

Central Bedfordshire Council

EXECUTIVE - 31 March 2015

Community Safety Partnership Plan 2015 - 2016

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This report relates to a Key Decision

Purpose of this report

1. 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. This report outlines the proposed work and priorities of the Community Safety Partnership in 2015 – 2016 which the Council's Executive are requested to adopt.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive is asked to:

1. **endorse the Strategic Assessment and the Community Safety Partnership Priorities; and**
2. **recommend to Council the adoption of the Community Safety Partnership Plan 2015 – 2016.**

Overview and Scrutiny Recommendations/Comments

2. The Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee supported and recommended the Community Safety Partnership Plan 2015 – 2016 and its priorities at their meeting on 22 January 2015.

Reasons for decision

3. The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 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.

4. The Community Safety Partnership Plan sets out the work and priorities for 2015 – 2016 which the Executive are requested to adopt.

Council Priorities

5. The agreement of the two 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.
6. 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'.
7. Delivery of these priorities will contribute to the reduction of crime, anti-social behaviour, fear of crime and increase public confidence.

Corporate Implications

Legal Implications

8. Under section 6 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the Council has a statutory duty to formulate and implement a strategy for the following:
 - (a) the reduction of crime and disorder in the area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment);
 - (b) combatting the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in the area; and
 - (c) the reduction of re-offending in the area.
9. 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 when exercising its functions. The Crime and Disorder Act also places a statutory duty on the Council, along with the other Responsible Authorities (Police, Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group, Bedfordshire and Rescue Service, Bedfordshire Probation Trust), to produce an annual Strategic Assessment which identifies crime and disorder priorities for our area.
10. The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 sets out the requirement for the 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 ensured the PCC is informed of our priorities and the Office of the PCC has the opportunity to refresh the Police & Crime Plan.

Financial Implications

11. The majority of work is undertaken using existing resources within each partners' organisation. The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) is responsible for the Community Safety Fund across Bedfordshire and the Partnership will bid for funding to provide additional support to existing resources where suitable.
12. Financially the Community Safety Partnership saves on resources, by pulling together to work on priority areas that effect them all, using an intelligence led approach.

Equalities Implications

13. By working on the two priorities and emerging issues, there will not be unlawful discrimination or contradictions under the European Convention of Human Rights
14. Statistics and data have been used and analysed to identify the high risk issues 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.
15. The impact of working on the proposed priorities will not discriminate against individuals or groups. In fact the work around Hate Crime and Domestic Abuse will support minority groups and individuals who may not have felt supported, or engaged.
16. An Equality Impact Assessment has highlighted areas of concern due to low level reporting of Domestic Abuse and Crime by vulnerable groups. By recommending the two priorities the CSP we will also be addressing high risk areas identified in the Equality Impact Assessment.

Public Health

17. The work of the CSP contributes to making Central Bedfordshire a safer place to work and live. Work on the two 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

18. This year the CSP has agreed an approach to look at priorities on the 'hidden harms' that affect our communities.

19. The term 'hidden harm' described the experiences of people affected by substance misuse, abuse, modern day slavery, hate crime and some instances of ASB. People will often suffer in silence; their circumstances often not known to services. They often do not know where to turn for help and the impact of their experiences can have a deep long-lasting impact on their lives.
20. The CSP is committed to supporting not only an increase in understanding and awareness of the hidden harms our communities face, but encouraging those who are suffering to have the confidence to come forward and seek help from the Partnership and its services.
21. Over the past few years the CSP has built up a strong support function to crime reduction, and offers crime prevention and reassurance to the community. This will continue during 2015 - 2016.
22. The CSP will continue to monitor burglary offences and offending series at the monthly CSP Tasking meeting. Community Safety officers are also standing members of Bedfordshire Police's fortnightly Force Intelligence Meeting where crime series are discussed and actions agreed.
23. The current risks within Central Bedfordshire do not come from traditional crimes, but from the hidden harms as described. By working together we will ensure a better support structure and positive environment is in place for our communities.

Sustainability

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

Risk

25. 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.
26. 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.

27. There are potential community implications if work on the high risk identified priorities is not undertaken. The two priorities 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).

Conclusion and next Steps

28. 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.
29. The CSP's strategic assessment priorities and CSP Plan will offer a framework for partnership working for the benefit of the local community.

Appendices

The following Appendix is attached

30. Community Safety Partnership Plan.

Background Papers

31. The following background papers, not previously available to the public, were taken into account and are available on the Council's website:

None