

Meeting: Sustainable Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date: 18 October 2012

Subject: Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessment, Identified Priorities for 2013 - 2014

Report of: Cllr Brian Spurr, Portfolio Holder for Safer Communities and Healthier Lifestyles

Summary: This report informs Members of the three priorities that have been identified through the Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessment. The priorities have been recommended by the Community Safety Executive Group and are subject to public consultation. Members have been invited to comment to the Executive on the three priorities before they are recommended for adoption by the Community Safety Partnership.

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Public/Exempt: Public

Wards Affected: All

Function of: Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

1. The agreement of the three priorities, and the subsequent work in reducing offences, incidents and offending, will make a significant contribution to the quality of life experienced by local residents and communities. Joint work on the priorities by all of the community safety statutory partners will also contribute to the delivery of the Council's Medium Term Plan ("Your Priorities 2012 – 2016") priority of 'Enhancing your local community'. Delivery of these priorities will contribute to the reduction of crime, anti-social behaviour, fear of crime and increase public confidence.

Financial:

2. The majority of work is undertaken using 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.
3. Financially the partnership save on resources, by pulling together to work on priority areas that effect them all, using an intelligence led approach.

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 (Police, NHS Bedfordshire, Bedfordshire Fire Service, Bedfordshire Probation Trust), to produce an annual Strategic Assessment which identifies crime and disorder priorities for our area.
5. The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 sets out the requirement for the Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) and the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to have due regard for each others priorities and plans. The timing of the Partnership Strategic Assessment and CSP Plan have been brought forward in order that the elected PCC can be informed of our priorities and their office has the opportunity to inform the first Police & Crime Plan due to be published in March 2013.

Risk Management:

6. There are risks and challenges to working in partnership with the statutory partners of the CSP, should the Council not agree with the identified priorities.
7. 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 scrutiny, and would not be based on intelligence. This would make it difficult to gain support from partners to work with us on any new issue.
8. There are potential community implications if work on the high risk indentified priorities is not undertaken. The three areas have scored highest in the risk matrix, been highlighted through public consultation, and are known to affect Public Confidence and Fear of Crime (Appendix A).

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

9. None

Equalities/Human Rights:

10. By working on the three priorities, there will not be unlawful discrimination or contradictions under the European Convention of Human Rights.
11. Statistics and data have been used and analysed to identify the high risk areas to the CSP and our communities. All members of our communities have been taken into account, and there have been no groups omitted from the process.
12. The impact of working on the proposed priority areas will not discriminate against individuals or groups. In fact the work around Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), Reoffending and Domestic Abuse will support minority groups and individuals who may not have felt supported, or engaged.
13. An Equality Impact Assessment was refreshed at the start of 2012. This assessment has highlighted areas of concern due to low level reporting of ASB, Domestic Abuse and Crime by vulnerable groups. By recommending the three priority areas for the CSP we will also be addressing high risk areas identified in the Equality Impact Assessment.

Public Health:

14. 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 Development/Safety:

15. The detrimental impact that ASB causes has continued to be a key concern for local residents. 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 ASB itself.
16. Fear of crime is raised by local residents as a concern, and working on crimes that impact the most, in terms of victims and community impact, will support our co-ordinated approach to decrease fear in the community. Violent Crimes, ASB incidents and becoming a repeat victim, all have a significantly negative impact on our residents.
17. Reducing re-offending is a national concern. 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. Providing the correct support to the most prolific offenders in Central Bedfordshire 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:

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

Procurement:

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

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **That the Sustainable Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee recommends to the Executive the support of the three Partnership Strategic Assessment Priorities identified for 2013 - 2014. These Community Safety priorities are to reduce:**
 - (a) **Anti-Social Behaviour – Nuisance & Personal**
 - (b) **Offending – by Substance Misusers and Young People**
 - (c) **Violent Offences – Domestic Abuse & Night Time Economy**

Summary

Performance Review 2011 - 2012

20. Between July 2011 – June 2012 crimes fell by over 17% with big reductions seen in crime types usually associated with prolific and priority offenders. For example, serious acquisitive crime is showing an overall reduction of 21%. Domestic burglary fell by 30% and non domestic burglary by 50%.
21. Between July 2011 - June 2012 there were 11,359 reported incidents of ASB, which is a decrease of 8% from July 2010 – June 2011 (12,335 incidents).
22. Domestic abuse incidents have also decreased over the last 12 months. Between July 2011 – June 2012 there were 2,458 reported incidents which is a reduction of 10% from July 2010 – June 2011 (2,732 reported incidents).
23. The Integrated Offender Management (IOM) programme continues to be supported by the CSP with 32 Central Bedfordshire offenders on the scheme. In Quarter One 2012-2013 there was an average of 1 re-offence per offender at liberty compared to 2.32 re-offences in Quarter One 2011-2012.

Priorities for 2013 - 2014

24. A Partnership Strategic Assessment is a statutory requirement for all CSPs in England and Wales to undertake on a yearly basis. Using partnership data, information and intelligence, areas of risk and vulnerability are highlighted, priority issues are identified and recommendations are made. These priorities identify what the CSP should collectively work towards over the following year/s.
25. The Executive Summary of the Partnership Strategic Assessment (Appendix B) sets out the scanning exercise that was completed together with the matrix used to determine the high risk priorities. These priorities are the highest risks for 2013 -2014. The matrix can be used as a guide by Members to ascertain what was considered in the scanning process. The full assessment runs to 43 pages and is available as a background document.
26. The report proposes the three priorities for the Central Bedfordshire CSP 2013 – 2014. These are:-

Anti-Social Behaviour – Nuisance & Personal

27. To help combat repeat victimisation of ASB we will pull our resources together to support victims and their families, support vulnerable members of the community and tackle those who commit ASB.
28. In 2012 the CSP agreed a common definition for ASB which is used by partners, a new risk assessment process has been implemented where victims of ASB are assessed for vulnerability and from September 2012 high risk victims have been referred to an Anti Social Behaviour Risk Assessment conference (ASBRAC) which provides a multi-agency approach to deal with the individual case.

Reduce Offending – Substance Misusers and Young People

29. Integrated Offender Management (IOM) aims to reduce the high number of offences that are committed by the small percentage of offenders who regularly commit them. IOM provides a whole system approach to partnership-led rehabilitation and management of offenders, in order to reduce crime, make communities safe and address social exclusion of offenders and their families.
30. In May 2012 the IOM Delivery Board commissioned a brief summary which outlined the current position with regards to supporting an increase of young adult offenders on the case load within IOM. Young adults were identified as a priority for development within IOM due to low numbers of under 24s in comparison to regional peers.
31. In Central Bedfordshire, of the current 32 IOM offenders, 15 have an alcohol dependency and 28 have a drug dependency (note that some offenders are dependent on both alcohol and drugs). In Central Bedfordshire between 2011 – 2012 there were 12,913 crimes, of these 4,041 (31%) were associated with alcohol and 925 (7%) were associated with drugs.

Reduce Violent Offences – Domestic Abuse and Night Time Economy

32. Violent crime is the second highest recorded crime type in Central Bedfordshire. It can be split in to two clear categories; firstly violent crime linked to domestic abuse and secondly violent crime associated with the night time economy.
33. Work has start to address an acknowledged service gap with perpetrators of Domestic Abuse. A 'Healthier Relationships Course' commenced in August 2012 which is delivered to male perpetrators in the community, in order to try to reduce the risk of further domestic abuse and harm to victims.
34. The course is aimed at perpetrators who pose a standard to medium risk to their partners, and have not yet been convicted of domestic abuse offences. It is offered as an awareness raising course, as a means of becoming more aware of what is understood to be abusive behaviour and inviting increased responsibility for their own behaviour. It will enable people to be aware of alternative strategies for dealing with conflict within their relationships.
35. Offences associated with the night time economy (NTE) accounts for 27% of all recorded crime, with over 20% of the offences recorded being violent crimes. Following analysis into the issues within the NTE in Central Bedfordshire a problem solving group was formed. This multi agency group have devised an action plan looking at prevention methods of reducing incidents in the NTE rather than just enforcement options.

Implementation & Review

36. In considering the report, and the three priorities identified, the Committee should note that the partnership will target its work towards these 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 is used to inform the Partnership and at the end of the year it informs the next Strategic Assessment.

37. Performance reporting is in place for the CSP against these priorities, and plans are outcome focussed. Performance management is undertaken via the CSP 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.
38. The CSP Steering Group takes a co-ordinated, problem solving approach to identifying, planning and 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.
39. Specific delivery groups then look at individual priorities, which have actions / delivery plans, and deliver the tactical activity required to reduce risk and improve performance.

Consultation

40. The three priorities are going out to public consultation via our social media sites and in the next News Central magazine (January 2013). Each of the statutory partners has engaged fully in the prioritisation matrix and in the discussions to recommend the priorities for 2013 -2014. Central Bedfordshire Members have been advised of the three priorities via the Member Bulletin dated 14th September 2012 and have been invited to comment on them.

Conclusion

41. It is essential that Central Bedfordshire CSP has an agreed set of priorities, informed by the Partnership Strategic Assessment.
42. The three priorities proposed are based on a robust assessment of the key community safety issues in Central Bedfordshire
43. By working on the three priorities, the CSP will contribute significantly to the achievements of the Council's plan for delivering its key priorities over the next four years.

Appendices:

Appendix A – Risk Matrix for the Partnership Strategic Assessment

Appendix B – Executive Summary of the Partnership Strategic Assessment

Appendix C – Glossary of Terms