

20 September 2016

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 Safer Colchester Partnership 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 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'.
- 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 (CBC), Essex Police, Essex County Fire & Rescue Service (ECFRS), Essex Probation, Colchester Community Voluntary Services, Colchester Garrison, Essex County Council and Colchester Borough Homes (CBH).
- 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 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.
- 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 2015-16

4.1 The Partnership's action plan for 2015-16 focussed on 4 priorities:

- Protecting vulnerable people
- Reducing reoffending
- Addressing alcohol & drug misuse
- Reducing crime and the fear of crime

Below are some of the highlights from the SCP end of year Performance Report 15-16 which is attached at Appendix 1.

KP1 Protect Vulnerable People

- **Domestic Abuse (DA) awareness raising event** held on 27/11/15 in Town Centre (via a Market Stall) where representatives from CBC, Colchester and Tendring Women's Refuge and CBH saw between 200-300 people and handed out 100 information packs (containing a DA Directory, freebies showing the national helpline numbers, panic alarms, torches, information on the Women's Refuge and information on Safer Places Mens Services). 5 DA victims were also directly signposted to local agencies for further help.
- **An Older Peoples Crucial Crew** event successfully delivered 27/03/15 providing personal safety, fire home safety, trading standards/rogue traders, street safety, gas safety, mobile phone advice, first aid and falls prevention sessions to 150 guests.
- **Supporting people with chaotic lifestyles** project launched Sept 2015, working with Catch 22, to provide targeted support work for approx.. 6-10 repeat victims of anti-social behaviour
- **A Keeping Safe in Colchester** event took place on 16/06/15 where 60 vulnerable adults living in the community and their family/carer received a safety input from a number of agencies including Essex Police (home security), ECFRS (home fire safety), Keep Safe Scheme and Colchester Helpline.

KP2 Reduce Reoffending

- **The DRIVE Project** pilot – a domestic abuse perpetrator programme encouraging behaviour change in those perpetrators not yet in the criminal justice system – started January 2016, with referrals accepted from March 2016 (as of July 2016, the project had received referrals for 15 Colchester cases and are allocating approximately 1 new case per week from Colchester area)

KP3 Address Alcohol & Drug Misuse

- **A 6 month pilot to trial the use of virtually unbreakable 'polycarbonate' drinkware** successfully took place with Elysium Group during August 2015 – February 2016. During the pilot, there were no incidents of broken glass causing injuries to customers or staff inside or outside the 2 venues (Qube Bar and Hudson Cellar) and the bars have continued to use the drinkware in both high risk areas.

- **A Fire Break Scheme**, to tackle the implications of drug and alcohol misuse in young people, was successfully delivered by ECFRS and Anglian Community Enterprise (ACE) in Colchester Fire Station in Oct 2015.
- **A Public Space Protection Order (PSPO)** was initiated in September 2015 to prohibit opened alcoholic drinking vessels and begging in the St Botolphs and Priory Street

KP4 Reduce Crime & Fear of Crime

- **Younger Peoples Crucial Crew 2015** event successfully delivered over 2 weeks in June 2015 to 2022 year 6 children from 63 Colchester schools. 7 community safety scenarios were delivered to the children, these being fire safety, road safety, internet safety, smoking awareness, Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), knife crime awareness & alcohol awareness.
- **An Autumn Community Day of Action (CDoA)** event was held in Lexden on 25/09/15, in partnership with Kingsland Church, to tackle those issues affecting the local residents and also to focus specifically on Crime Prevention and Fear of Crime involving organisations from both the public and private sector.
- **A Spring Community Day of Action (CDoA) event** successfully took place in Greenstead on 11/03/16 in partnership with Greenstead Community Centre and Essex University Volunteers Team, with 24 agencies participating.
- **Your Kindness Kills**, a multi-agency project looking at tackling the issue of street begging in Town Centre by changing behaviour and educating the 'kind hearted' members of the public that currently give money to 'homeless beggars' was launched in September 2015 in Town Centre with multi-agency presence.
- Phase 2 of the **Knives Amnesty** and awareness campaign launched in March 2016 resulting in second large amnesty bin being placed in Colchester town centre (Vineyard Street).
- **A Multi-Agency Partnership Hub** is being created at Colchester Police Station to focus on problem solving, crime prevention and community enabling.
- Focus on raising awareness of **Organised Gangs and 'Cuckooing'** resulting in a poster being produced by Essex Police in May 2015. Multi-agency work currently underway looking at preventative measures and support for those at risk
- **A Fire Break Scheme**, to tackle the implications of anti-social behaviour in young people, was successfully delivered in Colchester Fire Station in November 2015
- **A Prison Me No Way** project successfully delivered into Colchester Academy, years 10 & 11, in November 2015
- **Multi-agency patrols**, including CBC, ECFRS, Police and Essex University, took place to deliver crime reduction, home fire safety, personal safety and recycling/litter advice to students in Greenstead area (due to an increase in burglaries in the area) in Oct 2015. Further patrols took place Jan 2016.

5. Changes during the year

- 5.1 On the 1st April 2016, Colchester Policing Team restructured and aligned their priorities to that of the SCP. This enables them to identify and protect those that are at the most risk of harm.

Chief Inspector Elliott Judge is the District Commander and will be available at the Scrutiny Meeting to answer any questions on the nature and scale of the changes.

6. The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)

- 6.1 Cllr Tim Young was a member of the Police and Crime Panel throughout the year, which is the body set up to scrutinise the work of the PCC. Cllr Lilley now has Community Safety in his Portfolio and will be at the meeting to provide an update on the work of the panel and to answer any questions.
- 6.2 The previous PCC for 15/16 Nick Alston held an event in Colchester on 26th January 2016 called 'Hidden Harms'. The event had over 280 attendees from a variety of organisations with an interest in Community Safety and the feedback was excellent. Workshops included Modern Slavery, Hate Crime, Elder Abuse, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence.

7. Plans for the Partnership's work during 2016-17

- 7.1 The priorities for 2016-17 are:
- Protecting vulnerable people
 - Reducing reoffending
 - Addressing alcohol and drug misuse
 - Reducing crime and the fear of crime

(The Annual Partnership Plan for 16-17 is attached at Appendix 2)

- 7.2 The Partnership reflected on feedback provided by the Crime and Disorder Committee last year and have devised a 3 year strategy, which sets out our vision and how we will achieve this with partners. This Strategy is attached as Appendix 3.
- 7.3 A new website was launched in May www.safercolchester.co.uk, which has had input from all partners. This website will be regularly maintained, to ensure residents can access information, advice and guidance about keeping safe in Colchester.
- 7.4 There are several emerging themes we have become aware of during the previous year, such as gang violence, modern slavery and child sexual exploitation. We are working with all partners to respond to these areas and put in place relevant policies and procedures, projects and training to ensure we are able to deal with these issues when they arise or prevent them from happening. As part of this piece of work we have commissioned a Local Assessment Process Review in partnership with the Institute of Community Safety, to provide insight around violence and vulnerability locally and formulate an action plan going forward.

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 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 15-16

Appendix 2 – The Safer Colchester Partnership annual partnership plan 16-17

Appendix 3 – SCP Strategy 2016-19

ACRONYMS:

Abbreviation	Description
ASB	Anti-Social Behaviour
ACE	Anglian Community Enterprise
CBC	Colchester Borough Council
CBH	Colchester Borough Homes
CCG	Clinical Commissioning Group
CDoA	Community Day of Action
CSP	Community Safety Partnership
DA	Domestic Abuse
ECFRS	Essex County Fire & Rescue Service
PCC	Police and Crime Commissioner
PSPO	Public Space Protection Orders
SCP	Safer Colchester Partnership

GLOSSARY:

Name	Description
ACE	A social enterprise providing a wide range of NHS Community Health Services
Catch 22	A registered charity working in communities to deliver bespoke support work
CCG	North East Essex Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is made up of the 43 GP practices in North East. The CCG is responsible for planning and buying most of the health services for the people of North East Essex
Colchester Helpline	Helpline provide 24 hour service that supports customers in their own home and the service is tailored to meet their needs. Helpline offer two services - Monitoring Only and Monitoring and Response
DA Directory	A directory of services available for people affected by Domestic Abuse
Firebreak	The Firebreak programme aims to promote a culture of safety and team work and citizenship by teaching a range of vital life skills whilst undertaking the various disciplines of the Fire Service. The course provides a learning environment that combines practical skills and scenario based training, with classroom centred theory/discussion workshops.
Keep Safe scheme	Keep Safe is a free scheme to help anyone with a learning disability living in the Colchester Borough. Venues across the town display the Keep Safe sticker and will offer the use of a telephone or will make a phone call for members if they are in need. For example, if they lose their keys, telephone or wallet, or they are distressed in any way.
Local Assessment Process Review	A coordinated Local Assessment Process (LAP) for partnerships and forces The LAP will help local areas understand a new type of organised crime, which operates much more in private rather than public space, could be described as 'hidden', is not fully understood and is powered by the illegal drugs market.
Polycarbonate drinkware	Polycarbonate Drinking Vessels (PDVs) are a high quality, virtually unbreakable drink-ware range possessing benefits not found in traditional glass vessels or other plastic alternatives. Manufactured from a shatter-proof material, they help create a better environment by removing the risk of damage to floors and furnishing as well as injury from breakages
Prison me no way	Prison Me! No-Way! is a national educational charity with a core aim of raising awareness among young people about the causes, consequences and penalties of crime.
Public Space Protection Orders	A public spaces protection order can be made when two conditions are met. Firstly, that (i) activities carried on in a public place have had a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality; and (ii) it is likely that activities will be carried on in a public place within that area and that they will have such an effect. The second condition is that the effect, or likely effect, of the activities is, or is likely to be of a persistent or continuing nature, such as to make the activities unreasonable, and therefore justifies the restrictions imposed by the notice.
Safer Places Men's Services	Safer Places is an independent charity which provides a comprehensive range of services to adults & children affected by domestic and sexual abuse