

26 February 2019

**Report
of
Title**

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Customer & Relationships
Safer Colchester Partnership**

Author

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**Wards
affected**

All

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. This interim report provides the Crime and Disorder Committee with the opportunity to review the work of the Safer Colchester Partnership during the period September 2018 – January 2019. 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 2018 – January 2019 and priorities for 2018/19.
- 1.2. At the Crime and Disorder Committee meeting, key stakeholders, including the Colchester Borough Council Portfolio Holder and Executive Director and Senior Essex Police representative 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. However, the Panel agreed at the last meeting on 11/09/2018 that it would be useful to hold an additional meeting of the Crime and Disorder Committee towards the end of the municipal year to review the plans for the Safer Colchester Partnership for 2019-20.

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' and membership (both statutory and non-statutory) remain the same as those listed in previous report dated September 2018 (point 4.2).
- 4.2. In addition, since September 2018, North Essex Children's and Families Service and North Essex Adult Social Care became members of the Partnership. Furthermore, following a recommendation from the last Crime and Disorder Review Panel meeting on 11/09/2018, Colchester BID have also become a member of the Partnership.

- 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 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. Please refer to point 11.1 below for further detail.

5. The Partnership's work during September 18 - January 2019

- 5.1. The Partnership's action plan for 2018-19 continues to focus on 4 priorities:
- 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
- 5.2. The End of Year Performance Report which details the specific work and projects undertaken to address these themes will be produced in April 2019. An example of a couple of projects are detailed below:

5.3 TCAP (Town Centre Action Plan)

A multi-agency Town Centre Action Plan (TCAP) came into force in July 2018, to tackle the persistent issues of begging, street drinking, anti-social behaviour and drug use/selling. The TCAP consists of a package of enforcement, support, awareness and education. The TCAP is supported by a weekly partner meeting which came into force on 6th August 2018, at which Police, Colchester Borough Council, Colchester Borough Homes, Essex CRC and National Probation Service meet to confidentially discuss those individuals who are causing harm, distress or harassment to the public and actions agreed. Alongside the individuals, 'hotspot' locations experiencing anti-social behaviour and crime are also discussed and a course of action to tackle those areas are agreed. These meetings are proving to be invaluable in terms of partnership working and having a full picture of activity in the Town Centre.

A presentation on TCAP will be taking place at the Crime and Disorder Committee meeting.

6. Plans for the Partnership's work during the remaining period February – March 2019

- 6.1. To continue the focus on 4 priorities detailed in point 5.1 above.
- 6.2 The Annual Partnership Plan for 18-19 is attached at Appendix A and will be fully updated for end of year reporting in March 2019.

7. Changes during the year

7.1 Team 10

With the primary objective of tackling and addressing ASB, begging and street drinking, a proposal to create a 'Team of 10' assigned to the Castle ward and the geographical area of the Public Space Protection Order was introduced.

Following significant investment from CBC, Essex Police and CBH, Team 10 (launched January 2019), has brought almost £600k of additional resources to address issues of crime and public safety in the Borough and increase public confidence that issues are being addressed.

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 current PFCC, Roger Hirst, held an engagement event in Colchester in October 2018 and members of the public, Councillors and Officers attended to hear about the role and work of the PFCC and ask to ask him questions about Crime and Disorder.

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.

11. Consultation

- 11.1. The Strategic Assessment of Crime and input from partners informed the partnership plan for the 2018-19 period. SCP are currently undertaking a Strategic Assessment of Crime to inform the partnership plan for the period 2019-20 and the target date for completion is 1st March 2019.

12. Publicity Considerations

- 12.1 All publicity aims 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 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
PFCC	Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner
SCP	Safer Colchester Partnership