

---

**Meeting:** Executive  
**Date:** 15 March 2011  
**Subject:** Community Safety Partnership Plan 2011 - 2012  
**Report of:** Cllr David McVicar, Portfolio Holder for Safer Communities and Healthier Lifestyles  
**Summary:** The report sets out the proposed Community Safety Partnership Plan for endorsement by the Executive and adoption by 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:** Executive  
**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 its priority of 'Creating Safer Communities' to reduce crime, fear of crime, anti social behaviour and increase public confidence.

As one of the five thematic partnerships of the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP), Community Safety has an integral role in achieving the LSP Vision of 'Globally connected, delivering sustainable growth to ensure green, prosperous and ambitious place for the benefit of all'. Delivering to the three priorities will have a positive effect on greater economic and community prosperity, sustainable growth and raising standards.

Support for the three 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:**

The Community Safety Partnership has historically received Area Based Grant (ABG) to contribute to delivery of the Plan. In 2010/11 £252K revenue was allocated from ABG and this was used to address Anti Social Behaviour, Night-time Economy issues, Community Safety Engagement, Domestic Abuse and analysis.

In 2011/12, some elements of ABG were un-ring fenced and rolled into the Councils Formula Grant. With Formula Grant being reduced for the Council, the Community Safety Service proposed to reduce staffing to work within its budget allocation.

The reduction in budgets for the Council and its partners also means that the Partnership will have to identify alternative sources of funds for commissioning work of a discretionary nature. All members of the Partnership are reviewing funding, structures and the resources that can address community safety priorities across Central Bedfordshire. The Councils financial contribution to the Partnership will enable it to meet its statutory responsibilities while seeking to review its input into discretionary activities.

**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 partnership strategic assessment which identifies crime and disorder priorities for the area.

**Risk Management:**

There is a risk to the Council's reputation for working in partnership if it does not support the priorities identified through the partnership strategic assessment process, and an inability for the LSP to deliver its 'Keeping Our Communities Safe' priority.

There are potential community implications if work on the identified priorities is not undertaken as these are the three priorities which have scored highest through the risk matrix, 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 seeks to provide 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 CSP carried out an Equality Impact Assessment in early 2010, which was endorsed by the Council's Equality Forum in June 2010, who noted that it was an excellent assessment. This impact assessment has been refreshed for 2011 / 2012 and shows three subjects that require development and research. These three areas are consistent with the refreshed priorities of the CSP.

In addition to the impact assessment, the CSP has linked to the Bedfordshire 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 been working with an intelligence profile around the Sexual Abuse agenda, developed a Sexual Violence Action Plan, and linked this work with Domestic Abuse.

The impact of working on the proposed priority areas will not discriminate against individuals or groups. In fact the work around Anti-Social Behaviour, Reoffending and Domestic Abuse will support minority groups and individuals who may not have felt supported, or who may have felt ignored. By working on the three CSP priorities identified, there will be no unlawful discrimination or contradictions under the European Convention of Human Rights.

## **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 CSP Plan will make a significant contribution to the quality of the physical environment, address those responsible for crime, disorder and anti social behaviour, and prevent some offences in Central Bedfordshire.

Assisting members of the community who are repeat victims of Anti-Social Behaviour and Domestic Abuse will ensure a better quality of life for them and provide long term benefits for the community.

**Summary of Overview and Scrutiny Comments:**

The Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the report at its meeting on 18 January 2011 and resolved to support the CSP's strategic assessment priorities identified for 2011 – 2012 detailed as follows:-

1. Reduce Anti-Social Behaviour
2. Reduce Re-Offending
3. Reduce Domestic Abuse

Full details are set out in Appendix A.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:****1. that the Executive:**

- (1) **endorses the Strategic Assessment of the CSP Priorities; and**
- (2) **recommends to Council the adoption of the Community Safety Partnership Plan 2011 – 2012.**

*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, reducing the fear of crime and increasing public confidence in their safety.

### **Statutory Processes**

3. As a responsible authority of the Central Bedfordshire CSP, 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               | Bedfordshire Probation Trust  |
| Bedfordshire & Luton Fire & Rescue Service | NHS Bedfordshire              |

4. The responsible authorities have a statutory duty to ensure that they work together in a CSP, and using information gathered from the statutory partnership strategic assessment identify community safety priorities for the partnership area. Having identified these priorities the partnership is then required to develop a CSP Plan, 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. The agreed priorities direct the work of the CSP and its statutory partners. This year, a risk matrix was used at the start of the assessment process, to assess the emerging priorities, with regard to national & local strategies, community concern, volume, impact, harm and performance.
6. The three priorities identified for Central Bedfordshire for 2011-2012 are:
  1. Anti-Social Behaviour
  2. Reduce Reoffending
  3. Domestic Abuse
7. Having identified the priorities the CSP Plan has been refreshed, showing how these priorities will be addressed, by the partnership, over the next year (*Appendix B*).
8. The three identified partnership priorities have been through public consultation, via local media and social networking sites.

9. No adverse comments were received during this consultation period. Confirmation of public concern has also been gauged from the findings of the last 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 should do more to make the area safer
10. Council members were consulted on the priorities during December 2010. The emerging priorities were taken to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 18 January 2011 where it was resolved to support the priorities identified (*Appendix A provides full details of the response from the Overview & Scrutiny Committee*).

### **The Community Safety Plan**

11. The CSP Plan covers the following areas:
- the role of Community Safety
  - aims of Community Safety
  - role of Central Bedfordshire Together & where Community Safety and its Partnership Delivery Groups fit
  - our priorities
  - what we will do & how we will review our progress
  - communication.
12. The draft plan has been circulated to the Executive members of the CSP and has been approved, subject to agreement by Central Bedfordshire Together at its meeting on 17 February 2011. Delegated authority has been given to the Chair and Vice Chair of the CSP to make any required amendments arising from the Executive comments.
13. The partnership will target its work towards the three priorities. A review of outcomes will take place after six months. This review will monitor progress made against the priorities, the partnership work taking place and it will consider if there are any other community safety risks that need to be addressed. This update report will be used to inform the Partnership. At the end of the year this report will inform the next partnership strategic assessment.
14. Performance reporting is in place for the CSP against the priorities, and plans are outcome focussed. Performance management is undertaken via the Community Safety Executive Group, which considers overall performance, funding, the strategic assessment and Partnership Plan, and ensures that the CSP complies with statutory requirements and adopts best practice
15. The Operational Delivery Group (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, the progress towards their action plans and their outcomes. The ODG is also required to make recommendations to the CSP Executive on various aspects of the partnership work.

16. Specific delivery groups sit underneath the ODG, who look at individual priorities, which have action / delivery plans, and deliver the tactical activity required to reduce risk and improve performance.

### **Conclusion and Next Steps**

17. As the responsible authority of the CSP, the Council is obliged to ensure that all of the statutory duties of the CSP are complied with, including identifying priorities for the area and the creation of the Community Safety Partnership Plan.
18. The CSP's strategic assessment priorities and CSP Plan will offer a framework for partnership working for the benefit of the local community.

### **Appendices:**

Appendix A – Overview and Scrutiny Response

Appendix B – Community Safety Partnership Plan

**Background Papers:** (open to public inspection)

None