

Report to Crime and Disorder Joint Scrutiny Committee for Safer North Hampshire (Basingstoke and Deane, Hart and Rushmoor)	June 2021
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Subject:	Performance Review of Safer North Hampshire Strategic Community Safety Partnership 2020-21
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 Simon Bound (BDBC) – Chair of the CSP
Appendices:	1. Chair’s Report 2. Partnership Plan 2020 - 23 3. Community Safety Partnership membership
Papers relied on to produce this report:	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 2020 - 24: Improving Safety
- Hart District Council Corporate Plan 2017 - 22: work with partners to keep Hart clean, green and safe
- Rushmoor Borough Council Business Plan 2020 - 23: 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 2020-21, 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 submitted as Appendix 2.
- 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 2020-21 and summarise its findings for the respective councils.

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

- 4.1 The purpose of the Safer North Hampshire Strategic CSP is ‘to ensure strategic commitment and joint working to achieve reductions in crime and the
- 4.2 fear of crime, to reduce the harmful consequences of drug and alcohol misuse, and reduce youth offending and antisocial behaviour.”

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.
- 4.3 The priorities for 2020-23, which were informed by the issues identified in the Strategic Assessment 2019-20, were:
- Serious violence, including knife/blade offences and robbery
 - Youth related antisocial behaviour
 - Crimes with historically low levels of reporting
- 4.4 The Police and Crime Plan 2016-21 priorities are:
- Championing Community Needs
 - Reduce Reoffending
 - Partnerships
 - Provide operationally effective policing

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 will still be 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 various documents in order to aid the work of the individual community safety teams.

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.

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 victims, 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. Community safety initiatives on 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 through 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 13.05.2021

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.

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 2020/21 year being scrutinised is appropriate to set the scene.
- 2.2 The crime reporting year 2020/21 was a year like no other. In March 2020 the nation entered into the first of its full lockdowns due to the Coronavirus Pandemic with the next twelve months seeing large periods of restrictions on working and socialising. On the one hand, this led to more people being at home, limited to no night-time economy, reduced footfall in town centres and other previously thriving locations.
- 2.3 On the other hand, people spending more time at home, becoming more aware of their surroundings, children being out of education, families spending more time together in pressurised circumstances and people being out of work increased the potential for conflict in some circumstances. Some crime types have experienced reductions, some have increased, and while Police and partner agencies have continued to work tirelessly to make communities safer, the restrictions brought about by COVID will have undoubtedly impacted these figures.
- 2.4 In 2020/21 crime rates reduced considerably. Across the Safer North Hampshire 20,415 crimes were recorded, which was 20% (n4,959) fewer than the 25,374 recorded in 2019/20. 5,540 incidents of anti-social behaviour were recorded in 2020/21, a reduction of 6% (n366) on the previous year when 5,906 incidents were reported.
- 2.5 The Strategic Assessment continues to support priorities of youth related antisocial behaviour, knife and blade related offences with a specific focus on robbery and crimes with historically low levels of reporting.

3.0 ACHIEVEMENTS

- 3.1 The Joint CSP is always looking for ways to develop and improve and, over the past year, has made a lot of progress.
- 3.2 As of 2020/21 the CSP sought create a three-yearly Partnership Plan, with an annual light touch review in order to allow longer term more focused goals.
- 3.3 In October 2020 the shared community safety team ceased with the officer function returning to each individual authority. Each authority has successfully recruited to the teams and set up a number of appropriate internal processes.

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 Hampshire Police along with key partners including Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council achieved a significant milestone in securing a gang injunction against the Basingstoke Street Gang. The wider CSP are now monitoring progress on this along with the impact this will have on county lines, serious violence and exploitation across the wider area.
- 3.5 Covid-19 had a significant impact on all partners during 2020/21, requiring a re-think of key working practices as well as partners ensuring continued shared effort to tackle priorities.

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.
- 4.2 The Joint CSP will seek to engage significantly with the Hampshire Violence Reduction Unit in the coming year in order to assist in addressing significant issues around violence, in particular in Basingstoke and Deane and Rushmoor boroughs.
- 4.3 As chair, I also believe it is important to forge closer working links 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. With the election of Donna Jones as PCC we will seek to engage and ensure understanding of the unique issues facing the CSP area.
- 4.4 It is also important that the Partnership responds to the challenges presented by Covid-19 and ensures any ad-hoc interventions required as a result are put in place promptly.