since 2014

Council's 2018 Residents Survey has seen a reduction in residents feeling safe in their area:

- feel safe after dark: 9% decrease since 2016
- feel safe during the day: 3% decrease since 2016

Women, disabled residents, urban residents and residents in South feel less safe after dark

Women, disabled residents, residents in South are less likely to say they feel very safe during the day:

# Local context

Crime/ASB is important in making somewhere a good place to live, and the second issue most in need of improvement.

What would you like Central Bedfordshire to be like in 15 to 20 years time? – about a fifth of all respondents said they wanted the area to be safe

Several specific crime/ASB issues are considered significantly worse in 2018 survey:

Issue	2016 (%)	2018 (%)	% Increase
UAEs	N/A	43	-
Fly tipping	N/A	41	-
Burglary	20	34	14
Car crime	13	30	17
People using/dealing drugs	14	27	13
Groups hanging around streets	10	19	9

# Safer Central (Community Safety Partnership) Survey

673 respondents from 24 May to 31 October 2018

- 69% agree or strongly agree they are concerned with crime in their local area
- Has crime changed over the last 12 months?  
71% it has increased
- Comparing crime levels to other areas in Bedfordshire  
14% worse than other areas: 19% a lot worse than other areas
- Has ASB changed over the last 12 months?  
65% it has increased: 26% stayed the same
- How safe do you feel walking in town centres at night?  
3% very: 24% fairly: 28% fairly unsafe: 36% very unsafe
- How safe is Central Beds to Live?  
4% very: 50% fairly: 31% fairly unsafe: 13% very unsafe
- Extent to which CSP partners are making people safer?  
CBC – 36% not much: 31% not at all  
Beds Police – 36% not much, 23% not at all  
Fire – 14% not much, 4% not at all

# Safer Central Survey - Residents comments

*'There seems to be no interest in tackling local issues'*

*'Town centre is a no go area due to gangs and youths carrying knives'*

*'I do not feel safe walking anywhere day or night time'*

*'Young people openly smoking drugs in the park and public areas'*

*'There is a big drug taking culture in the village'*

*'Litter is a big problem'*

*'Travellers setting up camp illegally on land that is not theirs and leaving waste'*

*'Riding mopeds illegally no helmets and racing round'*

# Safer Central Survey – What do you think could be done to make your area feel safer?

*‘CCTV and lighting on passages. Stamp out cold calling’*

*‘Improved communications! What crimes have happened in your area this week? As locals what can we do to help? What to look out for etc.’*

*‘Local education to local people – perhaps the fire brigade and local authorities could attend village events and other support, education and a voice for the local people’*

*‘Community safety groups should get more recognition and help  
Support and promote Neighbourhood watch’*

*‘Start tidying up the town – litter’*

*‘Fix street lighting’*

# What council officers think is happening

- Residents feel less safe and think the Council isn't doing enough
- Police resources are limited, stretched and prioritised
- Neighbourhood Policing has been depleted
- Proactive prevention and community intervention is very limited
- Increase in violent & knife related incidents
- Increase in drugs/drug dealing
- Increase in youth related incidents & crimes
- Known CSE, youth violence and drug concerns
- Gangs – including links to areas outside of Central Bedfordshire



# What is the Council doing?

- Planning and prioritising – Community Safety Strategy for Central Bedfordshire
- Managing public space CCTV – monitor, inform, report
- Managing monthly multi-agency CSP Tasking Meeting
- Managing the Anti-social Behaviour Risk Assessment Conference (ASBRAC)
- Managing local Problem Solving Groups – individuals and locations
- Investigation and enforcement – ASB/ Fly tipping/Littering/UAEs etc.
- G&T Engagement and Enforcement
- PREVENT – Central Bedfordshire Protocol
- Working collaboratively with Children's Services, Housing & Adult Safeguarding to improve our response
- Attendance at police meetings – operations, Force tasking, intelligence
- Collating and providing 'Intelligence' to Bedfordshire Police
- Raising awareness – Safer Central website & social media
- Getting feedback - Safer Central Community Safety Residents Survey
- Best practice - Best Bar None, Pub and Shop Watch, Radio link, CAP

# What do we need to do?

Develop a sustainable, balanced and proportionate approach to delivering community safety across Central Bedfordshire:



# Communities

Two way exchange between residents, the Council and its partners taking a collaborative approach

Build local intelligence and understanding

Encouraging members of the community to become involved in community safety in their local areas

Work with Ward Members to develop sustainable activities in their local areas

Capacity building – developing the skills, abilities and confidence of the people in the community to tackle issues themselves

Inform, guide and advise communities – perception versus reality

Engage -asking people about what they want and how they want it to be done- manage expectations

# Partnership

Work strategically to provide a wider context and oversight, and coordinating multiple but related agendas across a number of different agencies to provide a more joined-up response

Proactively work with partners on those issues which are causing the highest need and greatest demand

Ensure our front line staff have the skills and training they need to identify, engage with, intervene, prevent and report on some of the most difficult challenges we face – exploitation, Knife Crime, sexual violence, gangs

# Intelligence

Proactively work with partners to raise awareness of the importance of submitting intelligence

Support frontline officers to increase the number of intelligence forms submitted in Central Bedfordshire

Use increased community presence to encourage residents to submit their community safety concerns, helping residents to feel involved in resolving issues

Use an intelligence led approach, ensuring that we have the right resources, in the right place at the right time

Use increase intelligence submissions to highlight issues and residents concerns with partner agencies

# Enforcement

Visible presence across our communities

Targeted enforcement in areas of most need

Collaborate and work jointly to maximise enforcement impact

Use available powers proportionally

Promote enforcement successes

# How do we deliver it?

Additional resources:

- Community Safety Involvement Officers
- Community Safety Officers
- Neighbourhood Officers
- Environmental Protection Officer

Use existing resources differently:

- ASB Officers
- Analytical

Use delegated police powers to enhance existing powers

Provide a tangible community safety presence

Take responsibility

# Outcomes?

- A balanced and proportionate community safety response
- Improved public confidence in the Council and its partners
- Enabling the community to influence the work of the council and vice versa
- Opportunity to help bring resilience to communities – reduce demand
- Compliments the College of Policing Neighbourhood Policing model
- Better understanding of our communities and their needs
- Increase in the flow of community intelligence
- A visible presence in the community
- Earlier identification of issues and those who are vulnerable
- Earlier access to support services
- Closing the gaps in knowledge, understanding and service provision
- Improving the joint use of scarce partners resources
- Ability to expand and start new community safety schemes e.g. Pride In
- Ability to actively support community events
- Increased data sharing across the partner organisations