

Report to Crime and Disorder Joint Scrutiny Committee for Safer North Hampshire (Basingstoke and Deane, Hart and Rushmoor)

June 2023

Subject:	Performance Review of Safer North Hampshire Strategic Community Safety Partnership 2022-2023
Status:	Routine Matter for Information
Report ref:	
Ward(s):	All
Key Decision:	No
Key Decision/Ref:	
Report of:	Strategic Safer North Hampshire Community Safety Partnership
Contact:	Cllr Maurice Sheehan (BDBC) – Chair of the CSP
Appendices:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chair’s Report 2. Partnership Plan 2020 – 23 3. Partnership Plan 2023 – 23 partner report/progress 4. Crime and Disorder Overview and Scrutiny Terms of Reference
Papers relied on to produce this report:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Partnership Plan 2020 – 23 2. Strategic Community Safety Partnership Chair’s Report

1 Executive Summary

1.1 The attached report presents an overview of the performance of the Strategic Safer North Hampshire Community Safety Partnership. It is presented for consideration by the Crime and Disorder Joint Scrutiny Committee, comprising members from Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, Hart District Council and Rushmoor Borough Council, which was set up in accordance with section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006.

2 Recommendation

2.1 It is recommended that:

2.1.1 the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee reviews the performance of the Strategic CSP in relation to the discharge of its statutory functions as defined by section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, and

2.1.2 the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee members summarise the findings and any recommendations of the annual meeting for the respective councils to consider at their own Overview and Scrutiny panels.

PRIORITIES, IMPACTS AND RISKS

Contribution to Council Priorities

This report accords to the relevant Council Plan priorities as follows:

- Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council Plan 2023 - 27: A place where people can live happily
- Hart District Council Corporate Plan 2017 - 22: work with partners to keep Hart clean, green and safe
- Rushmoor Borough Council Plan 2022 - 25: Work with our partners to help people feel safe

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Term	Definition
CSP	Community Safety Partnership
SNH	Safer North Hampshire
ASB	Antisocial behaviour

MAIN CONSIDERATIONS

3 Background

- 3.1 The Safer North Hampshire Strategic Community Safety Partnership (hereinafter referred to as the CSP) was established in March 2015 following the merger of 3 separate CSPs operating in Basingstoke and Deane, Hart and Rushmoor. The requirements of the Police and Justice Act 2006 include an obligation for every local authority to have 'a crime and disorder committee with power to a) review or scrutinise decisions made, or other actions taken, in connection with the discharge by the responsible authorities and of their crime and disorder functions; b) to make reports or recommendations to the local authority with respect to the discharge of those functions'.
- 3.2 Where CSPs operate beyond the boundary of just one local authority, the legislation requires that the local authorities establish a joint overview and scrutiny committee to discharge the duties under the Police and Justice Act 2006 with regard to the decisions and functions of the one CSP.
- 3.3 The Chair of the CSP, members representing the statutory bodies during 2022-23, and representatives from each Council's community safety team be present at the meeting, to respond to questions from the committee in relation to the Partnership Plan and progress report submitted as Appendix 2 and 3..
- 3.4 The committee is invited to consider the activity undertaken by the CSP as part of the Partnership Plan 2020 - 23 in relation to discharging its crime and

disorder obligations for 2022-23 and summarise its findings for the respective councils.

4 Purpose and activities of the Safer North Hampshire Strategic Community Safety Partnership

4.1 The Safer North Hampshire Strategic CSP seeks to ensure strategic commitment and joint working to achieve reductions in crime and the fear of crime. The terms of reference were updated in May 2023. These are attached at Appendix 5. The purpose of the partnership is to promote and exercise a collective responsibility within the partnership and to evidence a strategic approach towards identified priorities with an emphasis on reducing crime, disorder, antisocial behaviour and its associated impact on those within the geographical area of the Safer North Hampshire Community Safety Partnership.

The key activities of the strategic CSP are:

- a) To ensure commitment and engagement to the CSP from statutory and non-statutory agencies, ensuring delivery at an operational level in line with the Strategic Assessment and Partnership priorities.
- b) To accept the findings and adopt the annual Strategic Assessment which informs the overarching strategic objectives for community safety.
- c) To receive and acknowledge the findings of the 6-month review of the Strategic Assessment priorities to ensure that they are still the same and resources are being directed appropriately.
- d) To agree the Partnership Plan developed which will drive project and programme delivery across the Safer North Hampshire area over the coming three-year period;
- e) To manage the performance of approved activities and endorse strategic action required to tackle barriers to success where identified; and
- f) To identify synergies between the objectives identified in the Police and Crime Plan and the CSP priorities.

- 4.2 The priorities for 2020-23, which were informed by the issues identified and updated in the Strategic Assessment 2022-23, were:
- Improving feels of safety and health outcomes (public, virtual and private space)
 - Serious violence
 - Antisocial Behaviour
 - Domestic Abuse

- 4.3 The Police and Crime Plan 2021-24 priorities are:
- 600 more police officers by 2023
 - Improve police visibility – bringing policing to your community
 - Tackle antisocial behaviour
 - Zero tolerance approach on knife crime
 - Prevent youth offending
 - More customer focused police call handling
 - Crack down on unauthorised encampments
 - Improved outcomes for victims including female victims of violence
 - A voice for rural communities

5 Corporate Implications

5.1 Financial Implications

- 5.1.1 As of October 2020, the shared community safety team ceased with each authority providing their own local community safety staff. There remain several shared areas of work, including administering of the CSP.
- 5.1.2 Each of the three local authorities contributes to the costs of a shared analyst who produces specific documents in order to direct the work of the individual community safety teams. This work also informs the direction of the wider partnership. Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council hold responsibility for management of this role, with financial contributions from Hart District Council and Rushmoor Borough Council.
- 5.1.3 As of June 2023 Rushmoor Borough Council will be bringing their analytical function back in-house.

5.2 Risk Issues

- 5.2.1 The CSP and its constituent partners constantly assess risk in the consideration of priorities and the delivery of activities – for example, there are judgements to be made when weighing up the obligations relating to

information sharing against the need for data protection. Ultimately decisions are made in accordance with relevant legislation and guidance.

5.3 **HR Issues**

5.4 None.

5.5 **Equalities**

5.5.1 Public authorities have a Public Sector Equalities Duty under the Equality Act 2010 to consider and address equality issues in all their functions, insofar as is relevant and proportionate.

5.5.2 The work of the CSP seeks to mitigate any adverse impact on any of the protected characteristic groups, particularly those of vulnerable people and both victims and perpetrators of crime and anti-social behaviour. This work supports the main aims of the general duty to: promote equality, eliminate discrimination and foster good relations.

5.6 **Legal Implications**

5.6.1 Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires that all local authorities have a duty to consider crime and disorder implications.

5.6.2 There is a statutory requirement for a CSP covering each local authority area which has been fulfilled by having one CSP for North Hampshire.

5.6.3 Section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 requires that every local authority has a committee with power to review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge by the responsible authorities of their crime and disorder functions and to make reports or recommendations to the local authority with respect to the discharge of those functions.

5.7 **Any Other Implications**

5.7.1 The work of the CSP contributes to health and wellbeing outcomes through improved joint working to support vulnerable people, particularly with regard to people who are homeless or are experiencing mental health issues. Safeguarding of individuals is a key consideration of this. Community safety initiatives regarding environmental issues also help to improve the way people feel about living in their local area.

6 Communication and Consultation

- 6.1 There are a number of campaigns scheduled during the year to increase awareness of risks and how to remain safe as well as regular local press releases on relevant issues.
- 6.2 Safer North Hampshire has a digital presence in the form of; website, Facebook and Twitter to share any relevant partnership press releases and information.
- 6.3 As of October 2020, and the cessation of the shared community safety team, press is managed at a local level unless it relates to a Community Safety Partnership matter.

7 Conclusion

- 7.1 The Safer North Hampshire CSP continue to deliver against their statutory duty as defined in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. However, the strategic partnership continually seek improvements and make every effort to ensure that performance and delivery are the best they can be.

Chair's Report for Overview and Scrutiny 13/06/2023

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Hart, Rushmoor and Basingstoke and Deane Councils began working together to deliver community safety under the banner of Safer North Hampshire in 2012. Following a review of the service, the partnership formally merged in March 2015.

1.2 The Joint CSP sits across all three areas to deliver its statutory duties in relation to Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. This states that it is the duty of each authority to do all that it reasonably can in partnership to prevent,

- a) Crime and disorder in its area
- b) The misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in its areas
- c) Re-offending in its area

1.3 As set out in the terms of reference, the Joint CSP must;

- Undertake an annual Strategic Assessment to inform the overarching strategic objectives for community safety
- Undertake reviews of the Strategic Assessment priorities to ensure that they are still the same and resources are being directed appropriately
- Work in partnership to develop a Partnership Plan which will drive project and programme delivery across the Safer North Hampshire area over the coming year
- Deliver a robust response to Anti-Social Behaviour
- Manage the performance of approved activities and endorse strategic action required to tackle barriers to success where identified
- Work alongside the objectives identified in the Police and Crime Plan where relevant

1.4 **The purpose of this Overview and Scrutiny Committee is:**

- To scrutinise decisions made or other action taken, in connection with the discharge of the crime and disorder functions by the Joint CSP
- To monitor and review the performance of the Joint CSP
- To make reports or recommendations to the Local Authorities and Joint CSP with respect to the discharge of the crime and disorder functions
- To review the Partnership Plan 2020 - 23

- The committee shall prepare an annual report for the Councils

2.0 OVERVIEW AND TRENDS

2.1 The role of the Joint CSP is to adopt the annual Strategic Assessment. However, it is recognised that the data sets used to inform the process are owned by the various organisations who are individually held to account. That said, an overview of crime and ASB trends for the year 2022/23 year being scrutinised is appropriate to set the scene.

2.2 The crime reporting year 2022/23, unlike the previous two years, was not affected by the coronavirus pandemic. To determine whether crime and anti-social behaviour reporting has increased or decreased or returned to pre-pandemic levels, comparisons will be made between the previous year and also to 2019/20 which was pre-pandemic.

2.3 Across Safer North Hampshire 26,331 crimes were recorded in 2022/23. This figure represents a 7% (n1,688) increase compared to the previous year when 24,643 crimes were recorded and a 4% (n957) rise compared to 2019/20 (pre-pandemic). In 2022/23 there were increase across most crime categories with the key exceptions being burglary residential (-9%), hate crime (-7%), domestic crime (-2%) and also anti-social behaviour (-9%).

2.4 The Strategic Assessment has focused on the areas where crime and anti-social behaviour has risen and seeks to examine whether this is a result of the pandemic or whether it is a longer term trend which needs to be addressed by the partnership going forward. Included in this Strategic Assessment will be evidence-based recommendations which can be considered by the partnership.

2.5 The priorities identified are:

- Improving feels of safety and health outcomes (public, virtual and private space)
- Serious violence
- Antisocial Behaviour
- Domestic Abuse

3.0 ACHIEVEMENTS

3.1 The Joint CSP continues to look for ways to develop and improve. Over the past year partners have worked collaboratively to focus on the identified priorities.

3.2 As of 2021/22 the CSP sought to create a three-yearly Partnership Plan, with an annual light touch review in order to allow longer term more focused goals. Work to review the priorities is currently taking place.

- 3.3 Whilst the main bulk of work is carried out at each council individually, there are regular meetings between officers from each authority in order to coordinate the work of the CSP and share best practice.
- 3.4 Reciprocal support arrangements are in place for community triggers. This allows independent chairs from each local authority to be utilised and ensure transparency and consistency. Triggers have been raised in all 3 areas and work is ongoing with the police and PCC to improve the process for those wishing to use the mechanism.
- 3.5 Officers attend Hampshire wide forums to ensure that the CSP is represented and updated. This includes the ASB Taskforce and it is hoped that this will strengthen links with the PCC in the North Hampshire Area.
- 3.6 Following Hampshire Police along with key partners securing a gang injunction against the Basingstoke Street Gang, work has continued to monitor and take enforcement action where breaches have occurred. The wider CSP recognised learning points and best practice. Work has begun to identify at risk groups and prevent other individuals from becoming involved serious violence and exploitation across the wider area. This work is resource intensive for all partners.
- 3.7 Engagement with the Hampshire Violence Reduction Unit will continue to support and guide the CSP. This will be key to the serious violence priorities and upcoming requirements related to the Serious Violence Duty.
- 3.8 Rushmoor Borough Council has successfully implemented a Public Space Protection Order to tackle alcohol related nuisance in Aldershot Town Centre.
- 3.9 The impact of Covid-19 diminished significantly, with remote working practices well embedded and the relaxation of all restrictions. The increased use of technology including Teams has allowed the CSP to continue to function and has had positive cost and time saving implications.

4.0 MOVING FORWARD

- 4.1 The Joint CSP will work to improve member knowledge and understanding and improve accountability through attendance, actions and tasking. It is recognised that there is a positive appetite for partnership working, however, the pressures on resources are significant and we must understand the gaps and how these impacts on timescales and outcomes. It should also be noted that the CSP is a partnership and not a resource.
- 4.2 Further engagement of non-statutory partners will be actively encouraged to further strengthen the partnership work to reduce crime and disorder.

- 4.3 The Joint CSP will continue to engage significantly with the Hampshire Violence Reduction Unit in the coming year in order to assist in addressing significant issues around serious violence, in particular in Basingstoke and Deane and Rushmoor boroughs.
- 4.4 In addition, it is recognised that early intervention work is key to preventing crime and anti-social behaviour. Work will continue encourage partners to map services and identify individuals and families who will benefit from support but also look to embed key messages. Using education and identifying opportunities for 'reachable, teachable moments' around key themes from those in positions to do so. A public health perspective is key in this.
- 4.5 We will continue to work with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) to ensure projects initiated locally and centrally work well together and that the local needs, delivery considerations and priorities are considered to ensure an understanding of the unique issues facing the CSP area.
- 4.6 Work has begun through attendance at ASB taskforce meetings and feedback to the PCC grants process. We will seek to engage with the projects that have secured funding to ensure the work compliments our priorities.
- 4.7 Contribution to the government CSP review and recent tools and powers review with our experiences of challenges and successes.
- 4.8 Looking to work with partners to ensure tools and powers are used appropriately and complement action already taken. Training and development of partners is required to help strengthen, refresh and improve knowledge.
- 4.9 The cost-of-living crisis will inevitably continue to lead to an increase in deprivation and therefore crime. The partnership will look to consider the impact of this on our communities and ensure that work continues to provide reassurance and increase feelings of safety to those who reside, work and visit our areas.
- 4.10 Basingstoke, Hart and Rushmoor local authority officers will expect and encourage partners to take the lead on streams of work to tackle priorities that are not within our statutory functions.