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Report
of

Executive Management
Team

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Title

Safer Colchester Partnership

Wards
affected

All

**The Panel is invited to review the work of the Safer
Colchester Partnership**

1. Action required

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

2. Reason for scrutiny

- 2.1 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 SCP in connection with the discharge by the responsible authorities of their statutory crime and disorder reduction functions.

3. Background information

- 3.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 set 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'.
- 3.2 The Safer Colchester Partnership (SCP) was set up in order to deliver this statutory duty and includes a variety of partners: Colchester Borough Council, Essex Police, Essex Fire, Essex Probation, Colchester Community Voluntary Services, Colchester Garrison, Essex County Council and Colchester Borough Homes.
- 3.3 In addition, from April 2013 the North East Essex Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) was also required to become a member of the partnership.
- 3.4 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 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.
- 3.5 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.

4. The Partnership's work during 2013-14

4.1 The Partnership's action plan for 2013-14 focussed on 4 priorities:

- Addressing domestic abuse
- Reducing reoffending
- Addressing alcohol misuse
- Reducing crime and the fear of crime

Below are some of the highlights from the end of year report which is attached at Appendix 1.

4.2 Addressing domestic abuse (DA):

- The partnership continues to contribute to funding the work of the women's safety worker who during the year worked on 81 cases
- An awareness raising event was in the Town Centre on 24th September 2013
- 23 referrals were received for the Sanctuary Scheme
- An education package and presentation around raising awareness of DA in teenage relationships was developed for delivery into secondary schools across Colchester from September 2013.

4.3 Reducing reoffending:

- From 1 April 2010 Essex Probation Service became a statutory partner of the Partnership, along with a new duty to formulate and implement a strategy to reduce reoffending by both adult and young offenders. Since that time a steering group has been meeting regularly in order to set up the new Integrated Offender Management (IOM) programme for Colchester and Tendring. This enables closer working between the Police and Probation in targeting and supporting offenders both in prison, just before release, and when they have been released. The top issues for offenders remain securing work and accommodation.
- From 1st April 2013, Probation mainstreamed the IOM programme so it now has two Police Officers and five Offender Managers. It has a new and permanent Police Sergeant who will continue to monitor progress throughout 2014-15. The North East Essex area is performing well against other IOM schemes, with a reoffending rate of approximately 23.4% over 2013-14.

4.4 Addressing alcohol misuse:

- The Council provided £80,000 funding towards the purchase and re-fit of a new SOS Bus. The new bus was launched in December 2013
- The Council provided £15K funding in order to set up an outreach project to tackle street drinking. The delivery of this project commenced in October 2013 and the Outreach worker has had contact with 219 street drinkers during October 13 – April 14.
- Information sharing on alcohol related ambulance call-outs and A&E attendances is informing alcohol licensing and police activity
- Partners are working together to tackle street drinking in the town centre

- A Night of Action in the town centre resulted in: : 8 arrests, 3 direction to leave notices issued, 6 'stop and search' carried out, 10 FPN's issued for littering and 7 licensed premises were visited to check licensing conditions, food, health & safety legislation and smoke free compliance.

4.5 To reduce crime and the fear of crime:

A Crucial Crew event for older people was delivered in April 2014 with

- 8 agencies / services giving presentations including Police, Trading Standards, Age UK, Helpline and CVS/Timebank
- all agencies providing additional information on stands/stalls and also included CBH, Essex Carers Support, the Food Bank and the University of the 3rd Age
- 120 attendees with 99% of feedback describing the event as excellent or good

Crucial Crew for younger people was delivered in June 2013 with

- 1568 pupils attending from 63 schools
- Event ran for 2 weeks at the Weston Homes Community Stadium
- 2 sessions per day (Morning & Afternoon)
- 6 scenarios – Road Safety, Fire Safety, Crime & ASB, Rail Safety, Internet Safety, Drugs & Alcohol
- Operation Homeguard has been deployed to over 8500 homes since September 2013 with approx. 40% of these interactions being with the occupier. It now has 11 volunteers and is deployed to burglary.

It is also important to note that several members of the partnership supported a Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) following a murder in Colchester in September 2013. The Panel was chaired by Major Grinonneau from Colchester Garrison who is a member of the partnership. A report has been submitted to the Home Office alongside an action plan of lessons learned and we are hopeful of a response in the near future. New procedures to support the investigation of a DHR are being put in place Essex Wide as they are large pieces of work that do not bring any additional resource.

5. Changes during the year

5.1 Essex Police was significantly restructured during 2014 (Evolve Program) which has resulted in changed resources and structure. Chief Inspector Richard Phillibrown is the District Commander and will be available at the Scrutiny Meeting to answer any questions on the nature and scale of the changes. It is important to note that the police remain committed to the work of the partnership and joint working on its priorities, and have worked with council officers to ensure that, where possible, all joint projects maintain a police resource.

5.2 Essex Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC) – formerly Essex Probation Trust

Significant changes are taking place within the Probation Service with an estimated 70% of its work being offered out to other organisations to deliver and 30% remaining with the Probation Service. The 70% is made up of low to medium risk offenders (the CRC) whilst the 30% is made up of higher risk (National Probation Service - NPS). At the time of writing, the bids are in for the CRC, including a staff mutual from within Essex - Aspire2 Change, and we expect to find out the preferred bidders in the Autumn. In Essex, the staff split has been completed and they are now working closely as two separate organisations with

new processes and procedures, but ultimately delivering the same product.

The next stage will be when the new providers are known and start to implement their new models. There are some legislative changes which will come into effect at the point of share sale, namely that those sentenced to under 12 months custody will now have a statutory requirement to engage with a service for a minimum of 12 months. Additionally, within this change it is expected that Chelmsford Prison will become a resettlement prison where only Essex offenders will serve time and it will therefore be easier to maintain links to their families and communities. It is important to note that initiatives such as Integrated Offender Management (IOM) will not disappear and will continue to be a focal point of any future provider.

6. The Police and Crime Commissioner

- 6.1 Cllr Tim Young is a member of the Police and Crime Panel which is the body set up to scrutinise the work of the Police and Crime Commissioner. Cllr Young will be at the committee meeting to provide an update on the work of the Panel and to answer any questions on its work.
- 6.2 The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), Nick Alston held a public engagement event in Colchester on 25th June 2014. The event had very low attendance from residents and he is considering the format of future events. These events are aimed at hearing first hand from residents about the community safety issues that affect them.
- 6.3 The Assistant Director for Commissioning, Greg Middleton, is reviewing the funding allocation for local authorities in future years and is giving consideration to allocating on the basis of population. A decision will be made in the autumn.

7. Plans for the Partnership's work during 2014-15

- 7.1 For 2014-15 the Partnership has varied the priorities slightly and they are now:

- Protecting Vulnerable People
- Reducing reoffending
- Addressing alcohol misuse
- Reducing crime and the fear of crime

(The Partnership's plan for 14-15 is attached at Appendix 2).

- 7.2 The Chair of the Partnership has begun a review of the work conducted at the Responsible Authorities Group (RAG) meetings. She is keen to see greater focus on work that is over and above 'business as usual' from partners. There will be a new structure which will allow the RAG to focus on the strategic vision for the partnership, whilst the focus groups will perform the delivery of specific projects. This will allow the partnership to react to emerging priorities throughout the year and perform a more responsive role if and when issues arise. The Chair will work closely with all partners to ensure these changes are developed collaboratively.

8. Strategic Plan references

- 8.1 This work contributes to the Council's Strategic Plan 2012-15 by working in partnership to tackle crime issues and tackling anti-social behaviour.

9. Consultation

- 9.1 The Partnership results of this have informed the partnership plan for the year. In addition, Community Days of Action are preceded by a two day consultation

period where local residents are encouraged to identify the issues in their local area that need tackling.

10. Publicity considerations

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

11. Financial implications

- 11.1 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.

12. Human Rights implications

- 12.1 There are no specific human rights implications

13. Equality and Diversity implications

- 13.1 There are no specific equality and diversity implications

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.

Background Papers

Appendix 1 – The Safer Colchester Partnership end of year Performance Report 13-14
Appendix 2 - The Safer Colchester Partnership annual partnership plan 14-15.