

Chichester District Council

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

17 March 2020

Community Safety Review Final report from the Task & Finish Group (TFG)

1. Contacts

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2. Recommendations

The committee is requested to consider the final report from the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and to note the following:

- 1) That the required level of scrutiny of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) had been achieved.
- 2) That the performance of the CSP is good and that evidence of effective partnership working in the district had been demonstrated.

3. Background

- 3.1 Chichester District Council (CDC) has a statutory responsibility to participate in the CSP in accordance with sections 19 and 20 of the Police and Justice Act 2006. Overview and Scrutiny committees of local authorities have a responsibility to scrutinise the activity of CSPs on an annual basis.
- 3.2 The TFG comprised of Cllrs Alan Sutton (Chair), Tracie Bangert, Clare Apel and Adrian Moss and met twice in February 2020
- 3.3 At the first meeting Mrs P Bushby, Divisional Manager for Communities, outlined the CSP annual report 2018/19, CSP performance plan 2018-21, priorities and proposed spending plan 2019/20.
- 3.4 Councillor Roy Briscoe, Cabinet member for Community Services & Culture gave an update on the role of the Police & Crime panel at the first meeting and was present by invitation at the second meeting.
- 3.5 At the second meeting the following witnesses gave evidence:
 - 3.5.1 Jim Bartlett, Contextual Safeguarding Manager, WSCC provided a briefing, update and question and answer session on the West Sussex Community Safety Agreement and West Sussex County Council Structures.
 - 3.5.2 Inspector Sharon Sawyer (Sussex Police) gave a presentation, update and question and answer session on the Policing Structures and Plans for Chichester District.

4. Outcomes to be achieved

The terms of reference set the outcomes as reviewing the CSP's performance over the last year, identifying areas of concern and giving any necessary input into the strategic direction of the CSP for the following year.

5. Evidence

5.1 Ms Bushby updated the TFG on the CSP performance over the last year, with focus given to quarter 3 progress:

5.1.1 Priority 1; Reduce the impact of crimes that are targeted at specific groups or individuals.

5.1.1.1 Domestic Abuse; Mrs Bushby explained to the TFG that Domestic Abuse is a crime which is often underreported, with limited funding available, focus was given to raising the awareness of healthy relationships between young people. Two education programmes have been delivered at the Bourne and Academy Selsey. Mrs Bushby explained that the young people who attended the workshops were identified by the schools as being more at risk as either; a victim or a perpetrator.

5.1.1.2 Anti-Social Behaviour; Work to tackle Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) is progressing; work is focused on early intervention in order to try and reduce the repeat offences, as well as reducing demand on partner services. Mrs Bushby explained that they will try and prevent situations escalating by stopping them at the very beginning, for example letters will be sent to the parents/guardians of all those who have been identified in an ASB offence. The ASB figures are on a downward trend.

5.1.1.3 Hate Crime; Mrs Bushby explained that there was an 8 month spike in reported Hate Crime incidents during May, figures are carefully monitored at the Joint Action Group (JAG). Most Hate Crime incidents are verbal and in relation to race.

5.1.1.4 Cyber Crime; WSCC have developed a very good package for raising the awareness of Cyber Crime and this is supported by the CSP. In response to members questions Mrs Bushby was unaware of any work been done around the Dark Web, but suggested that this could be included as a recommendation in order to raise people's awareness of it and the threats posed by it.

5.1.1.5 Sexual Offences; Mrs Bushby explained that work had focused on raising the awareness of sexual harassment and stalking. Training had been delivered at Chichester University and received positive feedback. The training was delivered free of charge.

5.1.2 Priority 2; Exploitation

Mrs Bushby informed the TFG that SOC (Serious Organised Crime Unit) were the lead partner for this work stream. Arun and Chichester had taken the lead on Modern Slavery, Adur and Worthing took the lead for Child Exploitation.

5.1.2.1 Cuckooing; Mrs Bushby explained what cuckooing was and informed that TFG that were very few cases in Chichester. Work has also been undertaken in relation to County lines.

Monthly safeguarding meetings are held with Arun to review and discuss the issue within the area.

5.1.2.2 Child Exploitation; Mrs Bushby informed the TFG that she receives a weekly update from the multi-agency Missing & Exploitation Operational Group (MEOG) on cases, however, she assured the TFG that there were very few cases in Chichester. Community Wardens are all trained and will report back any concerns, work has also been done with South East Trains to try and spot children at risk.

5.1.2.3 Modern Slavery; there has been an increase in the reported number of cases of modern slavery. It has been identified as Amber because work in tackling the crime is in still being developed. This was identified as a key issue by members

5.1.2.4 Radicalisation; in addition to the report Mrs Bushby informed that TFG that the PR team do monitor online activity and report any items which raise concern.

5.1.3 Priority 3; Supporting our Communities,

Mrs Bushby highlighted the work that had been carried out at Swanfield Avenue with the College. Monitoring of Community Tensions are monitored through the JAG.

5.1.4 Priority 4; Reducing Crime;

5.1.4.1 Burglary residential; there had been a spate of incidences along the A272 which contributed to a rise in the number of reported incidences, the perpetrator had since been caught.

5.1.4.2 Theft of/from a motor vehicle; despite much promotional work been undertaken to raise public awareness about theft from vehicles member of the public do still leave valuables in vehicles. The rolling year figures are down.

5.1.4.3 Theft of Pedal Cycles; the JAG have purchased pavement signs to help promote bike marking events and work has been done to raise awareness with railway station staff and those at Westward House.

5.1.4.4 Public Place Violent Crime; reported figures show an increasing trend, work is been done to identify hot spots locations.

5.1.4.5 Rural Crime; The proposed Countrywatch meetings have not taken place yet and as a result not much has happened in terms of addressing and tackling rural crime.

5.1.5 Priority 5; Road Safety

Mrs Bushby explained that the RSAG (Road Safety Action Group) are the lead partner. This is partner group with various interested and key partners involved, including CDC, WSCC, Sx Police and WSFRS. Motorbikes are not currently included within the figures.

5.1.6 Priority 6; Increasing Public Confidence

Mrs Bushby informed the TFG of the various communication channels used to promote and raise build confidence. Members agreed that they themselves could and should be doing more as a body to help raise awareness and educate members of the public.

6. Community Safety Partnership Spending Plan 2019 – 2020

Ms Bushby reported that the annual budget was smaller than other authorities. Funding had been allocated to a number of projects including 'Be the Change' and the Women Offenders Project (highlighting the inequalities facing women in the justice system). Any unspent funds are automatically rolled forward to the following financial year.

Mrs Bushby explained that the CSP were looking to support a proposal from WSCC for a shared Data Analyst post over a three year commitment. This would be a great advantage as it would allow dedicated analysis to be undertaken and more robust information to be produced in relation to crime figures.

7. Chichester District Strategic Intelligence Assessment (SIA) 2020-21

Mrs Bushby presented the SIA to the TFG. She explained that the format of the report follows that which is set out by the Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC). Mrs Bushby explained that figures are recorded on a rolling year basis, the figures for Chichester compare favourably when compared to other authorities.

The CSP Annual Report 2019-2020 is embedded within the assessment.

Mrs Bushby highlighted the delivery model to the TFG. She explained that the countywide CSP meets twice yearly and is attended by the following partners; CDC, WSCC, Sussex Police, WSFRS, West Sussex PCT, the Probation Service and the West Sussex Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT).

The full CSP ensured that the PCC priorities were considered as part of developing work streams, co-ordination with other strategies and organisation's plans, agreed and reviewed action plans and resource commitments.

As a point of note Mrs Bushby did inform the TFG that there may be changes following the PCC elections later in the year.

8. Role of Police and Crime Panel (Roy Briscoe)

Mr Briscoe informed the TFG that he was the CDC representative on the Sussex Police and Crime Panel (PCP). He explained that the role of the PCP was to hold the Police and Crime Commissioner to account. The PCP is made up from representatives from the following bodies; WSCC, East Sussex CC, Brighton & Hove City Council, all the District and Borough Councils within Sussex; plus two lay members (elected on a yearly basis with maximum four year tenure).

Mr Briscoe highlighted the following as part of his report to the TFG;

- The level of savings that the PCC had been required to make; approximately £76 million.
- The increase in staffing numbers
- The increase in precept for the coming year
- The PFI which operated the custody suite; currently not in use
- Partnership working is very positive with neighbouring forces particularly; Surrey, Kent and Thames Valley
- There has been an increase in reporting of crime
- Further work is required to tackle rural crime.

9. West Sussex Community Safety Agreement and West Sussex County Council Structures (Jim Bartlett, Contextual Safeguarding Manager, WSCC)

Mr Bartlett provided an overview and update on the role of the Safer West Sussex Partnership (SWSP); and explained to the TFG about Contextual Safeguarding and the approach adopted by West Sussex County Council (WSCC).

Mr Bartlett explained that there were currently seven SWSP priorities (he did explain that these were due to be reviewed at the SWSP Executive meeting in April 2020); he outlined the priorities and answered members comments and questions as follows;

- 9.1 *Child Exploitation*; The governance and accountability of this priority are the responsibility Children's Services. A significant amount of work had, and continues to be done to raise the profile of this priority. All members of staff within frontline services such as school transport, social workers and community wardens have been through a training programme to inform them of child exploitation and what they should do if they see signs or have concerns that a child is being exploited. Time has been spent on improving working practices in order to deliver a more robust and joined up delivery model across services and partners in order to prevent exploitation from occurring in the first instance.
- 9.2 *Domestic Abuse and Sexual Abuse*; A new pan-Sussex (East, West and Brighton & Hove) strategy on the subject has been launched. The initiative has been pump-primed with £100,000 from the PCC. There is a West Sussex steering group; the steering group will feed into the pan-Sussex group and ensure delivery of agreed actions, as well as addressing issues which are unique to West Sussex. The group will be chaired by Paula Doherty, Community Services Manager, from Crawley Borough Council.
- 9.3 *Drugs & Alcohol Abuse*; Mr Bartlett explained that Public Health were the lead authority for this priority. Following the publication of the Drug Deaths Audit much work has been focused on reducing the number of drug related deaths, for example working with pharmacies. It was highlighted that there is a lot of crossover with mental health services; most people who suffer from an addiction also suffer with mental health issues. There has been a lot of work done over the last year to help improve the understanding of the complex issues involved when helping those with addiction problems. The SIA report has identified a gap in the information which is supplied through A&E, going forward work will be done to look at how this can be addressed.
- 9.4 *Modern Slavery*; work continues to be done to raise the awareness and profile of this issue. There is a national referral mechanism which is promoted and provides a single point of contact for reporting. Modern Slavery training is provided by the team at WSCC; Mrs Bushby confirmed that all relevant CDC staff members had been through the training. Members were keen to promote the training and run a session for Councillors. Going forward Mr Bartlett explained that WSCC are planning to launch a 'Modern Slavery Pledge' on Anti-Slavery Day similar to the 'Helping Hands' campaign, to help raise awareness of the issue and increase its public profile.
- 9.5 *Radicalisation*; this priority is led by the Prevent team (Sussex Police) and through the Channel Panel. The main focus of the team is to prevent individuals from

becoming radicalised. Work is very intelligence driven with a lot being done 'behind the scenes' and not seen in the public domain. Training is provided by the Prevent team. Mr Bartlett informed members that within the Chichester District the main concern would be issues concerning radicalisation around far right movements.

9.6 *Serious Organised Crime*; there are three Serious Organised Crime partnerships within West Sussex (divided in line with the Sussex Police borders). Arun and Chichester have the lead for Modern Slavery.

9.7 *Serious Violence*; this is a new priority for the SWSP. Mr Bartlett explained that a sum of approximately £880,000 had been successfully secured to fund interventions for this issue, of which some will be used to exclusively fund interventions within West Sussex; including the appointment of a Violence Reduction Co-ordinator. In response to members questions Mr Bartlett explained that the issue of Serious Violence is different to the scene in London, it is not gang focused, and initial research shows that motivators are linked to County lines and Exploitation.

In response to members concerns surrounding children's services within West Sussex, Mr Bartlett acknowledged concerns and explained that an improvement plan was in place and improvements were being made; for example Children's Social care were now present at all SWSP meetings.

Mr Bartlett referred to the proposed data analyst; the funding principles have been agreed, with WSCC funding the majority of the role and the CSPs funding the remainder. Management of the role will be with WSCC. A primary piece of work will be the creation of problem profiles for each of the seven priorities.

Mr Bartlett drew the TFGs attention to the work done through WSCC's Safer Digital Life Programme, and made members aware that they could stay informed through signing up to the Safer Digital Life dedicated newsletter, Facebook page and twitter account. In response to members concern over the dark web Mr Bartlett explained that there had not been any specific education around this issue.

Mr Bartlett informed the TFG of Contextual Safeguarding. There is a county wide steering group which will lead on early intervention, with local peer group conferences being held once a month/6 weeks.

In concluding his report Mr Bartlett thanked Mrs Bushby and the work of CDC for their approach to partnership working and the high standard of the work undertaken within the district.

10. Policing Priorities - Structures and Plans for Chichester District (Inspector Sharon Sawyer)

Inspector Sharon Sawyer, informed the TFG that over the last twelve months there had been a positive increase in the number of both officer and PCSO's. Inspector Sawyer highlighted the successful partnership work which had been undertaken during the course of the year, for example the work between the PCSO's and the Community Wardens at the Selsey Academy.

Op Mini had been established to tackle car crime in rural areas and there had been a significant decrease in the figures. However, Inspector Sawyer did make the TFG aware that much of the crime had been carried out by one individual who was soon to be released from custody.

There has been an increase in both Anti-Social Behaviour and violent related crimes, particularly around the street homeless community. Op Manor had been set up to help address the issue. ASB legislation has also been successfully used in managing the issue.

There are a number of hotspots for youth disorder within the district, particularly around Avenue de Chartres and at City Gates. A partnership approach is being used to tackle this issue, allowing information to be shared at the earliest opportunity, with a tiered intervention programme being adopted to prevent repeat offending. Inspector Sawyer made reference to the 'Reboot' programme which works with individuals to assist them in making better life choices.

Op Safety had been established to tackle knife crime, there had been some targeted operations in Selsey, feedback from these was very positive.

There have been a number of success stories throughout the year including the recovery of large number of stolen goods. Funding has also been secured through the Safer Streets fund for a mobile Automatic Numberplate Recognition camera.

A lot of work has been undertaken to improve the way Sussex Police deal with individuals who have underlying mental health issues. Training for officers has improved and night patrols are now accompanied by a specialist mental health nurse who is able to undertake a street triage and make referrals where required, they are also able to assist in helping to find beds when appropriate.

Moving forward the picture is positive, numbers are increasing meaning there is more resource available to follow up on issues, overall visibility within the community is improving and there is a commitment that Police Community Support Officers (PCSO) will attend Parish Council meetings at least once a year. The time taken to answer a 101 call has improved, with the average time taken being around seven minutes.

In response to members concerns surrounding fraud and online scams Inspector Sawyer informed the TFG that PCSO Moorey had produced a package focused on raising awareness within the community on the subject, she also asked that members encouraged individuals to sign up online to In The Know, which will provide updates from your local police and neighbourhood watch. Inspector Sawyer concluded her report by thanking Mrs Bushby and her team.

11. Conclusions

11.1 The required level of scrutiny had been achieved, the performance of CSP and Police very good, showing effective partnership working, in a changing scene.

11.2 The following key issues were identified by members of the TFG for further consideration;

11.3 The role of members in engaging and raising the awareness of crime within their communities.

11.4 Modern Slavery within the district – particularly around Gypsy and traveller sites.

11.5 Impact of the Dark Web

11.6 Managing public expectation

11.7 Inviting Katy Bourne to attend a future OSC meeting

12 Alternatives that have been considered

12.1 The nature of the statutory duty to review performance does constrain the topic. The speakers invited were to evidence those specific elements, however in future opportunity could be taken to explore other areas of work in more detail and introduce other partners and witnesses to the committee.

13 Other Implications

	Yes	No
Crime and Disorder	X	
Climate Change and Biodiversity		X
Human Rights and Equality Impact	X	
Safeguarding and Early Help	X	
General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)		X
Health and Wellbeing	X	

14 Appendices

Appendix 1 – Community Safety Partnership Annual Report 2018/19

15 Background Papers

Community Safety Review 2019 Task and Finish Group terms of reference are available online