

Report of the Head of Resources

COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

1 Purpose of report

- 1.1 This report gives the background to the work of Wellingborough Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and informs members about the current partnership project on collaborative working.

2 Executive summary

- 2.1 The Wellingborough CSP brings partners together to work to reduce and prevent crime and disorder in the borough. A partnership project looking at improving collaborative working has been set up that will put forward recommendations to assist partners in their aims to improve services to the public, increase value and reduce crime and antisocial behaviour. The project is supported by a six month secondment of a police sergeant, hosted by the council.

3 Appendices

None

4 Proposed action:

- 4.1 **The committee is invited to RESOLVE to note this report**
- 4.2 **The committee is invited to discuss issues relating to the provision of community safety and identify any matters they RECOMMEND be reported to relevant policy committees for their attention.**

5 Background

- 5.1 Wellingborough CSP was formed in 1999 as a result of legislation introduced under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, which placed specific duties on “responsible authorities” (local council, police, fire and rescue authorities, probation and health) to work with other key agencies to reduce and prevent crime and disorder.
- 5.2 The Partnership covers the Borough of Wellingborough and comprises a strategic board and task groups covering priority areas of work. It acts as a network to bring people together for the benefit of the communities across the borough, to make the borough of Wellingborough a safer place.

- 5.3 The CSP produces an annual Partnership Strategic Assessment, which provides relevant information to guide the partnership to identify thematic priorities as well as priority locations within the CSP area.
- 5.4 The CSP is responsible for publishing a partnership plan, which demonstrates a strategy for reducing crime and substance misuse, how this will be achieved and how resources will be used. It has a responsibility to engage with the communities within the Borough. Wellingborough CSP is represented at countywide community safety strategy groups, to ensure alignment between local and countywide activity.
- 5.5 Statutory partners are joined in the CSP by a number of other organisations including housing providers, voluntary and community sector organisations, and business partners who do not all sit on the Board, but support each other in the community to deliver the shared aims.
- 5.6 Partnership members look at the areas where by working together they can make a greater impact on the levels of crime and experiences of victims. This does not replace the day to day work of the individual organisations and services, but highlights where having a partnership can bring 'added value' by resolving more complex issues and situations.

6 Discussion

- 6.1 The work of the CSP extends wider than just crime reduction by considering preventative work, and encompassing the wider elements of life that can influence the level of crime and disorder, such as housing and education issues, estate design, town centre activities, taxi and food outlet licences, as well as perceptions of safety, and community involvement.
- 6.2 One of the major aspects affecting the lives of those who live and work in Wellingborough at the present time is drugs use and supply. This impacts not only on crime levels, but people's quality of life, of the perceptions of the area, and also the health and wellbeing impact on users and their families and friends.
- 6.3 There is the opportunity for organisations in the borough to work more collaboratively to be more effective in tackling these issues and so the Police and the council have come together to lead a project to build on the collaborative work of partners, across a broader remit than traditional community safety work.
- 6.4 To this end, the Police have approved the secondment of an officer – Sgt Paul Valentine for the period June – November 2015. The council are providing office space and facilities and day to day management within the Community Support team

6.5 The project will bring statutory agencies, businesses and voluntary and community sector organisations together in a range of workshops designed to bring together:

- Faith Based and other community initiatives across Wellingborough to collaborate and formulate an action plan taking a generation out of crime
- Businesses leaders regarding building on schemes such as Taxi Watch, Retail and Pubwatch, plus housing wardens etc so we can tackle drugs in a new partnership approach
- Local communities in drugs crime hotspots to encourage communities to come together and find local solutions to help themselves.

6.6 A further aspect of the project will be to scope how the CSP partners could work closer with each other and with other partners in the borough in either a virtual or physical environment, in order to provide an improved service to the public.

7 Legal powers

7.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a statutory duty on local authorities to work with the police and other partners to reduce crime and disorder in each borough or district.

7.2 Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires that local authority Members and Officers and other partners consider crime and disorder implications within all of the service areas they provide.

8 Financial and value for money implications

8.1 The CSP works with the office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and other partners to maximise external funding opportunities where possible to reduce crime and disorder in the borough. Working closer as partners and aligning services would enable better value for money, less duplication and offer more opportunity for joint bids.

9 Risk analysis

Nature of risk	Consequences if realised	Likelihood of occurrence	Control measures
Partners work in isolation Resources are duplicated Crime priorities are not addressed	Increased crime and disorder within the Borough. Best value not achieved	medium	Strong leadership and robustness of CSP Board Ensure project milestones are in place, including interim reports on progress

10 Implications for resources

- 10.1 Line management time and office costs will be absorbed through the current Community Support budget

11 Implications for stronger and safer communities

- 11.1 The remit of the CSP is based upon improvement to the social, environmental and economic well-being of the area by working in partnership to reduce crime and disorder, as well as the fear of crime.
- 11.2 The project aims to bring the voluntary and community sector together with other partners to make communities stronger and safer and to empower residents and businesses to be able to participate in community action.

12 Implications for equalities

- 12.1 Working in partnership across sectors, faiths and service providers will help to ensure that the project is inclusive. Progress reports, monitoring and evaluation will help to ensure that the project contributes towards community cohesion and resilient communities.

13 Author and contact officer

Gill Chapman, Principal Community Support Manager

14 Consultees

Police Sergeant Paul Valentine
Bridget Lawrence, Head of Resources

15 Background papers

Project brief