

**15 September 2020**

<b>Report of</b>	<b>Strategic Director for Customer &amp; Relationships</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Sonia Carr</b> ☎ 282978
<b>Title</b>	<b>Safer Colchester Partnership</b>		
<b>Wards affected</b>	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 March 2020 – September 2020. Included within the report is background information and an explanation of the role of the Safer Colchester Partnership, work undertaken by the Partnership during March 2020 – September 2020 and future priorities for '20/21.
- 1.2. Appendices are provided from the Statutory members of the SCP (including Health, National Probation Service (NPS), Essex Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC), Essex County Council (ECC), Essex Fire and Rescue (ECFRS) and Essex Police) to deliver more detailed partner information on performance/activities linked to the SCP and their own priorities.
- 1.3. At the Crime and Disorder Committee meeting, key stakeholders, including the Colchester Borough Council Portfolio Holder and Executive Director, Colchester District Commander (North Local Policing Area) Essex Police and Senior representatives from other statutory and non-statutory partner agencies 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 at least 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. However, during the 'annual' Crime and Disorder Committee Panel meeting on 10 September 2019; the Committee requested that there be two Panel meetings per year (taking place in March and September) so that they could receive and discuss performance data and statistics from the statutory partners of the Safer Colchester Partnership. This motion was agreed by the Chair of the SCP.

#### **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, North Essex Children's and Families Service and North Essex Adult Social Care, Essex Ambulance, Essex Youth Service, Colchester BID and Colchester Institute became members of the Partnership during 2019.
- 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 'Strategic Assessment of Crime'. This involves analysing data on the frequency, location and types of crime (over the period 1st October – 30th September) in order to identify patterns and trends. The CBC Community Safety Team, alongside Essex Police's Intelligence Analyst, lead on the delivery of this Assessment and, once completed, it is shared amongst SCP partners and used to develop the SCP Annual Partnership Plan (for the period 1 April - 31 March) which prioritises the key local issues and outlines actions to address them. The SCP then monitors this Annual Plan throughout the financial year, reviewing and refocusing activity as necessary to effectively tackle the issues.

#### **5. The Partnership's work during 2020-2021 (to September 2020)**

- 5.1. Following completion of the Strategic Assessment of Crime 2019-20, the SCP identified the following Key Priorities for the period April 2020 - March 2021:
- Tackling Organised Crime, Gangs and County lines with an emphasis on Drug Trafficking

The Safer Colchester Partnership will continue to develop the intelligence and awareness picture of this escalating criminality, especially focusing on Drug Trafficking. To best tackle this issue the Safer Colchester Partnership will strive to provide appropriate safeguarding and support to those vulnerable to this type of drug-related exploitation with a further aim to assist in the disruption of drug-related activities within the community.

- Driving down Anti-Social Behaviour and Violent Crime in public, focussing on Hate Crime

The Safer Colchester Partnership will use all available resources and legislation, including utilising the four standing Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs), to tackling 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. With a further emphasis on Hate Crime as identified by the risk matrix, addressing this type of behaviour and conduct can help improve the community quality of life.

- Identifying and supporting the reporting of Hidden Harms with a proactive approach to those at risk of Domestic Abuse and Sexual Offences

The Safer Colchester Partnership will aim to increase the understanding and awareness, to 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 Sexual Offences as identified by the risk matrix.

5.2. The SCP Annual Partnership Plan 2020-21 details the specific work and projects undertaken to address these themes (to date) - attached as Appendix A.

5.3 Updates from statutory members of the SCP, specifically relating to their response during the COVID-19 pandemic, including Health (CCG), National Probation Service (NPS), Essex Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC), Essex County Council (Children's Services), Essex Fire and Rescue (ECFRS) and Essex Police are included as Appendix B.

## **6. Plans for the Partnership's work during October 2020- March 2021**

6.1. As detailed in 5.1, the Key Priorities for the period including October 2020 – March 2021 are:

- Tackling Organised Crime, Gangs and County lines with an emphasis on Drug Trafficking
- Driving down Anti-Social Behaviour and Violent Crime in public, focussing on Hate Crime
- Identifying and supporting the reporting of Hidden harms with a proactive approach to those at risk of Domestic Abuse and Sexual Offences

6.2. The Annual Partnership Plan for 20-21 will continue until March 2021.

## **7. Changes during the year to date**

- 7.1. Essex Police has expanded its Community Policing Team to include a Community Safety and Engagement Officer.
- 7.2. Successful partnership working between all agencies in response to the global COVID-19 pandemic, including increased contact with Public Health.
- 7.3. Mobilisation of CBC Community Response Team to provide support and assistance to residents across the Borough during the pandemic, along with a Communities Support Pack containing useful information and contacts.
- 7.4. Sharing of internal resources to respond to the significant increase in anti-social behaviour reports (such as noise nuisance, residential bonfires) through the initial 'lockdown' period.
- 7.5. The Licensing Food and Safety Team have been responding to all complaints and enquiries in relation to COVID 19 regulations and subsequent guidance. Visits have taken place obeying risk assessments and PPE requirements. Providing advice, and enforcement when required, working closely Police and Public Health England in regard to Outbreak Control Planning.
- 7.6. Successful bid to the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government for the Together we Can project. To support Recovery Refuge, Community based support and Resettlement programme, specialist support for CYP affected by domestic abuse, and implement new housing interventions.
- 7.7. Colchester Borough Homes has aligned its recovery plan to meet the objectives of the Councils Housing strategy: Providing advice and support to Landlords and tenants to prevent homelessness / Identifying accommodation and support for those who are rough sleeping / Working with local charities and voluntary organisations to target support for those who are homeless.
- 7.8. Further recovery planning undertaken including how the Council will assess and respond to, should it be necessary, to the need for local lockdown due to increased coronavirus cases in the community.

## **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 PFCC funded free training for businesses, through Alpha Vesta, to raise awareness of Domestic Abuse.

8.3. Essex County Fire & Rescue Service worked in partnership with East of England Ambulance Service Trust during the pandemic. On call firefighters have driven ambulances to support the increased demand.

## **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 tackling anti-social behaviour. Specific links to:

- Responsibility (*Educate residents who behave antisocially about the impact of their behaviour*)
- 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 2019-20 was completed in January 2020 and has been used to identify the Key Priorities for the SCP for 2020-2021.

## **12. Publicity Considerations**

12.1. All publicity aims to achieve a positive reflection of the work of the SCP. There is a dedicated website, providing information and advice for residents and members of the public – [www.safercolchester.co.uk](http://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 implications.

**ACRONYMS:**

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

**Appendices:**

- Appendix A                SCP Annual Partnership Plan 2020-2021
- Appendix B                Statutory Partner Updates relating to COVID-19 response