
Meeting: Executive

Date: 27 March 2012

Subject: Community Safety Partnership Plan 2012 - 2013

Report of: Cllr Brian Spurr, Executive Member for Sustainable Communities – Services

Summary: The report sets out the proposed Community Safety Partnership (CSP) 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 Central Bedfordshire Together (CBT), Community Safety has an integral role in achieving the CBT 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:

1. The community safety service continues to experience changes in funding streams. In 2011/12, Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) received £232k for Community Safety under the Local Support Services Grant. As the Community Safety Grant moves into the responsibility of the Police and Crime Commissioners in 2012/13, this grant income has not been budgeted for within the CBC financial plan.
2. CBC also funds parts of the community safety service through its general budget as proposed in the Medium Term Financial Plan. The 2012/13 allocation of £987k was approved by Full Council on 23 February 2012.
3. The change in control of elements of community safety funding means that the partnership will need to develop choices with the Police and Crime Commissioners. As this may take some time, there may be a need to identify alternative sources of funds or delivery methods for commissioning work. The uncertainty represents some budgetary risk to the partnership and financial monitoring will need to remain at a consistently high level throughout the transition 2012/13 year.

Legal:

4. Under section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, 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:

5. 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 CBT to deliver its 'Keeping Our Communities Safe' priority. There is also a risk of failure to discharge statutory duty of the Partnership.
6. 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.
7. The partnership are aware of financial risks, including failure to identify alternative sources of funds or delivery methods for commissioning work.
8. The identified risks will be monitored and reviewed and mitigating actions identified.

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

9. There are no staffing implications for the Council.

Equalities/Human Rights:

10. Public authorities have a statutory duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and foster good relations in respect of nine protected characteristics; age disability, gender re-assignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
11. 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 the protected characteristics;
 - 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; and
 - comply with legislative requirements & Identify good practice.
12. The CSP carried out an Equality Impact Assessment which has been refreshed for 2012/2013 and shows three subjects that require development and research. These three subjects are consistent with the refreshed priorities of the CSP.
13. In addition to the impact assessment, the CSP is part of the Bedfordshire Hate Crime Partnership, which addresses 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.
14. The impact of working on the proposed priorities 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.

Public Health:

15. The work of the CSP contributes to making Central Bedfordshire a safer place to work and live. Work on the three priorities will help support victims and lower the number of abuse incidents they have, support their wellbeing, and in turn support the local and national economy.

Community Safety:

16. 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.
17. 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:

18. 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.
19. 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.

Procurement:

20. The CSP follows the Procurement Procedure Rules for Central Bedfordshire Council when procuring services and goods.
21. The governance for commissioning of funds is set out within the Terms of Reference for the CSP.

Overview and Scrutiny:

22. This matter has been considered by Overview and Scrutiny on 23 January 2012 where Members resolved to support the priorities.

RECOMMENDATIONS:**That the Executive:**

1. **endorses the Strategic Assessment and the CSP Priorities; and**
2. **recommend to Council the adoption of the Community Safety Partnership Plan 2012 – 2013.**

*Reason for
Recommendations:*

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.

Executive Summary

23. Each CSP across the country is required to produce a Partnership Plan. This plan builds on the Partnership Strategic Assessment, which sets out the analysis of crime and disorder and identifies the priorities which we will focus our efforts into addressing. The Partnership Plan is reviewed annually as priorities will not always remain relevant over long periods of time.
24. This plan covers the period April 2012 – March 2013 and aligns to other local and countywide plans from individual and collective agencies together with the CSP Business Plan. It sets out the expectations of the Central Bedfordshire CSP, what it will deliver over the next 12 months, the resources available, how performance will be measured and how we will communicate and consult with local people.
25. Priorities change as time progresses and the CSP needs to ensure priorities are in line with the needs of the community. The Partnership Plan helps us to change our activities and projects to meet community needs, provide value for money and as each assessment is reviewed, provides a clear understanding of future issues and priorities. It is about providing an 'intelligence led' approach to community safety ensuring that we get the right resources in the right place at the right time to sustain reductions in crime and disorder.

Background

26. 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.
27. 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

28. 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.

29. 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.
30. 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.
31. The three priorities identified for Central Bedfordshire for 2012-2013 are:
1. Anti-Social Behaviour
 2. Reduce Reoffending
 3. Domestic Abuse
32. 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 A*).
33. The three identified partnership priorities have been through public consultation, via local media and social networking sites. No adverse comments were received during this consultation period.
34. Council members were consulted on the priorities during December 2011. The emerging priorities were taken to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 24 January 2012 where it was resolved to support the priorities identified.

The Community Safety Plan

35. 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; and
 - communication.
36. 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 8 March 2012. Delegated authority has been given to the Chair and Vice Chair of the CSP to make any required amendments arising from the Executive comments.
37. 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.
38. 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.
39. The Steering Group 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 Steering Group is also required to make recommendations to the CSP Executive on various aspects of the partnership work.
40. Specific delivery groups sit underneath the Steering Group, 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

41. 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.
42. 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 – Community Safety Partnership Plan

Background Papers: (open to public inspection)

None