

**Meeting:** Sustainable Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee

**Date:** 26<sup>th</sup> January 2010

**Subject:** Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessment, Identified Priorities for 2010 - 2011

**Report of:** Cllr McVicar, Portfolio Holder for Safer & Stronger Communities

**Summary:** This report is to inform members of the six priorities that have been identified through the Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessment. The priorities have been agreed by the Community Safety Operational Delivery Group and the Executive Group, and have been subject of Public Consultation. Members are invited to comment on the six priorities before they are recommended for adoption by the Community Safety Partnership.

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**Advising Officer:** Gary Alderson, Director of Sustainable Communities

**Contact Officer:** Joy Craven, Community Safety Manager, Sustainable Communities (0300 300 4649)

**Public/Exempt:** Public

**Wards Affected:** All

**Function of:** Council

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. That the Overview & Scrutiny Committee recommends to the Executive the approval of the six Partnership Strategic Assessment Priorities identified for 2010 - 2011. These priorities are:
  - Reduce reoffending
  - Reduce Substance Misuse – Drugs & Alcohol
  - Reduce Serious Acquisitive Crime – Domestic Burglary & Theft from Motor Vehicles
  - Reduce Anti-Social Behaviour
  - Reduce Domestic Abuse
  - Casualty Reduction – Road Safety

*Reason for Recommendation:* The Council is a statutory member of the Central Bedfordshire Community Safety Partnership. Under the provisions of the Crime and Disorder Act the Partnership is required to undertake an annual strategic assessment to identify crime and disorder priorities for the Partnership area. The strategic assessment for Central Bedfordshire, undertaken for 2010/1, has identified the

*priorities set out in this report.*

## **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

### **Council Priorities:**

The agreement of the six priorities, and the subsequent work in reducing offences/incidents/offending, will make a significant contribution to the quality of life experienced by local residents and communities. Work on the priorities by all of the statutory partners will also contribute to the delivery of the Councils community safety priority of 'Creating Safer Communities' to reduce crime, fear of crime, anti social behaviour and increase public confidence.

### **Financial:**

The majority of the work undertaken is done so through existing resources within each partners organisation. The Home Office does occasionally offer grants to the Partnership for specific areas of work and the Partnership will bid for these to provide additional support to existing resources.

Financially the partnership save on resources, by pulling together to work on priority areas that effect them all.

### **Legal:**

Under section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act the Council has a statutory duty to do all that it reasonably can to reduce crime and disorder in its' area. The Crime and Disorder Act also places a statutory duty on the Council, along with the other Responsible Authorities, to produce an annual Strategic Assessment which identifies crime and disorder priorities for our area.

### **Risk Management:**

There are risks and challenges to working in partnership with the Statutory partners of the Community Safety Partnership (*Police, Police Authority, NHS Bedfordshire, Bedfordshire & Luton Combined Fire Authority*), should the Council not agree with the identified priorities.

There is a risk to the Council should it not agree with the partnership data and analysis that has been provided. If new priorities were to be agreed without supporting data and evidence, the process would not stand up to audit, and would not be based on intelligence.

There are potential community implications if work on the high risk indentified priorities, is not undertaken. The six areas have scored highest in the risk matrix, and are known to affect Public Confidence and Fear of Crime.

### **Staffing (including Trades Unions):**

None

**Equalities/Human Rights:**

By working on the six priority areas, there will not be unlawful discrimination or contradictions under the European Convention of Human Rights.

Statistics and data have been used and analysed to identify the high risk areas to the Community Safety Partnership and our communities. All members of our communities have been taken into account, and there have been no groups omitted from the process.

The impact of working on the proposed priority areas will not discriminate against individuals or groups. In fact the work around Substance Misuse, Reoffending and Domestic Abuse will support minority groups and individuals who may not have felt supported, or who may have felt ignored.

**Community Development/Safety:**

The detrimental impact that anti social behaviour has continued to be raised by local residents through surveys and other mechanisms. In agreeing this as a priority to be worked on by the partnership, it should help improve the quality of life for our communities; help reduce crime, the fear of crime and anti social behaviour itself.

Fear of crime is again raised by local residents as a concern, and working on the crimes that impact the most, in terms of victims and community impact, will support our co-ordinated approach to decrease fear in the community. Domestic Abuse, Domestic Burglary, Car crimes, and Road accidents all have a negative impact on our residents.

Reducing re-offending is a national concern, and It is estimated that approximately 10% of the active offender population is responsible for half of all crime, and that a very small proportion of offenders (0.5%) are responsible for one in ten offences. In September 2009, there were 26 Persistent and other Priority Offenders in Central Bedfordshire. Working with these individuals will contribute to not only a reduction in crime and disorder, but hopefully the rehabilitation of these individuals which includes providing accessible services to offenders to support them with substance misuse, in particular alcohol and drugs.

**Sustainability:**

The enforcement and prevention work that will be undertaken on the six priorities, can make a significant contribution to the quality of the physical environment, tackle those responsible for crime, disorder and anti social behaviour, and prevent some offences in Central Bedfordshire.

**Introduction**

1. The Executive Summary of the Strategic Assessment (attached) sets out the scanning exercise that was completed, together with the two matrices that were used to determine the high risk priority areas. This can be used as a guide by members, to ascertain what was considered in our scanning process.

2. The report proposes the six new priority areas for the Community Safety Partnership 2010 – 2011. These are:

- **Reduce Reoffending**

We plan to work with re-offenders and pool our resources, to help re-offenders turn away from crime using punishment and reform

*Delivery*

Bedfordshire has recently appointed an Integrated Offender Management (IOM) Co-ordinator, and an Integrated Offender Management Group oversees the IOM approach in Bedfordshire (including Luton). The IOM Co-ordinator is developing an IOM Strategy and delivery plan for the area.

IOM builds on the success of the Prolific and Priority Offender programme, Drugs Intervention Programme & MAPPA – to prevent, deter, catch & convict offenders by enhancing efforts to rehabilitate & resettle them. Thought will need to be given to this group continuing following the launch of IOM, to ensure performance is maintained and the partners work together.

The highest priority will be given to offenders who present a high risk of harm to others or of repeat offending, as evidence from Government shows that 10% of offenders commit 50% of crime. Using a joined up approach, all partners will focus on the same group of offenders and prioritise resources with the explicit aim of cutting re-offending

- **Substance Misuse (Drugs & Alcohol)**

We aim to set up more intervention and treatment programmes to help those adults and young people who are addicted to drugs and alcohol

*Delivery*

Central Bedfordshire has in place an Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy which has been identified as best practice by Government Office East. The Strategy is supported by a Partnership delivery group. This group links with, and complements, the work being delivered as part of the Bedfordshire Drug & Alcohol Action Team Strategy. The purpose of the work around substance misuse is to improve outcomes for individuals across Bedfordshire (ex Luton), in reducing drug related crime, in interrupting the availability of drugs, in safeguarding those adults and children at risk, and creating safer communities across the county. We have adopted the key elements of the National Strategy, which will address the reduction of alcohol & drug related harm via 3 blocks. Children & Young People, Health, Community Safety.

- **Serious Acquisitive Crime (Domestic Burglary & Theft from Motor Vehicle)**

We aim to reduce crime and the fear of crime, especially targeting burglary, vehicle and robberies

*Delivery*

There is a delivery group for Serious Acquisitive Crime (SAC), which looks at a reduction in crime & a reduction in the fear of crime. SAC includes crimes of Robbery, Burglary, Theft of MV, and Theft from MV. Partnership working is in place to reduce levels of crime, increase detections and support vulnerable communities.

The Vigilance Programme is a Home Office initiative looking at Community Safety Partnerships that have experienced higher incidents of Burglary and Robbery, Central Bedfordshire Community Safety partnership was offered, and accepted, additional support through this programme in September 2009, with the key issue being the number of incidents of burglary, based on 2008/09 data. Additional grant funding has been obtained from the Home Office along with additional support such as specialist training. The programme currently runs until 31/03/10, however this may be extended. A delivery plan for the Vigilance Programme is in place and being monitored through the SAC Group.

- **Anti-Social Behaviour**

To help combat anti-social behaviour, we will pull our resources together and use prevention, intelligence and enforcement

*Delivery*

A partnership ASB Protocol is being developed, which will detail the processes and methods as to how partners will work together to tackle ASB. Minimum standards will be published, as to the service the public can expect when reporting ASB. The partnership will agree new protocols to improve the care and support provided to witnesses and victims of ASB. A number of re-deployable CCTV cameras have been procured and on delivery will be targeted towards anti-social behaviour and crime hot spots at locations agreed in partnership with other agencies.

- **Domestic Abuse**

We aim to provide more professional support to those at risk of domestic abuse, working closely with those involved in repeat incidents of domestic abuse

*Delivery*

There is a 3 year Domestic Abuse Strategy (2009-12) and delivery plan in place and this will be reviewed in early 2010/11. The Domestic Abuse Steering Implementation Group (SIG), oversees a co-ordinated approach to domestic abuse in Bedfordshire (ex Luton). It identifies key actions required to tackle domestic abuse in Bedfordshire (ex Luton) focussing on prevention, protection and provision.

There is a County Domestic Abuse Forum which meets at regular intervals throughout the year, and will bring together people from across the partnership. It will provide an opportunity for practitioners and managers from a range of organisations to meet, share information and facilitate best practice.

- **Casualty Reduction (Road Safety)**

We aim to reduce the number of people killed and seriously injured on our roads using a multi-agency approach looking at how to make our roads safer through engineering, raising safety awareness through education and where necessary the use of enforcement.

*Delivery*

Over the past few years considerable work has been undertaken by the Casualty Reduction Partnership (*Central Bedfordshire Council, Bedford Borough Council, Luton Council, Bedfordshire Police, Highways Agency, Her*

*Majesties Court Services & Bedfordshire & Luton Combined Fire Authority*) around prevention initiatives. A programme of work around Education is now in place, and partners are co-ordinating projects that focus around Education. Campaigns, such as Motorcyclists, Seatbelts, Young Drivers and Speed Awareness. These initiatives are all being progressed.

The potential of enhanced Partnership working and campaigns, is being considered. This would see cross boarder agencies working together to provide education for drivers who are injured on the roads of Bedfordshire, but who live outside of our county.

In view of the success of the work around casualty reduction, and the need to continue this important work, the Community Safety Executive Group agreed that it is essential that casualty reduction is a priority for the area. This follows the alignment of Casualty Reduction into the Community Safety reporting structure. The cost to Bedfordshire would cause a high financial risk if this priority area was not included. Reduction and education work surrounding Casualty Reduction has been seen to actually reduce the cost to the partnership, of a death or seriously injured persons. The yearly outlay of approx £700,000 saves the partnership approx £7 million. Together with safety for our residents and communities, this is one of the reasons why Casualty Reduction has been included as a priority for Community safety.

3. In considering the report, and the priorities identified, the Committee should note that the partnership will target work towards these six priorities. A review of outcomes will take place after six months. This review will monitor progress made on the priority areas, the partnership work taking place, and it will consider if there are any new high risk areas that need to be addressed. This report is used to inform the Partnership. At the end of the year this report then informs the next Strategic Assessment.

Performance Reporting is in place for the Community Safety Partnership, and the main indicators monitored are those which are considered by the Council as part of the LAA:

- Ni 30 Reducing Re-Offending rate of Prolific and Priority Offenders
- NI 16 Serious Acquisitive Crime
- NI 32 Repeat incidents of Domestic Abuse
- NI 40 Number of drug users in effective treatment

The Community Safety Partnership framework for reporting is done via the Community Safety Executive Group, which considers Performance, Funding, the Strategic Assessment, the Partnership Plan, Operational Delivery Group (ODG) Updates, Legislation updates, Best Practice, Compliance with National Standards, it will also sign off of recommendations from ODG.

The ODG takes a co-ordinated, problem solving approach to identifying, planning & implementing approved outcomes to support the priorities in the Partnership Plan. Partners will inform the group of the progress in their areas, and the progress on their action plans.

There are then a series of nine Delivery Groups (some of which mentioned in section two of the introduction) who look at actions plans and delivery plans, and tackle the tactical activity required to reduce risk and improve performance/progress.

4. The priority areas have been out to public consultation, and a Public Meeting was held on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2010. Each of the statutory partners were in attendance, and gave a presentation on one of the priority areas. Each Central Bedfordshire Member was contacted by e-mail on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2009 regarding the Public Meeting, and then again on \*\* January 2010.

## Conclusion

5. It is important that Central Bedfordshire Community Partnership has an agreed set of informed priorities, taken from the Strategic Assessment.
6. It is also important that these new priorities are communicated to local residents, the wider public and businesses in the area, so they can support the Community Safety Partnership. In this way we can work together in keeping the area safe, protected, we are robust around anti social behaviour, crime and re-offending; all of which have an impact on our communities.
7. It is also important that the Community Safety Partnership works as a partnership, and together, on the key issues that have been identified. By combining our efforts and resources, we will see the biggest impact and start to become proactive rather than reactive.
8. In Central Bedfordshire Our Vision is to:

*“improve the quality of life of all in Central Bedfordshire, and enhance the unique character of our communities and our environment”*

The aim of the Sustainable Communities directorate is:

*“to be an exemplar of delivering sustainable communities through national influence and high quality, cost effective service delivery”.*

In doing this, the Directorate will contribute significantly to the achievement of the Council’s Vision. One of the main deliverables of Sustainable Communities is to **Reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and fear of crime**. As part of Sustainable Communities, Community Safety will play a significant role in contributing to this aim.

## Appendices:

Appendix A – Power point presentation on the Strategic Assessment

Appendix B – Executive Summary of the Strategic Assessment