
COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report updates the Committee on the delivery of the joint Castle Point and Rochford District Community Safety Partnership (CP&RCSP) priorities and actions.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 In line with the statutory duty under Section 6 Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the CP & R CSP produces and implements a partnership plan for reducing crime and anti-social behaviour.
- 2.2 Each year the CP & R CSP provides an update report to the Review Committee on its work.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Historically, the priorities for the CP & R CSP are identified following the production of an annual strategic assessment that has been produced by Essex Police analysts. The document incorporates data sets from partner agencies and identifies key priorities for action.
- 3.2 The priority areas for action for 2021/22 were identified as:
- Protecting vulnerable people;
 - Anti-Social Behaviour and;
 - Violence (including knife crime).
- 3.3 Grant funding provision from the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner for 2021/22 amounted to £12,337. In addition, due to the impact of COVID-19 during the year 2020/21, an underspend of £10,142 was approved for roll over into the year 2021/22. Currently this budget is on track to be spent with an anticipated underspend of £1,518.
- 3.4 As the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has reduced, and service providers have altered their business models, the operation of the CP & R CSP has partially returned to “business as usual” although delivery mechanisms in some cases have changed, with mass audience events such as Walk online and Crucial Crew reverting to online delivery.
- 3.5 CP & R CSP outcomes during the year and are ongoing, have included:
- The extension of Walk Online Project (online safety sessions to all Year 5, 6 and 7 across the district) where over 1,600 primary school children and 850 secondary school children participated, with positive feedback results from a sample group.

This included 70% of primary school children rating the input as either 'very good' or 'excellent', increasing to 81% for secondary school children.

- Joint working with other across Essex to provide a Crucial Crew aimed at Year 6 pupils that tackles issues of exploitation linked to County Lines drug supply.
- Continued support for outreach work undertaken across the District by Bar "N" Bus.
- Sanctuary scheme support for victims of high-risk domestic abuse.
- The provision of funding to Essex Police to facilitate specific policing operations on the district.
- CP & R CSP business continues through quarterly steering group meetings, and weekly tactical level telephone conference calls chaired by Inspector Cathy Calder, with the Council represented by officers including Environmental Health, Licensing, and Community Safety.
- During the year, the Community Safety Officer has continued his work supporting the Member-led Working Group considering CCTV within the district. He has produced and implemented an Anti-Social Behaviour policy and continued to lead on enforcement action regarding certain aspects of anti-social behaviour utilising powers under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

3.6 Each year the CP & R CSP is required to carry out a strategic assessment. For 2022/23, the production of the strategic assessment falls to the respective Community Safety Officers from both the Council and Castle Point Borough Council and at the time of submission of this report, the strategic assessment has not been finalised. A scoring matrix process has, however, been completed (working alongside the Police District Commander and Community Policing Team Inspector) and this has assisted in the identification of priorities which, in the professional opinion of the police and council officers, appropriately reflect the significant challenges, taking into consideration local issues and national themes.

3.7 The draft priority areas for action have been identified as:

- Domestic abuse;
- Anti-Social Behaviour;
- Violence (including knife crime);
- Violence against women and girls;
- Hate crime.

- 3.8 Inspector Cathy Calder will attend the Review Committee meeting to provide a further up to date overview of local policing issues.

Link to Business Plan Priorities

- 3.9 The work of the CP & R CSP continues to be aligned to the Council's Business Plan in relation to "Early Intervention", specifically with regards to promoting safeguarding and working with partners on prevention and increasing community confidence. Links to the CP & R CSP plan continue to be included in the Council's joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy work and the Sanctuary Housing Community Investment Plan.

4 RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no known significant risks to the joint CP & R CSP delivering its statutory requirement, however, partnership challenges remain which include:
- A lack of feedback from participants who have benefitted from provided interventions – this frustrates efforts to accurately assess the scope, relevance and value of schemes.
 - The identification of new interventions that are relevant, subject of effective review and present value for money. The partnership resources currently continue to focus on providing projects, such as Walk Online, that have proven successes.
 - Potential interventions that could be supported but capacity is currently lacked in organisations that would deliver the programme e.g., community speed watch initiatives.
- 4.2 Delivery continues to be dependent on the ongoing availability of an annual grant from the Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex.
- 4.3 The loss of police analytical capacity in the completion of the 2033/23 strategic assessment promotes a potential threat in respect of the quality and value of the document. This is currently an ongoing conversation across the Essex community safety network, as officers work towards ensuring a consistent approach.

5 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The partnership work will ensure that the CP & R CSP is delivering on its commitments to Section 17 Crime and Disorder Act 1998 as detailed in both the CP & R CSP action plan and the strategic assessment.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 All crime and disorder related Government funds are managed by the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner and the CP & R CSP interventions continue to be financed by an annual grant. The 2021/22 allocation to the Council was

£12,337 – this figure has remained constant for the past five financial years and will continue to limit partnership work to those young people projects that have a high reach and impact. Grant funding for the year 2022/23 has yet to be confirmed.

7 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Section 6 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1988 places a statutory duty on responsible authorities (including local authorities, County Councils, The Police, National Probation Service, Fire & Rescue Service and Clinical Commissioning Groups) to formulate and implement strategies for the reduction of crime and disorder. The CP & R CSP is a Community Safety Partnership set up in accordance with this requirement.
- 7.2 Section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 (as amended) includes an obligation for every local authority to have a “Crime and Disorder Committee” which carries out a scrutiny role for community safety partnerships. The Review Committee is the committee responsible for discharging responsibilities relating to scrutiny of crime and disorder matters.
- 7.3 The Portfolio Holder for Communities is responsible for community safety and sits on the joint CP & R CSP and was Vice-Chair in 2021/22.

8 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 As this is a report to note, no EIA has been completed; however, as activities develop through the partnership action plan, specific needs will be taken into consideration.

9 RECOMMENDATION

- 9.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES** to note the progress made by the Castle Point and Rochford Community Safety Partnership during 2021/22.



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Background Papers:-

None.

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