

15 September 2015

Report of	Executive Management Team	Author	Melanie Rundle ☎ 282541
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 the 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 2014-15

- 4.1 The Partnership's action plan for 2014-15 focussed on 4 priorities:

- Protecting vulnerable people
- 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 Protecting Vulnerable People:

- The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 became legislation on 13 March 2014. The act introduced new powers to support vulnerable people through a "Community trigger", recognising that vulnerable people are more likely to be victims of ASB. It provides an opportunity to consider better support for and focus on victims.
- The partnership has established information and reporting via the CBC web site and quarterly meetings with relevant agencies, housing and support providers are held quarterly to review ASB cases.
- Older People Crucial Crew delivered in March 2015 with 140 guests attending.
- A Domestic Abuse (DA) awareness raising event was held in the Town Centre on 17th July 2014
- 68 requests for a HRDV (high risk domestic abuse) home security visits to be carried out
- An education package and presentation around raising awareness of DA in teenage relationships was delivered into all secondary schools across Colchester by ACE from July 2014.
- CBH funded a Firebreak 2014/15 (March 2015) for 12 young people. The aim of Firebreak is to assist each young person in their development, both mentally and physically, whilst promoting discipline, social consciousness and community awareness.
- CBH have planned in another Firebreak for later this year, and have also funded and worked in partnership with the Academy and delivered a Crime and Safety Awareness Day for approx. 200 young people "Prison me no Way".

4.3 Reducing reoffending:

- IOM in the North of Essex has continued to perform well and make improvements in the way we have worked. In 2014-2015 we had the benefit of an IOM Link Worker which proved a really valuable resource for us to develop closer links with agencies and also perform some additional mentoring and advice for the members of the cohort which were making good progress. Through this we devised a 'drop in service' using a Church in Colchester for members of the cohort and the public in general, which proved a positive pilot. We have also improved our links with agencies such as Open Road, WDP and Beacon House and they have returned to attending the LAG meetings which is positive.

However, we have been without a Link Worker for 3 months and this has been a frustration as we had been making good progress. Hopefully in 2015-2016 we will be able to recruit again for this role.

- The number of IOM cases for Colchester is approximately 40 strong as we stand today, with the majority of the offenders categorised as 'Red offenders' which include those who are non-compliant, are subject to court orders, have outstanding warrants, are 'wanted', are subject to recall, are on bail or where significant intelligence suggests reoffending.

There is good work being done around linking up with local employers and training courses to assist in ensuring those offenders categorised as 'Amber offenders' (including those who are subject to new orders, those who are new to the area and 'unqualified' on the IOM scheme, those who display changes in their behaviour, or where there is an indication of a return to/continued offending) move on to become 'Green offenders' (which include those engaging or complying with the IOM team, those who are complying with statutory orders and where there is no significant intelligence indicating reoffending) and make further progress.

4.4 Addressing alcohol misuse:

- The CSP provided £2K funding in order to support the continuation of the outreach project to tackle street drinking. The Outreach worker has had contact with 340 street drinkers during April 14 – March 15.
- Information sharing on alcohol related ambulance call-outs and A&E attendances is informing alcohol licensing and police activity
- Consultation conducted to establish feasibility of replacing glasses in local pubs with polycarbonate drinking vessels and funding provided to run a Pilot which commenced 7th August 2015.

4.5 To reduce crime and the fear of crime:

Crucial Crew for younger people was delivered in June 2015 with

- 2022 pupils attending from 63 schools
 - Event ran for 2 weeks at the Weston Homes Community Stadium
 - 2 sessions per day (Morning & Afternoon)
 - 7 scenarios – Road Safety, Fire Safety, Anti-Social Behaviour, Internet Safety, Alcohol Awareness, Knife Crime Awareness and Smoking Awareness
- Operation Homeguard has deployed to over 12,500 homes since being set up with approx. 40% of these interactions being with the occupier. It now has 12 volunteers and is deployed to identify hotspots across the District against burglary, car crime and many other crime types to support local communities.

It is also important to note that several members of the partnership supported a 2nd Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) following a murder in Colchester in May 2014. The Panel was chaired by David Murthwaite (former Police Divisional Commander). The report and action plan have been confirmed as adequate by the Home Office. 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. The Evolve programme

created some changes in September 2014 and there will be further changes under the same programme commencing September this year.

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

Essex CRC is now over a year old, and is now owned by Sodexo under their Sodexo Justices Company. Share sale of the CRC took place in February 2015 with Sodexo winning contracts of 5 other CRC areas, including Norfolk and Suffolk. Essex CRC remains in a process of transition while still delivering business as usual. Over the next year there will be further changes to the CRC, with office locations and the model of delivery changing before March 2016. Updates will be given to partners as and when they become available.

Essex CRC remains committed in terms of resources and vision to the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) in the Colchester area and across Essex. Through The Gate provision is also beginning to take effect from the resettlement prisons which cover Essex - Chelmsford, Holloway and Highpoint. This will deliver a much more joined up approach to managing cases sentenced to short and long term custody periods.

During 2014-2015 we have seen the introduction of the Offender Rehabilitation Act (ORA) which came into effect on 1st February 2015. The implementation of ORA has run alongside Transforming Rehabilitation and which has seen the privatisation of some Probation Services. ORA have seen significant changes to the way offenders are managed and the statutory of responsibility of the NPS and CRCs. The main change has seen Probation Services take on responsibility for all offenders who receive at least 1 day in a custodial setting. This supervision lasts for a minimum of 12 months within the community and aims to target the offenders who are known to re-offend consistently and have not received long term custody."

Through The Gate (TTG)

As part of the Transforming Rehabilitation there has been a new emphasis on the work with the journey of offenders through their time in custody and into the community. This has resulted in TTG services being developed and we are now seeing this system coming into effect. In Essex, the CRC now has a presence within HMP Chelmsford, HMP Highpoint and HMP Holloway and this enables us to have a more holistic and consistent approach to the offenders being released from these prisons.

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 an event in Colchester on 14th January 2015 called 'Two Years on'. The event had over 250 attendees from a variety of organisations with an interest in Community Safety and the feedback was excellent. Workshops included Tackling Hidden Harm, Mental Health, VCS Capacity Building, Reducing Reoffending and Community Resolution and Out of Court Disposals.
- 6.3 The Assistant Director for Commissioning, Greg Myddleton, alongside some of the Essex CSP Managers, has reviewed the funding allocation for local authorities and a new criteria has been adopted. This has meant an increase of funding for Colchester CSP of £9,581 for 2015/16.

7. Plans for the Partnership's work during 2015-16

7.1 For 2015-16 the Partnership priorities are:

- Protecting Vulnerable People
 - Reducing reoffending
 - Addressing alcohol and drug misuse
 - Reducing crime and the fear of crime
- (The Partnership's plan for 15-16 is attached at Appendix 2).

7.2 The Chair of the Partnership has undertaken 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 is a new structure in place 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. The two groups are now known at the Responsible Authorities Strategic Group (RASG) and the Safer Colchester Operating Group (SCOG). 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 has worked very closely with all partners to ensure these changes were implemented collaboratively.

8. Strategic Plan references

8.1 This work contributes to the Council's Strategic Plan 2015-18 by working in partnership to tackle crime issues and tackling anti-social behaviour.

9. Consultation

9.1 The Strategic Assessment of Crime and input from partners has 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 14-15

Appendix 2 - The Safer Colchester Partnership annual partnership plan 15-16.