

**Report of the Head of Finance**

**WELLINGBOROUGH COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP**

**1 Purpose of report**

- 1.1 This report gives the background to the Wellingborough Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and informs members about the current partnership priorities and workstreams.
- 1.2 The Wellingborough Community Safety Plan produced by the CSP supports the vision articulated by the Borough Council of 'Making Wellingborough a Place to be proud of'. The strategic objectives set out in the Wellingborough Community Safety Plan are consistent with the Council's objectives and will provide a means of supporting delivery of key priorities, in particular Reducing Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour.

**2 Executive summary**

This report discusses the progress made by the Wellingborough Community Safety Partnership to date during the 2016-17 financial year and looks at some of the initiatives and projects that have taken place over this period.

**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 councils, 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. The Board

meets quarterly to review and evaluate the work of the partnership, respond to emerging needs and plan developments.

- 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 In May 2016, Stephen Mold was elected as Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Northamptonshire. Each Commissioner publishes a four year countywide Police and Crime Plan and the latest plan is under production at present. There is an obligation on community safety partnerships to 'have regard' to this plan in setting their own targets and work activities.
- 5.5 The CSP is responsible for publishing its own partnership plan that demonstrates a strategy for reducing crime and substance misuse, how this will be achieved and how resources will be used. Wellingborough CSP is also represented at countywide community safety strategy groups, to ensure alignment between local and countywide activity.
- 5.6 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.
- 5.7 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.
- 5.8 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 and associated violent crime. 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 and is a high priority for the CSP.
- 5.9 To combat this, the council and the police came together in 2015 to lead a new community based project to build on the collaborative work of partners, across a broader remit than traditional community safety work. Police Sergeant Paul Valentine was based at the council on secondment to bring together statutory agencies, businesses and community sector organisations to look at the wider drivers of crime and also fear of crime, such as school exclusions, poverty and social isolation.
- 5.10 The project developed during 2016 to become a sub group of the CSP – the Safer, Stronger, Neighbourhood Partnership (SSNP) and Sgt Valentine continued to co-ordinate the project based in the hotspots of Hemmingwell and Queensway.

## 6 Discussion

- 6.1 The current priority outcomes of the Wellingborough CSP are:
- A reduction in organised violent crime and 'gang' culture.
  - A reduction in substance misuse and supply.
  - A reduction in domestic violence.
  - A reduction in acquisitive crime.
  - A reduction in the number of antisocial behaviour (ASB) incidents.
- 6.2 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.
- 6.3 Good links are maintained with the PCC's office and other county partners to share good practice, align budgets where appropriate and monitor and discuss the implementation of new ideas and legislative changes.
- 6.4 The CSP has worked on several key areas to date during the last year. The Board has:
- Refreshed the vision for the CSP and confirmed a desire to move away from the 'yo-yo' effect of changing priorities each year based on numbers of recorded crimes, concentrating more on reducing the effects of crime in terms of 'threat, harm and risk'. This focuses on protecting vulnerable people from harm from crime and encompasses a much broader approach modelled on prevention as well as detection. This complements the PCC's wider vision for the county.
  - Taken part in an early round of the Home Office's 'Ending Gang and Youth Violence' initiative, hosting a workshop and follow up for 30+ practitioners from across Wellingborough who work with young people to increase understanding of gang culture and the local situation. This led to a locally focused action plan to reduce the number of young people getting involved in organised crime, and helping young people to change behaviours.
  - Set up the SSNP as a formal subgroup of the CSP, agreeing a strategy for the project and ensuring correct lines of accountability for their work.
  - Received a presentation about domestic violence in the local context, and held a discussion about any practical steps the CSP could take. This led to a series of actions and strengthened knowledge and relationships, meaning that when the local women's refuge closed with very little notice, CSP partners played a major role in making sure there was a smooth transition for the families affected.
  - Supported wider strategy development and initiatives, contributing to, and having regard for, countywide strategies and associated action plans for tackling crime and anti-social behaviour. This work in keeping people safe from harm includes safeguarding themes such as high level domestic and sexual violence, child sex exploitation, female genital mutilation, modern day slavery, e-safety, the risk of being drawn

into radicalisation and terrorism ('Prevent'), high level violent and organised crime.

- Discussed the links between housing services and community safety. Aspects such as allocations policy, tenancy agreements, households experiencing domestic abuse and child protection issues, temporary emergency accommodation and bail conditions all impact on community safety. Other aspects include houses of multiple occupation and potential links to a rise in ASB, or more sinister aspects of crime such as organised crime, modern slavery, links to child sexual exploitation or radicalisation.

6.5 The development of the SSNP project to combat crime and drugs use in the main hotspots of Hemmingwell and Queensway has been a major focus of the partnership's work this year alongside police detection and enforcement work. The project now has its own management group, reporting to the main CSAP Board, chaired by a voluntary sector representative and with Sgt Valentine as project co-ordinator. Main community safety outcomes have been:

- Uninterrupted use of Hemmingwell Community Centre through a transition of leaseholders, and the establishment of an office 'hub' base for professionals whose work is based in the Hemmingwell area, allowing residents to access services locally and professionals to benefit from better collaborative working
- Improved relationships and sharing of information and data through the use of agreed protocols, to ensure that links are made across agencies, meaning families receive the most appropriate services and duplication or gaps in service are minimised.
- Support for Glamis Hall for All to run local community projects and continue services for older people, providing a safe space to meet and hear safety and wellbeing messages.
- Collaboration of community based organisations across Wellingborough to deliver holiday activities to young people as a diversionary activity, helping to take a generation out of crime.
- Collaboration on a project, funded by partners, targeting those at risk of school exclusions to change behaviours improving school attendance and attainment and reducing the likelihood of falling into crime
- The delivery of community engagement days such as the Hemmingwell summer fun day, 'Clean for the Queen' and other community clean ups, education around recycling, flytipping etc.
- Links to the University of Northampton and national early intervention projects to share good practice and project monitoring and evaluation techniques

6.6. Partners have worked also worked at an operational level on a number of tasks and projects related to CSP priorities such as:

- Relaunching the Retail Crime Initiative to reduce prolific shoplifting
- Supplying body worn cameras for pub and club door staff to reduce violence in the town centre
- Local publicity campaigns during weeks of action to raise awareness of domestic violence, personal safety, hate crime and seasonal

campaigns such as major sporting events, Halloween, Bonfire night and Christmas

- Championing the 'Fearless' campaign to help young people to report and deal with issues of bullying or hate crime
- Crime prevention campaigns such as keeping personal possessions safe, locking doors and windows, vehicle security
- Casework around complex antisocial behaviour incidents
- Meetings with housing and planning colleagues to 'design out' crime
- Support for 'park watch' in Castlefields
- Multi-agency work to reduce ASB in the town centre caused by excessive drinking
- Use of legislative powers such as closure orders and injunctions to reduce repeat offending

6.7 The Borough Council continues to support the CSP directly through such projects as the town centre CCTV camera network and monitoring, contributions to the police towards salaries for Police Community Support Officers and providing the Community Safety Officer post within the council. This is supplemented by the time of other officers, such as the Chief Executive, who chairs the partnership, and links to work carried out through council functions such as licensing, environmental protection, housing, community support, planning and property, and through partners such as Wellingborough Norse.

6.8 During the next year the community safety partnership will continue to build on the changes it has made in order to deliver the best outcomes in crime reduction and community safety. The partnership has agreed to keep the same broad priorities for the two years to allow time for projects to come to fruition, but research into current crime trends will take continue and will be discussed at the next Board meeting with a view to firming up partnership plans for 2017-18.

## 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 enables better value for money, less duplication and offers more opportunity for joint bids.

## 9 Risk analysis

Nature of risk	Consequences if realised	Likelihood of occurrence	Control measures
----------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	------------------

Partners work in isolation	Increased crime and disorder within the Borough.	Medium	Strong leadership and robustness of CSP Board
Resources are duplicated	Best value not achieved		Ensure project milestones are in place, including interim reports on progress
Crime priorities are not addressed			

**10 Implications for resources**

10.1 Resources for supporting the CSP are absorbed through the current Community Support budget. Other funding streams may become available to the partnership from time to time and the CSP will endeavour to utilise these as much as possible to supplement partnership projects.

**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 SSNP project in particular 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 Collaboration across sectors, faiths and service providers means that the partnership is more inclusive. Progress reports, monitoring and evaluation helps to ensure that the work of the CSP contributes towards community cohesion and resilient communities.

**13 Author and contact officer**

Gill Chapman, Principal Community Support Manager

**14 Consultees**

John Campbell, BCW Chief Executive and Chair of Wellingborough CSP  
Senior management team  
Chief Insp Lara Alexander- Lloyd, vice chair of Wellingborough CSP

**15 Background papers**

None