



**Rochford District
Council**

REPORT TITLE:	Community Safety Partnership Report
REPORT OF:	Director of Communities and Health

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT SUMMARY

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

INTRODUCTION

In line with the statutory duty under S6 Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the CP & R CSP produces and implements a partnership plan for reducing crime and anti-social behaviour.

Each year the joint CP & R CSP provides an update report to the Committee on its work.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 1.1 Historically, the priorities for the CP & R CSP are identified following the production of an annual strategic assessment. In recent years, production of this document falls to CSP Managers. The document incorporates data sets from partner agencies and identifies key priorities for action.
- 1.2 The Annual Strategic Impact Assessment for 2021/22 identified that Domestic Violence, Violence with Injury and Personal Anti-Social Behaviour scored the highest for Rochford on our risk matrix and that Anti -Social Behaviour increased by 18% (an increase of 227 reports), burglary decreased by 7%,

hate crime increased by 38% (an increase of 21 offences) and drug offences, public order and possession of weapon offences all decreased.

- 1.3 Following the interrogation of the Annual Strategic Impact Assessment the priority areas for action for 2022/23 were identified as:
- Domestic Abuse
 - Violence against Women and Girls.
 - Anti-Social Behaviour.
 - Violence (including knife crime)
 - Hate Crime.
- 1.4 Grant funding provision from the PFCC for 2023/24 amounted to £12,337.00 all of which has been spent commissioning various ongoing projects as detailed below.
- Walk online e safety training for Year 5 and Year 6 pupils across the District. This input was designed to educate young people how to remain safe online. The programme is being hosted in January at secondary schools across the District.
 - Deliver online Crucial Crew programme on exploitation by County Lines gangs. This was delivered in part in November 2023 with further sessions being organised for next year.
 - The provision of a Sanctuary Scheme for high-risk victims (Safe Partnership and Housing Providers) to provide homes effected by Domestic Violence with extra security, materials such as chains, window locks, alarms etc to improve security and provide victim wrap around tactic. All referrals processed by Community Policing Team.
 - Increase trained J9 (Domestic Abuse) ambassadors.
 - Greater public awareness of domestic abuse and the support available, including regular partnership proactive activities & communication campaigns with police.
 - Support the County Hate Crime Strategy. Support the roll out of Hate Crime Reporting Centres (HIRCS) and Hate Crime Ambassadors. Maintain the number of Hate Crime Ambassadors. Deliver at least one Hate Crime Awareness Campaign. Refresher training for existing HIRC ambassadors.

- Training on hidden harms provided to all taxi & private hire drivers. All taxi licence holders have improved awareness.
- Regular partnership proactive activities & communication campaigns highlighting scams, rogue traders etc Working with police and purchasing £1,000 worth of Community Safety material and equipment such as purse bells, high vis slap bands, torches, personal attack alarms, anti-burglary literature etc.
- During the year, the CP & R CSP has continued support for Bar “N” Bus with the provision of funding to assist with the purchase of equipment for the newly acquired Bar N Bus mobile unit, to support youth outreach and detached sessional work across the District for young people, and a contribution towards on-going costs of a Youth Development worker.
- Taxi Marshalls for Rayleigh nighttime economy at peak times of the year.

1.5 Although we are still compiling the Strategic Assessment for 2022/23 with relevant local data, we can confirm that the previous detailed work/ projects and police activity have assisted in showing a reduction of 36% (240 reports) for ASB and a reduction of 30.3% (40 offences) in hate crime.

1.6 We were also successful in applying for and obtaining funding from PFCC for the following work in Rochford which will commence in 2024:

Project Minerva

- Best Bar None which is a recognised scheme to assess and accredit our licensed premises in our Nighttime Economy to deliver training around community safety, women’s safety, drugs, anti spiking, violence, conflict management etc and to ensure adherence to criteria for accreditation.

Safer Streets

- Anti bleed kits in every licensed premises in Rochford.
- More Taxi Marshalls for Rayleigh at peak times of the year.
- Women’s Safety Charter for Rochford, engaging with businesses, educational institutions and licensed premises to raise awareness, produce women’s safety pledge, accompanying marketing and promotion and bespoke video.
- Safer Together, Women’s Safety Legacy for Rochford working with all secondary schools with theatre company conducting interactive outreach sessions with pupils about women’s safety. Also engaging and working with night time economy on women’s safety and attitudes including interactive

quiz. Working with communities in both boroughs producing a gala evening and public show.

- 1.7 Further to the above commissioned work the Community Safety Partnership has also agreed to deliver:
- Support diversionary and support activities for hotspot times / dates / groups with Increased outreach capacity within partner organisations.
 - Promotion and appropriate use of ASB legislation – Community Protection Warnings, Criminal Behaviour Orders, Injunctions, Closure Orders and ASB case review process - Powers used effectively to reduce high level ASB
 - Promote ongoing Rochford Local Delivery Group – problem solving forum including RSL’s to address ASB - Meetings held and partner participation.
- 1.8 Rochford District Council remains an accredited member of White Ribbon and has a staff drop in session, outreach with police and a presentation at staff briefing planned for this year’s White Ribbon awareness day.
- 1.9 We are currently working on the Strategic Impact Assessment for the year 2022/23 and the associated action plan. Both documents will be presented in 2024 to the CSP and Local Strategic Partnership Board for approval prior to submission to the Office of the Police Fire and Crime Commission.
- 1.10 A light touch audit was conducted in August 2023 for Rochford and Castle Point Community Safety partnership with the following findings:
- Terms of reference to be reviewed and updated.
 - Partnership Plan to be established and documented.
 - Annual delivery plans to include estimated time scales.
 - Quarterly reporting on delivery plans to Joint Steering Group.
 - Membership to be reviewed.
 - Meeting minutes of Joint Steering Group to include status of relevant actions.
 - Up to date information of Community Safety Partnership to be published on Councils website.

All of these recommendations have either been actioned or are being actioned following our CSP away day on 2nd November 2023, with a detailed

report to be included in Annual Review being presented in 2024. Details below.

- 1.11 The Castle Point and Rochford Community Safety Partnership is currently under review to refresh and redesign including actioning audit recommendations, review membership, frequency of meetings, agree sub operational meetings, action plans, public engagement, lines of reporting and communications. As part of this review an away day was held on Thursday 2nd November 2023 for the current members to review and agree a new structure and format which will be reported in detail in 2024. The following priority headings/ areas were agreed as part of this away day with our crime priorities falling under each heading with an appropriate action plan.
- Prevent
 - Response
 - Promote
- 1.12 Inspector David Kealy, Castle Point and Rochford Community Policing Team will attend the meeting to provide a further up to date overview of local policing issues.

Link to Business Plan Priorities

- 1.13 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 Action Plan and the Sanctuary Housing Community Investment Plan.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 N/A

3.0 RELEVANT RISKS

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.
- Potential interventions that could be supported but capacity is currently lacked in organisations that would deliver the programme e.g., community speed watch initiatives.

- 3.1 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 (OPFCC).

4.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Community Safety Partnerships have a statutory duty to hold at least one public meeting a year; Rochford and Castle Point CSP have committed to engaging with community at regular public outreach events to educate and gather feedback on agreed action plan and priorities.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 All crime and disorder related Government funds are managed by the OPFCC. CP & R CSP interventions continue to be financed by an annual grant obtained from the OPFCC. The 2022/23 allocation to Rochford District Council was £12,337 – this figure has remained constant for the past six financial years (including this one).

6.0 LEGAL/GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Partnership work will ensure that it is delivering on its commitments to Section 17 Crime and Disorder Act 1998 as detailed in both CP & R CSP action plan and strategic assessment.
- 6.2 Sec 6, 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.
- 6.3 Sec 19, 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.
- 6.4 The Member responsible for community safety sits on the joint CP & R CSP and is vice chair in 2023/24.

7.0 EQUALITY & HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

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

8.0 ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

8.1 Protecting our environment by working collaboratively with partners to reduce environmental crime, focusing on hotspot areas, particularly the rural communities.

9.0 ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no direct economic implications arising from this report, although ensuring that the borough is safe will have indirect economic benefits.

REPORT AUTHOR: **Name:** Jonathan Woodhams
 Title: Corporate Manager, Community Safety
 Phone: 07840842137
 Email: Jonathan.woodhmas@brentwood.gov.uk

APPENDICES

None

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Overview and Scrutiny	March 2023