

POLICY AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY PANEL

Thursday, 28 January 2021

ANNUAL REPORT OF EASTLEIGH COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

Report of the Safety and Resilience Manager

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Policy and Performance Scrutiny Panel

- (1) Note the work undertaken by the Community Safety Partnership over the past twelve months.**
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Summary

This report provides a summary of the work undertaken by the Eastleigh Community Safety Partnership over the last year. It highlights the key priorities of the Partnership, reviews the levels of crime and anti-social behaviour in the Borough and updates on significant events and projects that have occurred in the last year.

Statutory Powers

s.19-21 Police and Justice Act 2006

Strategic Implications

1. Creating healthy communities: To enable health and wellbeing by working together to reduce both actual and fear of crime and disorder and thus promote wellbeing in the community.

Introduction

2. The Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is established under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and requires the named organisations to work in partnership to tackle crime and disorder along with anti-social behaviour, drug and alcohol abuse and reducing reoffending. Additionally, the authorities are required to produce an annual strategic assessment and from that deliver an action plan having identified the strategic priorities for the year.
3. The Police and Justice Act 2006 introduced powers for the Local Authority to scrutinise the work being undertaken by the CSP. This is a power to examine the work of the partnership as a whole rather than a power to scrutinise the

actions and work of individual partners. The Act requires Local Authorities to designate a committee as a crime and disorder committee with responsibility for the “Responsible Authorities” (the CSP Partners). The Policy and Performance Scrutiny Panel is the designated Committee to carry out this review annually.

4. The Responsible Authorities of Eastleigh Community Safety Partnership are:

Eastleigh Borough Council
Hampshire County Council
Hampshire Constabulary
Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service
Hampshire and Isle of Wight (IOW) Community Rehabilitation Company
National Probation Service
NHS West Hampshire Clinical Commissioning Group

In addition to the Responsible Authorities, One Community Eastleigh is also represented. Senior officers from each of the authorities set the strategic direction of the CSP through an Executive Board, the Chair of which is currently Councillor Tonia Craig, Portfolio Member for Health.

5. Partnership priorities: For the first eight months of the year, the CSP was working to the previously identified three strategic priorities. These were;
- Reduce the incidence of all violent crime, including the prevention and reduction of domestic abuse
 - Reduce the incidence of anti-social behaviour
 - Tackle crime against the most vulnerable in our society including hate crime and elder abuse.

New priorities: these were agreed in September 2020 as part of the Annual Strategic Review (see paragraph 8 below).

Annual Strategic Review

6. The CSP is required to undertake an annual strategic review. The process this year was delayed due to the Safety and Resilience Manager’s work commitments related to the management of the pandemic as the Resilience Lead (emergency planning and business continuity) for the Authority. The review was completed in September 2020. The Strategic Review is a snapshot of crime and community safety, supported by factual data from across the partnership. This document is then used to help identify the strategic priorities for the coming year.
7. The purpose of identifying the strategic priorities is to enable partners to effectively collaborate to plan and address those issues causing our communities the greatest harm. Many of the priorities do not change

substantially from year to year as they follow long term trends, but the review provides the opportunity to re-focus priorities in response to emerging or changing trends in crime and ASB, the impact of previous interventions, emerging external national or local factors, and learning gained through delivery of existing priorities

8. Following the completion of the Strategic review the Executive Board of the Community Safety Partnership agreed the following as priorities for the work until March 2022:

1. Reducing Drug related harm
2. Working with Young people at risk
3. Reducing Anti-social behaviour

The Review shows a clear link between rising drug issues including County Lines and exploitation of young people and those who are identified as being at risk. "County Lines is where illegal drugs are transported from one area to another, often across police and local authority boundaries (although not exclusively), usually by children or vulnerable people who are coerced into it by gangs. The 'County Line' is the mobile phone line used to take the orders of drugs. Importing areas (areas where the drugs are taken to) are reporting increased levels of violence and weapons-related crimes as a result of this trend." (Definition from National Crime Agency)

This will be the key focus of the work of the Partnership going forward. The Partnership will deliver on a number of actions against the three thematic priorities emerging from this report, in order to reduce the impact that threat, risk and harm has on individuals and society as a whole. These actions will be laid out in the Annual Delivery Plan.

Crime and anti-social behaviour

9. As can be seen in the Strategic Review, recorded crime levels in the Borough have remained fairly static over the last three years, whilst reports of anti-social behaviour have fallen year on year. The focus over the last two years has been on violent crime and it is pleasing to note that levels of violence with injury continues to fall which is testament to the targeted work that has been undertaken on those individuals who were causing the bulk of such incidences. Violence without injury on the other hand has risen again, but it should be noted that this is a very large catch all category including online crimes such as harassment and verbal abuse.
10. The review has identified key hotspot areas of anti-social behaviour and the Partnership has adopted a working task and finish group approach to try and resolve the issues in these neighbourhoods. These areas over the past year are identified on Page 14 of the Strategic Review.
11. Summary: There has been a disproportionate effect on the crime figures for the Borough in recent years by a small cohort of young people from the

Borough which led to a significant rise in youth on youth violence. Through a targeted approach at each known individual, good progress has been made in reducing both the levels of violence and threat and in shaping the lives of these young people so that they are making better decisions about their future and thus reducing their criminal activity, in some cases completely.

Activity in 2020: Key partnership projects

12. Supporting Families programme: Troubled Families, known locally in Hampshire as Supporting Families, is a programme of targeted intervention for families with multiple problems, including crime, anti-social behaviour, truancy, unemployment, mental health problems and domestic abuse. Every year the borough is set annual targets by Hampshire County Council for the successful engagement of families for the programme.
13. In the year 2019-2020, Eastleigh added a total of 61 new families to the Supporting Families Programme and made 43 successful claims. A much improved number of claims on previous years. This was achieved with a closer scrutiny of claims and minor changes in the criteria which constituted a successful claim. The progress since 1st April 2020 has inevitably been affected by the pandemic as the vast majority of referrals over the years have come from schools. With schools closed for the summer term the number of referrals diminished substantially. All intensive places have been filled, referrals now steadily rising since schools returned.
14. The Government has announced that the programme will continue in 2021 - 2022, but as yet Hampshire have not been told their funding allocation, so not sure how this will look come April. The Early Help Hub though is well established and will remain a central part of the multi-agency approach.
15. Tactical Community Safety Partnership (TCSP): At the beginning of last year the Partnership adopted a new group to its work plan by creating a monthly tactical meeting engaging with over 20 different partner organisations to provide a comprehensive and all-inclusive approach to tackling crime and anti-social behaviour across the borough.
16. The Tactical CSP meeting has continued to meet through 2020 co-chaired by the District Inspector and the Safety & Resilience Manager. The group looks in detail at both crime series and trends alongside those individuals who are causing the most harm and risk in the borough. This multi-agency approach has been successful in bringing partners with whom there had been limited involvement previously, opening new streams of intelligence and communication and most importantly helping the Partnership to implement a

single agreed approach to some of the problems that have occurred during the year.

17. NEET Project: At the Tactical Community Safety Partnership (TCSP) meetings it was becoming increasingly clear that several of our sixteen-year-old nominals were at increased risk of becoming NEET (Not in employment , education or training) compounded by the impact of the COVID 19 lockdown and the early closure of schools. A group of 15 young people were identified, and all had a high level of involvement in crime and anti-social behaviour over the last two years. This raised concerns about what would happen in the future if not engaged in work or education and given other factors as well many are at risk of criminal exploitation and long-term criminality.
18. The NEET working group was set up in May 2020 comprising representatives from the Youth Offending Service, Hampshire Futures, Enham Trust, The Bridge, Eastleigh and City colleges alongside the police and the Council's Community Safety team. Each young person had an identified lead officer, a personalised plan to get them into work, training or back in education.
19. At the six month review (December 2020) analysis has been possible on 13 of the 15, as two have moved out of county. Six are in college, three are working with Enham Trust, two are working and two are still NEET. In addition to this good progress, in terms of police occurrences for the year prior to June in total there were 167 for the group. In the six months since June this year there were just 37, so if figures remain at the current rate that would be 74 (a 55% fall) although it is hoped that it might be even lower in a further six months given the downward trajectory and progress made in other areas of their lives.
20. The future and development of the NEET project will depend upon a bid to the Community Safety Fund operated by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. The result of these bids will be known in late January 2021 and if successful the project will be able to develop and expand its work. Either way the project will continue and will over the next term start to identify with the schools and the police those young people currently in Year 11 who are committing higher levels of crime and anti-social behaviour and are at risk of becoming NEET in the Summer.
21. The Partnership was successful in gaining funding from the Serious Violence Fund in 2019 to develop an early intervention programme for secondary schools which was completed at Crestwood School. This programme is for use with young people at risk of suspension or exclusion and/or who are starting to cause anti-social behaviour and crime.
22. Following the pilot, the aim was to roll out the programme across all the secondary schools in the Borough through a Train the Trainer programme so that it can be delivered in house by teaching staff. The arrival of Covid 19 prevented that development and the future of the project is included in the bid to the OPCC alongside the NEET project.
23. Diversionary activities: across the borough a number of diversionary activities continue to operate with the youth services of Groundwork, Youth Options and

Eastleigh Borough Council's own youth service undertaking outreach and building based sessions. The Friday Night Football project received a grant from the Hampshire Police and Crime Commissioner 19/20 Community Safety fund, resulting in the launch of a new session to service the Bursledon, Hamble and Hound local area. Unfortunately, due again to Covid 19, much of this work has ceased during the lockdown periods.

24. Impact of Covid 19: The impact on Covid 19 on the work of the Community Safety Partnership has been significant as officers from partner organisations have been drawn into other duties and responsibilities related to the pandemic. As has been noted through the report various projects have either ceased during lockdowns or been significantly curtailed.
25. Crime and anti-social behaviour did fall during the first lockdown imposed on the 23rd March 2020, but soon returned to normal levels once those restrictions were lifted. Within education and the continuing concerns over whether schools should remain open will no doubt have an impact on those who are already at risk of exclusion, failing in education and becoming NEET leading to increased risk of exploitation, criminal activity and significantly reduced life chances.

Financial Implications

22. The CSP receives no direct funding and has only a small reserve of reducing funds. The Partnership is reliant upon its member organisations contributions which are mainly in human resources rather than financial.
23. The CSP can apply to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) for funding for specific projects through the bi-annual grants process.
24. The Supporting Families programme is centrally funded by HM Government and Eastleigh Borough Council receives funds via Hampshire County Council to enable it to deliver the programme. Due to this there are no net revenue implications to the Council.

Risk Assessment

25. The main risk identified to the continued successful work of the Partnership is lack of funding and resources across all partners thus restricting the extra work that is possible as organisations concentrate on their core duties and priorities.

Equality and Diversity Implications

26. The Equality Act is not relevant to the decision in this report as the decision, which is to note, does not relate to eliminating discrimination, advancing equality of opportunity, or fostering good relations between different people. An Equality Impact Assessment has not been carried out.

Climate Change and Environmental Implications

27. This is a report from the Community Safety Partnership a legally constituted partnership of eight different organisations. There are no decisions or proposals contained within this report as it is a retrospective review of the work of the Partnership over the last year. Therefore, there are no climate change and environmental implications.

Conclusion

28. Eastleigh Community Safety Partnership has fulfilled its statutory duties over the last year and its members continue to work well in partnership together to tackle crime and disorder within the Borough of Eastleigh. With its limited resources both financial and personnel, the Partnership continues to deliver on its key priorities and through targeted work make a difference in both the lives of the community by helping to reduce crime and disorder but also in helping to turn around those young people who are at risk of long term criminality as they enter adulthood, which is not only beneficial for them as individuals but of course for the wider community as a whole.

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Appendices Attached: One

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 - SECTION 100D

The following is a list of documents which disclose facts or matters on which this report or an important part of it is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. This list does not include any published works or documents which would disclose exempt or confidential information.

Background Papers

Eastleigh Community Safety Partnership Strategic Review 2020