



Crime and Disorder Committee

Item
7

16 February 2021

Report of

Strategic Director for Customer & Relationships

Author

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Title

Safer Colchester Partnership

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 2020 – February 2021. 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 2020 – February 2021 and future priorities for 2021/22.
- 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. For 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 February/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. 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.
- 4.3. 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.
- 4.4. 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 February 2021)

- 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 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.

As per the Committee's request these updates include specific references to the following areas in relevant partner updates:

- Covid related activities and impacts
- Crime data
- County Lines Information
- Covid Marshals
- Police roles and changes
- Domestic Abuse both from Police and Next Chapter
- Parish and Town Council feedback on perceptions of crime.

6. Plans for the Partnership's work during March 2021- September 2021

- 6.1. The Strategic Assessment of Crime 2020-21 was completed in December 2020. The pandemic restrictions have impacted on crime committed and reported in 2020 resulting in crime types experiencing unprecedented significantly reduced or increased levels. As restrictions have changed, crime levels have continually readjusted. As the data set significantly reflects crime within a pandemic environment the data may not accurately inform priorities for the following year where similar restrictions may not be in place. In this circumstance, the Partnership has agreed to adopt the priorities identified in the previous assessment for the year 2021-22 as there has not been an opportunity to address them.

Therefore, as last year, the priorities for the coming year April 2021-March 2022 will be as below:

- 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 2021-22 will commence at the end of March 2021.

7. Changes during the year to date

- 7.1. Employment by the local authority of a Covid Co-ordinator and Covid Marshals to support public compliance with Government guidelines. Covid Marshals have been working closely with Essex Police, Business Improvement District and Council Neighbourhood Teams.
- 7.2. Successful partnership working between all agencies in response to the global COVID-19 pandemic, including increased contact with Public Health and adapted ways of working.
- 7.3. The CBC Community Response Team has continued to provide support and assistance to residents across the Borough and issued up-to-date guidance through revised versions of a Communities Support Pack.
- 7.4. Further recovery planning undertaken including the set-up of a Covid Testing Centre in Colchester, and the support at a local level of the Test and Trace process.

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

- 8.1. The PFCC will be in attendance at the meeting.
- 8.2. 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.

- 8.3. The PFCC for Essex's Community Safety Development Fund enables voluntary and community safety groups from across Essex to apply for funding. This is to help prevent and tackle crime and anti-social behaviour in Essex and support vulnerable people.

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 2020-2023. Under 'Creating safe, healthy and active communities', the priority to 'Provide opportunities for young people', includes key goals to tackle crime issues and tackling anti-social behaviour. Specifically:

- Provide positive opportunities for young people to engage with their local community and do things that interests them, keeps them safe, makes them happy and supports improved mental wellbeing.
- Support the creation of strong, safe, and friendly communities that care about each other.
- Work with Essex Police, Colchester Borough Homes, Essex Youth Service and other partners to reduce anti-social behaviour and tackle serious crime.
- Work alongside our partners to improve cleanliness and community safety in the town centre.
- Upgrade and extend the CCTV network to reach more places.

11. Consultation

- 11.1. The Strategic Assessment of Crime 2020-21 was completed in December 2020 and has been used to identify the Key Priorities for the SCP for 2021-22.

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

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:

Abbreviation	Description
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
KP's	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
- Appendix C Community Assets Mapping
- Appendix D Parish Council Updates
- Appendix E Domestic Abuse Update
- Appendix F Domestic Abuse supporting data
- Appendix G Domestic Abuse excel data
- Appendix H CRC – Community Payback