

11 September 2018

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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 during 2017-18. Included within the report is background information and an explanation of the role of the Safer Colchester Partnership, work undertaken by the Partnership during 2017/18 and priorities for 2018/19. The report also details changes that have occurred during the year and information on the role of the Essex Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (PCC).
- 1.2. At the Crime and Disorder Committee meeting, key stakeholders, including the Colchester Borough Council Portfolio Holder and Executive 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, Essex Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC) Community 360 (formerly Colchester Community Voluntary Services), Colchester Garrison, Essex County Council, Colchester Borough Homes (CBH) and Essex University.

- 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 2017-18

5.1. The Partnership's action plan for 2017-18 focussed on 3 priorities:

- 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)

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 Funding secured to extend contract for Community Safety Support Officer for a period of 12 months to work with and support vulnerable adults at risk of being/currently being criminally exploited by gangs.

5.4 Gangsline were commissioned by the PFCC in 2016 to deliver 1-2-1 mentoring, school assemblies and professionals training to raise awareness and build resilience against the negative influences of street gang culture. Its mentoring service provides a proactive and reactive approach that offers support and exit strategies to young men and women involved in gangs, and an effective prevention service to young people on the peripheries of gang activity. In schools, and with professionals training the hard-hitting presentation teaches the young people about local gangs, the makeup of a gang member, female sexual exploitation, grooming and initiation into gangs and the dangers of drugs. In 2017/ 2018, Gangsline delivered assemblies to 95 pupils in Colchester, and reaching 1500 pupils in the early part of 2018. To date, 105 frontline professionals have received the awareness session, with a further 100 scheduled to attend later this year.

5.5 In January 2018, A Detached Youth Work project was delivered by the Youth Service, running alongside some work with Essex University. The aims were to identify and implement the necessary interventions to tackle and reduce levels of youth anti-social behaviour (ASB) within two 'hotspot' areas of Colchester. The Detached Youth Work acted as a disruption activity to disperse potential criminal activity, but with working alongside young people they can raise their awareness of the grooming process and their own vulnerabilities.

6. Plans for the Partnership's work during 2018-19

6.1. The priorities for 2018-19 are:

- 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

6.2 *(The Annual Partnership Plan for 18-19 is attached at Appendix B)*

6.3 Public Space Protection Order (PSPO)

Following a partnership review of the PSPO in July 2018, the decision was taken for it to remain in place for the full 3 year term. An Action plan has been put in place to ensure all relevant issues are tackled and partners work together to implement long term solutions.

7. Changes during the year

7.1. Police colleagues have implemented 2 new significant projects in the borough in the last 12 months:

7.2 Operation Diss

7.3 This multi-agency operation targets ASB linked to:

- Begging - passive or active or aggressive
- Street Drinking - often in groups that appear intimidating
- Use of foul and abusive language
- Drunkenness or intoxication through drugs.

7.4 The operation is aimed at ensuring that the community can enjoy the town centre without fear of being intimidated / threatened or begged for money or have to witness anti-social behaviour.

7.5 Street Weeks

7.6 This is a high visibility multi-agency location focused initiative which involves partners working together at street level to support local communities in tackling local issues.

7.6 The initiative is aimed at promoting a better quality of life in our communities together with transforming the way public services are delivered by ensuring that they are joined up, pro-active, intelligence led, responsive and visible.

7.7 This multi-agency approach includes activities aimed at:

- Reducing Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)
- Establishing local Community Care Plans
- Proactive identification of Hidden Harm and Vulnerability
- Increasing Community Safety, Confidence and Satisfaction
- Targeting Quality of Life issues by having the right people from the right agencies in the right place working together at the right time
- Proactive multi-agency interventions to reduce reoffending

7.8 Chief Inspector Shaun Kane will be available at the Scrutiny Meeting to answer any questions on the nature and scale of any projects.

8. The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)

8.1. Cllr Michael Lilley was 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 in January November 2017 and invited members of the public to attend. He also worked in partnership with Safer Essex to provide a partnership event “Partnerships in Action” in March 2018. The event had over 150 attendees from a variety of organisations with an interest in Community Safety and the feedback was excellent.

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. 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.

Appendices

- Appendix A – SCP End of Year Performance Report 2017-18
- Appendix B – SCP Annual Partnership Plan 2018-19

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