

Chichester District Council

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

17 March 2015

Report from the Community Safety Partnership Scrutiny Task & Finish Group

1. Contacts

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2. Recommendations

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is requested to consider and endorse the key points concluded from this review as set out at paragraph 5.2 in the report.

- 1) That the proposed priorities for the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) plan 2015/16 are supported.**
- 2) That the CSP should consider how they could encourage the amalgamation of Rural Watch, Farm Watch and Horse Watch to provide a more comprehensive Community Watch service.**
- 3) That the CSP should focus on utilising technology to effectively and efficiently spread community safety information.**

3. Terms of Reference

3.1 Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 states that all relevant authorities have a duty to consider the impact of all their functions and decisions on crime and disorder in their local area. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has a statutory duty in accordance with Sections 19 and 20 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 to review the district's Community Safety Partnership (CSP) with the following objectives:

- To hold the CSP to account for its decision making
- To scrutinise the performance of the CSP
- To undertake policy reviews of specific community safety issues

The purpose of the review was to:

- a) To hold the Chichester District Community Safety Partnership to account for its decision-making.
- b) To scrutinise the performance of the Chichester District Community Safety Partnership.
- c) To undertake policy reviews of specific crime and disorder issues e.g. human trafficking/exploitation.
- d) To consider how the Partnership and individual responsible authorities are contributing to local joint initiatives and achieving their aims and objectives.

3.2 The outcomes to be achieved at the end of the TFG review were to:

- Review the CSP's performance over the last year.
- Identification any areas of concern for further in-depth review.
- Input into the strategic direction of the CSP next year

4. Approach to the review

- 4.1 This review was carried out over two meetings in January and February 2015. Members involved in this review were Mrs N Graves, Mrs G Keegan, Mr R Hayes(Chairman),Mr N Thomas and Mr H Potter. Mrs Apel also attended both meetings.
- 4.2 Ms Bushby, the Community Interventions Manager at CDC presented the Annual Report 2013/14, the Performance Plan 2014/15 and progress as at the third quarter, the Crime Summary for the 2014 calendar year and the Budget 2014/15.
- 4.3 Members noted the wide range of project work undertaken not just to reduce crime and victimisation but work such as raising awareness of Human Trafficking; reducing community tensions at neighbour and community level and working with 22 families in the Think Family project and in two neighbourhoods in the city.
- 4.4 Chief Inspector Burtenshaw the Police Commander for Chichester district presented the crime issues for the area and informed members that Chichester was the best performing district in Sussex in resolving crime. He illustrated the intelligence led approach to operations targeting individuals and series of crimes including the use of tracking equipment which had contributed to the high detection rate. Members also probed the impact of decreasing budget and were reassured that answering 999 calls, assessing and addressing harm and risk was the focus of the force. The importance of effective partnership working was also highlighted.
- 4.5 Ms King from West Sussex County Council (WSSCC) presented an outline of the work with the Safer West Sussex Partnership (SWSP) identifying that there is a statutory requirement for WSSCC to produce an annual Community Safety agreement setting out how the partners would work together to deliver their agreed priorities. Having described the structures of the partnership she identified the influencing factors in setting the priorities which included a Strategic Intelligence Assessment; the Police and Crime Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan; national legislation and plans; public consultation, and, the priorities of the local CSPs and aligned partnerships. The SSP has proposed 10 priorities for 2015/16 with two new priorities of Child Sexual Exploitation and Preventing Radicalisation.
- 4.6 Councillor Lintill, the chair of Chichester CSP, told the group about her role as one of the Local Authority representatives on the Police and Crime Panel whose role it is to scrutinise the key decisions of the Police and Crime Commissioner such as the Police and Crime Plan, the budget and precept and key staff appointments. The Panel also offered support, advice and consultation on local policing matters.

- 4.7 Members were given the chance to comment on the future priorities of the CSP using the public consultation survey. After questions and discussion members supported the main priorities of the CSP Performance Plan 2015/16 which were reducing repeat victims, supporting vulnerable people, reducing crime and increasing public confidence. Ms Bushby described the proposed projects which would include cybercrime.
- 4.8 An example of partnership working in Chichester East was given by Mr P Taylor and Ms J Reed of A2Dominion Housing Association. They described work with a school to clean up and planting work in an area troubled by antisocial behaviour (ASB). The ASB had declined and given the community back a pleasant amenity area. Work with a community group was developing a youth club at the community centre on the estate which would provide extra youth activities. A project called Sport for Social Change had identified unengaged young people in the area and encouraged them to get involved with sport, culminating in a big activity.

5. Findings of the review

5.1 The group particularly noted the following:

- Reassurance that good progress had been made in delivering the CSP plan priorities in both 2013/14 and 14/15 to date and a measurable impact on incidents of crime made.
- Reassurance that Police performance had led to a high level of crime detection.
- Reassurance that despite reduced funding and loss of the CSP support staff role a good range of relevant projects were being delivered by the partnership.
- Agreement that the ASB coordinator post funded by the CSP and located in the police station to provide effective communication links was acknowledged as a good prioritising of the funding.
- Reassurance that WSCC is providing a key role in coordinating the strategic county partnership and drawing together the various influences into a cohesive set of priorities to guide the activities of local CSPs and partners.
- Reassurance that the Police and Crime Panel was positively engaged in both supporting and scrutinising the Police and Crime Commissioners policies.
- That projects to deliver positive activities for young people, and involving them to make positive improvements to community facilities were being encouraged and actively supported by partners and community groups.
- That emerging issues such as Child Sexual Exploitation and cybercrime were being addressed.
- That there was a need to consider ways of amalgamating or joining up the rural watch groups such as Farm and Horse Watch to a comprehensive community watch.
- That communication is a key issue in influencing public perceptions of crime and the CSP should promote its activity more widely considering the use of social media and new technologies.

5.2 The key points and recommendations concluded from this review are:

- That the CSP's performance over the last year has been effective.

- That the proposed priorities for the 2015/16 CSP plan are supported.
- That the CSP should consider how they could encourage the amalgamation of Rural Watch, Farm Watch and Horse Watch to provide a more comprehensive Community Watch service.
- That the CSP should focus on utilising technology to effectively and efficiently communicate community safety information and promote its activity.

6. **Appendices**

None

7. **Background Papers**

7.1 Minutes of meetings

7.2 CSP Annual report 2013/14, CSP Plan and Budget 2014/15, CSP Plan Q3 performance report, CSP draft Plan 2015/16