
Meeting: Executive
Date: 6 April 2010
Subject: Community Safety Partnership Plan 2010 - 2012
Report of: Cllr David McVicar, Portfolio Holder for Safer Communities & Healthier Lifestyles
Summary: The Executive is requested to agree the statutory Community Safety Partnership Plan and support the priorities going forward to full Council

Advising Officer: Gary Alderson, Director of Sustainable Communities
Contact Officer: Joy Craven, Community Safety Partnership Manager
Public/Exempt: Public
Wards Affected: All
Function of: Council
Key Decision Yes
**Reason for urgency/
exemption from call-in
(if appropriate)** Not Applicable

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

By working with partners on the priorities identified in this report, the Council will contribute to the community safety priority of 'Creating Safer Communities' to reduce crime, fear of crime, anti social behaviour and increase public confidence.

Support for the priorities identified and the Community Safety Partnership Plan, will also make a significant contribution to the quality of life of our local residents and communities.

Financial:

In relation to Central Bedfordshire Council all activities referenced in the plan will be developed from existing revenue and capital budgets.

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 is a risk to the Councils' reputation for working in partnership, should it not support the priorities identified through a partnership strategic assessment process.

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

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

There are no staffing implications for the Council

Equalities/Human Rights:

Central Bedfordshire Council wants to ensure that it provides services which address the needs of all members of the community. As such the council conducts Equality Impact Assessments as strategies, policies and services are developed to:

- Consider issues relating to age, disability, gender, gender reassignment, race, religion & belief and sexual orientation
- Obtain a clearer understanding of how different groups may be affected
- Identify changes which may need to be built into an initiative as it is developed
- Comply with legislative requirements & Identify good practice

The Community Safety Partnership are cognisant of the work needed to address these agendas, and are currently in discussion with the Hate Crime Partnership to address long term areas of progress in this field, and it is hoped that the partnership will take the strategic lead for this in the future. A sub group of the partnership (Sexual Abuse) has commissioned an intelligence profile around the Sexual Abuse agenda, with a view to developing a Sexual Violence Action Plan, and its link with Domestic Abuse.

This work is developing at the moment, and following the results of the Impact Assessment, the Chair and Vice Chair of the Partnership will ensure the findings are taken forward in the work of the Partnership.

By working on the six priority areas identified, 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 Safety:

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires the Council to do all that it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder. Support for this plan will ensure that the Council proactively contributes to addressing the identified community safety priorities for Central Bedfordshire.

The detrimental impact of crime, and anti social behaviour is a high priority for local residents, and the work to be undertaken in addressing the identified priorities, will improve the quality of life for our communities; help reduce crime, the fear of crime and anti social behaviour itself and promote public confidence in our services and those offered by our partners.

Sustainability:

The enforcement and prevention work that will be undertaken to support the Community Safety Plan will 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. By addressing the root causes of criminal behaviour e.g. Drugs and alcohol, access to skills, training and employment, it will be possible to achieve longer term sustainable reductions in crime and disorder.

Summary of Overview and Scrutiny Comments:

- The Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the report at its meeting on 26 January 2010 and resolved to support the Community Safety Partnership's strategic assessment priorities identified for 2010 – 2011 detailed as follows:-
 1. Reduce Re-Offending
 2. Reduce Substance Misuse (Drugs and Alcohol)
 3. Reduce Serious Acquisitive Crime (Domestic Burglary and Theft from Motor Vehicles)
 4. Reduce Anti-Social Behaviour
 5. Reduce Domestic Abuse
 6. Casualty Reduction - Road Safety
- Full details are set out at Appendix B.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That Council be recommended to adopt the Community Safety Partnership Plan and strategic assessment priorities identified for 2010 – 2011.

Reason for Recommendation(s): Central Bedfordshire Council is a responsible authority of the Community Safety Partnership under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The Act places a statutory duty on the local authority to work with other responsible authorities to develop and implement a strategy for reducing crime and disorder. The strategy must cover a district, borough or unitary area.

Background

1. 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. In recent years it has been acknowledged that tackling community safety issues cannot be done by the police alone, but is dependent on a number of organisations, and services, working together to find solutions to community problems.
2. Community Safety aims to reduce crime and disorder, antisocial behaviour and other behaviour affecting the local environment, as well as reducing the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances, reduce the fear of crime and increase public confidence in our service

Statutory Processes

3. As a responsible authority of the Central Bedfordshire Community Safety Partnership, the Council has a statutory duty to work with other local agencies and organisations to develop and implement strategies to tackle crime and disorder - including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment, as well as the misuse of drugs in their area.

The responsible authorities for Central Bedfordshire are:

Bedfordshire Police

Bedfordshire Police Authority

Central Bedfordshire Council

NHS Bedfordshire

Bedfordshire & Luton Combined Fire Authority and Bedfordshire & Luton Fire & Rescue Service

Bedfordshire Probation (as of 1st April 2010)

4. The responsible authorities have a statutory duty to ensure that they work together in a Community Safety Partnership, and using information gathered from the a statutory strategic assessment, identify community safety priorities for the partnership area. Having identified these priorities the partnership is then required to develop a Community Safety Partnership Plan for the area, which sets out the priorities for action over the following 12 month period.
5. Each year the priorities are refreshed through a partnership strategic Assessment process. The agreed priorities then direct the work of the Community Safety Partnership and its statutory partners. In this years strategic assessment process, a risk & threat matrix was used to assess the emerging priorities, with regard to national & local strategies, community concern, volume and performance as well as an assessment of the risk/threat posed.

6. The priorities identified for Central Bedfordshire for 2010-2011 through the strategic assessment process are:

1. **Reduce Reoffending**
2. **Reduce Substance Misuse – Drugs & Alcohol**
3. **Reduce Serious & Acquisitive Crime – Domestic Burglary, Robbery & Theft from Motor Vehicle**
4. **Reduce Anti-Social Behaviour**
5. **Reduce Domestic Abuse**
6. **Casualty Reduction – road safety**

Having identified the priorities the Community Safety Plan has been refreshed, showing how these priorities will be addressed by the partnership over the next two years (*appendix A*)

7. The six identified partnership priorities have been to public consultation, via publication in local media and in News Central. In addition a public meeting was held on 19th January 2010 where the priorities were presented.

No adverse comments were received during this consultation period. Confirmation of public concern has also been gauged from the findings of the recent MORI residents survey, which told us that:

- Tackling crime levels is the public's top priority for the Council (41% of residents stated this)
- 1 in 4 people stated that the Council needs to do more to make the area safer

Council members were consulted on the priorities, during December 2009 & January 2010. The emerging priorities were taken to the Overview and Scrutiny committee on 26th January 2010 where it was resolved to support the priorities identified (*appendix B provides full details of the report from O&S*).

The Community Safety Plan

8. The Community Safety Partnership Plan covers the following areas:

- The Role of Community Safety
- Aims of Community Safety
- Role of Central Bedfordshire Together & where Community Safety and it's Partnership Delivery Groups fit
- Our Priorities
- What we will do & How we will review our progress
- Performance Management
- Joining up Delivery

The draft plan has been circulated to all members of the Community Safety Partnership and has been approved, subject to agreement by Central Bedfordshire Together at its meeting on 23 March 2010. Delegated authority has been given to the Chair, the Director of Sustainable Communities, and Vice Chair of the Community Safety Partnership to make any required amendments from this meeting.

9. The Community Safety Partnership is supported by eight delivery groups, which work to delivery plans outlining aims, objectives, actions and deliverables – all targeted to the partnership priorities. These groups review progress on the priorities and feed back their comments, plans and issues to the Operational Delivery Group which, in turn, reports to the Community Safety Partnership Executive Group (*appendix C*).
10. The reporting mechanisms in place for the priorities are consistent with those for the Local Area Agreement. The four LAA targets for Community Safety are included within the identified partnership priorities :
 - NI 16 Serious Acquisitive Crime
 - NI 32 Domestic Abuse
 - NI 30 Reducing Reoffending
 - NI 40 Substance Misuse

Conclusion and Next Steps

11. As a responsible authority of the Community Safety Partnership, the Council is obliged to ensure that all of the statutory duties of the Partnership are complied with, including identifying priorities for the area and the creation of the Community Safety Partnership Plan. In addition the plan supports the Councils own priority to create safer communities. As such, it is recommended that the Executive support the Community Safety Partnership's strategic assessment priorities identified for 2010 – 2011 and recommend the refreshed Central Bedfordshire Community Safety Partnership Community Safety Plan 2010 – 2012 to Council for approval.

Appendices:

Appendix A – Community Safety Partnership Plan

Appendix B – Overview and Scrutiny Response

Appendix C – Community Safety Delivery Groups

Appendix D – Success and improvements from the Community Safety Partnership in 2009 - 2010

Background Papers: (open to public inspection)

None

Location of papers: (Insert location where papers are held)