

**TO: THE EXECUTIVE
31 MARCH 2015**

**COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP (CSP) PLAN 2014 – 2017 2015 REFRESH
Assistant Chief Executive**

1 PURPOSE OF DECISION

- 1.1 The Crime & Disorder Act 1998 places a duty on Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) to produce an annual strategic assessment and a three-year partnership plan to reduce crime, disorder and substance misuse.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **That the Executive notes the priorities and targets contained within the CSP Plan and provides any comments to the Community Safety Manager by Friday 6 March 2015.**
- 2.2 **The Executive recommends to Council the CSP Plan 2014–2017 – 2015 Refresh for adoption as part of the Policy Framework. (Appendix 1).**

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 To seek the Executive's endorsement of the CSP Plan.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 The publication of a CSP Plan is a statutory requirement and therefore there are no alternative options to consider. The priorities adopted result from the annual CSP Strategic Assessment as well as partnership and community consultation. These priorities will be discussed by the CSP at its meeting on 9 March 2015.

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 5.1 CMT considered the 2014 Strategic Assessment on 18 February 2015. The CSP Plan refresh translates the assessment into a practical plan for action.
- 5.2 The CSP has agreed two themes to its work:
- Crime
 - Anti-social Behaviour (ASB)
- 5.2 The priorities that sit beneath them are set out in the CSP Plan (Appendix A) following the outcomes and recommendations of the 2014 Strategic Assessment. These are shown as follows:
- **Priority 1: Serious Violence**
 - Violence Against the Person
 - Sexual Offences
 - **Priority 2: Protection of Vulnerable People**
 - Domestic Abuse
 - Internet-Related Crime and Abuse
 - Child Sexual Exploitation
 - Preventing Violent Extremism

- **Priority 3: Drug Offences**
- **Priority 4: Youth Crime Prevention**
- **Priority 5: Acquisitive Crime**
 - Burglary Dwelling
 - Shoplifting
- **Priority 6: Environmental ASB**
 - Fly Tipping
- **Priority 7: Nuisance ASB**
 - Loutish, Rowdy and Noisy Behaviour
 - Suspicion or Observation of Drug Dealing
- **Priority 8: Personal ASB**
 - Nuisance Neighbours
 - Neighbour Disputes

- 5.3 Three of the initial priorities from the 2014-2017 CSP Plan do not feature in the 2015 Refresh of the Plan. This reflects the excellent progress that has been made in addressing crime within the Borough in the last year. These are:
- Vehicle Offences – 29.9% reduction achieved against a target of 5%
 - Public Order Offences – 40.4% reduction achieved
 - Robbery of Personal Property – 22.2% reduction achieved against a target of 5%
- 5.4 Three criteria were used to identify strategic priorities: the paired comparison method of priority, current trends and projections as well as police priorities (as identified by partner and community consultation). Each of the identified priorities outlined in 5.2 met two of these three criteria.
- 5.5 There are two exceptions to the above rule. Whilst Arson scored in two categories it is recommended that this is not identified as a strategic priority given the very low number of reported incidents. Despite not scoring in two categories, the partnership recognises the impact that Burglary Dwelling has, particularly as a driver of fear of crime, and therefore it is recommended that this remains a strategic priority.
- 5.6 There are two small shifts in priorities identified compared with last year's scanning exercise. Rape has been identified in place of Non-Rape Sexual Offences and Violence Without Injury has been identified in place of Violence With Injury. It is recommended that the new priorities for the 2015 Refresh encompass each of these crimes within priorities of Sexual Violence and Violence Against the Person.
- 5.7 It is recommended that the CSP continue to focus on Youth Crime Prevention and Drug Offences as necessary ongoing work. Trafficking of drugs and observation or suspicion of drug dealing emerged as priorities from the scanning exercise.
- 5.8 Internet related crime and abuse, child sexual exploitation and preventing violent extremism did not feature in the Strategic Assessment scanning exercise. However the Partnership recognises the significant impact these issues have on vulnerable people and therefore recommends a priority of Protection of Vulnerable People.

- 5.9 Internet-related crime is not made up of any single crime type but comprises a number of crime categories that are facilitated by the internet rather than taking place in the 'real world', e.g. fraud, possession of indecent images. It is recommended that the CSP uses national research and locally available data to monitor emerging trends and threats to keep pace with changing patterns of crime to protect the community from these types of offences.
- 5.10 Recent years have seen a number of high profile stories from across the country hitting the national news regarding cases of grooming, with links to sexual exploitation. The CSP acknowledges the importance for us not to be complacent in Bracknell Forest and not to think that it couldn't happen here. It is recommended that the partnership looks at the risks of grooming for sexual exploitation and decides what it needs to do to mitigate against these risks.
- 5.11 The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a duty on specified authorities (including Local Authorities) to 'have due regard, in the exercise of its functions, to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism'. It is recommended that preventing violent extremism is included under the priority of Protection of Vulnerable People to ensure that the Council fulfils its statutory obligation and to safeguard vulnerable young people and adults. Note that CMT will be updated on the new Prevent duties on 29 April 2015.
- 5.12 Much of the work on Protection of Vulnerable People will involve awareness raising, and early intervention and prevention. As such the targets for this priority are largely outputs rather than outcomes.
- 5.13 The 2015 Refresh of the 2014/17 CSP Plan sets out what will be done to bring about improvements in all these priorities.
- 5.14 Further minor amendments to the CSP plan may be made following adoption by the CSP.
- 5.15 The performance monitoring of these targets will take place quarterly at CSP Executive meetings.
- 5.16 The results of the first full year of the 2014-2017 CSP Plan are not yet available. Successful reductions (first half of 2014/15 compared to first half of 2013/14) include:
- 10% reduction in Overall Crime
 - 29.9% reduction in Vehicle Crime (against a target of 5%)
 - 40.4% reduction in Public Order Offences
 - 22.2% reduction in Robbery of Personal Property (against a target of 5%)
 - 6.7% reduction in Total Violence Against the Person
 - 9.8% reduction in Burglary Non Dwelling
 - 46.6% reduction in Bicycle Theft
- 5.17 Whilst the work of the CSP has undoubtedly contributed to a reduction in crime in the borough it may not be possible to categorically state that it is the only contributing factor. However a coordinated partnership approach is inevitably more effective than disparate organisations working in isolation. It is of note however that when Bracknell Forest is compared to other areas within the Thames Valley and its 'Most Similar Group'¹, as identified by the Home Office, it consistently ranks as one of the top performing boroughs in terms of crime reduction and community safety.

¹ Most Similar Groups (MSGs) are groups of local areas that have been found to be the most similar to each other using statistical methods, based on demographic, economic and social characteristics

- 5.18 The CSP does take steps to evaluate the work that it delivers to ensure that it is effective in meeting the partnership's aims and targets. Cambridge University have recently produced an evaluation report regarding the Domestic Abuse Service Coordination (DASC) project. The findings of this evaluation of the DASC approach to addressing the harm caused by repeat incidents of domestic abuse show potentially encouraging results. The researchers took into account the seriousness of offences committed using the Cambridge Crime Harm Index (CHI) (Sherman et al 2014). This approach challenges the idea that a simple count of crime can represent the harm caused because crimes differ in their seriousness. Using the CHI as a measure of harm the change in the number of recorded crime and non-crime incidents recorded from the Control Group during and after the treatment period shows a rise of 17%. By comparison the Treatment Group shows a reduction of 91%.
- 5.19 It is recommended that the CSP seek opportunities to further evaluate the impact that its work has on reducing crime and disorder within the borough.
- 5.20 Crime levels are now at their lowest in over 20 years. It is also notable that the reduction in all crime of 10% follows 5 years of consecutive crime reduction: 5% in 2013/14, 10.8% in 2012/13, 17% in 2011/12, 10% in 2010/11 and 7.9% in 2009/10.
- 5.21 Fear of crime in Bracknell Forest is also very low. The results from the online survey that informed the Strategic Assessment demonstrate that the majority of respondents felt that Bracknell Forest has either become a better place to live or there has been no change over the last year. The perception from the vast majority of people is that levels of crime and anti-social behaviour have either gone down or stayed the same. The 2014 Bracknell Forest Residents' Survey asked respondents to indicate the three things they liked best about living in the borough. This was an entirely spontaneous question and respondents were not prompted with answers. The low level of crime in the borough was one of the top 5 responses given.
- 5.22 The CSP and the CSP Executive both meet quarterly. There are five statutory members of the CSP: Local Authority, Police, Probation Service, Clinical Commissioning Group and Fire Service.
- 5.23 The work of the CSP is delivered through a series of sub-groups and in collaboration with other partnerships. This plan belongs to the CSP and its implementation is the responsibility of all the statutory partners. Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act places a duty on those partners to 'exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area'.
- 5.24 The Borough Council can make a major contribution through its responsibilities which include protection of children, education, youth services, social services, licensing, environmental health and planning. The Council also supports the Youth Offending Service and the Community Safety Team as well as facilitating the CSP.

6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

which relate to crime. Areas which have similar demographic, social and economic characteristics will general have reasonably comparable levels of crime. MSGs are designed to help make fairer and more meaningful comparisons between areas.

6.1 None.

Borough Treasurer

6.2 There are no financial implications as delivery can be achieved within existing resources.

Equalities Impact Assessment

6.3 An Initial Equalities Screening Record Form was completed for this 3 year plan and it was determined that there will be no negative effect on any one group within the borough therefore a full Equalities Impact Assessment was not required. The 2015 Refresh of the 2014-2017 CSP Plan has not identified any significant changes in priorities.

Strategic Risk Management Issues

6.4 None.

7 CONSULTATION

Principal Groups to be Consulted

7.1 Partners of the CSP.

7.2 Council Executive.

7.3 Overview and Scrutiny Commission (Crime and Disorder Committee) – via email.

Method of Consultation

7.3 The plan has been consulted on with CSP, its relevant sub groups as well as other partnerships and the voluntary sector.

Representations Received

7.4 None at present.

Background Papers

2015 Refresh of the 2014–2017 CSP Plan.

Contact for further information

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