



Crime and Disorder Committee

Item

7

10 September 2019

Report of	Pam Donnelly, Strategic Director for Customer & Relationships	Author	Sonia Carr
Title	Safer Colchester Partnership		☎ 282978
Wards affected	All		

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. This report provides the Crime and Disorder Committee with the opportunity to review the work of the Safer Colchester Partnership (SCP) during the period September 2018 to September 2019. Included within the report is background information and an explanation of the role of the Safer Colchester Partnership, work undertaken by the Partnership during September 2018 to September 2019 and the priorities for 2018/19.
- 1.2. The key stakeholders of the SCP are the relevant Borough Council Portfolio Holder and Executive Director, Colchester District Commander (North Local Policing Area) Essex Police and senior representatives from Health, National Probation Service, Essex Community Rehabilitation Company, Essex County Council, Essex Fire and Rescue and Colchester Borough Homes. Representatives from some of these organisations will be present to provide further details to Committee members and to answer any questions that they may have.

2. Action Required

- 2.1. To invite the Crime and Disorder Committee to scrutinise the work of the Safer Colchester Partnership (SCP).

3. Reason for Scrutiny

- 3.1. Under the Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009 the Committee is required to meet once a year to review the work and progress of the Safer Colchester Partnership in connection with the discharge by the responsible authorities of their statutory crime and disorder reduction functions.
- 3.2. In addition, the Committee also requested (at the 11 September 2018 meeting) that it would be useful to hold an additional meeting of the Crime and Disorder Committee towards the end of the municipal year to review the plans for the Safer Colchester Partnership for 2019-20; therefore, an interim meeting took place on 26 February 2019.

4. Background Information

- 4.1. The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 sets out statutory requirements for local agencies to work together to tackle crime in their local area. Partners involved in this work are known as 'Responsible Authorities'.

- 4.2. The SCP was set up in order to deliver this statutory duty and includes the following partners: (statutory) Colchester Borough Council (CBC), Essex Police, Health/Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), National Probation Service (NPS), Essex Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC), Essex County Council (ECC), Essex Fire and Rescue Service (ECFRS) and non-statutory partners include Colchester Borough Homes (CBH), University of Essex, Community 360 and Colchester Garrison.
- 4.3. In addition, since September 2018, new members to the SCP include: East of England Ambulance Service, North Essex Children's and Families Service, North Essex Adult Social Care and Essex Youth Offending Service (all representing ECC) and Colchester Business Improvement District (BID).
- 4.4. There are many areas where the work of agencies overlaps, and it is more effective to work in partnership to address issues. Also, more effective data sharing between agencies enables partners to target resources to where they are needed most.
- 4.5. The SCP has a statutory duty to carry out an annual assessment of crime – called a Strategic Assessment of Crime. This involves analysing data on the frequency, location and types of crime (over the period 1 October – 30 September) in order to identify patterns and trends. The CBC Community Safety Team, alongside the Essex Police Intelligence Analyst, lead on the delivery of this report and, once completed, it is shared amongst SCP partners and used to develop a shared Annual Partnership Plan which prioritises the key local issues and outlines actions to address them. The SCP then monitors this Annual Plan throughout the year (1 April – 31 March), reviewing and refocusing activity as necessary to effectively tackle the issues.

5. The Partnership's work during 2018 – 2019

- 5.1. The SCP Annual Partnership Plan (APP) for April 2018 - March 2019 focussed on four Key Priorities (KPs):
 - Protect vulnerable people by increasing the awareness and reporting of Hidden Harms
 - Address Gangs and County Lines by developing intelligence and awareness to support those vulnerable to exploitation
 - Reduce the occurrence of violent crime including sexual offences and weapons offences
 - Tackle incidents of high harm, repeat Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) and Hate Crime
- 5.2. The SCP Annual Report Summary which details the specific work and projects undertaken to address these themes is attached as Appendix A, however an example 'project/highlight' from each of the 4 KPs can be found below.
- 5.3. KP1: The Virtual Crew (Year 6 pupils) pilot was launched during July 2018 (replacing Crucial Crew, which had become too resource-intensive and no longer cost-effective). A series of computer stories designed to mirror the real safety workshops for schoolchildren were developed by 14 students at Colchester Institute. Each of the game scenarios was designed in partnership with The Community Safety Team, with input from Essex Police, Colchester Borough Homes ASB Team and the Children's Society. 1,006 pupils registered for Virtual Crew from

34 primary schools. 13 schools declined to take part, however six of these have confirmed they will take part in July 2019.

- 5.4. KP2: Training relating to Mate Crime and Cuckooing was commissioned by SCP and delivered to 81 delegates in October 2018. The training focused on how a vulnerable adult exposed to 'mate crime' can quickly escalate into becoming the victim of 'cuckooing' and is designed to enable employees with an understanding of the issues relating to this activity, by examining the types of crimes perpetrated, signs and indicators of this abuse, identifying individuals/groups who may be at risk and identifying actions that can be taken to safeguard individuals.
- 5.5. KP3: Operation Diss, a bespoke Police operation to tackle ASB/knife crime and aggressive begging within Colchester Town Centre, was undertaken in August 2018, September 2018, January and February 2019. The Operation is aimed at ensuring that the community, including local businesses, enjoy the Town Centre without the fear of being intimidated or threatened with violence. 14 arrests have been made for recent burglaries within the Town Centre. Three individuals have been remanded.
- 5.6. KP4: The TCAP (Town Centre Action Plan) was initiated August 2018 as a result of increased complaints of aggressive begging, street drinking, drug use and associated ASB. The TCAP consists of a package of enforcement, support, awareness and education and is supported by a weekly partner meeting at which Police, Colchester Borough Council, Colchester Borough Homes, Essex CRC and National Probation Service meet to confidentially discuss those individuals who are causing harm, distress or harassment to the public, and actions agreed. Alongside the individuals, 'hotspot' locations experiencing anti-social behaviour and crime are also discussed and a course of action to tackle those areas is agreed. These meetings are proving to be invaluable in terms of partnership working and having a full picture of activity in the Town Centre.

In the period 6 August - 26 April 2019:

- 58 CPWs issued for ASB/Begging/Street Drinking.
- 15 CPNs issued for ASB/Begging/Street Drinking.
- 3 CBOs (Criminal Behaviour Orders) issued relating to ASB/Begging/Street Drinking.
- 4 CBO applications made, one of which has been issued by the courts and has resulted in a custodial sentence due to breaching this order.
- In the same period 11 FPNs issued for ASB/Street Drinking in contravention of the Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs)

6. Plans for the Partnership's work during 2019 – 2020

- 6.1. The key priorities for 2019 – 2020 are:

KP1 - Tackling Gangs & County Lines, focussing on keeping drugs and weapons out of the Community

The Safer Colchester Partnership will continue to develop the intelligence and awareness picture of this escalating criminality, especially focussing on County Lines. The Safer Colchester Partnership will strive to provide appropriate safeguarding and support to those vulnerable to this type of drug-related exploitation (cuckooing/drug running etc.); with a further aim to assist in the disruption of drug-related activities within the community.

KP2 - Driving down Anti-Social Behaviour and Violent Crime in public places

The Safer Colchester Partnership will use all available resources and legislation, including utilising the four standing Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs), to tackle ASB and violent crime within the District. Reductions in these areas will bring reassurance to residents regarding their personal safety and will assist in driving down crime rates for the area. ASB affects families and communities and by addressing this type of behaviour and conduct we can help improve the community's quality of life.

KP3 - Increase confidence in identifying and reporting Hidden Harms

The Safer Colchester Partnership will aim to increase the understanding and awareness, of both the general public and front-line practitioners, of the Hidden Harms our communities face. Encouraging those who are affected by these harms to engage with the Partnership or relevant agencies/charities to seek help and support, with an emphasis on Domestic Abuse and Hate Crime as identified by the risk matrix.

6.2. The Annual Partnership Plan for 2019-20 is attached as Appendix B

6.3. Safer Rural Communities Toolkit

There will be a focus on helping Rural Communities within Colchester to tackle crime and disorder. CBC (supported by the SCP) are launching a Rural Communities Toolkit in October 2019 (as part of Essex Police Rural Crime Awareness Week). The Toolkit provides ideas, information and resources to help communities make their neighbourhoods a better place to live. The Toolkit is further supported with a CBC Rural Communities fund of £30,000, for which rural communities can bid for funds of up to £1,000 per project.

6.4. There will continue to be a focus on addressing hidden harms, including launching of the Observers Scheme (a scheme to upskill existing frontline staff to spot the signs of hidden harms and have a reporting mechanism to report concerns) and delivery of a Hidden Harms event to raise awareness with professionals.

7. Changes during the year

7.1. Following significant investment from CBC, Essex Police and CBH, Team 10 (launched in January 2019), has brought almost £600k* of additional resources to address issues of crime and public safety in the Borough and increase public confidence that issues are being addressed.

7.2. Changes to Colchester Police included Chief Inspector Rob Huddleston taking over as the Colchester District Commander and Inspector Jonathan Evans taking over as Community Policing Team Inspector.

7.3. Colchester Police have also seen an increase of four Police Officers in July, enabling the Town Centre Team to grow and ensure a 24-hour coverage of the Town Centre, delivered over three shift patterns. Team 10 was changed to Town Proactive Team to reflect the expansion of resources.

8. The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC)

- 8.1. Cllr Michael Lilley continues to be a member of the Police, Fire and Crime Panel throughout the year, which is the body set up to scrutinise the work of the PFCC. He will be at the meeting to provide an update on the work of the panel and to answer any questions.
- 8.2. The current PFCC, Roger Hirst, held an engagement event in Colchester on 11 October 2018 and members of the public, Councillors and officers attended to hear about the role and work of the PFCC and ask to ask him questions about crime and disorder.
- 8.3. Essex's first ever Fire and Rescue Plan was supported and approved by members of the Police, Fire and Crime Panel in February 2019. The Plan that sets out the vision and priorities for the delivery of fire and rescue services in Essex and will run from 2019 to 2024. The Plan will be the basis on which Mr Hirst holds Essex County Fire and Rescue Service to account for its performance. The document mirrors the Police and Crime Plan which sets the priorities for policing in Essex
- 8.4. The annual PFCC event took place at Colchester Community Stadium on 7 June 2019, with the theme of the event being 'Delivering through Partnerships'. Guests attending were offered the opportunity to take part in two of the six workshops that were on offer, including ECFRS FireBreak, Essex Police Raptor Team Gangs Operations, Colchester United 'Unite Our Communities' Taster, Southend Combat Academy sessions, AlterEgo Theatre Workshop (gangs/county lines/exploitation) and Designing Out Crime.

9. Equality, Diversity and Human Rights implications

- 9.1. No specific Equality and Diversity implications.

10. Strategic Plan References

- 10.1 This work contributes to the Council's Strategic Plan 2018 - 2021 by working in partnership to tackle crime issues and anti-social behaviour. Specific links to 'Responsibility' (*Educate residents who behave antisocially about the impact of their behaviour*) and 'Wellbeing' (*Work with Essex Police and partners in the SCP to make Colchester an even safer place*).

11. Consultation

- 11.1. The Strategic Assessment of Crime 2018-19 was completed in May 2019 and input from partners has informed the partnership plan for the 2019-2020 period.

12. Publicity Considerations

- 12.1. All publicity aims to achieve a positive reflection of the work of the Safer Colchester Partnership. There is a dedicated website, providing information and advice for residents and members of the public – www.safercolchester.co.uk

13. Financial implications

13.1. It is expected that funding for the Partnership's work will continue to be reduced. Therefore, the Partnership will consider the financial sustainability of any project work it undertakes.

14. Community Safety Implications

14.1. The community safety implications are the subject of this report.

15. Health and Safety Implications

15.1. There are no specific health and safety implications.

16. Risk Management Implications

16.1. There are no specific risk management implications.

ACRONYMS:

Abbreviation	Description
APP	Annual Partnership Plan
ASB	Anti-Social Behaviour
CBC	Colchester Borough Council
CBH	Colchester Borough Homes
CBO	Criminal Behaviour Order
CCG	Clinical Commissioning Group
CPN	Community Protection Notice
CPW	Community Protection Warning
CRC	Community Rehabilitation Company
CS	Community Safety
CSP	Community Safety Partnership
ECFRS	Essex County Fire & Rescue Service
FPN	Fixed Penalty Notice
KP's	Key Priorities
PFCC	Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner
SCP	Safer Colchester Partnership

Appendices

- Appendix A - SCP Annual Report Summary 2018-2019
- Appendix B – Town Centre Action Plan
- Appendix C – SCP Annual Partnership Plan 2019-2020
- Appendix D – Town Centre Action Plan: Notable Achievements