
Meeting: Executive
Date: 8 January 2013
Subject: Community Safety Partnership Plan 2013 - 2014
Report of: Cllr Brian Spurr, Executive Member for Sustainable Communities – Services
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: Council
Key Decision Yes
Reason for urgency/ exemption from call-in (if appropriate) Not Applicable

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

The three priorities identified in the Central Bedfordshire Community Safety Plan make a significant contribution to the quality of life of our local residents and communities and supports the Councils priority to enhance our local communities by:

- Reducing levels of crime by 10% from 3312 in 2010/11 by 10% to 2980 by 2016.
- Decreasing levels of ASB from 2011/2012 recorded incident figures by 10% to 2016.

Financial:

1. In 2012/13 the Council received £117K from the Home Office Community Safety Fund to support Community Safety Partnership work. In 2012/2013 the Community Safety Fund transfers to the Police and Crime Commissioner.
2. The transfer of the Community Safety Fund has no direct impact on the Council's base budget as the funding is treated as 'in year' income and expenditure, and there is no direct impact on existing services or posts.

3. The Community Safety Partnership will need to consider how it will commission services and work when the fund transfers, and this will involve working with the Police and Crime Commissioner to identify alternative options for commissioning work.

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 is 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
 - comply with legislative requirements & Identify good practice.

12. The CSP has carried out an Equality Impact Assessment which has shown three subjects that require development and research. These three subjects are consistent with the refreshed priorities of the CSP.
13. The Equality and Human Rights Commission has recently issued a follow up inquiry report focused on it's investigation into disability-related harassment. This highlights the need for Community Safety Partnerships to play a lead role in preventing and tackling disability – related harassment. The Commission will review progress in the local implementation of its recommendations in September 2013, 2015 and 2017. If progress is found to be lacking the Commission will consider invoking its formal enforcement powers.
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 the 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. Sustainability relies upon improving the economic, social and environmental well-being of our area and the people who live in the area. Being safe and feeling safe in an area supports the economic, social and environmental aspirations for Central Bedfordshire. The Community Safety Plan supports these aspirations.

Procurement:

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

Overview and Scrutiny:

21. The Sustainable Communities OSC considered the CSP Plan and priorities for 2013/14 at their meeting on 18 October 2012. The Committee agreed to endorse the plan and priorities. Whilst the Committee did not feel it was necessary to make a further recommendation Members did also ask that concerns relating to the emerging issue of metal theft be noted. It was commented that good work was being undertaken in relation to tackling metal theft and raising awareness of this issue locally and this needed to continue.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Executive is asked to:

- 1. endorse the Strategic Assessment and the CSP Priorities; and**
- 2. recommend to Council the adoption of the CSP Plan 2013 – 2014.**

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.

Executive Summary

22. CSPs have a statutory duty to produce a Partnership Plan. This plan is developed from the Partnership Strategic Assessment, which analyses crime and disorder in our area and identifies the emerging priorities that need to be focused on. As priorities will change over time, the Partnership Plan is reviewed annually.
23. This plan covers the period April 2013 – March 2014 and aligns to other local and countywide plans from partner agencies. It sets out what Central Bedfordshire CSP, aims to achieve, by taking 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. The plan also sets out 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.

Background

24. 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. It is acknowledged that community safety cannot be done by the police alone, and is dependent on a number of organisations, and services, working together to find solutions to community problems.

25. 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

26. 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 CSP are:

- Bedfordshire Fire & Rescue Service
- Bedfordshire Police
- Bedfordshire Probation Trust
- Central Bedfordshire Council
- NHS Bedfordshire

27. The responsible authorities have a statutory duty to ensure that they work together as a CSP, and using information gathered from the statutory partnership strategic assessment identify the emerging 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 action to support its priorities over the following 12 month period (Appendix A).

28. Each year the agreed priorities are refreshed through a partnership strategic assessment. A risk matrix is 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.

29. The three emerging priorities identified for Central Bedfordshire for 2013-2014 are:

1. Reducing Anti-Social Behaviour – emphasis on nuisance & personal ASB.
2. Reduce Offending – emphasis on substance users and young people.
3. Reduce Violent Offences – emphasis on domestic abuse and night time economy.

30. The three priorities have been a high priority when analysing public consultation data; by way of the Residents Survey and Community Safety awareness raising events.

31. Council Members were consulted on the priorities during September 2012. The emerging priorities were taken to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 18 October 2012 where the Committee agreed to endorse the plan and priorities.

The Community Safety Plan

32. The CSP Plan covers the following areas:
- the role of Community Safety
 - aims of Community Safety
 - our priorities
 - what we will do & how we will review our progress
 - communication
33. The draft plan has been circulated to the CSP Executive members and has been approved, subject to agreement by Central Bedfordshire Together (CBT) at its meeting on 13 December 2012. Delegated authority has been given to the Chair and Vice Chair of the CSP to make any required amendments arising from CBT.
34. The partnership will target its work around the three priorities. A review of outcomes will take place after six months. The 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. The update report will be used to inform the Partnership and the next partnership strategic assessment.
35. Performance management is undertaken by the Community Safety Executive, which looks at overall performance, funding, the strategic assessment and Partnership Plan, and ensures that the CSP complies with statutory requirements and adopts best practice.
36. The Steering Group takes a co-ordinated, problem solving approach to identifying, planning and implementing agreed outcomes to support the priorities in the Partnership Plan. Partners will inform the group of the progress in their areas and progress towards their action plans and outcomes. The Steering Group is also required to make recommendations to the CSP Executive on various aspects of the Partnerships work.
37. Specific delivery groups sit underneath the Steering Group. These look at individual priorities, develop action plans and deliver the tactical activity required to reduce risk and improve performance.

Conclusion and Next Steps

38. As a 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 CSP Plan.
39. 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