

POLICY AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY PANEL

23 JUNE 2022

ANNUAL REVIEW OF EASTLEIGH COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

Report of the Safety and Resilience Manager

Recommendation(s)

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 in the Borough.**
 - (2) Note the plans for the undertaking of the annual strategic review in 2022 as required in the Police and Justice Act 2006**
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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

Sections 19-21 Police and Justice Act 2006

Strategic Implications

1. Creating healthy communities: To enable health and wellbeing by working together to reduce both the 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
National Probation Service
Hampshire Clinical Commissioning Group

In addition to the Responsible Authorities, One Community represents the Voluntary and Community Sector and Vivid Homes represent the Residential Social Landlords. 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 and Wellbeing.

5. Partnership priorities: For the past 18 months the CSP has identified three strategic priorities on which to focus its work. These are

- Reducing drug related harm
- Working with young people at risk
- Reducing anti-social behaviour

Annual Strategic Assessment

6. The CSP is required to undertake an annual strategic assessment. This process started in April 2022 and will be completed by September 2022. The Strategic Assessment 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 2 years.

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 anti-social behaviour, the impact of previous interventions, emerging external national or local factors, and learning gained through delivery of existing priorities

Crime and anti-social behaviour

8. The crime and anti-social behaviour data for the year April 2021 – March 2022 is included below, and the table also includes a three year view of recorded crime in the Borough. The last 2 years have not been “normal” as society was in lockdown for considerable periods over this time and this had an inevitable effect on crime and anti-social behaviour. Thus this has meant that crime recorded for the last year is higher than the two previous years, a total of 8124 crimes which is on a par with pre pandemic levels.
9. Selected crime categories

CRIME TYPE	NUMBER	COMMENT
Homicide	1	
Violence with injury	989	Actual bodily harm and above
Violence without injury	2595	Includes common assault and malicious communications
Burglary residential	389	Includes garages and sheds
Burglary commercial	89	
Vehicle offences	430	Theft of and from vehicles
Sexual offences	351	Approx. 30% are historic offences but recorded in the year
Robbery	37	
Theft	1197	All theft including shoplifting and bicycle theft
Criminal damage	739	
Arson	34	
Drug trafficking	37	Possession with intent to supply and above
Public order	1024	

Annual crime and anti-social behaviour totals

	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Crime	7319	7426	8124
ASB	2124	2183	1816

10. Crime types: Violent crime remains the biggest single category offences, but this includes everything from malicious communications (e.g. abusive messages on social media) through to grievous bodily harm and murder. One third of violence offences are more serious (ABH and above). The Strategic Assessment will drill down into these offences to determine the key factors involved in this crime set such as nature, location, age of offender and victim, the relationship between the two and to see if the violence is related to other offences such as drug supply, which is analysed in more detail in the Operation Fortress paragraph 19 below.
11. Domestic violence and abuse represents approximately one third of all violent crime, with 1608 offences being flagged as domestic related. There is a comprehensive system in place across the force area to tackle domestic violence from support and advice at one end through to the MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference) where high risk victims are supported with Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVAs) and the police and other partners take targeted actions against the perpetrator to reduce the risk of escalation.
12. Hate crime reporting 197 hate crimes with race, disability and sexual orientation being the 3 largest categories. The Partnership is also keen to extend the number of third party hate crime reporting centres in the borough as the current 2 centres are all based in Eastleigh and Chandler's Ford (Citizens Advice and Victim Support) . The 3rd party hate crime reporting centre in the museum is now closed but will reopen in the Swan Centre with One Community shortly. Another centre is being developed in Hedge End.
13. It should also be noted that there are some young people who are causing the most harm, but they are frequently the most complex and vulnerable cases, subject to exploitation and crime harm. Also many of these young people are placed in the Borough & County from other local authority areas, and require our support, guidance, intervention and investment to mitigate their risks and or criminality
14. Anti-social behaviour has continued to fall year on year, from 2124 reports in 2019-20 to 1816 in 2021-22. There has been a year-on-year fall since a peak of over 2600 reports in 2017-18. Hotspots are tackled through small task and finish groups and included areas such as Hamble Foreshore, Netley and Eastleigh town centre.

15. The fall in ASB is in part due to Covid, but also due to internal police process of increasing accuracy and crime data integrity (CDI) following a review of how they record incidents of ASB. This has led to a significant rise in violence without injury reports, ensuring that the information given by every victim and witness who call and report ASB, is recorded correctly. So, for example, when they outline a neighbour dispute, which historically was ASB, any Public Order offences or other, are recorded accurately. This has led to a local and force impact of ASB reducing considerably but other crime areas increasing, reflected in some cases of Hate Crime, and violence.

Activity in 2021-2022: Key partnership projects

16. 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. Eastleigh is widely recognised across the county as being a high achieving area with a robust process in place and excellent partnership working.
17. In the year ending March 2022, the programme worked with 250 families (target 216) plus a further 8 who were in the Child In Need cohort where statutory interventions were also in place with the family. Intensive family work was carried out with 16 families (target 14). The success of the programme is measured by the positive changes brought about by working with the families for example in a return to employment for a parent, increased attendance rates at school or reductions in crime and anti-social behaviour. Thresholds are set by the government and this year 113 claims were submitted to the Department for Levelling Up housing and Communities for consideration of a reward payment. Reward payments are made to the County Council and are ringfenced for reinvestment into the programme for future years.

Tactical Community Safety Partnership (TCSP)

18. Over the last few years the Partnership has focused its work through 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. The Tactical CSP meeting alongside the MET meeting (Missing Exploited and Trafficked children) looks in detail at both crime series and trends, and those individuals who are causing the most harm and risk in the borough.
19. 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. Feedback from the College of Policing Safer Streets

survey highlighted a raised a fear of violence and a risk to personal safety of lone women especially at night.

20. The Tactical CSP has had to manage a range of issues across the year most notably issues related to drug related harm and County Lines, anti-social behaviour hotspots across the Borough and the behaviour of a rough sleeping groups in Eastleigh town centre. These problems have been addressed through small operational working groups with relevant partners working together to solve the issues.
21. By way of example, the behaviour of a small group of ten rough sleepers in the town led to many complaints from the public and shop owners. A small group including the Police, Probation, Eastleigh BID, Two Saints, Inclusion (Drug treatment service) and the housing and community safety teams from the council worked together over a period of 4 months to proactively work with each individual, address their health and housing needs, find suitable accommodation whilst at the same time dealing robustly with their behaviour through criminal sanctions. When the group stood down all were accommodated and off the street. Some did not stay permanently in the accommodation and further work was required with them but that sadly is the nature of drug and alcohol addiction that interventions do not always work first time.
22. Operation Fortress: This is the Hampshire Constabulary model of working in partnership to protect vulnerable people with complex needs who are targeted by County Lines. The Operation Fortress group in Eastleigh is one of the Partnership's multi agency working groups and brings together a number of partner organisations to coordinate action to reduce the harm caused by drug supply and use.
23. County lines continues to be a problem nationwide where drug dealers from the cities set up operations in the counties and rural parts of the country in order to sell their drugs to users. There are two common business models they employ – one exploiting young people to work for them moving and selling the drugs and the other exploiting vulnerable adults by taking over their homes from which they can operate. Both models are exploitative and often back up by the threat and use of serious violence. Both types have been in practice within the Borough.
24. Proactive policing has targeted these individuals and some significant dealers have been arrested, charged and convicted over the last year. We targeted a County Line from London resulting in convictions for the harm they caused in the Borough. The London pair were jailed for nine and a half years after being convicted of drug supply offences in Eastleigh.
25. On the prevention side the partnership has worked with young people from the Borough who have been caught up in County lines. With positive interventions, support and education, this has enabled them to move away from their dangerous involvement in this criminality. Additionally vulnerable adults have been identified and supported by housing providers, social services and treatment agencies to help prevent their exploitation.

26. Changing Directions for Success: In the January 2020 report to this committee it was noted that the Partnership had been successful in gaining funding from the Serious Violence Fund to develop an early intervention programme for secondary schools and the pilot was currently underway at Crestwood School. This programme worked with young people at risk of suspension or exclusion and/or who are starting to cause anti-social behaviour and crime.
27. During the pilot of the programme, it became clear that there was potentially a substantial number of year 11s who would be leaving school in July and would not be in education, training or employment (NEET) and many of these were already involved in low level criminality, anti-social behaviour and getting mixed up with drug related harm. As a result, a second pilot project was started in the summer to try and engage some of these young people and prevent them being drawn further into crime and to get them gainfully occupied from the autumn onwards.
28. The NEET project worked with 13 young people in 2020. After a six-month review, six were in college, three were engaged with the Enham Trust, two were working fulltime and two were still NEET. In addition to this good individual progress, in terms of police incidents involving the group there was a 55% fall.
29. Following this successful small pilot run without any funding a successful bid was made to Vivid Plus, the new charitable arm of Vivid Homes, and the CDS project was funded for 2 years (£72,000) from April 2021. This enabled the project to employ a part time lead officer and extend the programme to work with a large number of young people. An individualised package is created including accredited training, practical support, and mentoring all with the long-term aim of changing the long-term direction of the young person away from a potential future of unemployment, crime and substance misuse.
30. At the end of the first year, the results are encouraging with 40 young people from across the Borough actively engaged. Training courses included Health and Social Care, Customer Service , Forklift Truck licence, Food Safety levels one and two First Aid level three , hairdressing and construction skills in partnership with One Horton Heath project.
31. 15 of the group are or have been in full-time employment. Three are in apprenticeships, three work in the catering sector, one works in logistics. and nine of the group work in the construction sector.
32. 13 are back in full time education at Eastleigh and Itchen Colleges who have been integral members of the partnership, whilst the Enham Trust have provided much needed basic skills education with a cohort whose previous school attendance was very low. The table below provides a summary of the project this far. The project has now moved into year two, continuing to work with some from the first year and recruiting current year 11s from schools across the Borough to undertake summer interventions with the aim of getting them into education in the autumn.

Project referrals	46	
Engaged successfully with the programme	40	87% of referrals made
Moved away out of country	1	
Never responded	5	
POSITIVE OUTCOMES of those engaged (40)		
Courses completed leading to recognised qualifications	55 gained by 30 young people	75% gained at least 1 qualification
Back in Education	13	32%
In Full time employment	15	37%
Total positive change	28	69%

Financial Implications

33. The CSP receives no direct funding from the Government or the Police and Crime Commissioner.. The Partnership is reliant upon its member organisations contributions which are mainly human resources rather than financial. The lack of funding and diminishing numbers of staff in key partners such as Hampshire Constabulary adversely affects the possible outcomes that can be achieved and projects that can be run by the Partnership.
34. 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.
35. 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

36. 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

37. 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

38. This is a report from the Community Safety Partnership a legally constituted partnership of 8 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. There thus no climate change and environmental implications.

Conclusion

39. Eastleigh Community Safety Partnership continues to fulfil 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.

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Appendices Attached: Nil

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.