

12 September 2017

Report of	Pam Donnelly, Strategic Director for Customer & Relationships	Author	Melanie Rundle
Title	Safer Colchester Partnership		☎ 508816
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 during 2016-17. Included within the report is background information and an explanation of the role of the Safer Colchester Partnership, work undertaken by the Partnership during 2016/17 and priorities for 2017/18. The report also details changes that have occurred during the year and information on the role of the Essex Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC).
- 1.2 At the Crime and Disorder Committee meeting, key stakeholders, including the Colchester Borough Council Portfolio Holder and Strategic Director and Essex Police Chief Inspector will be in attendance 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.

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 Safer Colchester Partnership (SCP) was set up in order to deliver this statutory duty and includes a variety of partners: Colchester Borough Council (CBC), Essex Police, Essex County Fire & Rescue Service (ECFRS), Essex Probation, Community 360 (formerly Colchester Community Voluntary Services), Colchester Garrison, Essex County Council and Colchester Borough Homes (CBH).
- 4.3. In addition, from April 2013 the North East Essex Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) was also required to become a member of the partnership.

- 4.4. There are many areas where the work of agencies overlaps and it is more effective to work in partnership to address issues. For instance, the Police and Essex Probation services have worked together to address reoffending and this has resulted in fewer opportunities for offenders to slip through the net. Also, more effective data sharing between agencies enables partners to target resources to where they are needed most.
- 4.5. The Partnership has a statutory duty to carry out an annual assessment of crime. This involves analysing data on the frequency, location and types of crime in order to identify patterns and trends. The assessment is shared amongst partners and used to develop a shared action plan which prioritises the key local issues and outlines actions to address them. The partnership then monitors this action plan throughout the year, reviewing and refocusing activity as necessary to effectively tackle the issues.

5. The Partnership's work during 2016-17

5.1. The Partnership's action plan for 2016-17 focussed on 5 priorities:

- Protecting vulnerable people
- Reducing reoffending
- Addressing alcohol & drug misuse
- Reducing crime and the fear of crime
- To address evening & night time economy crime

5.2. The End of Year Performance Report which details the specific work and projects undertaken to address these themes is attached at Appendix A.

5.3. Recruitment of a Community Safety Support Officer (DWP funded) for a period of 12 months to work with and support vulnerable adults at risk of being/currently being criminally exploited by gangs. The CSSO started in post on 17th January 2017 and has a rolling caseload of between 15-25 clients.

6. Plans for the Partnership's work during 2017-18

6.1. The priorities for 2017-18 are:

- To reduce the occurrence of violent crime and fear of being a victim of violent crime
- To improve community resilience to reduce the threat of vulnerability and exploitation
- To tackle the incidents of high harm, repeat Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

(The Annual Partnership Plan for 17-18 is attached at Appendix B)

7. Changes during the year

7.1. Community Safety (CS) Hub launched in October 2016 providing the opportunity for multi-agency working. Colchester Policing Team have also now aligned their priorities to that of the CS Hub / SCP, allowing them to identify and protect those that are at the most risk of harm.

There has also recently been a change to the District Commander in Colchester; Chief Inspector Shaun Kane will be introducing two proven concepts which support police teams in carving out proactive policing everyday despite competing demands or resourcing levels, and will be available at the Crime and Disorder Committee meeting to answer any questions on the nature and scale of any local changes.

8. The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)

8.1. Cllr Michael Lilley was a member of the Police and Crime Panel throughout the year, which is the body set up to scrutinise the work of the PCC. 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 PCC, Roger Hirst, held an engagement event in Colchester in January 2017 and invited members of the public to attend. He also worked in partnership with Safer Essex and Essex CVS network to provide a partnership event “Protecting People through Partnerships” in March 2017. The event had over 150 attendees from a variety of organisations with an interest in Community Safety and the feedback was excellent. Workshops included Violence Prevention, Data Sharing, Mental Health and Anti-Social Behaviour.

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 2015-18 by working in partnership to tackle crime issues and tackling anti-social behaviour.

11. Consultation

11.1. The Strategic Assessment of Crime and input from partners has informed the partnership plan for the year.

12. Publicity Considerations

12.1. All publicity tries to achieve a positive reflection of the work of the Safer Colchester Partnership

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 implications.

Appendices

- Appendix A – SCP End of Year Performance Report 2016-17
- Appendix B – SCP Annual Partnership Plan 2017-18

ACRONYMS:

Abbreviation	Description
ASB	Anti-Social Behaviour
CBC	Colchester Borough Council
CBH	Colchester Borough Homes
CCG	Clinical Commissioning Group
CS	Community Safety
CSP	Community Safety Partnership
ECFRS	Essex County Fire & Rescue Service
PCC	Police and Crime Commissioner
SCP	Safer Colchester Partnership